

III. Procedure: Request for Written Comments

The Commission requests that interested persons provide written submissions of their views, data, and arguments with respect to the issues identified above, as well as any other concerns they may have with the proposal. In particular, the Commission invites the written views of interested persons concerning whether the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) or any other provision of the Act, or the rules and regulations thereunder. Although there do not appear to be any issues relevant to approval or disapproval that would be facilitated by an oral presentation of views, data, and arguments, the Commission will consider, pursuant to Rule 19b-4, any request for an opportunity to make an oral presentation.¹³

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments regarding whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved by September 25, 2020. Any person who wishes to file a rebuttal to any other person's submission must file that rebuttal by October 9, 2020.

The Commission asks that commenters address the sufficiency of the Exchange's statements in support of the proposal, which are set forth in the Notice,¹⁴ and any other issues raised by the proposed rule change under the Act. As discussed above, the Exchange proposes to adopt generic listing standards for Options-Linked Securities. The Exchange takes the position that the proposed Options-Linked Securities generic listing standards would continue to ensure transparency surrounding the listing process for Linked Securities. The Exchange also states that the standards for listing and trading Options-Linked Securities are reasonably designed to promote a fair and orderly market for such securities.

The Commission seeks commenters' views regarding whether the proposal is designed to protect investors and the public interest, and, in particular, whether there is adequate transparency and disclosure related to the options to

which Options-Linked Securities or Multifactor Index-Linked Securities are proposed to be linked. In addition, the Commission seeks comment regarding whether additional requirements, either qualitative or quantitative, relating to either the generic listing standards for Options Linked Securities or the definition of Options Reference Assets, would help to ensure that the proposal is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices.

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. Please include File Number SR-CboeBZX-2020-042 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-CboeBZX-2020-042. 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 website (<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 website 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 the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CboeBZX-2020-042 and should be submitted on or before

September 25, 2020. Rebuttal comments should be submitted by October 9, 2020.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁵

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-19653 Filed 9-3-20; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 34000; File No. 812-15133]

BlackRock ETF Trust III, et al.

August 31, 2020.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

ACTION: Notice.

Notice of an application for an order under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") for an exemption from sections 2(a)(32), 5(a)(1), and 22(d) of the Act and rule 22c-1 under the Act, under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from sections 17(a)(1) and 17(a)(2) of the Act, and under section 12(d)(1)(J) of the Act for an exemption from sections 12(d)(1)(A) and 12(d)(1)(B) of the Act.

APPLICANTS: BlackRock ETF Trust III (the "Trust"), BlackRock Fund Advisors (the "Adviser") and BlackRock Investments, LLC (the "Distributor").

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order ("Order") that permits: (a) ActiveShares ETFs (as described in the Reference Order (as defined below)) to issue shares ("Shares") redeemable in large aggregations only ("creation units"); (b) secondary market transactions in Shares to occur at negotiated market prices rather than at net asset value; (c) certain affiliated persons of an ActiveShares ETF to deposit securities into, and receive securities from, the ActiveShares ETF in connection with the purchase and redemption of creation units; and (d) certain registered management investment companies and unit investment trusts outside of the same group of investment companies as the ActiveShares ETFs to acquire Shares of the ActiveShares ETFs. The Order would incorporate by reference terms and conditions of a previous order granting the same relief sought by applicants, as that order may be

¹³ Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, as amended by the Securities Act Amendments of 1975, Public Law 94-29 (June 4, 1975), grants the Commission flexibility to determine what type of proceeding—either oral or notice and opportunity for written comments—is appropriate for consideration of a particular proposal by a self-regulatory organization. See Securities Act Amendments of 1975, Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs, S. Rep. No. 75, 94th Cong., 1st Sess. 30 (1975).

¹⁴ See *supra* note 3.

¹⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(57).

amended from time to time (“Reference Order”).¹

FILING DATE: The application was filed on June 3, 2020.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the requested relief will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by emailing the Commission’s Secretary at *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov* 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 September 25, 2020, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Pursuant to rule 0–5 under the Act, hearing requests should state the nature of the writer’s interest, any facts bearing upon the desirability of a hearing on the matter, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by emailing the Commission’s Secretary at *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov*.

ADDRESSES: The Commission: *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov*. Applicants: BlackRock ETF Trust III, BlackRock Fund Advisors and BlackRock Investments, LLC: c/o Benjamin J. Haskin, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, *bhaskin@willkie.com*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Adam Bolter, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551–6011 or David Nicolardi, Branch Chief, at (202) 551–6825 (Division of Investment Management, Chief Counsel’s Office).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained via the Commission’s website 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

1. The Trust is a statutory trust organized under the laws of the State of Delaware and will consist of one or more series operating as ActiveShares ETFs. The Trust will be registered as an open-end management investment company under the Act. Applicants seek relief with respect to Funds (as defined below), including an initial Fund (the “Initial Fund”). The Funds

will operate as ActiveShares ETFs as described in the Reference Order.²

2. The Adviser, a California corporation, will be the investment adviser to the Initial Fund. An Adviser (as defined below) will serve as investment adviser to each Fund. The Adviser is, and any other Adviser will be, registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (“Advisers Act”). The Adviser may enter into sub-advisory agreements with other investment advisers to act as sub-advisers with respect to the Funds (each a “Sub-Adviser”). Any Sub-Adviser will be registered under the Advisers Act.

3. The Distributor is a Delaware limited liability company and a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and will act as the principal underwriter of Shares of the Funds. Applicants request that the requested relief apply to any distributor of Shares, whether affiliated or unaffiliated with the Adviser and/or Sub-Adviser (included in the term “Distributor”). Any Distributor will comply with the terms and conditions of the Order.

Applicants’ Requested Exemptive Relief

4. Applicants seek the requested Order under section 6(c) of the Act for an exemption from sections 2(a)(32), 5(a)(1), and 22(d) of the Act and rule 22c–1 under the Act, under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from sections 17(a)(1) and 17(a)(2) of the Act, and under section 12(d)(1)(j) of the Act for an exemption from sections 12(d)(1)(A) and 12(d)(1)(B) of the Act. The requested Order would permit applicants to offer ActiveShares ETFs. Because the relief requested is the same as the relief granted by the Commission under the Reference Order and because the Adviser has entered into a licensing agreement with Precidian Funds LLC in order to offer ActiveShares ETFs,³ the Order would incorporate by reference the terms and conditions of the Reference Order.

5. Applicants request that the Order apply to the Initial Fund and to any other existing or future open-end management investment company or series thereof that: (a) Is advised by the

² To facilitate arbitrage, an ActiveShares ETF disseminates a “verified intraday indicative value” or “VIIV,” reflecting the value of its portfolio holdings, calculated every second during the trading day. To protect the identity and weightings of its portfolio holdings, an ActiveShares ETF sells and redeems its Shares in creation units to authorized participants only through an unaffiliated broker-dealer acting on an agency basis.

³ Aspects of the Funds are covered by intellectual property rights, including but not limited to those which are described in one or more patent applications.

Adviser or any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Adviser (any such entity included in the term “Adviser”); (b) operates as an ActiveShares ETF as described in the Reference Order; and (c) complies with the terms and conditions of the Order and of the Reference Order, which is incorporated by reference into the Order (each such company or series and the Initial Fund, a “Fund”).⁴

6. Section 6(c) of the Act provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security or transaction, or any class of persons, securities or transactions, from any provisions of the Act, if and to the extent that such 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. Section 17(b) of the Act authorizes the Commission to exempt a proposed transaction from section 17(a) of the Act if evidence establishes that the terms of the transaction, including the consideration to be paid or received, are reasonable and fair and do not involve overreaching on the part of any person concerned, and the transaction is consistent with the policies of the registered investment company and the general purposes of the Act. Section 12(d)(1)(j) of the Act provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security, or transaction, or any class of persons, securities or transactions, from any provision of section 12(d)(1) if the exemption is consistent with the public interest and the protection of investors. Applicants submit that for the reasons stated in the Reference Order the requested relief meets the exemptive standards under sections 6(c), 17(b) and 12(d)(1)(j) of the Act.

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

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020–19561 Filed 9–3–20; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

⁴ All entities that currently intend to rely on the Order are named as applicants. Any other entity that relies on the Order in the future will comply with the terms and conditions of the Order and of the Reference Order, which is incorporated by reference into the Order.

¹ Precidian ETFs Trust, *et al.*, Investment Company Act Rel. Nos. 33440 (April 8, 2019) (notice) and 33477 (May 20, 2019) (order).