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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

September 27, 2011

### VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

David A. Stawick
Secretary
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21<sup>st</sup> Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20581

Re: Rule Filing SR-OCC-2011-14 - Request for Commission Rule Approval

Dear Secretary Stawick:

Enclosed please find a copy of the above-referenced rule filing, which The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") is submitting for Commission approval pursuant to Commission Regulation 40.5. OCC hereby certifies that notice of this rule filing has been given to Clearing Members of OCC in compliance with Regulation 40.5(a)(6) by posting a copy of the submission on OCC's website. This rule filing has been, or is concurrently being, submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act").

In conformity with the requirements of Regulation 40.5(a), OCC states the following: The proposed effective date of the rule is the earliest date that the proposed rule both is approved by the SEC (or otherwise becomes effective under the Exchange Act) and is deemed approved by the CFTC. The text of the proposed rule is set forth in Item 1 of the enclosed filing. The proposed rule was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of OCC as described in Item 2 of the enclosed filing, pursuant to the powers granted the Board by Article III, Section 8 of OCC's By-Laws. Item 3 of the enclosed filing sets forth the operation, purpose, and effect of the proposed rule. Item 5 of the enclosed filing sets forth a description of any written comments on the rule filing, including any such comments expressing opposing views that were not incorporated into the proposed rule.

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OCC proposes to clear cash-settled options on the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index as securities options subject to the jurisdiction of the SEC, and would therefore not require clearing members that carry such options for the accounts of their customers to hold them in accounts that are subject to the segregation requirements of the Commodity Exchange Act.

As a derivatives clearing organization subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission as well as a registered securities clearing agency, OCC is filing this rule change for prior Commission approval in order to provide legal certainty for the trading of these products.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephen Szarmack

**Enclosures** 

cc: CFTC

CFTC Central Region (w/ enclosure) 525 West Monroe Street, Suite 1100

Chicago, IL 60661

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

# Form 19b-4

Proposed Rule Change by

# THE OPTIONS CLEARING CORPORATION

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

### Item 1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC" or the "Corporation") proposes to amend, as set forth below, an interpretation and policy following the introduction in Article XVII of its By-Laws. The purpose of the proposed interpretation is to provide legal certainty for the trading of particular products. Material proposed to be added to OCC's By-Laws as currently in effect is underlined and material proposed to be deleted is enclosed in brackets.

#### THE OPTIONS CLEARING CORPORATION

### **BY-LAWS**

#### ARTICLE XVII

## **Index Options and Other Cash-Settled Options**

### Introduction

By-Laws in this Article are applicable only to cash-settled options that are not specifically addressed elsewhere in these By-Laws, including options where the underlying interests are indexes and cash-settled commodity options other than binary options or range options (which are governed by the provisions of Article XIV). Section 1 of Article XII is also applicable to cash-settled commodity options. By-Laws in Articles I-XI are also applicable to cash-settled options, in some cases supplemented by one or more By-Laws in this Article, except for By-Laws that have been replaced in respect of such options by one or more By-Laws in this Article and except where the context otherwise requires. Whenever a By-Law in this Article supplements or, for purposes of this Article, replaces one or more By-Laws in Articles I-XI, that fact is indicated in brackets following the By-Law in this Article.

### ... Interpretations and Policies:

For the elimination of doubt, OCC will clear and treat as options on securities any option on the CBOE Gold ETF Volatility Index or the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index.

## Item 2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by OCC's Board of Directors at a meeting held on July 26, 2011.

Questions regarding the proposed rule change should be addressed to Stephen M. Szarmack, Vice President and Associate General Counsel, at (312) 322-4802.

# Item 3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose</u> of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to remove any potential cloud on the jurisdictional status of options on the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index, which is an index that measures the implied volatility of options on the iShares Silver Trust, an exchange-traded fund designed to reflect the performance of the price of silver. To accomplish this purpose, OCC is proposing to amend the interpretation and policy following the introduction in Article XVII of OCC's By-Laws to clarify that OCC will clear and treat as securities options any option contracts on the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index. On December 29, 2010, the Commission approved rule filing SR-OCC-2010-07, which added the existing interpretation, which relates to the treatment and clearing of options on the CBOE Gold ETF Volatility Index.

In its capacity as a "derivatives clearing organization" registered as such with the CFTC, OCC is filing this proposed rule change for prior approval by the CFTC pursuant to provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act (the "CEA") in order to foreclose any potential liability under the CEA based on an argument that the clearing by OCC of such options as securities options constitutes a violation of the CEA.

\* \* \*

The proposed interpretation of OCC's By-Laws is consistent with the purposes and requirements of Section 17A of the Exchange Act because it is designed to promote

the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of transactions in securities options, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in the clearance and settlement of such transactions, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a national system for the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of such transactions, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. It accomplishes this purpose by reducing the likelihood of a dispute as to the Commission's jurisdiction over options based on the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index. The proposed rule change is not inconsistent with the By-Laws and Rules of OCC.

# Item 4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any material burden on competition.

# Item 5. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change, and none has been received.

# Item 6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

OCC does not consent to an extension of the time period for Commission action on the proposed rule change.

# Item 7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

Not applicable.

# Item 8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

The proposed rule change is not based on a rule change of another self-regulatory organization.

# Item 9. Exhibits

Exhibit 1 Completed notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>.

# **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, The Options Clearing Corporation has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

THE OPTIONS CLEARING CORPORATION

Stephen M. Szarmack

Vice President and

**Associate General Counsel** 

### **EXHIBIT 1**

### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34-\_\_\_\_\_; File No. SR-OCC-2011-14

### SELF-REGULATORY ORGANIZATION

Proposed Rule Change By The Options Clearing Corporation

Relating to Clearing Options on the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index

Comments requested within days after the date of this publication.

# I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the</u> <u>Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

The proposed rule change would allow OCC to add an interpretation following the introduction in Article XVII of OCC's By-Laws, clarifying that OCC will clear and treat as securities options any option contracts on the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index.

# II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose</u> of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization 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 in Item IV below. The self-regulatory organization has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

# A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose</u> of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to remove any potential cloud on the jurisdictional status of options on the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index, which is an index that measures the implied volatility of options on the iShares Silver Trust, an exchange-traded fund designed to reflect the performance of the price of silver. To accomplish this purpose, OCC is proposing to amend the interpretation and policy following the introduction in Article XVII of OCC's By-Laws to clarify that OCC will clear and treat as securities options any option contracts on the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index. On December 29, 2010, the Commission approved rule filing SR-OCC-2010-07, which added the existing interpretation, which relates to the treatment and clearing of options on the CBOE Gold ETF Volatility Index.

In its capacity as a "derivatives clearing organization" registered as such with the CFTC, OCC is filing this proposed rule change for prior approval by the CFTC pursuant to provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act (the "CEA") in order to foreclose any potential liability under the CEA based on an argument that the clearing by OCC of such options as securities options constitutes a violation of the CEA.

\* \* \*

The proposed interpretation of OCC's By-Laws is consistent with the purposes and requirements of Section 17A of the Exchange Act because it is designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of transactions in securities options, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in the clearance and settlement of such transactions, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a national system for the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of such transactions, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. It accomplishes this purpose by reducing the likelihood of a dispute as to the Commission's jurisdiction over options based on the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index. The proposed rule change is not inconsistent with the By-Laws and Rules of OCC.

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

  OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.
  - C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the</u>

    <u>Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants or</u>

    Others

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change and none have been received.

# III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change</u> and Timing for Commission Action

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the <u>Federal Register</u> or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding, or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (A) by order approve the proposed rule change, or
- (B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

## 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 <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-OCC-2011-14 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-OCC-2011-14. 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 Web site
(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
inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Section, 100 F Street, N.E.,
Washington, D.C. 20549-1090. Copies of such filing will also be available for
inspection and copying at the principal office of the above-mentioned self-regulatory
organization. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission
does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit
only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer
to File Number SR-OCC-2011-14 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21
days from publication in the Federal Register]
For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated
authority.
Secretary

Dated:\_\_\_\_