

By the Commission.

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-2918 Filed 10-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[File No. 500-1]

U.S. Canadian Minerals, Inc.; Order of Suspension of Trading

October 28, 2004.

It appears to the Securities and Exchange Commission that there is a lack of current and accurate information concerning the securities of U.S. Canadian Minerals, Inc. (OTC Bulletin Board symbol "USCA"), a Nevada corporation. Questions have been raised about the accuracy of publicly disseminated information concerning, among other things, U.S. Canadian Minerals' financing and mining activities and the value of U.S. Canadian Minerals' purported assets.

The Commission is of the opinion that the public interest and the protection of investors require a suspension of trading in the securities of the above-listed company.

Therefore, it is ordered, pursuant to Section 12(k) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, that trading in the above listed company is suspended for the period from 9:30 a.m. EDT, October 28, 2004, through 11:59 p.m. EST, on November 10, 2004.

By the Commission.

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-24411 Filed 10-28-04; 12:00 pm]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-50587; SR-Amex-2004-63]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 by the American Stock Exchange LLC Relating to Minimum Size Guarantees for Linkage Orders

October 25, 2004.

I. Introduction

On August 3, 2004, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" or "Exchange"), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act

of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to modify the definitions of Firm Customer Quote Size ("FCQS") and Firm Principal Quote Size ("FPQS") contained in the Amex rules by changing certain minimum size guarantees for Linkage Orders to accommodate the "natural size" of quotations.³ On September 10, 2004, the Amex submitted Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change.⁴ Notice of the Amex's proposed rule change, as amended, was published in the **Federal Register** on September 23, 2004.⁵

No comments were received on the proposed rule change. This order approves the proposed rule change, as amended.

II. Description of the Proposals

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the definitions of FCQS and FPQS provided in Amex Rule 940(b) to conform them to the definitions provided in the Linkage Plan, as amended by Joint Amendment No. 13.⁶ While the proposed rule change would maintain a general requirement in Amex Rule 940(b) that the FCQS and FPQS be at least 10 contracts, that requirement would not apply if, pursuant to its rules, the Exchange were disseminating a quotation of fewer than 10 contracts. In that case, the Amex could establish a FCQS or FPQS equal to its disseminated size, or "natural size."

Under the proposed rule change, as with Linkage orders today, if an order is of a size eligible for automatic execution, the Amex (as the receiving options exchange) must provide an automatic execution of the Linkage order. If this is not the case (for example, the Amex's automatic execution system is not engaged), the Exchange may allow the order to drop to manual handling. However, the Amex still must provide a manual execution

for at least the FCQS or FPQS, as appropriate (in this case, the size of its disseminated quotation of less than 10 contracts).

III. Discussion

After careful review, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.⁷ In particular, the Commission finds that the proposal, as amended, is consistent with the provisions of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁸ which requires, among other things, that a national securities exchange's rules be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and to perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Commission notes that the Amex adopted the current definitions of FCQS and FPQS, which impose a "10-up" requirement, at a time when it had rules requiring that the minimum size disseminated with a quotation be for at least 10 contracts. Consequently, if the Amex received a customer limit order for fewer than 10 contracts, the Exchange would disseminate the price of the customer limit order with a size of 10 contracts and the specialist or the trading crowd would be responsible to make up the difference. Since implementation of the Linkage Plan, the Amex has amended Exchange Rule 958A to permit the dissemination of the "natural size" of customer limit orders that are of a size of less than 10 contracts.⁹ The Commission believes that approval of the proposed rule change will permit Amex to conform its rules relating to Linkage orders to Exchange rules that apply to non-Linkage orders and will allow the Amex to disseminate a customer limit order's "natural size," which should provide greater transparency to investors and the marketplace, and better reflect the true state of liquidity in the marketplace.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁰ that the

⁷ In approving these proposals, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48957 (December 18, 2003), 68 FR 75294 (December 30, 2003) (SR-Amex-2003-24).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ The Exchange's rule filing is intended to conform Exchange rules to an amendment to the Plan for the Purpose of Creating and Operating an Intermarket Option Linkage ("Linkage Plan") filed by the Amex and the other participants of the Linkage Plan and recently approved by the Commission ("Joint Amendment No. 13"). See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 50562 (October 19, 2004) (File No. 4-429).

⁴ See Letter from Jeffery P. Burns, Associate General Counsel, Amex, to Nancy Sanow, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated September 9, 2004 ("Amendment No. 1"). In Amendment No. 1, the Amex amended the proposed rule text to reflect a technical change.

⁵ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 50394 (September 16, 2004), 69 FR 57110 (SR-Amex-2004-63).

⁶ See Joint Amendment No. 13, *supra* note 3.