

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 offices of FINRA. 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-FINRA-2015-018, and should be submitted on or before July 15, 2015.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>28</sup>

**Brent J. Fields,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2015-15454 Filed 6-23-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-75243; File No. SR-BATS-2015-45]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; BATS Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Related to Fees for Use of BATS Exchange, Inc.

June 18, 2015.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on June 9, 2015, BATS Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BATS”) 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 by the Exchange. The Exchange has designated the proposed rule change as one establishing or changing a member due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange under 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 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

The Exchange filed a proposal to amend its fees and rebates applicable to Members<sup>5</sup> of the Exchange pursuant to Rule 15.1(a) and (c) (“Fee Schedule”) to adopt fees applicable to Members of the Exchange’s equity options platform (“BATS Options”) for the use of a communication and routing service known as BATS Connect. Changes to the fee schedule pursuant to this proposal are effective upon filing.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s Web site at [www.batstrading.com](http://www.batstrading.com), at the principal office of the Exchange, 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 parts 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 adopt fees applicable to Members of BATS Options for the use of a communication and routing service known as BATS Connect.

On May 26 [sic], 2015, the Exchange filed a proposed rule change with the Commission to adopt a communication and routing service known as BATS Connect.<sup>6</sup> The Exchange now proposes to adopt fees related to the use of BATS Connect that are equal to the fees charged for an identical service, also called BATS Connect, offered by the Exchange’s affiliate, EDGX.<sup>7</sup> The Exchange notes that BATS Connect will

be offered by all of the Exchange’s affiliated equity exchanges but that the fees are also appropriately set forth on the fee schedule of BATS Options because BATS Connect will be offered to all Exchange Members, including Members that participate primarily or exclusively on BATS Options.

BATS Connect is offered by the Exchange on a voluntary basis in a capacity similar to a vendor. In sum, BATS Connect is a communication service that provides subscribers an additional means to receive market data from and route orders to any destination connected to the Exchange’s network. BATS Connect does not provide any advantage to subscribers for connecting to the Exchange’s affiliates<sup>8</sup> as compared to other method of connectivity available to subscribers. The servers of the subscriber need not be located in the same facilities as the Exchange in order to subscribe to BATS Connect. Subscribers may also seek to utilize BATS Connect in the event of a market disruption where other alternative connection methods become unavailable.

The Exchange will charge a monthly connectivity fee to subscribers utilizing BATS Connect to route orders to other exchanges and broker-dealers that are connected to the Exchange’s network. The amount of the connectivity fee varies based solely on the bandwidth selected by the subscriber. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to charge \$350 for 1 Mb, \$700 for 5 Mb, \$950 for 10 Mb, \$1,500 for 25 Mb, \$2,500 for 50 Mb, and \$3,500 for 100 Mb.

BATS Connect would also allow subscribers to receive market data feeds from the exchanges connected to the Exchange’s network. In such case, the subscriber would pay the Exchange a connectivity fee, which varies and is based solely on the amount of bandwidth required to transmit the selected data product to the subscriber. The proposed connectivity fees are set forth in the Exhibit 5 attached hereto and range from no charge to \$11,500 based on the market data product the subscriber selects.

The Exchange also proposes to adopt a discounted fee of \$4,160 per month for subscribers who purchase connectivity to a bundle of select market data products. The following market data

<sup>5</sup> A Member is defined as “any registered broker or dealer that has been admitted to membership in the Exchange.” See Exchange Rule 1.5(n).

<sup>6</sup> See file no. SR-BATS-2015-40.

<sup>7</sup> See the EDGX fee schedule available at [http://batstrading.com/support/fee\\_schedule/edgx/](http://batstrading.com/support/fee_schedule/edgx/). See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 73780 (December 8, 2014), 79 FR 73942 (December 12, 2014) (SR-EDGX-2014-28) and file no. SR-EDGX-2015-27.

<sup>8</sup> The Exchange’s affiliated exchanges are EDGX, EDGA Exchange, Inc. (“EDGA”), and BATS Y-Exchange, Inc. (“BYX”). The Exchange understands that its affiliated exchanges intend to file identical proposed rule changes to adopt the fees for the BATS Connect service with the Commission. The Exchange also notes that its affiliated exchanges have also filed proposed rule changes with the Commission to adopt rules describing the BATS Connect service.

<sup>28</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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

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

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

products would be included in the bundle: UQDF/UTDF/OMDF, CQS/CTS, Nasdaq TotalView, Nasdaq BX TotalView, Nasdaq PSX TotalView, NYSE ArcaBook, NYSE MKT OpenBook Ultra, and BBS/TTDS. Absent the discount, a subscriber purchasing connectivity through BATS Connect for each of these market data products would pay a total monthly fee of \$5,200. As proposed, a subscriber who purchases connectivity to each of the above market data products would be charged a monthly fee of \$4,160, which represents a 20% discount. The subscribers would pay any fees charged by the exchange providing the market data feed directly to that exchange.

The Exchange notes that it will not charge a fee to subscribers utilizing BATS Connect to route orders to or receive market data products from the Exchange's affiliates, EDGX, EDGA, and BYX. BATS Connect provides subscribers a means to access exchanges and market centers on the Exchange's network. In all cases, BATS Connect subscribers would continue to be liable for the necessary fees charged by that exchange or market center, including any required connectivity fees. Market participants who chose a method other than BATS Connect to connect to another exchange or market center would also pay any required connectivity fees directly to that exchange or market center. Likewise, BATS Connect subscribers would be liable for any connectivity fees charged by the Exchange's affiliate.

#### Implementation Date

The Exchange proposes to implement these amendments to its Fee Schedule immediately.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the objectives of Section 6 of the Act,<sup>9</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4),<sup>10</sup> in particular, as it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange also notes that it operates in a highly-competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive. The Exchange believes that the proposed rates are equitable and non-discriminatory in that they apply uniformly to all Members.

The Exchange also believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,<sup>11</sup> in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and other persons using its facilities. First, the Exchange will charge a connectivity fee to subscribers utilizing BATS Connect to route orders to other exchanges and market centers that are connected to the Exchange's network, which varies based solely on the amount of bandwidth selected by the subscriber. The amounts of the connectivity fees are also reasonable as compared to similar fees charged by other exchanges. For purposes of order routing, the Exchange proposes to charge \$350 for 1 Mb, \$700 for 5 Mb, \$950 for 10 Mb, \$1,500 for 25 Mb, \$2,500 for 50 Mb, and \$3,500 for 100 Mb. The New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE") currently charges \$300 for 1 Mb, \$700 for 5 Mb, \$900 for 10 Mb, \$1,500 for 25 Mb, \$2,000 for 50 Mb, and \$2,600 for 100 Mb.<sup>12</sup> The Exchange notes that, overall, the connectivity fee for routing of orders to other market centers proposed by the Exchange is similar to that charged by the NYSE.

Second, with regard to utilizing BATS Connect to receive market data products from other exchanges, the Exchange would only charge subscribers a connectivity fee, the amount of which is based solely on the amount of bandwidth required to transmit that specific data product to the subscribers. The amounts of the connectivity fees are also reasonable as compared to similar fees charged by other exchanges. For example, for market data connectivity, the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq") charges \$1,412 per month for CQS/CTS data feed, and the Exchange proposes to charge \$1,000 per month connectivity for CQS/CTS data feed.<sup>13</sup> The Exchange notes that, overall, the connectivity fee for receipt of other market centers' data feed proposed by the Exchange is similar to that charged by Nasdaq.

The Exchange believes it is reasonable to offer such discounted pricing to subscribers who purchase connectivity to a bundle of market data products as it would enable them to reduce their overall connectivity costs for the receipt of market data. As stated above, BATS Connect is offered and purchased on a voluntary basis and subscribers can discontinue use at any time and for any

reason, including due to an assessment of the reasonableness of fees charged. Moreover, the Exchange believes the proposed fees are reasonable and equitable because they continue to be based on the Exchange's costs to cover the amount of bandwidth required to provide connectivity to the select bundle of data feeds. The proposed fees will continue to allow the Exchange to recoup this cost, while providing subscribers with an alternative means to connect to the select bundle of data feeds at a discounted rate.

The subscribers would pay any fees: (i) charged by the exchange providing the market data feed directly to that exchange (ii) charged by a market center to which they routed an order and an execution occurred directly to that market center. The Exchange itself would not charge any additional fees.<sup>14</sup> BATS Connect is offered and purchased on a voluntary basis, in that neither the Exchange nor subscribers are required by any rule or regulation to make this product available. Accordingly, subscribers can discontinue use at any time and for any reason, including due to an assessment of the reasonableness of fees charged.

Moreover, the Exchange believes the proposed fees are reasonable and equitable because they are based on the Exchange's costs to cover hardware, installation, testing and connection, as well as expenses involved in maintaining and managing the service. The proposed fees allow the Exchange to recoup these costs, while providing subscribers with an alternative means to connect to other exchange and market centers. The Exchange believes that the proposed fees are reasonable and equitable in that they reflect the costs and the benefit of providing alternative connectivity.

The Exchange also believes it is equitable and reasonable to provide BATS Connect to subscribers for no charge to route orders to or receive market data products from the Exchange's affiliates. BATS Connect provides subscribers a means to access exchanges and market centers on the Exchange's network. In all cases, BATS Connect subscribers would continue to be liable for the necessary fees charged by the Exchange, its affiliate, or another exchange or market center, including any required connectivity fees. As stated above, BATS Connect is offered and purchased on a voluntary basis, and subscribers and market participants may

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>12</sup> See NYSE's SFTI Americas Product and Service List available at <http://www.nyxdata.com/docs/connectivity>.

<sup>13</sup> See Nasdaq Rule 7034 (setting forth Nasdaq's connectivity fees for receipt of third party market data products).

<sup>14</sup> The Exchange's rules and fees would not address the fees or manner of operation of any destination to which the subscriber asked that an order be routed.

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

choose an alternative method to connect to the Exchange, its affiliates, or another exchange or market center connected to the Exchange's network. Such other services may also offer at no charge connectivity to certain exchanges or a group of exchanges.<sup>15</sup> Therefore, the Exchange believes that the providing BATS Connect to subscribers at no charge to route orders to or receive market data products from the Exchange's affiliates is reasonable and equitable as they will continue to be liable to the Exchange or its affiliate for any required connectivity fees.

Lastly, the Exchange also believes that the proposed amendments to its fee schedule are non-discriminatory because they will apply uniformly to all subscribers. All subscribers that voluntarily select various service options will be charged the same amount for the same services. All subscribers have the option to select any connectivity option, and there is no differentiation among subscribers with regard to the fees charged for the service. Further, the benefits of selecting such services are the same for all subscribers, irrespective of whether their servers are located in the same facility as the Exchange.

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

The Exchange believes its proposed amendments to its Fee Schedule would not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange does not believe the proposed fees for BATS Connect will result in any burden on competition. The proposed rule change is designed to provide subscribers with an alternative means to access other market centers on the Exchange's network if they choose or in the event of a market disruption where other alternative connection methods become unavailable. BATS Connect is not the exclusive method to connect to these market centers and subscribers may utilize alternative methods to connect to the product if they believe the Exchange's proposed pricing is unreasonable or otherwise. Therefore, the Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change will have any effect on competition.

<sup>15</sup> See NYSE's SFTI Americas Product and Service List available at <http://www.nyxdata.com/docs/connectivity> (offering at no charge connectivity to the NYSE, NYSE MKT LLC, and NYSE Arca, Inc.).

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

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any unsolicited written comments from Members or other interested parties.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>16</sup> and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>17</sup> At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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 email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-BATS-2015-45 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-BATS-2015-45. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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

<sup>16</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

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

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 Web site viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing will also 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-BATS-2015-45 and should be submitted on or before July 15, 2015.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>18</sup>

**Brent J. Fields,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2015-15451 Filed 6-23-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

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## **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

**[Docket No: SSA-2015-0039]**

### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request**

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages requiring clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, effective October 1, 1995. This notice includes revisions and an extension of OMB-approved information collections.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility, and clarity; and ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Mail, email, or fax your comments and recommendations on the information collection(s) to the OMB Desk Officer and SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following addresses or fax numbers.

(OMB), Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, Fax: 202-395-6974, Email address: [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov).

<sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).