

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-91964; File No. SR-PEARL-2021-24)

May 21, 2021

Self-Regulatory Organizations; MIA X PEARL, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Adopt a New Historical Market Data Product to be Known as the Open-Close Report

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on May 10, 2021, MIA X PEARL, LLC (“MIA X Pearl”) or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange is filing a proposal to adopt a new historical market data product to be known as the Open-Close Report.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at <http://www.miaxoptions.com/rule-filings/pearl> at MIA X Pearl’s principal office, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to adopt a new historical market data product for options to be known as the Open-Close Report, which will be available to all Members and Non-Members.³ The proposed Open-Close Report would be described in new Exchange Rule 531(b)(1) and is based on market data products currently available on most other options exchanges.⁴

The Exchange proposes to offer the Open-Close Report, which will be a volume summary of trading activity on the Exchange at the option level by origin (Priority Customer, Non-Priority Customer, Firm, Broker-Dealer, and Market Maker⁵), side of the market (buy or sell), contract volume, and transaction type (opening or closing). The Priority Customer, Non-Priority Customer, Firm, Broker-Dealer, and Market Maker volume is further broken down into

³ The term “Member” means an individual or organization approved to exercise the trading rights associated with a Trading Permit. Members are deemed “members” under the Exchange Act. See Exchange Rule 100.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 89497 (August 6, 2020), 85 FR 48747 (August 12, 2020) (SR-CboeBZX-2020-059); 89498 (August 6, 2020), 85 FR 48735 (August 12, 2020) (SR-Cboe-EDGX-2020-36); 85817 (May 9, 2019), 84 FR 21863 (May 15, 2019) (SR-CBOE-2019-026); 89496 (August 6, 2020), 85 FR 48743 (August 12, 2020) (SR-C2-2020-010); 89596 (August 17, 2020), 85 FR 51833 (August 21, 2020) (SR-C2-2020-012); 62887 (September 10, 2010), 75 FR 57092 (September 17, 2010) (SR-Phlx-2010-121); 65587 (October 18, 2011), 76 FR 65765 (October 24, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-144); 61317 (January 8, 2010), 75 FR 2915 (January 19, 2010) (SR-ISE-2009-103); 62887 (September 10, 2010), 75 FR 57092 (September 17, 2010) (SR-Phlx-2010-121); 65587 (October 18, 2011), 76 FR 65765 (October 24, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-144); and 81632 (September 15, 2017), 82 FR 44235 (September 21, 2017) (SR-GEMX-2017-42).

⁵ See Exchange Rule 100 for the definitions of the terms Priority Customer, Non-Priority Customer, Firm, Broker-Dealer, and Market Maker.

trade size buckets (less than 100 contracts, 100-199 contracts, greater than 199 contracts). The Open-Close Report is proprietary Exchange trade data and does not include trade data from any other exchange. It is also a historical data product and not a real-time data feed. The Open-Close Report would be described under proposed Exchange Rule 531(b)(1).

Specifically, the Open-Close Report would include the following data:

- Aggregate number of buy and sell transactions in the affected series;
- Aggregate volume traded electronically on the Exchange in the affected series;
- Aggregate number of trades effected on the Exchange to open a position;⁶
- Aggregate number of trades effected on the Exchange to close a position;⁷
- Origin of the orders and quotes involved in trades on the Exchange in the affected series during a particular trading session, specifically aggregated in the following categories of participants: Priority Customer, Non-Priority Customer, Firm, Broker-Dealer, and Market Maker.

⁶ The Open-Close Report would provide subscribers with the aggregate number of “opening purchase transactions” in the affected series. An opening purchase transaction is an Exchange options transaction in which the purchaser’s intention is to create or increase a long position in the series of options involved in such transaction. The Open-Close Report would also provide subscribers with the aggregate number of “opening writing transactions.” An opening writing transaction is an Exchange options transaction in which the seller’s (writer’s) intention is to create or increase a short position in the series of options involved in such transaction.

⁷ The Open-Close Report will provide subscribers with the aggregate number of “closing purchase transactions” in the affected series. A closing purchase transaction is an Exchange options transaction in which the purchaser’s intention is to reduce or eliminate a short position in the series of options involved in such transaction. The Open-Close Report would also provide subscribers with the aggregate number of “closing sale transactions.” A closing sale transaction is an Exchange options transaction an Exchange options transaction in which the seller’s intention is to reduce or eliminate a long position in the series of options involved in such transaction.

The Exchange anticipates a wide variety of market participants to purchase the Open-Close Report, including, but not limited to, individual customers, buy-side investors, and investment banks. The Open-Close Report would provide subscribers data that should enhance their ability to analyze option trade and volume data, and to create and test trading models and analytical strategies. The Exchange believes that Open-Close Report will be a valuable tool that subscribers can use to gain comprehensive insight into the trading activity in a particular option series. The proposed report is a completely voluntary product, in that the Exchange is not required by any rule or regulation to make this data available and that potential subscribers may purchase it only if they voluntarily choose to do so. The Exchange will establish a monthly subscriber fee for the Open-Close Report by way of a separate proposed rule change, which the Exchange will submit prior to the launch of the Open-Close Report.

The Exchange proposes to offer two versions of the Open-Close Report. One will contain historical data from the previous trading day and will be available after the end of the trading day, generally on a T+1 basis. The other version will include “snapshots” taken every 10 minutes throughout the trading day and would be available within five minutes of the conclusion of each 10 minute period.

End of Day Report

The end of day product would include the aggregate data described above representing the entire trading session. It would be calculated during an overnight process after the close of trading on the Exchange and would be available to subscribers for download the following morning at approximately 7:00 a.m., ET.

Intra-Day Report

The Exchange also proposed to offer an intraday Open-Close Report that would also include aggregated data described above, but would be produced and updated every 10 minutes during the trading day. Data would be captured in "snapshots" taken every 10 minutes throughout the trading day and would be available to subscribers within five minutes of the conclusion of each 10 minute period. For example, subscribers to the intraday product would receive the first calculation of intraday data no later than 9:45 a.m. ET, which represents data captured from 9:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. Subscribers will receive the next update by 9:55 a.m., representing the data previously provided aggregated with data captured up to 9:50 a.m., and so forth. Each update will represent combined data captured from the current "snapshot" and all previous "snapshots" and thus will provide open-close data on an aggregate basis. The intraday Open-Close Report will provide a volume summary of trading activity on the Exchange at the option level by origin (Priority Customer, Non-Priority Customer, Firm, Broker-Dealer, and Market Maker), side of the market (buy or sell), and transaction type (opening or closing). All volume will be further broken down into trade size buckets (less than 100 contracts, 100-199 contracts, greater than 199 contracts).

The Exchange believes the proposed intraday Open-Close Report may also provide helpful trading information regarding investor sentiment that may allow market participants to make better trading decisions throughout the day and may be used to create and test trading models and analytical strategies and provides comprehensive insight into trading on the Exchange. For example, intraday open data may allow a market participant to identify new interest or possible risks throughout the trading day, while intraday closing data may allow a market participant to identify fading interests in a security.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act⁸ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act⁹ in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and to protect investors and the public interest, and that it is not designed to permit unfair discrimination among customers, brokers, or dealers.

In adopting Regulation NMS, the Commission granted self-regulatory organizations (“SROs”) and broker-dealers increased authority and flexibility to offer new and unique market data to the public. It was believed that this authority would expand the amount of data available to consumers, and also spur innovation and competition for the provision of market data. Particularly, the Open-Close Report further broadens the availability of U.S. option market data to investors consistent with the principles of Regulation NMS. The data product also promotes increased transparency through the dissemination of the Open-Close Report’s data. The proposed rule change would benefit investors by providing access to the Open-Close Report, which may promote better informed trading throughout the trading day. Particularly, information regarding opening and closing activity across different option series during the trading day may indicate investor sentiment, which may allow market participants to make better informed trading decisions throughout the day. Subscribers to the data may also be able to enhance their ability to analyze option trade and volume data and create and test trading models and analytical strategies. The Exchange believes the Open-Close Report provides a valuable tool

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

that subscribers can use to gain comprehensive insight into the trading activity in a particular series, but also emphasizes such data is not necessary for trading.

Moreover, other exchanges also offer a substantially identical data product.¹⁰ Specifically, NASDAQ OMX PHLX (“PHLX”) and the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (“NASDAQ”) offer the PHLX Options Trade Outline (“PHOTO”) and NASDAQ Options Trade Outline (“NOTO”), respectively. The Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe”), Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc. (“C2”), Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“BZX”), and Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (“EDGX”) all offer the market data products called the End of Day and Intraday Open-Close Data. The Phlx, Nasdaq, Cboe, C2, BZX, and EDGX products provide substantially the same information as that included in the proposed Open-Close Report. Like the proposed product, the data is provided to subscribers in the other exchange’s market data products after the end of the trading and cumulatively every 10 minutes and provided within five minutes of the conclusion of each 10 minute period.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Rather, the Exchange believes that the proposal will promote competition by permitting the Exchange to offer a data product similar to those offered by other competitor options exchanges.¹¹ The Exchange is proposing to introduce the Open-Close Report in order to keep pace with changes in the industry and evolving customer needs, and believes this proposed rule change would contribute to robust competition among national securities exchanges. As noted, most other options exchanges offer a market data product that is similar to the Open-Close

¹⁰ See supra note 4.

¹¹ Id.

Report.¹² As a result, the Exchange believes this proposed rule change permits fair competition among national securities exchanges. Therefore, the Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁴ thereunder. Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁵ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁶ thereunder.

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁷ normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-

¹² Id.

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78(b)(3)(A).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires the Exchange to give the Commission written notice of the Exchange's intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

¹⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

4(f)(6)(iii),¹⁸ the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposed rule change may become operative on June 1, 2021, the anticipated date upon which the Exchange expects to start to offer the Open-Close Report. In support of its waiver request, the Exchange notes that other exchanges offer a substantially identical data product.¹⁹ The Commission believes that, as described above, the Exchange's proposal does not raise any new or novel issues. Therefore, the Commission believes that waving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Accordingly, the Commission designates the proposed rule change to be operative on June 1, 2021.²⁰

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

¹⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁹ See supra note 10 and accompanying text.

²⁰ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission also has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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 Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-PEARL-2021-24 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-PEARL-2021-24. 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 all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between 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 Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change.

Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-PEARL-2021-24 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.²¹

J. Matthew DeLesDernier
Assistant Secretary

²¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).