

March 22, 2019

**VIA CFTC PORTAL**

Commodity Futures Trading Commission  
Attention: Chris Kirkpatrick, Secretary  
Three Lafayette Centre  
1155 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20581

**Re: CFTC Regulation 40.2(a) Certification: Notification of Product Offered for Trading on Nodal Exchange, LLC – Seattle to Los Angeles Monthly Van Freight Rate Future**

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Nodal Exchange, LLC (“Nodal Exchange” or “Exchange”) is notifying the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC” or “Commission”) that pursuant to Commission Regulation 40.2(a), the Exchange is self-certifying the listing of eleven (11) new trucking freight futures contracts for trading on Nodal Exchange beginning on March 29, 2019. The contract specifications describing these new Exchange futures contracts are attached to this letter as Exhibit A, to be added to the Nodal Exchange Rulebook Appendix A – Contract Specifications. The deliverable supply analysis has been segregated as Exhibit B, for which confidential treatment is requested. The reporting levels, accountability levels, and position limits for these contracts is attached to this letter as Exhibit C, which will be added to the Nodal Exchange Rulebook Appendix C - Reporting Levels, Accountability Levels and Position Limits. The methodology for the trucking indices is attached as Exhibit D, for which confidential treatment is requested.

Exchange management has assessed the Exchange’s contracts’ compliance with applicable provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act (“Act”), including the Commissions Regulations thereunder and the Core Principles. Regulatory compliance of Nodal Exchange’s futures contracts is mostly addressed in the Nodal Exchange Rulebook, concisely explained as follows:

Core Principle 2 - Compliance with the Rules: Trading in the Exchange’s contracts will be subject to the Nodal Exchange Rulebook in Section IV, describing trading procedures, and Section VI, which establishes trading codes of conduct, sound trading practices, and identifies prohibited trading behavior and abuses. In addition, trading behavior and activity will be subject to extensive monitoring and surveillance by the Exchange’s Division of Market

Administration and Surveillance. The Exchange's Compliance Department has the authority to address disciplinary matters through investigation and enforcement procedures in accordance with Section VII of the Exchange Rulebook.

Core Principle 3 - Contracts not Readily Susceptible to Manipulation: A description of the underlying cash markets and deliverable supply analysis for the Exchange's new contracts is provided in attached Exhibit B, which demonstrates compliance that the Exchange's new contracts are not readily susceptible to manipulation. Since these contracts are based on indices provided by an independent private sector third party, Nodal has verified that such indices provider enforces business practices to prohibit misuse of pricing data or other non-public information, including the prohibition of derivatives trading. Nodal has an executed licensing agreement with the indices provider, which ensures Nodal's right to use their indices for the settlement of these contracts.

Core Principle 4 - Prevention of Market Disruption: Trading in the Exchange's contracts will be subject to the Nodal Exchange Rulebook Section VI, which prohibits disruptive trading behavior and manipulation, subject to monitoring and surveillance by the Exchange's Division of Market Administration and Surveillance.

Core Principle 5 - Position Limitations or Accountability: The Exchange is proposing position accountability levels for the new contracts because the underlying cash market is not readily susceptible to manipulation. The spot-month speculative position limits for the Exchange's contracts are set at 25% of the deliverable supply in the respective underlying market. The new contract reporting levels, accountability levels and position limits are provided in attached Exhibit C, to be added to the Nodal Exchange Rulebook Appendix C – Reporting Levels, Position Accountability Levels and Position Limits.

Core Principle 7 - Availability of General Information: The Exchange will post general information, including the contract specifications for the new contracts, Exchange fees, and the Nodal Exchange Rulebook, on the Exchange's website: [www.nodalexchange.com](http://www.nodalexchange.com).

Core Principle 8 - Daily publication of Trading Information: The Exchange will publish daily information on settlement prices, volume, open interest and opening and closing ranges for the Exchange's actively traded contracts on its website.

Core Principle 9 - Execution of Transactions: The Exchange's new contracts will be available on the Exchange's electronic trading screen that is a central limit order book ("CLOB"). The CLOB provides the market with the ability to execute the Exchange's contracts from the interaction of multiple bids and multiple offers within a predetermined, nondiscretionary automated trade matching and execution algorithm.

Core Principle 10 - Trade Information: The CLOB will maintain all information with respect to each order and each consummated trade, as well as all other information relating to the trade environment that determines the matching and clearing of trades. As such, any order

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submitted to the CLOB can be tracked from the time it is entered into the system until the time that it is matched, canceled or otherwise removed.

Core Principle 11 - Financial Integrity of Transactions: The Exchange has entered into a clearing arrangement with Nodal Clear, a derivatives clearing organization subject to Part 39 of the Commission Regulations. The new contracts executed on the CLOB or as a block trade will be subject to the Exchange Rulebook provisions for submission to Nodal Clear for clearing as described in Section V.

Core Principle 12 - Protection of Markets and Market Participants: Section VI of the Nodal Exchange Rulebook protects the market and market participants from abusive, disruptive, fraudulent, noncompetitive and unfair conduct and trade practices. The new contracts are subject to these rules that apply to all transactions in the Exchange's contracts.

Core Principle 13 - Disciplinary Procedures: Section VII of the Nodal Exchange Rulebook describes the disciplinary procedures of the Exchange that authorize the Exchange to discipline, suspend, or expel anyone on the Exchange that violates these rules.

Core Principle 14 - Dispute Resolution: Section VIII of the Nodal Exchange Rulebook establishes rules concerning alternative dispute resolution, which provide for the resolution of disputes between or among Exchange users through the NFA arbitration program. Under Section VIII, arbitration is available for all disputes, controversies or claims among all Exchange users relating to Exchange activities.

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Act and the Commission's Regulation 40.2(a), the Exchange certifies that the Exchange's new futures contracts to be listed comply with the Act and the Commission's Regulations thereunder.

Nodal Exchange certifies that this submission has been concurrently posted on the Nodal Exchange website at [www.nodalexchange.com](http://www.nodalexchange.com).

If you have any question or need additional information regarding the above, please contact the undersigned at 703-962-9853 or [markotic@nodalexchange.com](mailto:markotic@nodalexchange.com) or Anita Herrera, Chief Regulatory Officer & General Counsel at 703-962-9835 or [Herrera@nodalexchange.com](mailto:Herrera@nodalexchange.com).

Sincerely,  
/s/ Max Markotic  
Director of Compliance

Attachments:

- Exhibit A: March 29, 2019 Addition to Nodal Exchange Appendix A - Contract Specifications
- **Confidential** Exhibit B: Deliverable Supply Analysis (*Confidential Treatment Requested*)
- Exhibit C: March 29, 2019 Addition to Nodal Exchange Appendix C - Reporting Levels, Accountability Levels and Position Limits
- **Confidential** Exhibit D: Trucking Index Methodology (*Confidential Treatment Requested*)