

seeking a stay must file the request with the Office of the Corporate Secretary by the earlier of ten (10) business days after the committee renders its decision or forty-eight (48) hours before the committee implements action. The Exchange will not be required to consider a request for a stay made within the 48 hours before a committee implements action.

(2) A stay of a committee action may be granted in only those cases where the aggrieved person has made a showing, based solely on the evidence and information presented in the application for a stay, that: (A) there is a likelihood the applicant will prevail on the merits on review; (B) without a stay, the applicant is likely to suffer irreparable injury; (C) it is likely that there will not be substantial harm to other parties if a stay is granted; and (D) the issuance of a stay is likely to serve the interests of the Exchange or an identified public interest.

(3) The Chair of the Board Appeals Committee will designate a single Board Appeals Committee member to rule on a request for a stay. The designated Board of Appeals Committee member may summarily render a decision on the request for a stay based solely on the documents submitted in support of, and in opposition to, the request for a stay. In evaluating the merits of a stay application, the Committee member will only consider matters relevant to the issuance of the stay, not the underlying complaint. The decision of the Committee member whether to grant a stay may not be appealed under Rule 10.

[Rule 11.7(d)–11.7(n)] Rule 11.7(e)–11.7(o)—No change.

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 PCX 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 test of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The PCX has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange's Board of Governors delegates certain powers and duties to

committees that administer the provisions of the Constitution and the Rules of the Exchange.⁴ The rules of the Exchange provide that persons aggrieved by committee decisions (other than disciplinary matters) may seek review of the decisions subject to the procedural prerequisite of PCX Rule 11.7 (Hearing and Review of Committee Action). PCX represents that, while the rule does not expressly provide a right to interim relief of committee decisions, applicants seeking such relief routinely request that the Exchange stay further action pending review. In the absence of an express policy or procedures relating to interim relief, the Exchange has evaluated the merits of stay applications on a case-by-case relying upon the guidelines that are used by the Commission in reviewing stay applications of self-regulatory organization actions.⁵ As a consequence of the Exchange's *ad hoc* review, the Exchange believes that applicants are either not aware that they have a right to interim relief or they are not familiar with the criteria that they must satisfy in seeking a stay.

The Exchange therefore proposes to clearly set forth the criteria and procedures necessary to request a stay of committee action. The proposed new Exchange rule will set forth four factors that the Exchange will consider when evaluating the merits of a stay application: (1) Whether there is a likelihood that the applicant will prevail on the merits of the appeal; (2) that without a stay, the applicant is likely to suffer irreparable injury; (3) that it is likely there will not be substantial harm to other parties if the stay is granted; and (4) that the issuance of a stay is likely to serve in the interests of the Exchange or an identified public interest.⁶ The Exchange represents that the applicant must prove each of these factors based solely on the evidence and information presented in the application for a stay.

The proposed new Exchange rule will also clarify the procedures that an applicant must satisfy in seeking a stay. The proposed rule specifies that an applicant must pay a \$500 fee in order to request a stay. The fee will be used to cover a portion of Exchange expenses including the allocation of staff time in processing a request for a stay. The proposal also provides that applicants

must request a stay by the earlier of ten business days after a committee renders its decision or forty-eight hours before the committee implements action. From time to time, the Exchange represents that it may be required to implement a particular committee decision immediately without leaving sufficient time for an aggrieved party to request a stay of action. According to the Exchange, this situation occurs, for example, when the Exchange must identify a particular Lead Market Maker to trade a new option on the following business day, or when the Options Floor Trading Committee makes *ad hoc* trading decisions on the trading floor regarding Auto-Ex decisions pursuant to PCX Rule 6.87. In those unique situations, the Exchange notes that the aggrieved party will not have an opportunity to stay the action, but will be able to appeal the committee decision pursuant to PCX Rule 11.7. The Exchange also represents that it will not be required to consider a request for a stay made within the forty-eight hours before a committee implements action.

The proposed new Exchange rule will also provide that the Exchange's Board Appeals Committee may render a decision summarily based solely on the documents submitted in support of, and opposition to, the request for stay. In the event that the Board Appeals Committee denies the request for a stay, the Board Appeals Committee will state the reasons for its denial and state facts that support its decision.⁷ The Exchange believes that these procedures will guide applicants through the stay process and will provide the Exchange's Board Appeals Committee with a uniform standard by which to judge the merits of an application for interim relief. The proposed new Exchange rule will not apply to disciplinary matters and will not affect an aggrieved person's underlying right to appeal a committee decision.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that this proposal, as amended, is consistent with Section 6(b)⁸ of the Act, in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁹ in particular, in that it is designed to facilitate transactions in securities, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to enhance

⁴ See PCX Rule 11.4.

⁵ See 17 CFR 201.401(d); see also Order Preliminarily Considering Whether to Issue Stay *Sua Sponte* and Establishing Guidelines for Seeking Stay Applications, Securities Exchange Act Release No. 33870 (April 7, 1994).

⁶ The Exchange represents that it relies on the Commission's guidelines in proposing these factors.

⁷ The Exchange represents that the Board Appeals Committee will notify the applicant of its denial of a request for a stay, as well as the reasons for its denial. Telephone conversation between Mai S. Shiver, Senior Attorney, Regulatory Policy, PCX, and Sapna C. Patel, Attorney, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, on January 8, 2002.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).