



Christopher Bowen  
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel  
Legal Department

December 10, 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: Extension of the NYMEX Crude and Refined Calendar Spread Options  
Incentive Program  
NYMEX Submission No. 13-451**

Dear Ms. Jurgens:

New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX" or "Exchange") hereby notifies the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC" or "Commission") that it plans to extend its incentive program in support of certain NYMEX energy futures and options contracts ("Program") through June 30, 2014. The Program was set to expire on December 31, 2013. The extension will become effective on January 2, 2014. All other program terms remain unchanged.

Exhibit 1 sets forth the terms of this Program. The modifications appear below, with additions underscored and deletions ~~everstruck~~.

NYMEX reviewed the designated contract market core principles ("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 Program does not impact the Exchange's ability to perform its trade practice and market surveillance obligations under the CEA and NYMEX market regulation staff will 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. Participants who might meet the criteria for this Program generally perform complex trading strategies that include both on-exchange and off-exchange activities. The set of incentives encompassed by the Program have been developed to increase volume across all NYMEX venues through additional execution of these strategies, ultimately having a positive impact on the price discovery process taking place in the centralized market as the Program is designed to increase liquidity on that venue. Participants in the Program will be selected by Exchange staff using criteria as further stated 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 with NYMEX in which each participant will expressly agree to comply with and be subject to, applicable regulations and NYMEX rules. The Program will continue to 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 the extension of the 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>.

If you require any additional information regarding this submission, please contact Tim Elliott at 312-466-7478 or via e-mail at [tim.elliott@cmegroup.com](mailto:tim.elliott@cmegroup.com), or contact me at 212-299-2200. Please reference our NYMEX Submission No. 13-451 in any related correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher K. Bowen  
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel

Attachment: Exhibit 1

# EXHIBIT 1

## NYMEX Crude and Refined Calendar Spread Options Incentive Program

### **Program Purpose**

The purpose of the Program is to incentivize higher levels of volume contribution in the products listed below during both day and overnight trading hours. Higher levels of volume and liquidity in the products listed below benefits all participants in the marketplace.

### **Product Scope**

Certain NYMEX futures and options products that are traded on Globex, traded on the NYMEX trading floor, or submitted for clearing to the CME Clearing House ("Products").

### **Eligible Participants**

NYMEX may designate up to three (3) participants in the Program. A participant may be a NYMEX member or non-member. In order to be considered for the Program, an applicant must have averaged, either through the participating firm itself or through key individuals who trade on behalf of the participating firm, significant calendar spread options ("CSO") volume over the three (3) calendar months immediately preceding the application month.

### **Program Term**

Start date is May 1, 2013. End date is ~~December 31, 2013~~ June 30, 2014.

### **Hours**

N/A

### **Incentives**

Once accepted into the Program participants may be eligible to receive predetermined incentives for trades executed in the Products.

### **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 they conclude from review that a Program participant no longer meets the eligibility requirements of the Program.