

203 FURTHER INFORMATION 56

December 22, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE

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

**Re: Certification: New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc.
Submission #03.173 (Listing of Additional Strike Prices for the
Gold, Copper and Natural Gas Option Contracts)**

Dear CFTC Commissioners:

Pursuant to COMEX Rule 15.03(c), COMEX Rule 17.04 and NYMEX Rule 300.20, the President of the New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("Exchange") has directed that additional strike prices be added for certain contract months in the Gold, Copper and Natural Gas option contracts as detailed below:

(A) On December 18, 2003, the Exchange added a call and a put:

(1) at the strike price of 9200 for the March 2004 contract month of the Natural Gas option contract;

(2) at the strike price of 11300 for the March 2004 contract month of the Heating Oil option contract;

(B) On December 19, 2003, the Exchange added a call and a put:

(3) at the strike price of 8300 for the March 2004 contract month of the Natural Gas option contract;

(4) at the strike prices of 7100, 8600 and 8900 for the April 2004 contract month of the Natural Gas option contract;

(5) at the strike price of 5350 for the March 2005 contract month of the Natural Gas option contract;

(C) On December 22, 2003, the Exchange added a call and a put:

(6) at the strike price of 116 for the May 2004 contract month of the Copper option contract;

(7) at the strike price of 520 for the June 2004 contract month of the Gold option contract;

(8) at the strike price of 460 for the August 2004 contract month of the Gold option contract; and

(9) at the strike price of 5050 for the September 2004 contract month of the Natural Gas option contract.

Pursuant to the terms of COMEX Rule 15.03(c), COMEX Rule 17.04 and NYMEX Rule 300.20, the strike prices noted above are in increments that are consistent with the pricing for the underlying futures contract. COMEX Rule 15.03(c), COMEX Rule 17.04 and NYMEX Rule 300.20 permit such directed strike prices to be effective upon adoption, provided that notice to the CFTC is given within three business days of the strike price listing.

Should you have any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at (212) 299-2207.

Very truly yours,

Brian Regan
Vice President & Counsel

cc: Christopher K. Bowen
George Henderson
Michael Campanelli