

November 13, 2014

# VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Melissa Jurgens Office of the Secretariat Commodity Futures Trading Commission Three Lafayette Centre 1155 21<sup>st</sup> Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20581

# Re: Rule Filing SR-OCC-2014-21 Rule Certification

Dear Secretary Jurgens:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended ("Act"), and Commodity Futures Trading Commission Regulation ("CFTC") 40.6, enclosed is a copy of the above-referenced rule filing submitted by The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC"). The date of implementation of the rule is at least 10 business days following receipt of the rule filing by the CFTC or the date the proposed rule is approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") or otherwise becomes effective under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). This rule filing has been, or is concurrently being, submitted to the SEC under the Exchange Act.

In conformity with the requirements of Regulation 40.6(a)(7), OCC states the following:

# **Explanation and Analysis**

OCC is submitting this proposed rule change to permit OCC to collect additional financial resources from its clearing membership by increasing the size of its Clearing Fund on an intra-month basis when OCC determines such action should be taken so that the Clearing Fund is sufficient to protect OCC against potential loss under simulated default scenarios. OCC monitors the sufficiency of the Clearing Fund on a daily basis but may only readjust the size of the Clearing Fund on a monthly basis.<sup>1</sup> During the ordinary course of daily monitoring activities on October 15, 2014, and as a result of increased volatility in the financial markets in October 2014, OCC determined that in the event of a default of its largest participant family, OCC's then current financial resources potentially could have fallen short of the total financial resources needed to cover the loss associated with the default.

See OCC Rule 1001(a).

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To permit OCC to increase the size of its Clearing Fund prior to the next monthly resizing that was scheduled to take place on the first business day of November 2014, OCC's Executive Chairman, on October 15, 2014, exercised certain emergency powers as set forth in Article IX, Section 14 of OCC's By-Laws.<sup>2</sup> In emergency circumstances, and subject to certain conditions, Article IX, Section 14 permits OCC's Board of Directors, Executive Chairman, or President to waive or suspend its By-Laws, Rules, policies and procedures, or any other rules issued by OCC or extend the time fixed thereby for the doing of any act or acts for up to thirty calendar days. Consistent with that authority, and following discussions with the Risk Committee of OCC's Board of Directors, the Executive Chairman waived the provisions in the second sentence of Rule 1001(a). OCC then filed an emergency notice with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Section 806(e)(2) of the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Supervision Act of 2010<sup>3</sup> and increased the Clearing Fund size for the remainder of October 2014 as otherwise provided for by the terms of Rule 1001(a).<sup>4</sup> This was done to respond to the potential risk under prevailing market conditions that the Clearing Fund could be underfunded, which could have affected OCC's ability to provide services in a safe and sound manner.

Clearing members were informed of the action taken by the Executive Chairman and the amount of their additional Clearing Fund requirements, which were met without issue.<sup>5</sup> As a result of these actions, OCC's Clearing Fund for October 2014 was increased by \$1.8 billion. In continued reliance on the emergency rule waiver and the emergency notice, OCC set the November 2014 Clearing Fund size at \$7.8 billion, which included an amount determined by OCC to be sufficient to protect OCC against loss under simulated default scenarios (i.e., \$6 billion), plus a prudential margin of safety (the additional \$1.8 billion collected in October).<sup>6</sup> All required contributions to the November 2014 Clearing Fund have been met by impacted clearing members.

Under Article IX, Section 14(c) of OCC's By-Laws, OCC's waiver of the provisions of the second sentence of Rule 1001(a) is permitted to continue for no more than thirty calendar days unless OCC submits a proposed rule change to the Commission seeking approval of such

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OCC also has submitted an advance notice that would provide greater detail concerning conditions under which OCC would resize the Clearing Fund intra-month. The change would permit intra-month resizing in the event that the five-day rolling average of projected draws are 150% or more of the Clearing Fund's then current size. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 72804 (August 11, 2014), 79 FR 48276 (August 15, 2014) (SR-OCC-2014-804).

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>_{4}$  12 U.S.C. 5465(e)(2).

See Notice of Emergency Change to OCC's Procedures to Resize the Clearing Fund in Response to Market Conditions (SR-OCC-2014-807),

http://www.theocc.com/components/docs/legal/rules\_and\_bylaws/sr\_occ\_14\_807.pdf. OCC also provided notification to the CFTC regarding its use of the authority set forth in Article IX, Section 14 of OCC's By-Laws.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *See* Information Memorandum #35397, dated October 16, 2014, available on OCC's website, http://www.theocc.com/clearing/clearing-infomemos/infomemos1.jsp.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See Information Memorandum # 35507, dated October 31, 2014, available on OCC's website, http://www.theocc.com/clearing/clearing-infomemos/infomemos1.jsp.

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waiver.<sup>7</sup> Upon submission of a rule filing, the waiver may continue in effect until the Commission approves or disapproves the proposed rule change.<sup>8</sup> In order to provide OCC with the authority to adjust the size of its Clearing Fund on an intra-month basis, OCC is now submitting this proposed rule change to delete the second sentence of Rule 1001(a) and, by the terms of Article IX, Section 14(c), to preserve the suspended effectiveness of the second sentence of Rule 1001(a) beyond thirty calendar days.

OCC believes that this proposal is appropriate to permit OCC to resize the Clearing Fund more frequently than monthly and to determine its size in an amount sufficient to protect OCC from loss by relying on a broader range of sound risk management practices than only the average daily calculations under rule 1001(a) that are performed during the preceding calendar month. OCC would use its authority to adjust the size of its Clearing Fund on an intra-month basis only to increase the size of the Clearing Fund where appropriate based on financial market conditions, not to decrease the size of the Clearing Fund.

OCC reviewed the derivatives clearing organization ("DCO") core principles ("Core Principles") as set forth in the Act. During this review, OCC identified the following Core Principles as potentially being impacted:

**<u>Risk Management.</u>** OCC believes that by implementing the proposed rule change it will be better able to manage the risks associated with discharging its responsibilities as a DCO as set forth in the DCO Core Principles because it will, through its ability to adjust the size of its clearing fund intra-month, limit its exposure to potential losses from the default of a clearing member because it will be less likely that OCC's clearing fund would be insufficient should OCC need to use its clearing fund to manage the default. In addition, the proposed rule change will make it less likely that the size of OCC's clearing fund would not consider incremental risk(s) that may be presented to OCC intra-month thereby better ensuring that non-defaulting clearing members.

# **Opposing Views**

No opposing views were expressed related to the rule amendments.

# Notice of Pending Rule Certification

OCC hereby certifies that notice of this rule filing has been be given to Clearing Members of OCC in compliance with Regulation 40.6(a)(2) by posting a copy of the submission on OCC's website concurrently with the filing of this submission.

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Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See, OCC By-Laws, Article IX, Section 14(c). OCC will also submit this proposed rule change to the Commission.

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# Certification

OCC hereby certifies that the rule set forth at Item 1 of the enclosed filing complies with the Act and the CFTC's regulations thereunder.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephen

Stephen Szarmack Vice President and Associate General Counsel

Enclosure

File No. SR-OCC-2014-21 Page 3 of 19

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 19b-4

Proposed Rule Change by

# THE OPTIONS CLEARING CORPORATION

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

# File No. SR-OCC-2014-21 Page 4 of 19

# Item 1. <u>Text of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

This proposed rule change by The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") would delete the second sentence of Rule 1001(a), which OCC has temporarily suspended pursuant to emergency authority under Article IX, Section 14 of its By-Laws, which would permit OCC to adjust the size of its Clearing Fund on an intra-month basis. Material proposed to be deleted from OCC's Rules is enclosed in bold brackets.

# THE OPTIONS CLEARING CORPORATION

# RULES

\* \* \*

# CHAPTER X

# **Clearing Fund Contributions**

# Size of Clearing Fund and Amount of Contribution

RULE 1001. (a) The total size of the Clearing Fund shall be established by the Corporation at an amount determined by the Corporation to be sufficient (within the confidence levels selected by the Corporation) to protect the Corporation against loss under simulated default scenarios that include the default of the single Clearing Member Group whose default would be likely to result in the largest draw against the Clearing Fund as well as an event involving the near-simultaneous default of two randomly-selected Clearing Member Groups as modeled using "Monte Carlo" simulations similar to those referred to in Rule 601(c). [Such calculations shall be made on a daily basis, and the size of the Clearing Fund shall be readjusted monthly based upon the average of such daily calculations performed during the preceding calendar month.]

# Item 2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

The proposed rule change was approved for filing with the Commission by the

Board of Directors on November 7, 2014.

# File No. SR-OCC-2014-21 Page 5 of 19

Questions should be addressed to Stephen Szarmack, Vice President and Associate General Counsel, at (312) 322-4802.

# Item 3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the</u> <u>Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

# A. <u>Purpose</u>

OCC is submitting this proposed rule change to permit OCC to collect additional financial resources from its clearing membership by increasing the size of its Clearing Fund on an intra-month basis when OCC determines such action should be taken so that the Clearing Fund is sufficient to protect OCC against potential loss under simulated default scenarios. OCC monitors the sufficiency of the Clearing Fund on a daily basis but may only readjust the size of the Clearing Fund on a monthly basis.<sup>1</sup> During the ordinary course of daily monitoring activities on October 15, 2014, and as a result of increased volatility in the financial markets in October 2014, OCC determined that in the event of a default of its largest participant family, OCC's then current financial resources potentially could have fallen short of the total financial resources needed to cover the loss associated with the default.

To permit OCC to increase the size of its Clearing Fund prior to the next monthly resizing that was scheduled to take place on the first business day of November 2014, OCC's Executive Chairman, on October 15, 2014, exercised certain emergency powers as set forth in

See OCC Rule 1001(a).

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Article IX, Section 14 of OCC's By-Laws.<sup>2</sup> In emergency circumstances, and subject to certain conditions, Article IX, Section 14 permits OCC's Board of Directors, Executive Chairman, or President to waive or suspend its By-Laws, Rules, policies and procedures, or any other rules issued by OCC or extend the time fixed thereby for the doing of any act or acts for up to thirty calendar days. Consistent with that authority, and following discussions with the Risk Committee of OCC's Board of Directors, the Executive Chairman waived the provisions in the second sentence of Rule 1001(a). OCC then filed an emergency notice with the Commission pursuant to Section 806(e)(2) of the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Supervision Act of 2010<sup>3</sup> and increased the Clearing Fund size for the remainder of October 2014 as otherwise provided for by the terms of Rule 1001(a).<sup>4</sup> This was done to respond to the potential risk under prevailing market conditions that the Clearing Fund could be underfunded, which could have affected OCC's ability to provide services in a safe and sound manner.

Clearing members were informed of the action taken by the Executive Chairman

<sup>4</sup> See Notice of Emergency Change to OCC's Procedures to Resize the Clearing Fund in Response to Market Conditions (SR-OCC-2014-807), <u>http://www.theocc.com/components/docs/legal/rules\_and\_bylaws/sr\_occ\_14\_807.pdf</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OCC also has submitted an advance notice that would provide greater detail concerning conditions under which OCC would resize the Clearing Fund intra-month. The change would permit intra-month resizing in the event that the five-day rolling average of projected draws are 150% or more of the Clearing Fund's then current size. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 72804 (August 11, 2014), 79 FR 48276 (August 15, 2014) (SR-OCC-2014-804).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 12 U.S.C. 5465(e)(2).

and the amount of their additional Clearing Fund requirements, which were met without issue.<sup>5</sup> As a result of these actions, OCC's Clearing Fund for October 2014 was increased by \$1.8 billion. In continued reliance on the emergency rule waiver and the emergency notice, OCC set the November 2014 Clearing Fund size at \$7.8 billion, which included an amount determined by OCC to be sufficient to protect OCC against loss under simulated default scenarios (i.e., \$6 billion), plus a prudential margin of safety (the additional \$1.8 billion collected in October).<sup>6</sup> All required contributions to the November 2014 Clearing Fund have been met by impacted clearing members.

Under Article IX, Section 14(c) of OCC's By-Laws, OCC's waiver of the provisions of the second sentence of Rule 1001(a) is permitted to continue for no more than thirty calendar days unless OCC submits a proposed rule change to the Commission seeking approval of such waiver.<sup>7</sup> Upon submission of a rule filing, the waiver may continue in effect until the Commission approves or disapproves the proposed rule change.<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, OCC is now submitting this proposed rule change to delete the second sentence of Rule 1001(a) and, by

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Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *See* Information Memorandum #35397, dated October 16, 2014, available on OCC's website, <u>http://www.theocc.com/clearing/clearing-infomemos/infomemos1.jsp</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> *See* Information Memorandum # 35507, dated October 31, 2014, available on OCC's website, <u>http://www.theocc.com/clearing/clearing-infomemos/infomemos1.jsp</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> *See*, OCC By-Laws, Article IX, Section 14(c). OCC will also submit this proposed rule change to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

the terms of Article IX, Section 14(c), to preserve the suspended effectiveness of the second sentence of Rule 1001(a) beyond thirty calendar days.

OCC believes that this proposal is appropriate to permit OCC to resize the Clearing Fund more frequently than monthly and to determine its size in an amount sufficient to protect OCC from loss by relying on a broader range of sound risk management practices than only the average daily calculations under Rule 1001(a) that are performed during the preceding calendar month. OCC would use its authority to adjust the size of its Clearing Fund on an intramonth basis only to increase the size of the Clearing Fund where appropriate, not to decrease the size of the Clearing Fund.

# B. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

OCC believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Act"),<sup>9</sup> and the rules and regulations thereunder, including Rule 17Ad-22(b)(3),<sup>10</sup> because, by permitting OCC to resize the Clearing Fund intra-month and to determine its size in an amount sufficient to protect OCC from loss using a broader range of sound risk management practices than is currently required, the proposed modifications would assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of OCC or for which it is responsible, protect investors and the public interest and ensure that OCC has policies and procedures designed to maintain sufficient financial

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.17Ad-22(b)(3).

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resources to withstand, at a minimum, a default by the participant family to which it has the largest exposure in extreme but plausible market conditions. The proposed rule change is not inconsistent with the existing rules of OCC, including any other rules proposed to be amended.

# Item 4. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.<sup>11</sup> OCC believes the proposed rule change would not unfairly inhibit access to OCC's services or disadvantage or favor any particular user in relationship to another user because OCC would continue to allocate the Clearing Fund as per current rules and without regard to any particular user or Clearing Member that makes Clearing Fund contributions.

For the foregoing reasons, OCC believes that the proposed rule change is in the public interest, would be consistent with the requirements of the Act applicable to clearing agencies, and would not impose a burden on competition.

# Item 5.Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed<br/>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants or Others

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change and none have been received.

# Item 6. <u>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</u>

Not applicable.

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(I).

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# Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) or Section 19(b)(7)(D)Not applicable.Item 8.Proposed Rule Change Based on Rule of Another<br/>Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission<br/>Not applicable.Item 9.Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act<br/>Not applicable.Item 10.Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of<br/>the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act<br/>Not applicable.Item 11.Exhibits

Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for

Exhibit 1A. Completed Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the

Federal Register.

Item 7.

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# **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, The Options

Clearing Corporation has caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned

hereunto duly authorized.

# THE OPTIONS CLEARING CORPORATION

Stephen Baach By: Stephen Szarmack

Vice President and Associate General Counsel

# EXHIBIT 1A

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-[\_\_\_\_\_]; File No. SR-OCC-2014-21)

November 13, 2014

Clearing Agency; The Options Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change in Order to Permit OCC to Adjust the Size of its Clearing Fund on an Intra-Month Basis

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on November 13, 2014, The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared primarily by OCC. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

# I. <u>Clearing Agency's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule</u> <u>Change</u>

This proposed rule change by OCC would delete the second sentence of Rule 1001(a),

which OCC has temporarily suspended pursuant to emergency authority under Article IX,

Section 14 of its By-Laws, which would permit OCC to adjust the size of its Clearing Fund on an intra-month basis.

# II. <u>Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change</u>

In its filing with the Commission, OCC included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. OCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.

# (A) <u>Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change</u>

1. Purpose

OCC is submitting this proposed rule change to permit OCC to collect additional financial resources from its clearing membership by increasing the size of its Clearing Fund on an intra-month basis when OCC determines such action should be taken so that the Clearing Fund is sufficient to protect OCC against potential loss under simulated default scenarios. OCC monitors the sufficiency of the Clearing Fund on a daily basis but may only readjust the size of the Clearing Fund on a monthly basis.<sup>3</sup> During the ordinary course of daily monitoring activities on October 15, 2014, and as a result of increased volatility in the financial markets in October 2014, OCC determined that in the event of a default of its largest participant family, OCC's then current financial resources potentially could have fallen short of the total financial resources needed to cover the loss associated with the default.

To permit OCC to increase the size of its Clearing Fund prior to the next monthly resizing that was scheduled to take place on the first business day of November 2014, OCC's Executive Chairman, on October 15, 2014, exercised certain emergency powers as set forth in Article IX, Section 14 of OCC's By-Laws.<sup>4</sup> In emergency circumstances, and subject to certain

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> OCC also has submitted an advance notice that would provide greater detail concerning conditions under which OCC would resize the Clearing Fund intra-month. The change would permit intra-month resizing in the event that the five-day rolling average of

conditions, Article IX, Section 14 permits OCC's Board of Directors, Executive Chairman, or President to waive or suspend its By-Laws, Rules, policies and procedures, or any other rules issued by OCC or extend the time fixed thereby for the doing of any act or acts for up to thirty calendar days. Consistent with that authority, and following discussions with the Risk Committee of OCC's Board of Directors, the Executive Chairman waived the provisions in the second sentence of Rule 1001(a). OCC then filed an emergency notice with the Commission pursuant to Section 806(e)(2) of the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Supervision Act of 2010<sup>5</sup> and increased the Clearing Fund size for the remainder of October 2014 as otherwise provided for by the terms of Rule 1001(a).<sup>6</sup> This was done to respond to the potential risk under prevailing market conditions that the Clearing Fund could be underfunded, which could have affected OCC's ability to provide services in a safe and sound manner.

Clearing members were informed of the action taken by the Executive Chairman and the amount of their additional Clearing Fund requirements, which were met without issue.<sup>7</sup> As a result of these actions, OCC's Clearing Fund for October 2014 was increased by \$1.8 billion. In continued reliance on the emergency rule waiver and the emergency notice, OCC set the November 2014 Clearing Fund size at \$7.8 billion, which included an amount determined by

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- <sup>7</sup> See Information Memorandum #35397, dated October 16, 2014, available on OCC's website, <u>http://www.theocc.com/clearing/clearing-infomemos/infomemos1.jsp</u>.

projected draws are 150% or more of the Clearing Fund's then current size. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 72804 (August 11, 2014), 79 FR 48276 (August 15, 2014) (SR-OCC-2014-804).

OCC to be sufficient to protect OCC against loss under simulated default scenarios (i.e., \$6 billion), plus a prudential margin of safety (the additional \$1.8 billion collected in October).<sup>8</sup> All required contributions to the November 2014 Clearing Fund have been met by impacted clearing members.

Under Article IX, Section 14(c) of OCC's By-Laws, OCC's waiver of the provisions of the second sentence of Rule 1001(a) is permitted to continue for no more than thirty calendar days unless OCC submits a proposed rule change to the Commission seeking approval of such waiver.<sup>9</sup> Upon submission of a rule filing, the waiver may continue in effect until the Commission approves or disapproves the proposed rule change.<sup>10</sup> Accordingly, OCC is now submitting this proposed rule change to delete the second sentence of Rule 1001(a) and, by the terms of Article IX, Section 14(c), to preserve the suspended effectiveness of the second sentence of Rule 1001(a) beyond thirty calendar days.

OCC believes that this proposal is appropriate to permit OCC to resize the Clearing Fund more frequently than monthly and to determine its size in an amount sufficient to protect OCC from loss by relying on a broader range of sound risk management practices than only the average daily calculations under Rule 1001(a) that are performed during the preceding calendar month. OCC would use its authority to adjust the size of its Clearing Fund on an intra-

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> *See*, OCC By-Laws, Article IX, Section 14(c). OCC will also submit this proposed rule change to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> *Id.* 

month basis only to increase the size of the Clearing Fund where appropriate, not to decrease the size of the Clearing Fund.

# 2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

OCC believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act,<sup>11</sup> and the rules and regulations thereunder, including Rule 17Ad-22(b)(3),<sup>12</sup> because, by permitting OCC to resize the Clearing Fund intra-month and to determine its size in an amount sufficient to protect OCC from loss using a broader range of sound risk management practices than is currently required, the proposed modifications would assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of OCC or for which it is responsible, protect investors and the public interest and ensure that OCC has policies and procedures designed to maintain sufficient financial resources to withstand, at a minimum, a default by the participant family to which it has the largest exposure in extreme but plausible market conditions. The proposed rule change is not inconsistent with the existing rules of OCC, including any other rules proposed to be amended.

# (B) <u>Clearing Agency's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.<sup>13</sup> OCC believes the proposed rule change would not unfairly inhibit access to OCC's services or disadvantage or favor any particular user in relationship to another user because OCC would continue to allocate the Clearing Fund as per current rules and without regard to any particular user or Clearing Member that makes Clearing Fund contributions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 240.17Ad-22(b)(3).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(I).

For the foregoing reasons, OCC believes that the proposed rule change is in the public interest, would be consistent with the requirements of the Act applicable to clearing agencies, and would not impose a burden on competition.

# (C) <u>Clearing Agency's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change</u> <u>Received from Members, Participants or Others</u>

Written comments on the proposed rule change were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change and none have been received.

# III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the <u>Federal Register</u> or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the selfregulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, or

(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change

should be disapproved.

# IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act.

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

# Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commissions Internet comment form (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-OCC-

2014-21 on the subject line.

# Paper Comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-OCC-2014-21. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Section, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of OCC and on OCC's website at

# http://www.theocc.com/components/docs/legal/rules\_and\_bylaws/sr\_occ\_14\_21.pdf

All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-OCC-2014-21 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated Authority.<sup>14</sup>

Kevin M. O'Neill Deputy Secretary

Action as set forth recommended herein APPROVED pursuant to authority delegated by the Commission under Public Law 87-592. For: Division of Trading and Markets

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_