

Christopher Bowen Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel Legal Department

November 14, 2012

VIA E-MAIL

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

RE: NYMEX Brent WTI Incentive Program NYMEX Submission No. 12-376

Dear Ms. Sauntia Warfield:

New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX" or the "Exchange") hereby notifies the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission") that it plans to implement an incentive program in support of certain NYMEX Brent and West Texas Intermediate ("WTI") contracts that are traded on CME Globex® ("Program"). The proposed Program will become effective on November 30, 2012.

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 ("Core Principles") as set forth in the Commodities 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 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 nevertheless continue to monitor trading in the Program's products to prevent manipulative trading and market abuse. Additionally, the Exchange has implemented systems to track Program participants' volume to ensure proper distribution of earned incentives. The incentives in the Program do not impact the Exchange's order execution. Participants in the Program will be selected by Exchange staff using criteria as further stated in Exhibit 1. Chapter 4 of the Exchange rules includes prohibitions against fraudulent, non-competitive, unfair or abusive practices. All participants must execute a contractual agreement with the Exchange in which each participant will expressly agree to comply with and be subject to, applicable regulations and NYMEX rules. The Program is subject to the Exchange's record retention policies which comply with the CEA.

NYMEX 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 http://www.cmegroup.com/market-regulation/rule-filings.html

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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. 12-376 in any related correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher Bowen Managing Director, Chief Regulatory Counsel

Enclosure

EXHIBIT 1 NYMEX BRENT WTI INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Program Purpose

The purpose of this Program is to encourage participants to increase their Globex® volume enhancing market liquidity for the products listed below. The resulting central limit order book liquidity benefits all participants in the market.

Product Scope

Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial Futures("BZ"), Brent 25-Day Futures("NBZ") and Light Sweet Crude Oil Futures ("NBZ") contracts that are traded on the CME Globex Platform ("Products").

Eligible Participants

NYMEX may designate up to ten (10) participants in the Program. Participants may be a NYMEX member or non-member firm. In order to qualify for the Program, a potential applicant (i) must be a non-U.S. based trading firm, and (ii) cannot receive incentives through another Brent futures volume incentive program. NYMEX may, from time to time, add or subtract from the aforementioned requirements as it deems necessary.

Program Term

Start date is November 30, 2012. End date is December 31, 2013.

<u>Hours</u>

N/A

Incentives

For each calendar month that a participant meets pre-determined average daily volume requirements in certain NYMEX products, the applicable participant shall be eligible for predetermined fee discounts.

Monitoring and Termination of Status

The Exchange shall monitor trading activity and participants' performance and shall retain the right to revoke Program participant status if it concludes from review that a Program participant has failed to meet its obligations or no longer meets the eligibility requirements of the Program.