

World Financial Center One North End Avenue New York, New York 10282

## **BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

Submission No. 12-68 October 2, 2012

Secretary
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW
Washington, DC 20581

Re: Amendments to Block Trade Procedures
Submission Pursuant to Commission Regulation 40.6(a) and 40.5(g)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended (the "CEA") and Commission Regulation 40.6(a) ICE Futures U.S., Inc. ("IFUS" or "Exchange") hereby submits amendments to Exchange Block Trade Procedures (reflected in the Block Trade FAQ) which allow block trades of Energy Futures and Options Contracts to be executed at anytime, as set forth in attached Exhibit A. In addition, the Exchange concurrently seeks Commission review and expedited approval for the amendments pursuant to Regulation 40.5(g) and requests these changes become effective no later than October 15, 2012.

Under current Exchange Block Trading Procedures, block transactions may only be executed during normal trading hours for a particular block eligible contract. Further, participants are currently required to report block transactions to the Exchange within 5 minutes of execution<sup>1</sup>. The amendments to the Exchange's Block Trade Procedures will allow participants to enter into block transactions for Energy Futures and Options Contracts at anytime. The Exchange will maintain the 5 minute reporting requirement<sup>2</sup> for block trades executed during normal trading hours. For block trades executed outside of normal trading hours for a particular Energy Futures or Options Contract, participants will be required to report the transaction no later than 5 minutes prior to the open of the next trading session. The amendment conforms Exchange practices with current practices at other U.S. futures exchanges.

Unless approved by the Commission under Regulation 40.5(g) for implementation on October 15, 2012, the amendments to block trade procedures shall go into effect on October 18, 2012.

The Exchange certifies that the amendments to the Block Trade Procedures comply with the requirements of the CEA and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. Specifically, the amendments comply with Core Principle 9 (Execution of Transactions) and Core Principle 8 (Daily

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Amendments to Exchange Block Trade Procedures filed in Submission 12-67 extend the reporting window from 5 minutes to 15 minutes for certain Energy Futures and Options Contracts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See above.

Publication of Trade Information). Block transactions may by executed in accordance with Exchange rules. Such transactions are identified and all relevant transaction information including price and quantity is disseminated to the marketplace.

No substantive opposing views were expressed by members or others with respect to these rules. The Exchange further certifies that, concurrent with this filing, a redacted copy of this submission was posted on the Exchange's website at (<a href="https://www.theice.com/notices/RegulatoryFilings.shtml">https://www.theice.com/notices/RegulatoryFilings.shtml</a>).

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Jason V. Fusco (212) 748-4021 (<u>Jason.fusco@theice.com</u>).

Sincerely,

Jason V. Fusco

Assistant General Counsel

Jam V. Tuso

Market Regulation

cc: Division of Market Oversight New York Regional Office

## **EXHIBIT A**

## ICE FUTURES U.S. BLOCK TRADE – FAQs

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## 7. What are the trading hours for block trades?

Block trades for Energy Futures and Options Contracts may be [entered]executed at anytime. Block trades of all other contracts may be entered during the electronic trading hours of the respective product. Block trades executed outside of normal trading hours for a particular block eligible contract must be reported to the Exchange no later than 5 minutes prior to the open of the next trading session for the particular block eligible contract. Block trades executed during normal trading hours should be entered and/or reported as described in Question 9.

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