

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁴⁴

Vanessa A. Countryman,
Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[OMB Control No. 3235-0633]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 0-4

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 0-4 (17 CFR 275.0-4) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Act" or "Advisers Act") (15 U.S.C. 80b-1 *et seq.*) entitled "General Requirements of Papers and Applications," prescribes general instructions for filing an application seeking exemptive relief with the Commission.

The requirements of rule 0-4 are designed to provide Commission staff with the necessary information to assess whether granting the Orders of exemption are necessary and appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the intended purposes of the Act.

Applicants for Orders under the Advisers Act can include registered investment advisers, affiliated persons of registered investment advisers, and entities seeking to avoid investment adviser status, among others. Commission staff estimates that it receives up to 7 applications per year submitted under rule 0-4 of the Act seeking relief from various provisions of the Advisers Act. Although each application typically is submitted on behalf of multiple applicants, the applicants in the vast majority of cases are related entities and are treated as a single respondent for purposes of this analysis. Most of the work of preparing an application is performed by outside

counsel and, therefore, imposes no hourly burden on respondents. The cost outside counsel charges applicants depends on the complexity of the issues covered by the application and the time required. Based on conversations with applicants and attorneys, the cost for applications ranges from approximately \$15,259.94 for preparing a well-precedented, routine (or otherwise less involved) application to approximately \$238,761.88 to prepare a complex or novel application. We estimate that the Commission receives 1 of the most time-consuming applications annually, 3 applications of medium difficulty, and 3 of the least difficult applications subject to rule 0-4. This distribution gives a total estimated annual cost burden to applicants of filing all applications of \$440,387.38 [(1 × \$238,761.88) + (3 × \$51,948.56) + (3 × \$15,259.94)]. The estimate of annual cost burden is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act and is not derived from a comprehensive or even representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules and forms.

The requirements of this collection of information are required to obtain or retain benefits. Responses will not be kept confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted by May 19, 2025.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: Austin Gerig, Director/Chief Data Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Tanya Ruttenberg, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: PaperworkReductionAct@sec.gov.

Dated: March 14, 2025.

Vanessa A. Countryman,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025-04569 Filed 3-18-25; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-102649; File No. SR-CboeEDGX-2025-018]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Rule 19.3 To Permit the Listing of Options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares

March 13, 2025.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on March 5, 2025, Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "EDGX") 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 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

Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "EDGX Options") proposes to amend Rule 19.3 to permit the listing of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange's website (http://markets.cboe.com/us/options/regulation/rule_filings/edgx/), at the Exchange's Office of the Secretary, 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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

⁴⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(57).

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 amend Rules 19.3 regarding the criteria for underlying securities. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 19.3(i) to allow the Exchange to list and trade options on Fund Shares³ that represent interests in Commodity-Based Trusts. This is a competitive filing substantively identical to proposals submitted by other options exchanges that are currently pending with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission").⁴

³ Rule 19.3(i) states that securities deemed appropriate for options trading shall include shares or other securities ("Fund Shares"), including but not limited to Partnership Units as defined in this Rule, that are principally traded on a national securities exchange and are defined as an "NMS stock" under Rule 600 of Regulation NMS, and that (1) represent interests in registered investment companies (or series thereof) organized as open-end management investment companies, unit investment trusts or similar entities, and that hold portfolios of securities comprising or otherwise based on or representing investments in indexes or portfolios of securities (or that hold securities in one or more other registered investment companies that themselves hold such portfolios of securities) ("Funds") and/or financial instruments including, but not limited to, stock index futures contracts, options on futures, options on securities and indexes, equity caps, collars and floors, swap agreements, forward contracts, repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements (the "Financial Instruments"), and money market instruments, including, but not limited to, U.S. government securities and repurchase agreements (the "Money Market Instruments") constituting or otherwise based on or representing an investment in an index or portfolio of securities and/or Financial Instruments and Money Market Instruments, or (2) represent commodity pool interests principally engaged, directly or indirectly, in holding and/or managing portfolios or baskets of securities, commodity futures contracts, options on commodity futures contracts, swaps, forward contracts and/or options on physical commodities and/or non-U.S. currency ("Commodity Pool ETFs") or (3) represent interests in a trust or similar entity that holds a specified non-U.S. currency or currencies deposited with the trust or similar entity when aggregated in some specified minimum number may be surrendered to the trust by the beneficial owner to receive the specified non-U.S. currency or currencies and pays the beneficial owner interest and other distributions on the deposited non-U.S. currency or currencies, if any, declared and paid by the trust ("Currency Trust Shares"), or (4) represent interests in the SPDR Gold Trust or are issued by the iShares COMEX Gold Trust or iShares Silver Trust, or the Fidelity Wise Origin Bitcoin Fund, the ARK 21Shares Bitcoin ETF, the iShares Bitcoin Trust, the Grayscale Bitcoin Trust, the Grayscale Bitcoin Mini Trust, or the Bitwise Bitcoin ETF.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102465 (February 20, 2025) (SR-ISE-2025-08); SR-NYSEArca-2025-16 (February 24, 2025); and SR-NYSEAmerican-2025-07 (February 24, 2025).

A Commodity-Based Trust is defined in Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. 14.11(e)(4), NYSE Arca, Inc. Rule 8.201(c)(1), and The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC Rule 5711(d)(iv) as a security (a) that is issued by a trust ("Trust") that holds (1) a specified commodity deposited with the Trust, or (2) a specified commodity and, in addition to such specified commodity, cash; (b) that is issued by such Trust in a specified aggregate minimum number in return for a deposit of a quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash; and (c) that, when aggregated in the same specified minimum number, may be redeemed at a holder's request by such Trust which will deliver to the redeeming holder the quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash. The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 19.3(i) to provide that securities deemed appropriate for options trading include Fund Shares that represent interests in a security (A) issued by a trust that holds (i) a specified commodity deposited with the trust, or (ii) a specified commodity and, in addition to such specified commodity, cash; (B) that is issued by such trust in a specified aggregate minimum number in return for a deposit of a quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash; and (C) that, when aggregated in the same specified minimum number, may be redeemed at a holder's request by such trust which will deliver to the redeeming holder the quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash ("Commodity-Based Trust Share"). The proposed rule change removes from that rule provision references to the SPDR Gold Trust, the iShares COMEX Gold Trust, the iShares Silver Trust, the Aberdeen Standard Physical Silver Trust, the Aberdeen Standard Physical Gold Trust, the Aberdeen Standard Physical Palladium Trust, the Aberdeen Standard Physical Platinum Trust, the Sprott Physical Gold Trust, the Goldman Sachs Physical Gold ETF, the Fidelity Wise Origin Bitcoin Fund, the ARK 21Shares Bitcoin ETF, the iShares Bitcoin Trust, the Grayscale Bitcoin Trust, the Grayscale Bitcoin Mini Trust, or the Bitwise Bitcoin ETF, which are all Commodity-Based Trust Shares, thus making references to those trusts no longer necessary. As a result of this proposed rule change, the Exchange's listing criteria would allow any ETF approved to list on a primary equities market as a Commodity-Based Trust Share to qualify as an underlying for options traded on the Exchange, provided other listing criteria have been met.⁵

⁵ The Exchange believes this proposal is consistent with the Options Clearing Corporation

The Exchange's initial listing standards for Fund Shares on which options may be listed and traded on the Exchange will apply to Commodity-Based Trust Shares. Pursuant to Rule 19.3(a), a security (which includes a Fund Share) on which options may be listed and traded on the Exchange must be duly registered (with the Commission) and be an NMS stock (as defined in Rule 600 of Regulation NMS under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act")), and be characterized by a substantial number of outstanding shares that are widely held and actively traded. Additionally, Rule 19.3(i) requires that Fund Shares must either (1) meet the criteria and standards set forth in Rule 19.3(a) and (b)⁶ or (2) be available for creation or redemption each business day in cash or in kind from the investment company, commodity pool or other entity at a price related to net asset value, and the investment company, commodity pool or other entity is obligated to provide that Fund Shares may be created even if some or all of the securities and/or cash required to be deposited have not been received by the Fund, the unit investment trust or the management investment company, provided the authorized creation participant has undertaken to deliver the securities and/or cash as soon as possible and such undertaking is secured by the delivery and maintenance of collateral consisting of cash or cash equivalents satisfactory to the Fund, all as described in the Fund's or unit trust's prospectus.

Additionally, Commodity-Based Trust Shares will also be subject to the Exchange's set forth in Rule 19.4(g) for Fund Shares deemed appropriate for options trading pursuant to Rule 19.3(i). Rule 19.4(g) provides that Fund Shares approved for options trading pursuant

("OCC") recent amendment of "Fund Share" (which covers ETFs), as defined in OCC's By-Laws (including the Interpretation and Policy), to remove references to specific precious metal commodity-based ETFs as "no longer relevant or necessary." See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102018 (December 20, 2024), 89 FR 106660 (December 30, 2024) (SR-OCC-2024-018). The impetus for this rule change was the staff advisory issued by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") that deemed it "substantially likely" that spot commodity ETF shares would be held to be securities" which, in turn, resulted in the OCC's determination that "it no longer needs to seek product-by-product exemptive relief from the CFTC to clear spot commodity-based ETF products, including precious metals commodity-based ETFs." See *id.* at 106661; see also CFTC Staff Advisory Relating to the Clearing of Options on Spot Commodity Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), Letter No. 24-16 (Nov. 15, 2024), available at <https://www.cftc.gov/csl/24-16/download>.

⁶ Rule 19.3(b) provides for guidelines to be followed by the Exchange when evaluating potential underlying securities for Exchange option transactions.

to Rule 19.3 will not be deemed to meet the requirements for continued approval, and the Exchange shall not open for trading any additional series of option contracts of the class covering such Fund Shares if the security is delisted from trading as provided in Rule 19.4(b)(4) (*i.e.*, the underlying security ceases to be an “NMS stock” as defined in Rule 600 of Regulation NMS under the Act). In addition, the Exchange shall consider suspension of opening transactions in any series of options of the class covering Fund Shares in any of the following circumstances: in the case of options covering Fund Shares approved pursuant to Rule 19.3(i)(4)(A), in accordance with Rule 19.4(b)(1), (2), and (3); (2) in the case of options covering Fund Shares approved pursuant to Rule 19.3(i)(4)(B), following the initial 12-month period beginning upon the commencement of trading in the Fund Shares on a national securities exchange and are defined as NMS stock under Rule 600 of Regulation NMS, there were fewer than 50 record and/or beneficial holders of such Fund Shares for 30 consecutive days; (3) the value of the index, non-U.S. currency, portfolio of commodities including commodity futures contracts, options on commodity futures contracts, swaps, forward contracts and/or options on physical commodities and/or Financial Instruments or Money Market Instruments, or portfolio of securities on which the Fund Shares are based is no longer calculated or available; or (4) such other event occurs or condition exists that in the opinion of the Exchange makes further dealing in such options on the Exchange inadvisable. The Exchange notes that Fund Shares that hold financial instruments, money market instruments, precious metal commodities, or cryptocurrencies that are deemed commodities on which the Exchange may already list and trade options pursuant to Rule 19.3(i) are trusts structured in substantially the same manner as options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share and essentially offer the same objectives and benefits to investors, just with respect to different assets. The Exchange notes that it has not identified any issues with the continued listing and trading of any Fund Share options, including Fund Shares that hold commodities (*e.g.*, precious metals, cryptocurrencies) that it currently lists and trades on the Exchange.

Options on a Commodity-Based Fund Share will be physically settled

contracts with American-style exercise.⁷ Consistent with current Rule 19.6, which governs the opening of options series on a specific underlying security (including ETFs), the Exchange will open at least one expiration month and one series of options on a Commodity-Based Fund Share⁸ at the commencement of trading on the Exchange and may also list series of options on a Commodity-Based Fund Share for trading on a weekly,⁹ monthly,¹⁰ or quarterly basis.¹¹ The Exchange may also list long-term options series that expire from 12 to 39 months from the time they are listed.¹²

Pursuant to Rule 19.6, Interpretation and Policy .01, which governs strike prices of series of options on Fund Shares, the interval of strike prices for series of options on Commodity-Based Fund Shares may be \$1 or greater where the strike price is \$200 or less or \$5 or greater where the strike price is over \$200.¹³ Additionally, the Exchange may list series of options pursuant to the \$1 Strike Price Interval Program,¹⁴ the

⁷ See Rule 19.2, which provides that the rights and obligations of holders and writers are set forth in the Rules of the Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”); and Equity Options Product Specifications January 3, 2024), available at Equity Options Specifications (cboe.com); see also OCC Rules, Chapters VIII (which governs exercise and assignment) and Chapter IX (which governs the discharge of delivery and payment obligations arising out of the exercise of physically settled stock option contracts).

⁸ See Rule 19.6(b) and (e). The monthly expirations are subject to certain listing criteria for underlying securities described within Rule 19.3. Monthly listings expire the third Friday of the month. The term “expiration date” (unless separately defined elsewhere in the OCC By-Laws), when used in respect of an option contract (subject to certain exceptions), means the third Friday of the expiration month of such option contract, or if such Friday is a day on which the exchange on which such option is listed is not open for business, the preceding day on which such exchange is open for business. See OCC By-Laws Article I, Section 1. Pursuant to Rule 19.6(c), additional series of options of the same class may be opened for trading on the Exchange when the Exchange deems it necessary to maintain an orderly market, to meet customer demand or when the market price of the underlying stock moves more than five strike prices from the initial exercise price or prices. New series of options on an individual stock may be added until the beginning of the month in which the options contract will expire. Due to unusual market conditions, the Exchange, in its discretion, may add a new series of options on an individual stock until the close of trading on the business day prior to expiration.

⁹ See Rule 19.6, Interpretation and Policy .05.

¹⁰ See Rule 19.6, Interpretation and Policy .08.

¹¹ See Rule 19.6, Interpretation and Policy .04.

¹² See Rule 19.8.

¹³ The Exchange notes that for options listed pursuant to the Short Term Option Series Program, Rule 19.6, Interpretation and Policy .05 sets forth intervals between strike prices for Short Term Option Series.

¹⁴ See Rule 19.6, Interpretations and Policies .01 and .02.

\$0.50 Strike Program,¹⁵ the \$2.50 Strike Price Program,¹⁶ and the \$5 Strike Program.¹⁷ Pursuant to Rule 21.5, where the price of a series of a Commodity-Based Fund Share option is less than \$3.00, the minimum increment will be \$0.05, and where the price is \$3.00 or higher, the minimum increment will be \$0.10.¹⁸ Any and all new series of Commodity-Based Fund Share options that the Exchange lists will be consistent and comply with the expirations, strike prices, and minimum increments set forth in Rules 19.6 and 21.5, as applicable.

Options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share will trade in the same manner as options on other ETFs on the Exchange. The Exchange Rules that currently apply to the listing and trading of all Fund Share options on the Exchange, including, for example, Rules that govern listing criteria, expirations, exercise prices, minimum increments, position and exercise limits, margin requirements, customer accounts, and trading halt procedures will apply to the listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares on the Exchange in the same manner as they apply to other options on all other Fund Shares that are listed and traded on the Exchange.

Position and exercise limits for options, including options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share, are determined pursuant to Rules 18.7 and 18.9, respectively, which refer to position and exercise limits fixed by Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe Options”).¹⁹ Pursuant to Cboe Options Rule 8.30 and 8.42, position and exercise limits for options on ETFs vary according to the number of outstanding shares and the trading volumes of the underlying security over the past six months, where the largest in capitalization and the most frequently traded funds have an option position and exercise limit of 250,000 contracts (with adjustments for splits, re-capitalizations, etc.) on the same side of the market; and smaller capitalization funds have position and exercise limits of 200,000, 75,000, 50,000 or 25,000 contracts (with adjustments for splits, re-capitalizations,

¹⁵ See Rule 19.6, Interpretation and Policy .06.

¹⁶ See Rule 19.6, Interpretation and Policy .03.

¹⁷ See Rule 19.6(d)(5).

¹⁸ If options on a Commodity-Based Fund Share are eligible to participate in the Penny Interval Program, the minimum increment will be \$0.01 for series with a price below \$3.00 and \$0.05 for series with a price at or above \$3.00. See 21.5(d) (which describes the requirements for the Penny Interval Program).

¹⁹ Cboe Options submitted a separate substantively identical proposal to list options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares.

etc.) on the same side of the market.²⁰ Further, the Exchange notes that Rule 28.3, which governs margin requirements applicable to the trading of all options on the Exchange, including options on ETFs, will also apply to the trading of options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share

The Exchange represents it has an adequate surveillance program in place for options and intends to apply those same program procedures to options on Commodity-Based Fund Shares that it applies to the Exchange's other options products.²¹ The Exchange believes that existing surveillance procedures are designed to deter and detect possible manipulative behavior which might potentially arise from listing and trading the proposed options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares. Additionally, the Exchange is a member of the Intermarket Surveillance Group ("ISG") under the Intermarket Surveillance Group Agreement. ISG members work together to coordinate surveillance and investigative information sharing in the stock, options, and futures markets. In addition, the Exchange has a Regulatory Services Agreement with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") for certain market surveillance, investigation and examinations functions. Pursuant to a multi-party 17d-2 joint plan, all options exchanges allocate amongst themselves and FINRA responsibilities to conduct certain options-related market surveillance that are common to rules of all options exchanges.²² Further, the Exchange will implement any new surveillance procedures it deems necessary to effectively monitor the trading of options on Commodity-Based Fund Shares.

²⁰ See Choe Options Rule 8.30, Interpretation and Policy .02.

²¹ The surveillance program includes surveillance patterns for price and volume movements as well as patterns for potential manipulation (e.g., spoofing and marking the close).

²² Section 19(g)(1) of the Act, among other things, requires every self-regulatory organization ("SRO") registered as a national securities exchange or national securities association to comply with the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the SRO's own rules, and, absent reasonable justification or excuse, enforce compliance by its members and persons associated with its members. See 15 U.S.C. 78q(d)(1) and 17 CFR 240.17d-2. Section 17(d)(1) of the Act allows the Commission to relieve an SRO of certain responsibilities with respect to members of the SRO who are also members of another SRO ("common members"). Specifically, Section 17(d)(1) allows the Commission to relieve an SRO of its responsibilities to: (i) receive regulatory reports from such members; (ii) examine such members for compliance with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, and the rules of the SRO; or (iii) carry out other specified regulatory responsibilities with respect to such members.

The Exchange has also analyzed its capacity and represents that it believes the Exchange and the Options Price Reporting Authority ("OPRA") have the necessary systems capacity to handle the additional traffic associated with the listing of new series of ETFs, including on Commodity-Based Trust Shares, up to the number of expirations currently permissible under the Rules. The Exchange believes any additional traffic generated from the trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares would be manageable. The Exchange represents that Exchange members will not have a capacity issue as a result of this proposed rule change.

Further, quotation and last sale information for Commodity-Based Trust Shares is available via the Consolidated Tape Association ("CTA") high speed line. Quotation and last sale information for such securities is also available from the exchange on which such securities are listed. Quotation and last sale information for options on Commodity-Based Fund Shares will be available via OPRA²³ and major market data vendors.

The Exchange notes that the Commission has previously approved generic listing standards pursuant to Rule 19b-4(e) of the Act²⁴ for ETFs based on indexes that consist of stocks listed on U.S. exchanges.²⁵ In addition, the Commission has previously approved proposals for the listing and trading of options on ETFs based on international indexes as well as global indexes (e.g., based on non-U.S. and U.S. component stocks).²⁶

In approving Commodity-Based Trust Shares for equities exchange trading, the Commission thoroughly considered the

²³ Last sale reports and quotations are the core of the information that OPRA disseminates. OPRA also disseminates certain other types of information with respect to the trading of options on the markets of the OPRA participants, such as the number of options contracts traded, open interest and end of day summaries. OPRA also disseminates certain kinds of administrative messages.

²⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(e).

²⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54739 (November 9, 2006), 71 FR 66993 (November 17, 2006) (SR-AMEX-2006-78) (approval order relating to generic listing standards for ETFs based on international or global indexes).

²⁶ See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 56778 (November 9, 2007), 72 FR 65113 (November 19, 2007) (SR-AMEX-2007-100) (approval order to list and trade options on iShares MSCI Mexico Index Fund); and 55648 (April 19, 2007), 72 FR 20902 (April 26, 2007) (SR-AMEX-2007-09) (approval order to list and trade options on Vanguard Emerging Markets ETF); see also Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 50189 (August 12, 2004), 69 FR 51723 (August 20, 2004) (SR-AMEX-2001-05) (approving the listing and trading of certain Vanguard International Equity Index Funds); and 44700 (August 14, 2001), 66 FR 43927 (August 21, 2001) (SR-2001-34) (approving the listing and trading of series of the iShares Trust based on foreign stock indexes).

structure of the Commodity-Based Trust Shares, their usefulness to investors and to the markets, and self-regulatory organization rules that govern their trading. The Exchange believes that allowing the listing of options overlying Commodity-Based Trust Shares that are listed pursuant to Commission approval on equities exchanges and applying Rule 19b-4(e)²⁷ should fulfill the intended objective of that rule by allowing options on those Commodity-Based Trust Shares that have satisfied the generic listing standards to commence trading, without the need for the public comment period and Commission approval. The proposed rule change has the potential to significantly reduce the time and costs associated with bringing options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares to market, thereby reducing the burden on issuers and other market participants, while also promoting competition among options exchanges, to the benefit of the investing public. The failure of a particular Commodity-Based Trust Share to comply with the generic listing standards under Rule 19b-4(e)²⁸ would not, however, preclude the Exchange from submitting a separate filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)²⁹ requesting Commission approval to list and trade options on a particular Commodity-Based Trust Share.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.³⁰ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)³¹ requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with

²⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(e).

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

³⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

³¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

the Section 6(b)(5)³² requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

In particular, the Exchange believes the proposal will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system because it would allow the Exchange to immediately list and trade options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares, provided the initial listing criteria has been met, without requiring additional approvals from the Commission.³³ Commodity-Based Trust Shares are securities approved for trading by the Commission. The Exchange believes that allowing options on qualifying Commodity-Based Trust Shares soon after the listing of such underlying security in the primary market will benefit investors and the public interest as it will afford market participants the opportunity to hedge their positions in the underlying ETF in a timely manner. Given the potential to reduce the time to market for options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares, the proposed rule change will also reduce the burdens on issuers and other market participants, while also promoting competition among options exchanges to the benefit of the investing public. This proposal will enable the listing of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares in the same manner as other securities listed and traded on the Exchange. The Exchange notes that most ETFs are eligible for options trading without the need for additional approvals, provided the ETFs meet the initial listing criteria. Accordingly, the proposed rule change would align the treatment of Commodity-Based Trust Shares with other ETFs for purposes of options trading, which would add internal consistency to Exchange rules.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will facilitate the listing and trading of options on additional ETFs that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace. Like options on any other securities, options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares will provide investors with the ability to hedge exposure to the underlying security. The Exchange believes that offering options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares will benefit investors by providing them with a relatively lower-cost risk

management tool, which will allow them to manage their positions and associated risk in their portfolios more easily in connection with exposure to the price of a commodity. Additionally, the Exchange's offering of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares will provide investors with the ability to transact in such options in a listed market environment as opposed to in the unregulated over-the-counter market, which would increase market transparency and enhance the process of price discovery conducted on the Exchange through increased order flow to the benefit of all investors.

As noted herein, the Exchange already lists options on other commodity-based ETFs,³⁴ which are trusts structured in substantially the same manner as Commodity-Based Trust Shares. The Exchange has not identified any issues with the continued listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares. The Exchange also believes the proposed rule change will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, because it is consistent with current Exchange Rules previously filed with the Commission. Options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares must satisfy the initial listing standards and continued listing standards currently in the Exchange Rules applicable to options on all ETFs, including ETFs that hold other commodities already deemed appropriate for options trading on the Exchange.³⁵ Options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares will trade in the same manner as any other ETF options—the same Exchange Rules that currently govern the listing and trading of options, including permissible expirations, strike prices minimum increments, position and exercise limits, and margin requirements, will govern the listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares in the same manner.

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will result in increased competition as other exchanges will likely adopt an identical rule to the one proposed by the Exchange that would allow the listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares that are approved for trading on those other markets.³⁶ Multiple listing of ETFs, options and other securities and competition are some of the central features of the national market system. The Exchange believes that the proposal would encourage a more open market

and national market system based on competition and multiple listing. The Exchange represents that it has the necessary systems capacity to support the listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares as the Exchange lists these products today, except that it requires additional approvals prior to listing. The Exchange believes that its existing surveillance and reporting safeguards are designed to deter and detect possible manipulative behavior which might arise from listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. To the contrary, the Exchange believes that the proposal is pro-competitive and is a competitive response to the Exchange's inability to list options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares without submitting a separate proposed rule change. The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will result in additional investment options and opportunities to achieve the investment objectives of market participants seeking efficient trading and hedging vehicles, to the benefit of investors, market participants, and the marketplace in general. Competition is one of the principal features of the national market system. The Exchange believes that this proposal will expand competitive opportunities to list and trade products on the Exchange as noted.

The Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because Commodity-Based Trust Shares, like any other ETF, would have to satisfy the Exchange's initial listing standards to be eligible for options trading. Additionally, the proposed rule change would apply to all market participants in the same manner as options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares will be equally available to all market participants who wish to trade such options.

The Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on inter-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as nothing prevents the other options exchanges from proposing similar rules to list and trade options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares. As noted herein, other options exchanges have submitted

³² *Id.*

³³ As noted herein, the Exchange believes this proposal is consistent with the OCC's determination that, based on a staff advisory from the CFTC, the "it no longer needs to seek product-by-product exemptive relief from the CFTC to clear spot commodity-based ETF products." See *supra* note 5.

³⁴ See Rule 19.3(i).

³⁵ See *id.*

³⁶ See *supra* note 4.

proposed rule changes to adopt identical rules to permit the listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares without submitting a separate proposed rule change.³⁷ Furthermore, the Exchange notes that listing and trading options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share on the Exchange will subject such options to transparent exchange-based rules as well as price discovery and liquidity, as opposed to alternatively trading such options in the OTC market. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change may relieve any burden on, or otherwise promote, competition as it is designed to increase competition for order flow on the Exchange in a manner that is beneficial to investors by providing them with a lower-cost option to hedge their investment portfolios in a timely manner.

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

The Exchange neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

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

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission will:

- A. by order approve or disapprove such proposed rule change, or
- B. institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-CboeEDGX-2025-018 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-CboeEDGX-2025-018. 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 (<https://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 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-CboeEDGX-2025-018 and should be submitted on or before April 9, 2025.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.³⁸

Sherry R. Haywood,
Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 35498; 812-15682]

Columbia Credit Income Opportunities Fund and Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC

March 14, 2025.

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

ACTION: Notice.

Notice of an application under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") for an exemption from sections 18(a)(2), 18(c) and 18(i) of the Act, under sections 6(c) and 23(c) of the Act for an exemption from rule 23c-3 under the Act, and for an order pursuant to section 17(d) of the Act and rule 17d-1 under the Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order to permit certain registered closed-end investment companies to issue multiple classes of shares and to impose asset-based distribution and/or service fees and early withdrawal charges.

APPLICANTS: Columbia Credit Income Opportunities Fund and Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC.

FILING DATES: The application was filed on December 31, 2024, and amended on February 12, 2025.

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 on any application by emailing the SEC's Secretary at Secretaries-Office@sec.gov and serving the Applicants with a copy of the request by email, if an email address is listed for the relevant Applicant below, or personally or by mail, if a physical address is listed for the relevant Applicant below. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on April 8, 2025, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the 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.

ADDRESSES: The Commission: Secretaries-Office@sec.gov. Applicants: Ryan C. Larrenaga, Esq., Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC, ryan.c.larrenaga@columbiathreadneedle.com, and Joseph D'Alessandro, Esq., Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC, joseph.l.dalessandro@ampf.com, with copies to Brian D. McCabe, Esq., Ropes & Gray LLP, brian.mccabe@ropesgray.com, and Angela C. Jaimes, Esq., Ropes & Gray LLP, angela.jaimes@ropesgray.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Trace W. Rakestraw, Senior Special Counsel, at (202) 551-6825 (Division of

³⁷ See *id.*

³⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).