

April 15, 2013

#### **VIA E-MAIL**

Ms. Melissa Jurgens
Office of the Secretariat
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20581

RE: Energy Natural Gas Cross-Venue Incentive Program for High Volume Contributors. NYMEX Submission No. 13-140

Dear Ms. Jurgens:

New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX" or the "Exchange") hereby notify the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission") that it plans to implement an incentive program in support of certain natural gas futures products ("Program"). This proposed Program will become effective on April 30, 2013.

Exhibit 1 sets forth the terms of this Program.

NYMEX business staff responsible for the Program and the NYMEX legal department collectively reviewed the designated contract market core principles as set forth in the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA"). During the review, NYMEX staff identified the following Core Principles as potentially being impacted; Prevention of Market Disruption, Execution of Transactions, Protection of Market Participants, Compliance with Rules and Recordkeeping.

The proposed Program will not impact the Exchange's ability to perform its trade practice and market surveillance obligations under the CEA. The Exchange's market regulation staff will continue to monitor trading in the Program's products to prevent manipulative trading and market abuse. Additionally, NYMEX has implemented systems to track Program participants' volume to ensure proper distribution of earned incentives. The products included in this Program are listed for trading in the open and competitive market. The incentives available under the Program will apply to transactions by participants via any of NYMEX's execution and/or clearing venues, including the pit and our central limit order book. Therefore, the incentives under this Program protect any price discovery taking place in the centralized market. NYMEX will select participants based on the criteria set forth in Exhibit 1. Chapter 4 of the NYMEX rules includes prohibitions against fraudulent, non-competitive, unfair or abusive practices. All participants must execute a contractual agreement in which each participant will expressly agree to comply with and be subject to, applicable regulations and NYMEX rules. The proposed Program will be subject to the Exchange's record retention policies which comply with the CEA.

The Exchange certifies that the Program complies with the CEA and the regulations thereunder. There were no substantive opposing views to this Program.

The Exchange certifies that this submission has been concurrently posted on the Exchange's website at <a href="http://www.cmegroup.com/market-regulation/rule-filings.html">http://www.cmegroup.com/market-regulation/rule-filings.html</a>

If you require any additional information regarding this submission, please contact Robert Lev at 312-930-3019 or via e-mail at <u>robert.lev@cmegroup.com</u>, or contact me at 212-299-2200. Please reference our NYMEX Submission No. 13-140 in any related correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher Bowen Managing Director, Chief Regulatory Counsel

Attachment: Exhibit 1

# **EXHIBIT 1**

# Energy Natural Gas Cross-Venue Incentive Program for High Volume Contributors

#### **Program Purpose**

The purpose of the Program is to incentivize higher levels of volume contribution in certain natural gas products across NYMEX's trading and clearing venues. Higher levels of volume and liquidity in the products listed below benefits all participants in the marketplace.

## **Product Scope**

Henry Hub Natural Gas Futures, Henry Hub Natural Gas Look-Alike Last Day Financial Futures, Henry Hub Natural Gas Look-Alike Penultimate Financial Futures, Henry Hub Natural Gas Penultimate Financial Futures, and Henry Hub Natural Gas Last Day Financial Futures that are traded on Globex, the NYMEX trading floor, or submitted for clearing to the CME clearing house ("Products").

## **Eligible Participants**

Up to three (3) participants may be selected for participation in the Program. Participants may be a NYMEX member or non-member. When selecting participants for the Program, NYMEX will consider participants that have consistently traded significant monthly volume levels in the Products. Notwithstanding the forgoing, NYMEX may modify the aforementioned factors in its sole discretion as it deems necessary.

# **Program Term**

Start date is April 30, 2013. End date is December 31, 2013.

#### Hours

N/A

#### Incentives

If a participant meets certain average monthly volume levels in the Products as determined by the Exchange, the respective participant may qualify to receive predetermined reduced transaction fee rates in the Products.

## **Monitoring and Termination of Status**

The Exchange shall monitor participants' activity in the Products and retains the right to revoke Program participant status if it concludes from review that a Program participant no longer meets the eligibility requirements of the Program.