

Dated: September 30, 2009.

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-23995 Filed 10-5-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 28938; File No. 812-13030]

Evergreen Income Advantage Fund, et al.; Notice of Application

September 30, 2009.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”).

ACTION: Notice of application under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (“Act”) for an exemption from section 19(b) of the Act and rule 19b-1 under the Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order to permit a registered closed-end investment company to make periodic distributions of long-term capital gains with respect to its common shares as often as monthly in any one taxable year, and as frequently as distributions are specified by or in accordance with the terms of its preferred shares.

APPLICANTS: Evergreen Income Advantage Fund (“EIAF”), Evergreen Multi-Sector Income Fund (“EMSIF”), Evergreen Utilities and High Income Fund (“EUHIF”), Evergreen International Balanced Income Fund (“EIBIF”), and Evergreen Global Dividend Opportunity Fund (“EGDOF”) (each a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”); and Evergreen Investment Management Company, LLC (the “Investment Adviser”).

FILING DATES: The application was filed on October 14, 2003, and amended on October 28, 2008, June 29, 2009, and September 29, 2009.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission’s Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on October 26, 2009, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer’s interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request

notification by writing to the Commission’s Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090; Applicants: Evergreen Income Advantage Fund, 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christine Y. Greenlees, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551-6879, or Mary Kay Frech, Branch Chief, at (202) 551-6821 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained via the Commission’s Web site by searching for the file number, or for an applicant using the Company name box, at <http://www.sec.gov/search/search.htm>, or by calling (202) 551-8090.

Applicants’ Representations

1. Each of the Funds is a closed-end management investment company registered under the Act and organized as a Delaware statutory trust.¹ EIAF’s primary investment objective is to seek a high level of income. EIAF’s common shares are listed on the NYSE Amex. EIAF currently has six series of preferred shares outstanding, which are not listed on a national securities exchange. EMSIF’s investment objective is to seek a high level of current income. EMSIF’s common shares are listed on the NYSE Amex. EIAF currently has five series of preferred shares outstanding, which are not listed on a national securities exchange. EUHIF’s investment objective is to seek a high level of current income and moderate capital growth. EUHIF’s common shares are listed on the NYSE Amex. EIBIF’s investment objective is to seek to provide a high level of income. EIBIF’s common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”). EGDOF’s primary investment objective is to seek a high level of current income. EGDOF’s common shares are listed on the NYSE. Applicants believe that the

¹ All registered closed-end investment companies that currently intend to rely on the order are named as applicants. Applicants request that the order also apply to each registered closed-end investment company that in the future: (a) Is advised by the Investment Adviser (including any successor in interest) or by an entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control (within the meaning of section 2(a)(9) of the Act) with the Investment Adviser; and (b) complies with the terms and conditions of the application (included in the term “Funds”). A successor in interest is limited to entities that result from a reorganization into another jurisdiction or a change in the type of business organization.

shareholders of each Fund are generally conservative, dividend-sensitive investors who desire current income periodically and may favor a fixed distribution policy.

2. The Investment Adviser, a subsidiary of Wells Fargo, a bank holding company, is registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (“Advisers Act”). The Investment Adviser has provided investment advisory services to each Fund since its inception. Each Fund will be advised by investment advisers that are registered under the Advisers Act.

3. Applicants state that prior to relying on the order, the board of trustees (the “Board”) of each Fund, including a majority of the members of the Board who are not “interested persons” of the Fund as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the Act (the “Independent Trustees”), will review information regarding the purpose and terms of a proposed distribution policy, the likely effects of such policy on such Fund’s long-term total return (in relation to market price and net asset value (“NAV”) per common share) and the relationship between such Fund’s distribution rate on its common shares under the policy and such Fund’s total return (in relation to NAV per share). Applicants state that prior to relying on the requested order the Independent Trustees also will consider what conflicts of interest the Investment Adviser and the affiliated persons of the Investment Adviser and each such Fund might have with respect to the adoption or implementation of such policy. Applicants further state that prior to relying on the requested order, and after considering such information, the Board, including the Independent Trustees, of each Fund will approve a distribution policy with respect to its Fund’s common shares (the “Plan”) and will determine that such Plan is consistent with such Fund’s investment objective(s) and in the best interests of such Fund’s common shareholders.

4. Applicants state that the purpose of each Fund’s Plan is to permit such Fund to distribute over the course of each year, through periodic distributions as nearly equal as practicable and any required special distributions, an amount closely approximating the total taxable income of such Fund during such year. Applicants note that under the Plan, each Fund would distribute to its respective common shareholders a fixed monthly percentage of the market price of such Fund’s common shares at a particular point in time or a fixed monthly percentage of NAV at a particular time or a fixed monthly amount, any of which may be adjusted

from time to time. Applicants further state that the minimum annual distribution rate would be independent of each Fund's performance during any particular period, but would be expected to correlate with such Fund's performance over time. Applicants explain that except for extraordinary distributions and potential increases or decreases in the final dividend periods in light of the Fund's performance for the entire calendar year and to enable the Fund to comply with the distribution requirements of subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 ("Code") for the calendar year, each distribution on the common shares would be at the stated rate then in effect.

5. Applicants state that prior to relying on the requested order, the Board will adopt policies and procedures under rule 38a-1 under the Act that are reasonably designed to ensure that all notices required to be sent to the Fund's shareholders pursuant to section 19(a) of the Act, rule 19a-1 under the Act, and condition 4 below ("19(a) Notices") comply with condition 2.a. below, and that all other written communications by the Fund or its agents regarding distributions under the Plan include the disclosure required by condition 3.a. below. Applicants state that prior to relying on the requested order, the Board will adopt policies and procedures that require each of the Funds to keep records that demonstrate its compliance with all of the conditions of the requested order and that are necessary for such Fund to form the basis for, or demonstrate the calculation of, the amounts disclosed in its 19(a) Notices.

Applicants' Legal Analysis

1. Section 19(b) of the Act generally makes it unlawful for any registered investment company to make long-term capital gains distributions more than once every twelve months. Rule 19b-1 under the Act limits the number of capital gains dividends, as defined in section 852(b)(3)(C) of the Code ("distributions"), that a fund may make with respect to any one taxable year to one, plus a supplemental "clean up" distribution made pursuant to section 855 of the Code not exceeding 10% of the total amount distributed for the year, plus one additional capital gain dividend made in whole or in part to avoid the excise tax under section 4982 of the Code.

2. Section 6(c) provides that the Commission may, by order upon application, conditionally or unconditionally exempt any person, security, or transaction, or any class or

classes of persons, securities or transactions, from any provision of the Act, if and to the extent that the exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act.

3. Applicants state that one of the concerns underlying section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 is that shareholders might be unable to differentiate between frequent distributions of capital gains and dividends from investment income. Applicants state, however, that rule 19a-1 effectively addresses this concern by requiring that a separate statement showing the sources of a distribution (e.g., net investment income, net short-term capital gains, net long-term capital gains and/or return of capital) accompany any distributions (or the confirmation of the reinvestment of distributions) estimated to be sourced in part from capital gains or capital. Applicants also state that the same information is included in each Fund's annual reports to shareholders and similar information is included on its IRS Form 1099-DIV, which is sent to each common and, if applicable, preferred shareholder who received distributions during a particular year (including shareholders who have sold shares during the year).

4. Applicants further state that each Fund will make the additional disclosures required by the conditions set forth below, and each of them will adopt, prior to reliance on the requested order, compliance policies and procedures in accordance with rule 38a-1 under the Act to ensure that all required 19(a) Notices and disclosures are sent to shareholders. Applicants argue that by providing the information required by section 19(a) and rule 19a-1, and by complying with the procedures adopted under the Plan and the conditions listed below, each Fund's shareholders would be provided sufficient information to understand that their periodic distributions are not tied to the Fund's net investment income (which for this purpose is each Fund's taxable income other than from capital gains) and realized capital gains to date, and may not represent yield or investment return. Applicants also state that compliance with the Fund's compliance procedures and condition 3 set forth below will ensure that prospective shareholders and third parties are provided with the same information. Accordingly, applicants assert that continuing to subject the Funds to section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 would afford shareholders no extra protection.

5. Applicants note that section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 also were intended to prevent certain improper sales practices, including, in particular, the practice of urging an investor to purchase shares of a fund on the basis of an upcoming capital gains dividend ("selling the dividend"), where the dividend would result in an immediate corresponding reduction in NAV and would be in effect a taxable return of the investor's capital. Applicants submit that the "selling the dividend" concern should not apply to closed-end investment companies, such as the Funds, that do not continuously distribute shares. According to applicants, if the underlying concern extends to secondary market purchases of shares of closed-end funds that are subject to a large upcoming capital gains dividend, adoption of a periodic distribution plan actually helps minimize the concern by avoiding, through periodic distributions, any buildup of large end-of-the-year distributions.

6. Applicants also note that common shares of closed-end funds often trade in the marketplace at a discount to the funds' NAV. Applicants believe that this discount may be reduced if the Funds are permitted to pay relatively frequent dividends on their common shares at a consistent rate, whether or not those dividends contain an element of long-term capital gain.

7. Applicants assert that the application of rule 19b-1 to a Plan actually could have an undesirable influence on portfolio management decisions. Applicants state that, in the absence of an exemption from rule 19b-1, the implementation of a periodic distribution plan imposes pressure on management (a) not to realize any net long-term capital gains until the point in the year that the fund can pay all of its remaining distributions in accordance with rule 19b-1, and (b) not to realize any long-term capital gains during any particular year in excess of the amount of the aggregate pay-out for the year (since as a practical matter excess gains must be distributed and accordingly would not be available to satisfy pay-out requirements in following years), notwithstanding that purely investment considerations might favor realization of long-term gains at different times or in different amounts. Applicants thus assert that by limiting the number of capital gain distributions that a fund may make with respect to any one year, rule 19b-1 may prevent the efficient operation of a periodic distribution plan whenever that fund's net realized long-term capital gains in any year exceed the total of the periodic distributions

that may include such capital gains under the rule.

8. Applicants also assert that rule 19b-1 may cause fixed regular periodic distributions under a periodic distribution plan to be funded with returns of capital² (to the extent net investment income and realized short-term capital gains are insufficient to fund the distribution), even though net realized long-term capital gains otherwise could be available. To distribute all of a fund's long-term capital gains within the limits in rule 19b-1, a fund may be required to make total distributions in excess of the annual amount called for by its periodic distribution plan, or to retain and pay taxes on the excess amount. Applicants thus assert that the requested order would minimize these effects of rule 19b-1 by enabling the Funds to realize long-term capital gains as often as investment considerations dictate without fear of violating rule 19b-1.

9. Applicants state that Revenue Ruling 89-81 under the Code requires that a fund that has both common stock and preferred stock outstanding designate the types of income, *e.g.*, investment income and capital gains, in the same proportion as the total distributions distributed to each class for the tax year. To satisfy the proportionate designation requirements of Revenue Ruling 89-81, whenever a fund has realized a long-term capital gain with respect to a given tax year, the fund must designate the required proportionate share of such capital gain to be included in common and preferred stock dividends. Applicants state that although rule 19b-1 allows a fund some flexibility with respect to the frequency of capital gains distributions, a fund might use all of the exceptions available under the rule for a tax year and still need to distribute additional capital gains allocated to the preferred stock to comply with Revenue Ruling 89-81.

10. Applicants assert that the potential abuses addressed by section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 do not arise with respect to preferred stock issued by a closed-end fund. Applicants assert that such distributions are fixed or determined in periodic auctions by reference to short-term interest rates rather than by reference to performance of the issuer, and Revenue Ruling 89-81 determines the proportion of such distributions that are comprised of the long-term capital gains.

11. Applicants also submit that the "selling the dividend" concern is not

applicable to preferred stock, which entitles a holder to no more than a periodic dividend at a fixed rate or the rate determined by the market, and, like a debt security, is priced based upon its liquidation value, dividend rate, credit quality, and frequency of payment. Applicants state that investors buy preferred shares for the purpose of receiving payments at the frequency bargained for, and do not expect the liquidation value of their shares to change.

12. Applicants request an order under section 6(c) granting an exemption from section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 to permit each Fund to distribute periodic capital gains dividends (as defined in section 852(b)(3)(C) of the Code) as often as monthly in any one taxable year with respect to its common shares and, with respect to each Fund with outstanding preferred shares, to allocate to its preferred shares capital gain dividends as often as necessary in any one taxable year to comply with IRS Revenue Ruling 89-81.³

Applicants' Conditions

Applicants agree that any order of the Commission granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

1. *Compliance Review and Reporting.* Each Fund's chief compliance officer will: (a) Report to the Fund's Board, no less frequently than once every three months or at the next regularly scheduled quarterly Board meeting, whether (i) the Fund and its Investment Adviser have complied with the conditions of the order, and (ii) a material compliance matter, as defined in rule 38a-1(e)(2) under the Act, has occurred with respect to such conditions; and (b) review the adequacy of the policies and procedures adopted by the Board no less frequently than annually.

2. *Disclosures to Fund Shareholders.*

a. Each 19(a) Notice disseminated to the holders of the Fund's common shares, in addition to the information required by section 19(a) and rule 19a-1:

i. Will provide, in a tabular or graphical format:

(1) The amount of the distribution, on a per share basis, together with the amounts of such distribution amount, on a per share basis and as a percentage of such distribution amount, from estimated: (A) Net investment income;

(B) net realized short-term capital gains; (C) net realized long-term capital gains; and (D) return of capital or other capital source;

(2) The fiscal year-to-date cumulative amount of distributions, on a per share basis, together with the amounts of such cumulative amount, on a per share basis and as a percentage of such cumulative amount of distributions, from estimated: (A) Net investment income; (B) net realized short-term capital gains; (C) net realized long-term capital gains; and (D) return of capital or other capital source;

(3) The average annual total return in relation to the change in NAV for the 5-year period (or, if the Fund's history of operations is less than five years, the time period commencing immediately following the Fund's first public offering) ending on the last day of the month prior to the most recent distribution record date compared to the current fiscal period's annualized distribution rate expressed as a percentage of NAV as of the last day of the month prior to the most recent distribution record date; and

(4) The cumulative total return in relation to the change in NAV from the last completed fiscal year to the last day of the month prior to the most recent distribution record date compared to the fiscal year-to-date cumulative distribution rate expressed as a percentage of NAV as of the last day of the month prior to the most recent distribution record date.

Such disclosure shall be made in a type size at least as large and as prominent as the estimate of the sources of the current distribution; and

ii. Will include the following disclosure:

(1) "You should not draw any conclusions about the Fund's investment performance from the amount of this distribution or from the terms of the Fund's Plan";

(2) "The Fund estimates that it has distributed more than its income and net realized capital gains; therefore, a portion of your distribution may be a return of capital. A return of capital may occur, for example, when some or all of the money that you invested in the Fund is paid back to you. A return of capital distribution does not necessarily reflect the Fund's investment performance and should not be confused with 'yield' or 'income'";⁴ and

(3) "The amounts and sources of distributions reported in this 19(a)

³ Applicants state that a future Fund that relies on the requested order will satisfy each of the representations in the application except that such representations will be made in respect of actions by the board of directors of such future Fund and will be made at a future time.

² Returns of capital as used in the application means return of capital for financial accounting purposes and not for tax accounting purposes.

⁴ The disclosure in this condition 2.a.ii.(2) will be included only if the current distribution or the fiscal year-to-date cumulative distributions are estimated to include a return of capital.

Notice are only estimates and are not being provided for tax reporting purposes. The actual amounts and sources of the amounts for tax reporting purposes will depend upon the Fund's investment experience during the remainder of its fiscal year and may be subject to changes based on tax regulations. The Fund will send you a Form 1099-DIV for the calendar year that will tell you how to report these distributions for federal income tax purposes."

Such disclosure shall be made in a type size at least as large as and as prominent as any other information in the 19(a) Notice and placed on the same page in close proximity to the amount and the sources of the distribution.

b. On the inside front cover of each report to shareholders under rule 30e-1 under the Act, the Fund will:

i. Describe the terms of the Plan (including the fixed amount or fixed percentage of the distributions and the frequency of the distributions);

ii. Include the disclosure required by condition 2.a.ii.(1) above;

iii. State, if applicable, that the Plan provides that the Board may amend or terminate the Plan at any time without prior notice to Fund shareholders; and

iv. Describe any reasonably foreseeable circumstances that might cause the Fund to terminate the Plan and any reasonably foreseeable consequences of such termination.

c. Each report provided to shareholders under rule 30e-1 under the Act and in each prospectus filed with the Commission on Form N-2 under the Act, will provide the Fund's total return in relation to changes in NAV in the financial highlights table and in any discussion about the Fund's total return.

3. Disclosure to Shareholders, Prospective Shareholders and Third Parties.

a. Each Fund will include the information contained in the relevant 19(a) Notice, including the disclosure required by condition 2.a.ii. above, in any written communication (other than a communication on Form 1099) about the Plan or distributions under the Plan by the Fund, or agents that the Fund has authorized to make such communication on the Fund's behalf, to any Fund common shareholder, prospective common shareholder or third-party information provider;

b. Each Fund will issue, contemporaneously with the issuance of any 19(a) Notice, a press release containing the information in the 19(a) Notice and will file with the Commission the information contained in such 19(a) Notice, including the

disclosure required by condition 2.a.ii. above, as an exhibit to its next filed Form N-CSR; and

c. Each Fund will post prominently a statement on its (or the Investment Adviser's) web site containing the information in each 19(a) Notice, including the disclosure required by condition 2.a.ii. above, and will maintain such information on such web site for at least 24 months.

4. *Delivery of 19(a) Notices to Beneficial Owners.* If a broker, dealer, bank or other person ("financial intermediary") holds common stock issued by a Fund in nominee name, or otherwise, on behalf of a beneficial owner, the Fund: (a) Will request that the financial intermediary, or its agent, forward the 19(a) Notice to all beneficial owners of the Fund's shares held through such financial intermediary; (b) will provide, in a timely manner, to the financial intermediary, or its agent, enough copies of the 19(a) Notice assembled in the form and at the place that the financial intermediary, or its agent, reasonably requests to facilitate the financial intermediary's sending of the 19(a) Notice to each beneficial owner of the Fund's shares; and (c) upon the request of any financial intermediary, or its agent, that receives copies of the 19(a) Notice, will pay the financial intermediary, or its agent, the reasonable expenses of sending the 19(a) Notice to such beneficial owners.

5. Additional Board Determinations for Funds Whose Shares Trade at a Premium.

If:

a. A Fund's common shares have traded on the stock exchange that they primarily trade on at the time in question at an average premium to NAV equal to or greater than 10%, as determined on the basis of the average of the discount or premium to NAV of the Fund's common shares as of the close of each trading day over a 12-week rolling period (each such 12-week rolling period ending on the last trading day of each week); and

b. The Fund's annualized distribution rate for such 12-week rolling period, expressed as a percentage of NAV as of the ending date of such 12-week rolling period, is greater than the Fund's average annual total return in relation to the change in NAV over the 2-year period ending on the last day of such 12-week rolling period; then:

i. At the earlier of the next regularly scheduled meeting or within four months of the last day of such 12-week rolling period, the Board including a majority of the Independent Trustees:

(1) Will request and evaluate, and the Investment Adviser will furnish, such

information as may be reasonably necessary to make an informed determination of whether the Plan should be continued or continued after amendment;

(2) Will determine whether continuation, or continuation after amendment, of the Plan is consistent with the Fund's investment objective(s) and policies and is in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders, after considering the information in condition 5.b.i.(1) above; including, without limitation:

(A) Whether the Plan is accomplishing its purpose(s);

(B) The reasonably foreseeable material effects of the Plan on the Fund's long-term total return in relation to the market price and NAV of the Fund's common shares; and

(C) The Fund's current distribution rate, as described in condition 5.b. above, compared with the Fund's average annual taxable income or total return over the 2-year period, as described in condition 5.b., or such longer period as the Board deems appropriate; and

(3) Based upon that determination, will approve or disapprove the continuation, or continuation after amendment, of the Plan; and

ii. The Board will record the information considered by it, including its consideration of the factors listed in condition 5.b.i.(2) above, and the basis for its approval or disapproval of the continuation, or continuation after amendment, of the Plan in its meeting minutes, which must be made and preserved for a period of not less than six years from the date of such meeting, the first two years in an easily accessible place.

6. *Public Offerings.* A Fund will not make a public offering of the Fund's common shares other than:

a. A rights offering below NAV to holders of the Fund's common shares;

b. An offering in connection with a dividend reinvestment plan, merger, consolidation, acquisition, spin-off or reorganization of the Fund; or

c. An offering other than an offering described in conditions 6.a. and 6.b. above, provided that, with respect to such other offering:

i. The Fund's annualized distribution rate for the six months ending on the last day of the month ended immediately prior to the most recent distribution record date,⁵ expressed as a percentage of NAV per share as of such

⁵ If the Fund has been in operation fewer than six months, the measured period will be immediately following the Fund's first public offering.

date, is no more than 1 percentage point greater than the Fund's average annual total return for the 5-year period ending on such date;⁶ and

ii. The transmittal letter accompanying any registration statement filed with the Commission in connection with such offering discloses that the Fund has received an order under section 19(b) to permit it to make periodic distributions of long-term capital gains with respect to its common stock as frequently as twelve times each year, and as frequently as distributions are specified by or determined in accordance with the terms of any outstanding preferred stock as such Fund may issue.

7. *Amendments to Rule 19b-1.* The requested order will expire on the effective date of any amendment to rule 19b-1 that provides relief permitting certain closed-end investment companies to make periodic distributions of long-term capital gains with respect to their outstanding common stock as frequently as twelve times each year.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Florence E. Harmon,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-24005 Filed 10-5-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-60743; File No. SR-OCC-2009-15]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Options Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Revise the Minimum Eligibility Criteria for Common Stock Loaned Through Stock Loan Programs and Deposited as Margin Collateral

September 29, 2009.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder² notice is hereby given that on August 28, 2009, The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") 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 prepared primarily by OCC. The Commission is publishing this notice to

⁶ If the Fund has been in operation fewer than five years, the measured period will be immediately following the Fund's first public offering.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

The proposed rule change would revise minimum eligibility criteria applicable to common stock loaned through OCC's Stock Loan Programs and deposited as margin collateral.

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

In its filing with the Commission, OCC 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. OCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.³

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

The purpose of this rule change is to revise OCC's minimum eligibility requirements for stock borrows and loans accepted in the OCC's Stock Loan Programs and common stock accepted as margin collateral.⁴

Stock Loan Programs

OCC's clearing services involve common stock⁵ in several ways. Stocks

³ The Commission has modified the text of the summaries prepared by OCC.

⁴ This proposal furthers OCC's continuing efforts to utilize its System for Theoretical Analysis and Numerical Simulations ("STANS") to its fullest risk-management potential resulting in lower risk to OCC while also increasing margin offset opportunities for OCC clearing members. Recent OCC rule filings with a similar objective include (i) a rule change eliminating the practice of allowing clearing members to carry stock loan and borrow positions without collecting risk margin and requiring instead that all such positions be included in the STANS margin calculation [Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59036 (December 12, 2006), 73 FR 74554 (December 8, 2008)] and (ii) a rule change ("Collateral in Margins") providing that common stock deposited as collateral be included in the STANS calculation rather than valuing the collateral at a current market price less an arbitrary 30% haircut [Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58158 (July 15, 2008), 73 FR 42646 (July 22, 2008)]. In addition, largely in response to market conditions, OCC recently reduced the minimum price for common stocks held as collateral from \$10 to \$3 and eliminated the 10% concentration test for certain ETFs held as collateral. Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59845 (April 29, 2009), 74 FR 21039 (May 6, 2009).

⁵ The term "common stock" or "stock" is broadly used in this rule change to refer to different types of equity securities including ETFs but not preferred stock.

are: (i) Underlying securities for exchange-traded equity option contracts, (ii) constituent securities of stock indexes that underlie stock index options or of indexes on which underlying ETFs are based, (iii) constituent securities of ETFs that although are not underlying securities are based on indexes that underlie index options ("Index Option Related ETFs"), (iv) the subject of stock loan or borrow transactions cleared pursuant to OCC's Stock Loan Programs, and (v) deposited with OCC as margin collateral. Rationalizing the interrelationship among the criteria applied to stocks for these various purposes will maximize the potential for offsets and reduce risk in the clearing system.

Under OCC's Stock Loan Programs, only loans of stocks that are either underlying securities for options or futures or ETFs based on a stock index underlying an index option contract are eligible for clearance through OCC (collectively, "Options-Related Stocks"). OCC restricted stock loan activity to limit its risk to loans supporting short sales that might be serving as hedges for options transactions or helping to add liquidity to the options markets. At the time this criterion was implemented in 2002, OCC managed the risk of stock loan transactions for most clearing members on a credit basis—that is OCC did not collect margin on such transactions. As noted above, OCC now requires margin on all stock loan transactions thus reducing the risk associated with this activity. Accordingly, OCC believes that it is no longer necessary or appropriate to limit stock loan transactions to Options-Related Stocks.

In connection with the foregoing change, OCC is proposing to supplement its existing criteria for stock eligible for the Stock Loan Programs by requiring that in order to qualify as an "Eligible Stock" for purposes of the Stock Loan Programs a stock must be a "covered security" as defined in Section 18(b)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933.⁶ By agreement with the options exchanges, OCC already requires that all underlying stocks meet this criterion, and OCC believes that it is an appropriate minimum assurance of quality. In addition, OCC is imposing a \$3 minimum share price requirement

⁶ "Covered securities" are securities that are authorized for listing on the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange, the National Market System of the Nasdaq Stock Market (collectively, "Exchanges"), or any other national securities exchange, or tiers thereof, that the Commission determines are substantially similar to the listing standards applicable to securities on the Exchanges. 15 U.S.C. 77r(b)(1).