

KalshiEX LLC

New Contract Submission: [What will Lake Mead water levels be?](#)

Ticker: MEAD

Lake Mead Water Levels

~~10/5/~~[December 11, 2021](#)

## CONCISE EXPLANATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE PRODUCT AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT, INCLUDING CORE PRINCIPLES AND THE COMMISSION'S REGULATIONS THEREUNDER

Pursuant to Commission Rule 40.2(a)(3)(v), the following is a concise explanation and analysis of the product and its compliance with the Act, including the relevant Core Principles, and the Commission's regulations thereunder.

### I. Introduction

~~The MEAD~~[The “What will Lake Mead water levels be?”](#) Contract is a contract relating to water levels at Lake Mead. Lake Mead is one of the largest sources of electricity in the American Southwest, primarily servicing the Las Vegas area. In recent months, the water levels have reached dangerously low levels. After careful analysis, Kalshi (hereafter referred to as “Exchange”) has determined that the Contract complies with its vetting framework, which has been reviewed by the CFTC and formed part of the Exchange’s application for designation as a Contract Market (“DCM”) that was approved by the Commission.

Lake Mead is the reservoir on the Colorado River that is formed by the Hoover Dam. When water levels drop, that means less water can flow through the turbines of the dam, producing less electricity (and, of course, decreased electrical production raises the equilibrium price of electricity in the broader dispatch region). Considering Lake Mead’s status both as a direct producer of electricity and as a bellwether for overall water conditions in the American Southwest, this Contract provides a large hedging utility.

Further information about the Contract, including an analysis of its risk mitigation and price basing utility, as well as additional considerations related to the Contract, is included in Confidential Appendices B, C, and D.

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Act and CFTC Regulations 40.2(a), the Exchange hereby certifies that the listing of the Contract complies with the Act and Commission regulations under the Act.

**General Contract Terms and Conditions:** The Contract operates similar to other binary contracts that the Exchange lists for trading. The minimum price fluctuation is \$0.01 (one cent). Price bands will apply so that Contracts may only be listed at values of at least \$0.01 and at most \$0.99. Further, the Contract is sized with a one-dollar notional value and has a minimum price fluctuation of \$0.01 to enable Members to match the size of the contracts purchased to their economic risks. The Exchange has further imposed position limits (defined as maximum loss exposure) of \$25,000 USD on the Contract. As outlined in Rule 5.12 of the Rulebook, trading shall be available at all times outside of any maintenance windows, which will be announced in advance by the Exchange. Members will be charged fees in accordance with Rule 3.6 of the Rulebook. Fees are charged in such amounts as may be revised from time to time to be reflected on the Exchange's Website. Additionally, as outlined in Rule 7.2 of the Rulebook, if any event or any circumstance which may have a material impact on the reliability or transparency of a Contract's Source Agency or the Underlying related to the Contract arises, Kalshi retains the authority to designate a new Source Agency and Underlying for that Contract and to change any associated Contract specifications after the first day of trading. That new Source Agency and Underlying would be objective and verifiable. Kalshi would announce any such decision on its website. All instructions on how to access the Underlying are non-binding and are provided for convenience only and are not part of the binding Terms and Conditions of the Contract. They may be clarified at any time. Furthermore, the Contract's payout structure is characterized by the payment of an absolute amount to the holder of one side of the option and no payment to the counterparty. During the time that trading on the Contract is open, Members are able to adjust their positions and trade freely. After trading on the Contract has closed, the Expiration Value and Market Outcome are determined. The market is then settled by the Exchange, and the long position holders and short position holders are paid according to the Market Outcome. In this case, "long position holders" refers to Members who purchased the "Yes" side of the Contract and "short position holders" refers to Members who purchased the "No" side of the Contract. If the Market Outcome is "Yes," meaning that water levels at Lake Mead are <greater than/less than> <feet> for <month>, then the long position holders are paid an absolute amount proportional to the size of their position and the short position holders receive no payment. If the Market Outcome is "No," then the short position holders are paid an absolute amount proportional to the size of their position and the long position holders receive no payment. Specification of the circumstances that would trigger a Market Outcome of "Yes" are included below in the section titled "Payout Criterion" in Appendix A.

**APPENDIX A – CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**TERMS OF CONTRACTS TRADED ON KALSHI**

**Contract Official Product Name: What will Lake Mead water levels be?**  
**Ticker and Rulebook: MEAD**

## MEAD

**Scope:** These rules shall apply to the MEAD contract.

**Underlying:** The Underlying for this Contract is end-of-month water elevation in feet for Lake Mead at Hoover Dam as measured by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Revisions to the Underlying made after Expiration will not be accounted for in determining the Expiration Value.

**Instructions:** The data can be found at <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/mead-elv.html>. The value should be in the row labeled with the appropriate year and the column with the appropriate month.

Should no data be available at that link, please use: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/levels.html>. The data is in the column “Elevation Feet” under the header “Lake Mead”. The row is the row associated with the final available day of <month>. These instructions on how to access the Underlying are provided for convenience only and are not part of the binding Terms and Conditions of the Contract. They may be clarified at any time.

**Source Agency:** The Source Agency is the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

**Type:** The type of Contract is a Binary Contract.

**Issuance:** The Contract is based on the outcome of a recurrent data release, which is issued on a monthly basis. Contract iterations will be issued on a recurring basis, and future Contract iterations will generally correspond to the next month. The Exchange will publish all available contract months on its website. ~~The Issuance of the initial Contract will be on or after October 7, 2021.~~

**<Feet>:** Kalshi may list iterations of the Contract with <feet> levels that fall within an inclusive range between a maximum value of <1,500> and a minimum value of <0> at consecutive increments of <0.1>. Due to the potential for variability in the Underlying, the Exchange may modify <feet> levels in response to suggestions by Members.

**<Month>:** <month> refers to a calendar month specified by Kalshi. Kalshi may list iterations of the Contract corresponding to different statistical periods of <month>, ~~ranging from October 2021 to December 2031.~~.

**Payout Criterion:** The Payout Criterion for the Contract encompasses the Expiration Values that are strictly <greater than/less than> <feet>. If no data is available, then the Contract resolves to No.

**Minimum Tick:** The Minimum Tick size for the referred Contract shall be \$0.01.

**Position Limit:** The Position Limit for the \$1 referred Contract shall be \$25,000 per Member.

**Last Trading Date:** The Last Trading Date of the initial iteration of the Contract will be the same day as the Expiration Date. The Last Trading Time will be the same as the Expiration time.

**Settlement Date:** The Settlement Date of the initial iteration of the Contract shall be no later than the day after the Expiration Date, unless the Market Outcome is under review pursuant to Rule 7.1.

**Expiration Date:** The Expiration Date of the Contract shall be the third day sooner of the calendar month first 10:00 AM ET following <month>, unless that date is a weekend or a federal holiday, whereupon it shall be the first day after the third day of the calendar month that is neither a weekend nor a federal holiday. For example, the Expiration Date of the initial Contract will be the earlier of the release of the data or November 3, 2021 is neither a weekend nor a federal holiday. for the last day of <month> or one week following the last day of <month>.

**Expiration time:** The Expiration time of the initial Contract iteration shall be 10:00 AM ET.

**Settlement Value:** The Settlement Value for this Contract is \$1.00.

**Expiration Value:** The Expiration Value is the value of the Underlying for the statistical period of <month> as documented by the Source Agency on the Expiration Date at the Expiration time.

**Contingencies:** Before Settlement, Kalshi may, at its sole discretion, initiate the Market Outcome Review Process pursuant to Rule 6.3(c) of the Rulebook. Additionally, as outlined in Rule 7.2 of the Rulebook, if any event or any circumstance which may have a material impact on the reliability or transparency of a Contract's Source Agency or the Underlying related to the Contract arises, Kalshi retains the authority to designate a new Source Agency and Underlying for that Contract and to change any associated Contract specifications after the first day of trading.

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