adequate notification of future changes to the Pilot Program.

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

The proposed rule change will impose no burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

## III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act <sup>8</sup> and Rule 19b–4(f)(1) thereunder, <sup>9</sup> because it constitutes a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the meaning, administration, or enforcement of an existing rule of the Amex.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.<sup>10</sup>

#### 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 *rule-comments@sec.gov*. Please include File Number SR–Amex–2008–24 on the subject line.

## Paper Comments

• Send paper comments in triplicate to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR–Amex–2008–24. 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 Room, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Amex. 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-Amex-2008-24 and should be submitted on or before April 16, 2008.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.  $^{11}$ 

## Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8–6125 Filed 3–25–08; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–57532; File No. SR-Amex-2008-21]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; American Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Eliminate the Nasdaq UTP Equity Fee Schedule

March 19, 2008.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") <sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, <sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on March 10, 2008, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule

change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been substantially prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange has designated this proposal as one establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge applicable only to a member, pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act <sup>3</sup> and Rule 19b–4(f)(2) thereunder,<sup>4</sup> which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

The Exchange proposes to eliminate the Nasdaq UTP Equity Fee Schedule. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange's principal office, on the Exchange's Web site at <a href="http://www.amex.com">http://www.amex.com</a>, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange 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 Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

#### 1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to eliminate the Nasdaq UTP Equity Fee Schedule for transactions in connection with the Exchange's Nasdaq UTP Program. As a replacement for the Nasdaq UTP Equity Fee Schedule, the Exchange proposes to charge members for transactions in Nasdaq UTP securities pursuant to the Exchange's existing Equity Fee Schedule.

Currently, transaction fees for Nasdaq UTP securities are differentiated between specialist trades (\$0.10 per 100 shares), member competing market maker trades (\$0.15 per 100 shares), non-member competing market maker trades (\$0.15 per 100 shares), Amex equity traders (\$0.15 per 100 shares),

<sup>8 15</sup> U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(i).

<sup>9 17</sup> CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

<sup>10</sup> See 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C).

<sup>11 17</sup> CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3 15</sup> U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>4 17</sup> CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

non-member customer trades (\$0.15 per 100 shares) and member customer trades (\$0.15 per 100 shares).<sup>5</sup> In addition, the Exchange waives specialist transaction charges for those specialists that do not charge a commission to customers. With respect to crosses, there is a maximum charge of \$50 per side per trade. The Exchange does not charge for Nasdaq UTP securities transactions executed at a price of less than \$1.00 per share.

This proposal would eliminate the separate Nasdaq UTP Equity Fee Schedule and instead charge members for Nasdaq UTP transactions pursuant to the existing Equity Fee Schedule. As a result, transaction charges for customers would be based on the number of shares executed per month. The current rate is \$0.0030 for shares executed in a month of up to 50 million and \$0.0025 for shares executed in a month over 50 million. A transaction charge is assessed only on the first 5,000 shares of any transaction. In addition, transactions resulting from orders entered electronically into the Amex Order File from off the floor ("System Orders") for up to 500 shares are not assessed a transaction charge. The fee for shares that execute with a price below \$1.00 per share is 0.3% of the total dollar value of the transaction.

Specialist charges under the Equity Fee Schedule are \$0.0003 per share side or \$0.03 per 100 shares. Nasdag UTP securities would also be subject to the equities order cancellation fee which provides that the executing clearing member is charged \$0.25 for every additional equities and ETF order sent for a mnemonic and cancelled through Amex systems in a given month when the total number of equities and ETF orders cancelled for that mnemonic is more than 50 times the equities and ETF orders executed through Amex systems for that mnemonic in that same month. Cancellations resulting from "Immediate or Cancel" or "Fill or Kill" orders and cancellations entered to cancel at the opening orders not executed at the opening are not counted towards the number of cancellations used to determine whether the fee should be applied to a mnemonic and will not be counted when determining the amount of the cancellation fee charged to an executing clearing member. Executions of "Immediate or Cancel" and "Fill or Kill" orders will however be counted towards the number of executions.

Clearing charges for orders routed to and executed on another exchange or market center are assessed at a monthly rate of \$0.0004 per share (\$0.04 per 100 shares). In addition, the Equity Fee Schedule also charges members for orders routed to and executed on another exchange or market center at the monthly rate of \$.0030 per share (\$0.30 per 100 shares). This routing charge for shares that execute with a share price below \$1.00 is 0.3% of the total dollar value of the transaction.

The elimination of the Nasdaq UTP Equity Fee Schedule would be effective immediately.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act 6 in general and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act 7 in particular in that it is intended to assure the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the proposal provides for an equitable allocation of reasonable fees among Exchange members through the elimination of a separate fee schedule applicable to the Exchange's Nasdaq UTP Program. Members engaging in transactions in Nasdaq UTP securities would be subject to the Exchange's Equity Fee Schedule.

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

The proposed rule change does not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

## III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing rule change is establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge applicable only to a member, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act <sup>8</sup> and Rule 19b–4(f)(2) thereunder. <sup>9</sup> At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is

necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

## **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 *rule-comments@sec.gov*. Please include File Number SR–Amex–2008–21 on the subject line.

## Paper Comments

• Send paper comments in triplicate to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Amex-2008-21. 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 Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. 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-Amex-2008-21 and should be submitted on or before April 16, 2008.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 5}\,\rm These$  fees are charged only to Exchange members.

<sup>6 15</sup> U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>7 15</sup> U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>8 15</sup> U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>9 17</sup> CFR 240.19b–4(f)(2).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.  $^{10}$ 

#### Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8–6126 Filed 3–25–08; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-57537; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2008-021]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Modify the Processing of Orders That Peg to the Midpoint Between the National Best Bid and Best Offer

March 20, 2008.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")  $^{\scriptscriptstyle 1}$  and Rule  $^{\scriptscriptstyle -}$ 19b–4 thereunder, $^{\scriptscriptstyle 2}$ notice is hereby given that on March 19, 2008, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been substantially prepared by Nasdaq. Nasdaq has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a non-controversial rule change under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act,3 which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

Nasdaq is amending Rule 4751(f) to modify the processing of orders that peg to the midpoint between the national best bid and best offer ("NBBO").

Nasdaq proposes to implement the proposed rule change immediately following the conclusion of the 30-day operative delay period. The text of the proposed rule change is available on Nasdaq's Web site: (http://www.complinet.com/nasdaq), at the principal office of Nasdaq, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, Nasdaq 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. Nasdaq has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

#### 1. Purpose

Nasdaq proposes to modify the rule language pertaining to pegged orders to enable orders that peg to the midpoint of the national best bid and best offer ("Midpoint Pegged Orders") to execute in sub-penny increments when the inside spread is an odd number of pennies. Nasdaq's current pegging functionality does not display, rank, or execute Midpoint Pegged Orders in subpenny increments. In light of the recent approval of a proposed rule change by NYSEArca relating to its Mid-Point Passive Liquidity ("MPL") Order, Nasdaq is proposing to modify its processing of Midpoint Pegged Orders to resemble the processing of MPL Orders on NYSEArca.4

The following examples illustrate how the proposed rule change would operate (note that the price of the order updates in response to changes in the best bid and best offer, excluding the order's own impact on the best bid or best offer):

#### Current Processing

- The best bid on Nasdaq is \$20.00 and the best offer is \$20.03.
- The price of the Midpoint Peg Order to buy will be \$20.01. The true midpoint would be \$20.015, but to avoid pricing the order in a sub-penny increment the bid is rounded down. However, if the order instead were a sell order, the offer would be rounded up.
  - The best offer updates to \$20.02.
- The price of the Midpoint Peg Order remains \$20.01.

#### Proposed Processing

Scenario 1:

• The best bid on Nasdaq is \$20.00 and the best offer is \$20.03.

- The price of the Midpoint Peg Order to buy will be \$20.015.
- The best offer updates to \$20.02.
- The price of the Midpoint Peg Order will change to \$20.01.

Scenario 2: the market is as follows:

| Bid          | Offer      |
|--------------|------------|
| 11.00 Nasdaq | 10.00 NYSE |

- A Midpoint Peg Order to sell is entered into NASDAQ.
  - The order is priced at 10.50.
- The order is marketable against the Nasdaq buy order and will execute at 11.00, the price of the buy order on the Nasdaq book.
- If the Nasdaq 11.00 bid had instructions to route, at the time of the cross, it would have routed to NYSE for execution.

Scenario 3: the market is as follows:

| Bid         | Offer        |
|-------------|--------------|
| 11.00 CHX   | 10.00 NYSE   |
| 9.00 Nasdaq | 12.00 Nasdaq |

- A Midpoint Peg Order to buy is entered into Nasdaq.
- The order is priced at 10.50, the midpoint of the NBBO.
- The order is not executable on Nasdaq.
- If the order has instructions to route, it will be routed to NYSE for execution.
- If the order does not have instructions to route, it will be posted to the NASDAQ book at 10.50 non-display.

With respect to Regulation NMS, a Midpoint Pegged Order would be ranked in time priority for the purposes of execution as long as the midpoint is within the limit range of the order. A Midpoint Pegged Order will no longer be displayed, whereas Nasdaq currently displays Midpoint Pegged Orders in penny increments.<sup>5</sup> A Midpoint Pegged Order would be executed in sub-pennies if necessary to attain a midpoint price. In addition, the execution of a Midpoint Pegged Order would not result in a trade-through of a Protected Quotation. A Midpoint Pegged Order would execute against orders on the Nasdaq book or against incoming orders, including other Midpoint Pegged Orders. If the NBBO is locked, the Midpoint Pegged Order would be executed at the locked market price.

If the NBBO is crossed, the Nasdaq system would continue to accept and process Midpoint Pegged Orders.

<sup>10 17</sup> CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3 17</sup> CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 56072 (July 13, 2007), 72 FR 39867 (July 20, 2007) (SR–NYSEArca–2007–061) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of MPL Order).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> On Nasdaq, Non-Displayed Orders, such as the Midpoint Pegged Order as proposed, always receive lower execution priority than similarly priced Displayed Orders regardless of time of entry.