

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Eric Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 28, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-2597 Filed 2-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Application of Cantor Financial Futures Exchange as a Contract Market in US Treasury Bond, Ten-Year Note, Five-Year Note and Two-Year Note Futures Contracts

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the terms and conditions of proposed commodity futures contracts.

SUMMARY: The Cantor Financial Futures Exchange, Inc. ("CFFE" or "Exchange") has applied for designation as a contract market for the computer-based trading of US Treasury bond, ten-year note, five-year note and two-year note futures contracts. CFFE has been formed pursuant to an agreement between the New York Cotton Exchange ("NYCE") and CFFE, LLC ("Cantor") which is wholly owned by Cantor Fitzgerald, LP. Under the agreement, CFFE trading would be conducted on the same trading system that another Cantor Fitzgerald, LP subsidiary, Cantor Fitzgerald Securities, LLC, currently operates as an interdealer-broker in the US Treasury securities market. CFFE's regulatory responsibilities would be handled by NYCE. CFFE has not previously been approved by the Commission as a contract market in any commodity. Accordingly, in addition to the terms and conditions of the proposed futures contracts, the Exchange has submitted to the Commission a proposed trade-matching algorithm; proposed rules pertaining to CFFE governance, disciplinary and arbitration procedures, trading standards and recordkeeping requirements; and various other materials to meet the requirements for a board of trade seeking initial designation as a contract market. CFFE trades would be cleared and settled by a newly-formed clearing organization—

the New York Board of Clearing, Inc. ("NYBOC"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Commodity Clearing Corporation ("CCC") which is wholly owned by NYCE. NYBOC has submitted its proposed rules to the Commission in conjunction with CFFE's designation application. Acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, the Division of Economic Analysis and the Division of Trading and Markets have determined to publish CFFE's proposal for public comment. The Divisions believe that publication of the proposal for comment at this time is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act. The Divisions seek comment regarding all aspects of CFFE's application and addressing any issues commenters believe the Commission should consider.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 6, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: With respect to questions about the terms and conditions of CFFE's proposed futures contracts, please contact Thomas M. Leahy of the Division of Economic Analysis, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, at Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581; Telephone number: (202) 418-5278; Facsimile number: (202) 418-5527; or Electronic mail: tleahy@cftc.gov. With respect to questions about any of CFFE's other proposed rules or NYBOC's proposed rules, please contact David Van Wagner of the Division of Trading and Markets at the same address; Telephone number: (202) 418-5481; Facsimile number: (202) 418-5536; or Electronic mail: dvanwagner@cftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Description of Proposal

CFFE, a New York not-for-profit corporation, has applied for designation as a contract market for the computer-based trading of US Treasury bond, ten-year note, five-year note and two-year note futures contracts. CFFE has not been approved previously by the Commission as a contract market in any commodity. Thus, in addition to the terms and conditions of the proposed futures contracts, the Exchange has submitted, among other things, proposed trade-matching algorithm procedures and rules pertaining to CFFE governance, disciplinary and arbitration procedures, trading standards and recordkeeping requirements.

CFFE would be wholly-owned by CFFE Regulatory Services, LLC. Equity interest in CFFE Regulatory Services, LLC would be held entirely by NYCE (ten percent equity interest) and NYCE's members (ninety percent equity interest).¹ CFFE's contracts would trade over a computer-based trading system maintained by Cantor Fitzgerald Securities, LLC (the "Cantor System"). Cantor Fitzgerald Securities, LLC is an interdealer-broker in the US Treasury securities market and it currently operates the Cantor System to match orders placed with it by broker-dealers and other customers. Although neither Cantor nor any of its affiliates would have any equity interest in CFFE, Cantor would collect a transaction fee for each trade executed at CFFE through the Cantor System.

CFFE would be governed by a thirteen-person board of directors—eight of whom would be appointed by Cantor and five of whom would be appointed by NYCE.² NYCE would be responsible for providing all of CFFE's regulatory services including its compliance, surveillance, arbitration and disciplinary programs.³ Accordingly, all CFFE rule changes that involved regulatory procedures would have to be approved by NYCE's Board of Managers in addition to CFFE's board.

CFFE proposes to trade each of its four contracts from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., New York time, on each business day. Under the proposal, all CFFE trading would be conducted through NYBOC clearing members and certain registered persons guaranteed by NYBOC clearing members (collectively referred to in CFFE's proposed rules as "authorized traders"). Authorized traders would place orders, whether for their own or for their customers' accounts, by phoning CFFE terminal operators⁴ located at a Cantor Fitzgerald Securities, LLC facility.⁵ For each order, an authorized trader would be required

¹ NYCE would have the sole voting interest in CFFE Regulatory Services, LLC.

² Three of the eight CFFE directors appointed by Cantor would be public directors who could not be NYCE members or be employed by or affiliated with NYCE or Cantor.

³ In this regard, CFFE's proposed rules would incorporate by reference certain NYCE rules, such as its rules governing arbitration and disciplinary procedures.

⁴ All CFFE terminal operators would be jointly employed by CFFE and Cantor. Terminal operators would be registered as government securities representatives with the National Association of Securities Dealers and would be supervised by a registered floor broker.

⁵ All phone conversations between NYCE authorized traders and CFFE terminal operators would be recorded and timed by a Cantor tape-recording system.

to provide the terminal operator with a customer or proprietary account identifier, the relevant contract and the quantity and price.⁶ The CFFE terminal operator would promptly enter this information into the Cantor System via a terminal keyboard.

The Cantor System would match eligible CFFE orders according to a trade-matching algorithm that is similar to the algorithm that Cantor Fitzgerald Securities, LLC currently uses to match orders as an interdealer-broker in the government securities market. Under the algorithm, the Cantor System would post the best bid (best offer) available at any given time and its quantity. Any inferior bids (offers) that were posted earlier would be removed from the Cantor System, while inferior bids (offers) entered subsequently would be rejected by the Cantor System. Responsive offers (bids) would be matched with the best bid (best offer) on a time-priority basis at the designated bid (offer) price. Upon filling the best bid's (best offer's) stated quantity, the Cantor System would provide the authorized trader who made that bid (offer) with the exclusive right to buy (sell) all or part of the offers (bids) subsequently posted on the Cantor System at that same bid (offer) price for a pre-determined, limited period of time. During this exclusive period, the Cantor System would accept bids (offers) at the same price as the trader's best bid (best offer), and they would be matched on a time-priority basis to the extent possible after the exclusive period.

Upon the execution of a CFFE transaction, the terminal operator would provide an oral confirmation of the trade to the submitting authorized trader by telephone, and the authorized trader would record the details of the trade on an order ticket.⁷ Upon execution of a trade, the Cantor System also would electronically transmit matched-trade data to NYBOC for clearing and settlement purposes. For each trade, NYBOC would transmit transaction information to the appropriate clearing members via the Trade Input Processing System ("TIPS").⁸ Clearing members would be required to accept or reject

each trade within thirty minutes of its posting on TIPS.

The Cantor System also would transmit relevant trade data to NYCE each day for compliance and surveillance purposes.

III. Request for Comments

Any person interested in submitting written data, views, or arguments on the proposal to designate CFFE should submit their views and comments by the specified date to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to facsimile number (202) 418-5521, or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. The Division seeks comment on all aspects of CFFE's application for designation as a new contract market, as well as NYBOC's proposal to serve as CFFE's clearing organization. Reference should be made to the CFFE application for designation as a contract market in US Treasury bond, ten-year note, five-year note and two-year note futures contracts. Copies of the proposed terms and conditions are available for inspection at the Office of the Secretariat at the above address. Copies also may be obtained through the Office of the Secretariat at the above address or by telephoning (202) 418-5100.

Other materials submitted by CFFE and NYBOC may be available upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), except to the extent that they are entitled to confidential treatment pursuant to 17 CFR 145.5 or 145.9. Requests for copies of such materials should be made to the Freedom of Information, Privacy and Sunshine Act compliance staff of the Office of the Secretariat at the Commission headquarters in accordance with 17 CFR 145.7 and 145.8.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 29, 1998.

John R. Mielke,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 98-2622 Filed 2-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 12, 1998.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., N.W., Washington, D.C., Lobby Level Hearing Room.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

—Briefing by the National Futures Association

—Quarterly Objectives, 2nd Quarter

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 98-2705 Filed 1-30-98; 12:22 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

In accordance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs announces the proposed extension of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed extension of collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by April 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the information collection should be sent to Florida Atlantic University, Division of Sponsored Research, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, Florida 33431-0991.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection, please write to the above address or call Marilyn A. Ray, RN, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Florida Atlantic University at (561) 297-2872.

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: Econometric Analysis (I,II) of the Nurse-Patient Relationship.

Needs and Uses: The survey information of the nurse-patient caring

⁶ Authorized traders also would be required to fill out an order ticket for each order.

⁷ The terminal operators' duties would be limited to receiving and inputting orders from authorized traders and relaying back trade confirmations. Terminal operators could not maintain any sort of order book or deck, nor could they exercise any discretion over orders.

⁸ NYBOC estimates that CFFE trades would be posted on TIPS within fifteen minutes of their execution.