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#### BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Submission No. **14-23** July 10, 2014

Ms. Melissa Jurgens Secretary of the Commission Office of the Secretariat Commodity Futures Trading Commission Three Lafayette Centre 1155 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC 20581

# Re: Listing of Commodity Swaps and Related Rule Amendments- Submission Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Act and Regulations 40.2 and 40.6

Dear Ms. Jurgens:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended (the "CEA") and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the "Commission") Regulations 40.2 and 40.6(a), ICE Swap Trade, LLC ("IST" or "SEF") submits by written certification the terms and conditions for one (1) new cash-settled Oil contract (the "Energy Contract"). The Energy Contract will be listed as a permitted contract for trading on July 14, 2014 (based on an acknowledged filing date of July 11, 2014). The Energy Contract is a bilateral uncleared swap.

The contract terms and conditions are set forth in Chapter 13 of the ICE Swap Trade Rulebook ("Rules") and in related amendments to existing Rules, as specified in **Exhibit A**. The underlying cash market analysis is contained in **Exhibit B**. The SEF is listing one (1) Dubai Oil swap as noted in the table below:

Rule	Contract Name
Rule 13173	Platts Dubai Swap

## **Certifications**

IST certifies that the rules and amendments related to the listing of the Energy Contract comply with the requirements of the CEA and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission thereunder. IST has reviewed the Core Principles and has determined that the listing of the Energy Contract impacts the following relevant Core Principles:

**COMPLIANCE WITH RULES (Principle 2):** The terms and conditions of the Energy Contract are set forth in Chapter 13 of the Rules, which will be enforced by IST. Trading of the Energy Contract is subject to all relevant IST rules which are enforced by the Market Regulation Department.

**SWAPS NOT READILY SUSCEPTIBLE TO MANIPULATION (Principle 3):** The Energy Contract should not be readily subject to manipulation as it is based on a deep and liquid cash market as demonstrated in the analysis included in Exhibit B. In addition, the Energy Contract will be subject to market surveillance by IST Market Regulation staff to detect attempted manipulation.

MONITOR OF TRADING AND TRADE PROCESSING (Principle 4): All contracts listed for trading by IST are



subject to prohibitions against abusive trading practices as set forth in Chapter 5 of the IST Rulebook. The Market Regulation staff actively monitors all IST markets to detect abusive practices.

**ABILITY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION (Principle 5):** IST has rules and procedures in place that allow for the collection of non-routine data from Participants and Customers. In addition, IST has agreements in place with other regulatory, data repository and reporting services.

**TIMELY PUBLICATION OF TRADING INFORMATION (Principle 9):** IST will publish on its website and distribute through quote vendors contract trading volume, open interest levels, and daily price information. IST will also adhere to the reporting requirements as detailed in Part 43 and 45<sup>1</sup> of the Commission's Rules. Prior to the commencement of trading, the terms and conditions for the Energy Contract will be available on IST's website. In addition, IST will publish on a daily basis the settlement prices, volume, open interest and the opening and closing ranges for actively traded contracts.

**RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING (Principle 10):** IST has rules and procedures in place to require Participants and Customers to maintain records of their trading and provide for the recording and storage of the requisite trade information sufficient for the Market Regulation Department to detect and prosecute customer and market abuses.

**DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES (Principle 13):** Pursuant to Chapters 8 of the IST Rulebook, the Market Regulation Department has the authority to sanction, suspend or expel members and market participants that violate SEF rules.

**DISPUTE RESOLUTION (Principle 14):** Participants may arbitrate claims arising from trading of IST's contracts in accordance with Chapter 9 of the IST Rulebook. Such arbitration is mandatory for claims by customers against SEF Participants and for claims by SEF Participants against each other. Non-Participants with claims arising from trading of IST's contracts may also opt for SEF arbitration.

IST not aware of any substantive opposing views expressed with respect to the rules and the amendments. IST further certifies that concurrent with this filing, a copy of this submission was posted on its website, which may be accessed at: (<u>https://www.theice.com/notices/Notices.shtml?regulatoryFilings</u>).

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the undersigned at (212) 323-8512 or (Cathy.OConnor@theice.com).

Sincerely,

Alillma

Cathy O'Connor Chief Compliance Officer

cc: Division of Market Oversight

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 17 CFR Part 43 Real-Time Public Reporting of Swap Transaction Data and 17 CFR Part 45 Swap Data Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements.



## **EXHIBIT A**

## **CHAPTER 13: CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

#### Rule 13.00 Scope.

(a) The rules in this Chapter govern the trading of Commodity Contracts. Any matters not specifically covered herein related to trading, settlement or otherwise related to Transactions involving Commodity Contracts shall be governed by the Rules of the SEF. In the event of any inconsistency between the Rules in this Chapter and any other SEF Rule, the Rules in this Chapter shall govern.

(b) The SEF shall list for trading hereunder Commodity Contracts as may be designated by the SEF from time to time.

#### Rule 13.01 Definitions.

As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

#### **Commodity Contract**

The term "Commodity Contract" shall include Commodity Swaps, Option on Commodity Swaps, and any other interests or instruments traded on or subject to the Rules.

#### **Contract Period**

The Term "Contract Period" shall mean the expiration month or date of the Contract.

#### Last Trading Day

The term "Last Trading Day" shall mean the last day on which trading is permitted for swap in accordance with the Rules.

#### Platts Asia-Pacific/Arab Gulf Market Scan

The Term "Platts Asia-Pacific/Arab Gulf Marketscan" shall mean Platts Asia-Pacific/Arab Gulf Marketscan, or any successor publication, published by the McGraw-Hill Companies Inc. or its successor.

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## Platts Crude Oil Marketwire

The Term "Platts Crude Oil Marketwire" shall mean Platts Crude Oil Marketwire, or any successor publication, published by the McGraw-Hill Companies Inc. or its successor.

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#### Platts European Marketscan

The Term "Platts European Marketscan" shall mean Platts European Marketscan, or any successor publication, published by The McGraw-Hill Companies Inc. or its successor.



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### Pricing Calendar

The Term "Pricing Calendar" shall mean the holiday calendar relevant for determining the publication dates of a Reference Price.

#### **Pricing Date**

The Term "Pricing Date" shall mean the day on which the applicable prices are announced or published by the Price Source.

#### **Price Source**

The Term "Price Source" shall mean the publication (or such other origin of reference) containing (or reporting) the Specified Price (or prices from which the Specified Price is calculated).

#### **Reference Price**

The Term "Reference Price" shall mean any of the commodity reference prices specified in the 2005 ISDA Commodity Definitions, or any successor publications, or a commodity reference price specified using the commodity reference price framework described in the 2005 ISDA Commodity Definitions, or its successor.

#### **Specified Price**

The Term "Specified Price" shall mean the explicit price reported in or by the Price Source, or capable of being determined from information reported in or by, the relevant Price Source.



# Rule 13173. Platts Dubai Swap

**Contract Description:** A monthly cash settled swap based on the Platts daily assessment price for Dubai Crude.

Contract Symbol: N/A

Contract Size: 1,000 barrels

Unit of Trading: Any multiple of 50,000 barrels

**Currency:** US Dollars and cents

**Trading Price Quotation:** One cent (\$0.01) per barrel

Last Trading Day: Last Trading Day of the contract month

**Final Settlement Price:** In respect of final settlement, the Floating Price will be a price in USD and cents per barrel based on the average of the mean of the high and low quotations appearing in "Platts Crude Oil Marketwire" under the heading "Key benchmarks (\$/bbl)" for "Dubai" prompt month for each business day (as specified below) in the determination period.

# **Roll Adjust Provision:** N/A

Contract Series: Up to 60 consecutive months, or as otherwise determined by the SEF

**Final Payment Dates:** Fourteen (14) Calendar Days after each settlement date via wire transfer or Federal funds

Business Days: Publication days for Platts Crude Oil Marketwire

**Other Terms:** To be confirmed directly between the parties in their full form of contract. The terms reflected in such contracts shall be controlling.



# Exhibit B

## I. Cash Market Overview

## Crude Oil

There is in effect across the entire matrix of related oil market instruments including physical and the related Swaps a complex of co-dependent price relationships via geographical, time and quality arbitrage which underpins the validity and safety of prices in all grades and regions. Thus liquidity is effectively co-opted by reference and spread pricing from the most liquid and standardized globally-aggregated markets to those of a traditionally more bilateral and specialized type.

To give a simple example, a refined product 'crack' (differential) to Brent (such as Naphtha CIF NWE Cargoes vs. Brent 1st Line Swap) by definition allows the hugely liquid market in Brent instruments to provide as much as 95-99% or more of the outright price of Naphtha cargoes, an otherwise less liquid outright price market, but which can then rely to a large degree on the Brent crude instrument complex, where participants across multiple fields will provide very liquid markets and tight bid/offer spreads for that proportion of the Naphtha flat or outright price. This leaves sometimes just a matter of cents per barrel to be negotiated in terms of the Naphtha crack over or below the Brent price. This gives market participants a highly varied instrument set and a series of choices between the precise degree of match for any exact physical basis and the liquidity available at that individual basis.

The value of this approach, which grew naturally from the requirements of market participants, in improving effective liquidity applies equally in spot physical and related derivative markets, either future, Swap Future or Option variety. Logically, and by definition, the most common aggregator instruments have the highest liquidity, therefore do much of the heavy lifting in price discovery and exposure cover, but it is in the nature of oil, with more than 500 crude grades alone and tens of thousands of product permutations that there is a degree of trade off between liquidity and basis risk in instrument choice between an exact hedge or the choice of a more liquid close proxy instead.

The global hierarchy of price and liquidity can generally be characterized and exemplified by the relationships in the table below, although this is a variable and fluid series of relationship. Its flexibility and adaptability to changing global economic and refining conditions is a boon for efficient markets rather than a constraint. Liquidity is generally higher towards the top of the figure, although Gasoil tend to trump non-exchange benchmarks, even crude ones, although spread pricing relationships apply upwards, downwards and across these categories in almost all directions as markets test price constantly across both physical and derivative markets:

# Figure 1: Global oil and refined product inter-relationships in liquidity and price:

Region	Global	Asia	US		
Primary Crude (*Future)	(ICE) Brent Crude *	Dubai Sweet/sour diff	WTI *		
Ancillary crude	Urals	ESPO	LLS, Mars, ASCI		



Price/liquidity Link	Cracks to									
Primary product (*Future)	ICE Gasoil* (EU)	Euro-Bob Gasoline Barges	Fuel Oil 3.5% Rdam Barge	Singapore 0.5% Gasoil	Singapore 180CST FO	NYH RBOB*	NYH Heat*	USGC 3% FO		
Price/liquidity Linkage		S	preads/diff	s (including	some cracks	s) to				
Secondary product examples Price/liquidity Linkage up/down and across chains/regions and via cracks to crudes	10ppm Diesel barges Rdam  0.1% NWE Cargoes Jet CIF NWE  Jet Cargo CIF NWE	Naphtha CIF NWE Gasoline FOB NWE Cargoes	FO 1% Cargoes NWE  FO 1% CIF MED Cargoes	Jet (Regrade) FOB Sing Singapore 0.05% Gasoil	Singapore 380CST Fuel Oil	RBOB to Euro Oxy Gasoli ne	USGC Jet NYH Heat Barge	USGC 1% FO		

The international crude oil market is the lifeblood of the oil market, the primary feedstock for creating all the petroleum products made in oil refineries with global production and consumption in the region of 85 million barrels a day. Crude oil markets display very efficient and strong logistical, pricing and price discovery linkages between qualities and across geographies creating a strong price reliability and efficient pricing matrix. The global crude oil market and industry has focused liquidity into three core regional marker prices, thus each major global region tends to align around a particular regional marker: Brent ('BFOE' or Brent-Forties-Oseberg-Ekofisk) crude oil from the North Sea in Europe, which is directly linked to the pricing of over 60% of the world's physical crude oil pricing; WTI (West Texas Intermediate) crude oil which is the domestic USA marker; and Dubai crude oil price in the Arabian Gulf.

These core crude oil markers reference one another in terms of international physical crude arbitrage whilst other crude oil 'marker' or secondary benchmark prices in Europe, Asia and the US representing smaller physical volume grades of crude oil all trade via differentials to Brent and WTI. In practice, Brent serves as both the European core marker, as well as the global default price for around two-thirds of the global physical total, with grades in Europe, the US and Asia tending to reference Brent (Either 'Dated' or ICE Brent), in 'outright' or 'flat' price terms.

Where regional markers lose pricing power, Brent has been seen to then be used more as an alternative. In Asia, the decline of alternative sweet markers like APPI (Asian Petroleum Price Index) Tapis or Minas, and the linkage of Dubai to Brent through the Brent/Dubai sweet/sour spread helps refiners to assess processing alternatives as well as allow some regional grades to price most of their own flat price using Brent's very large liquidity pool, to which a small differential is then applied for the quality of the local grade. Russian exports eastwards are an increasing factor, with ESPO volumes rising, but so far still priced as a spread to the core Platts Dubai price which remains Asia's preferred physical benchmark. Alternatively, in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Australia Brent



is simply used now as a preferred price to the local marker. Examples of Asia product spreads to Brent are a consequence of this development, and liquidity a powerful attraction for reliable pricing.

Other very large imported physical crudes to Europe such as Russian Urals and Saudi Arab Light both use Brent (Dated and ICE Brent respectively), as do almost all grades around the Mediterranean, African imports into Europe, and of course the North Sea's many own fields. In the United States, crude oil grade trading has seen some splintering of benchmarks used for physical pricing, with the ASCI used for Arab Gulf and Latin American imports into the US Gulf (as well as US domestic sour crude prices), LLS as a coastal and hence non-discounted version of WTI, and other US domestic grades (such as Mars) all increasingly competing with WTI in physical Contract pricing, and seeing some enhanced forward trading, although WTI remains the most important basis series of financial Contracts for US pricing. LLS tends to correlate very well with Brent as a coastal-grade able to be reached by international arbitrage (at least on the inward leg), and is often seen as a proxy for it within the US. A number of US-based end-user and refiner product hedgers are now preferring to use Brent for product hedging as it better correlates with internationally-arbitraged US product exports or imports, which are not constrained by WTI's pipeline infrastructure, or the hurdles to exporting US crude.

The highly liquid globally interlinked financial and physical crude oil market ensures that the value of each crude oil marker around the world has efficient and real-time price discovery against both geographic and quality comparatives. This way, the whole pricing system establishes individual values and robust pricing through the interconnections between crude oil markets. This aids margining through proxies, settlements, and allows less liquid markets to lean on the more liquid core crude oil markers described above.

Figure 2 below illustrates just some of the pricing and liquidity links that exist around the ICE Brent series of Futures, Swaps, and their related physical markets. Although this is merely a small section of the total catalogue of related instruments and pooled liquidity, one can clearly see the links between Spot Brent (Dated) and Forward physical Brent (25-day BFOE Cash), the Brent One, Two and Three-month CFD Swaps that link those two physical instruments, and the inter-month spreads that exist between all the included instruments.





# THE ICE BRENT COMPLEX



In general, spread liquidities tend to be more liquid than outright prices of more marginal instruments; the largest volume remains in the Futures, so from that core price liquidity in spreads in turn fans out to discover implied outright prices in other instruments, both crude and product, for which an outright market also exists. The market is highly efficient in ensuring that any mismatch temporarily existing between implied and actual price is quickly eliminated. A larger version, somewhat like Chart 1, would bring in cracks to ICE Brent and inter-product relationships in addition, for which a global matrix exists. This is the cornerstone and a valuable feature of global interdependent oil futures and swap markets.

The international Crude oil market is composed of related but individual markets for various grades, comprised of sweet and sour grades (various degrees of sulphur content, high sulphur content makes it a sour crude, low sulphur a sweet crude like Brent crude) and the other key factor the API, how thick the consistency of the crude oil is, whether light or heavy (thick). These two important qualities of crude oil determine which oil refineries around the world can use that crude oil, they also determine the cost of refining that crude oil as high sulphur and heavy crudes in particular will require many more costly pre-treatment processes before the oil can be used to make valuable petroleum products.

The financial Crude Oil market is the largest of all the financial oil markets as the input for all refineries. It is the backbone of the whole physical oil market and the pricing core to the petroleum products market as the feedstock for oil refineries. Although product fundamentals may lead the crude price direction in turn, product prices tend to be expressed as crude plus a spread rather than the converse. Crude markets also have generally the most active forward market, quoted for many years in the future. The international crude oil derivatives market has been well established since the early 1980's with liquidity growth enabling the efficient pricing and trading of the market through very volatile periods such as the Gulf War in Iraq in 1991, 2001, and the very dramatic rise and fall of the Oil market during 2008.

Financial contracts for the underlying global physical Crude oil market are the longest-running and most liquid. The relationship between different qualities of crude oil, locations and also the relationship between Brent, WTI, Dubai and the Refined petroleum products markets like Gasoil, jet fuel, fuel oil, gasoline and naphtha (the refinery crack spreads) match the key flows of physical Oil around the world and already serve the needs of the industry.

The most used series of physical pricing indices for the Crude oil market include those published by the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE Brent), Platts, and CME, with the market pricing focused for liquidity purposes on a number of key geographical physical trading hubs, crude oil qualities, and size of delivery quantity i.e. the biggest size being the Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) at 2 million barrels a cargo, down to smaller vessels of approximately 500,000 barrels.

Depending on the spread between different physical locations and the arbitrage quality spread, physical crude Oil can be observed to move between Northwest Europe to the USA, West Africa to the USA and Asia, the Mediterranean to Europe and USA and finally from the Arabian Gulf to Europe, the USA and Asia. The biggest demand growth and oil flow increase continues to be in Asia, and in particular China and India. These movements of physical Crude oil are in large quantities on board very large Cargo size vessels and are represented by the "Cargoes" swap contracts.

Crude Oil Swaps are generally available as a basis against cargo size parcels and although in the financial crude oil markets you may be able to execute 25,000 to 50,000 barrels minimum, in the physical market cargoes typically range in size between 500,000 barrels up to a VLCC at 2 million barrels. In each case, the financial swap is entirely aligned with a physical spot assessment appearing within the Platts European Marketscan publication or physical deals on ICE.

Besides the average of the month contracts, in order to meet the needs of the industry there also exists an active market for Balance of the Month or 'Balmo' swaps, primarily around hedging specific physical requirements. These are priced for the remaining days of a calendar month, not the full calendar month like a fixed price Contract. For example, if a Balmo Contract is executed on the 4th day of the month, then the Contract will be priced from the 4th day of the month to the last business day of the Contract month. Balmo Contracts allow Crude



oil market participants greater flexibility in customizing the time period used to hedge an exposure. These are less liquid, but the price implication from one to the other is generally strong.

## II. Underlying Cash Market For Listed Swap

<u>Dubai Crude Oil</u>: The underlying cash market is based on the Platts Crude Oil Marketwire assessment for Dubai crude oil in 25,000 barrel partials. Under the crude partials trading mechanism, two companies must trade a physical cargo when a total of 20 Dubai partials have been exchanged during the same month in the Platts Market on Close Assessment process ("MOC"). The seller has the option to declare delivery of Dubai, Oman, or Upper Zakum crude upon convergence of the 20 partials. The buyer must accept the cargo nominated to it.

The assessments reflects the value of cash Dubai loading for three forward months, starting two months forward from the date of assessment. For instance, In April, Platts assesses June, July and august liftings for Dubai. The rollover of assessment coverage occurs on the first working day of the month. For example, Platts would assess June as front-month Dubai on April 30, and roll the coverage of front-month Dubai from June to July on May 1. In May, Platts publishes assessments for July, August and September Dubai.

As of June 2014, a total of 33 companies were cleared to submit bids and offers within the crude oil MOC process. In 2013, a total of approximately 50.2 million barrels of cash Dubai partials had traded during the Platts MOC process for Dubai Crude.