Page 1 of * 24		SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4			File No. * SR 2024 - * 23  Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)		
Filing by New York Stock Exchange LLC							
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934							
Initial *	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(I		(3)(A) * Section 19(b)(3)(B) *		
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *		Rule  19b-4(f)(1)  19b-4(f)(2)  19b-4(f)(3)	19b-4(f)(4) 19b-4(f)(5) 19b-4(f)(6)		
Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlem Section 806(e)(1) * Section 806(e)(2) *			ment Act of 2010	of 2010  Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Section 3C(b)(2) *			
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document  Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document							
Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).  Proposed Rule Change Proposes to amend Section 703.12(II) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual							
Contact Information  Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.							
First Name *	John	Last Name *	Carey				
Title *	Senior Director						
E-mail *	John.Carey@ice.com						
Telephone *	(212) 656-5640	Fax					
Signature  Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange of 1934, New York Stock Exchange LLC has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.							
_ [	04/19/2024			(Title *)			
NOTE: Clicking form. A digital si	David De Gregorio  (Name *)  the signature block at right will initiate digitally signi gnature is as legally binding as a physical signature s form cannot be changed.	ing the	Associate General Co David De Gregorio	Digitally signed by David De Gregorio Date: 2024.04.19 13:51:01 -04'00'			

### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

Form 19b-4 Information *					
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The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

### Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \*

Add Remove View SR-NYSE-2024-23 Exhibit 1.docx

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies \*

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

### Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications

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Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction  $\mathsf{F}$ , they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction  $\mathsf{G}$ .

### Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

## Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

#### **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

#### **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text**

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SR-NYSE-2024-23 Exhibit 5.docx

The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change

#### **Partial Amendment**

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If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

### 1. <u>Text of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

- (a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> New York Stock Exchange LLC ("NYSE" or the "Exchange") proposes to amend Section 703.12(II) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual ("Manual") to expand the circumstances under which rights may be listed on the NYSE. The text of the proposed rule change is set forth in Exhibit 5 attached hereto.
- (b) The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change would have any direct effect, or any significant indirect effect, on any other Exchange rule in effect at the time of this filing.
- (c) Not applicable.

### 2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

Senior management has approved the proposed rule change pursuant to authority delegated to it by the Board of the Exchange. No further action is required under the Exchange's governing documents. Therefore, the Exchange's internal procedures with respect to the proposed rule change are complete.

The person on the Exchange staff prepared to respond to questions and comments on the proposed rule change is:

John Carey Senior Director NYSE Group, Inc. (212) 656-5640

# 3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

### (a) Purpose

Section 703.12(II) of the Manual provides for the listing of rights on the NYSE. For purposes of Section 703.12(II), the term "rights" refers to the privilege offered to holders of record of issued equity securities to subscribe for additional securities of the same class. Consistent with this definition, rights that have traded on the Exchange historically have involved a distribution of rights to the holders of a class of equity securities that is already listed on the Exchange, and such rights have typically been limited to granting the recipients the right to subscribe for additional shares of the listed class of equity securities they already hold.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

While it has historically been the case that rights traded on the Exchange have been granted only to existing shareholders of the issuer, the Exchange does not believe that there is an investor protection concern that justifies that limitation. Consequently, the Exchange proposes to amend Section 703.12(II) to provide that the term "rights" will also refer to the privilege offered recipients of such rights to subscribe for shares of a class of securities of such issuer that is listed or to be listed on the Exchange, regardless of whether the recipients of the rights are existing shareholders of record of such issuer.

Section 703.12(II) currently provides that, in order to be listed on the Exchange, rights must be issued to purchase or receive a security that is already listed on the Exchange or that will be listed on the Exchange concurrent with the rights. The Exchange proposes to expand the circumstances in which a right may be listed to permit the listing of a right where the security into which such right is exercisable will be listed on the Exchange upon exercise of the rights and such exercise is pursuant to a registration statement filed under the Securities Act of 1933 (a "Securities Act Registration Statement") that has been declared effective by the SEC prior to or simultaneous with the listing of such rights (such rights will be defined in the proposed amended rule as "Prospective Listing Rights"). The proposed provisions relating to Prospective Listing Rights mean that some listed rights may list and trade on the Exchange prior to the listing and trading of the securities for which such rights are exercisable. The Exchange believes that this amendment will give issuers greater flexibility in structuring a rights offering as a capital raising tool. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the requirement that there be an effective Securities Act Registration Statement in relation to the exercise of the Prospective Listing Rights prior to or simultaneous to the listing of the Prospective Listing Rights would provide a significant investor protection as it would ensure that investors trading or exercising the Prospective Listing Rights would have access to the appropriate level of disclosure to enable them to make informed investment decisions. The Exchange notes that the issuer of the Prospective Listing rights will be required by law to update this Securities Act Registration Statement to reflect any material changes in the information required to be included therein that arise between the time of effectiveness of the Securities Act Registration Statement and the exercise of the Prospective Listing Rights, thereby ensuring that investors trading the Prospective Listing Rights on the Exchange will have access to current information about the issuer on a continuous basis.

Any security underlying a Prospective Listing Right will be required to meet applicable initial listing standards set forth in Section 102.00 or Section 103.00. Prospective Listing Rights would only be eligible for initial listing if, at the time of initial listing, there were (i) at least 1,000,000 rights issued and (ii) at least 400 public holders of round lots.<sup>3</sup> The Exchange notes that these distribution requirements are identical to those required for securities to be listed under the "equity" standards (i.e., for trading on the NYSE's trading floor) under Section 703.19 ("Other Securities") of the Manual.

For purposes of Section 703.12(II), "Public holders" excludes holders that are directors, officers, or their immediate families and holders of other concentrated holdings of 10 percent or more of the total outstanding shares.

If it is determined that the security for which the Prospective Listing Rights are exercisable will not be listed on the Exchange (which may occur for a variety of reasons, including because the Exchange determines that the underlying securities are no longer eligible for listing or the issuer chooses to terminate the Prospective Listing Rights because the transaction that they were intended to fund has been terminated), the Exchange will promptly initiate suspension and delisting procedures with respect to such Prospective Listing Rights.

In addition, if the market value of publicly-held shares of a series of Prospective Listing Rights at any time is less than \$4,000,000, the Exchange will promptly initiate suspension and delisting procedures with respect to such Prospective Listing Rights. The Exchange notes that this \$4,000,000 continued listing requirement is comparable to the \$4,000,000 initial market value requirement for securities to be listed under the "equity" standards under Section 703.19 ("Other Securities") of the Manual. If Prospective Listing Rights remain outstanding at the time of the initial listing on the Exchange of the securities into which such Prospective Listing Rights are exercisable, the Prospective Listing Rights must at such time meet all of the initial listing requirements applicable to the listing of rights other than Prospective Listing Rights. Any Prospective Listing Rights that do not meet such requirements will be subject to immediate suspension and delisting procedures. If the Exchange commences delisting procedures in either of the circumstances with respect to Prospective Listing Rights set forth in this paragraph, the issuer of the Prospective Listing Rights will not be eligible to avail itself of the provisions of Sections 802.02 and 802.03 and any such Prospective Listing Rights will be subject to delisting procedures as set forth in Section 804.00.

Finally, as the definition of "public holders" will now also be used in the proposed listing requirements for Prospective Listing Rights, the Exchange proposes to move that definition to the end of Section 703.12(II) without changing the wording of the definition in any way.

#### (b) Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act in particular, in that it is designed 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 and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

The Exchange notes the existence of a significant protection of the interests of existing shareholders of listed common stock where the listed issuer grants rights to recipients other than the existing shareholders of that listed class. Section 312.03(c) of the Manual requires (subject, generally, to exceptions for cash sales at the Minimum Price<sup>6</sup> and public offerings) that a listed issuer must obtain shareholder approval prior to the issuance of common stock, or of securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock, in any transaction or series of related transactions if: (1) the common stock has, or will have upon issuance, voting power equal to or in excess of 20% of the voting power outstanding before the issuance of such stock or of securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock; or (2) the number of shares of common stock to be issued is, or will be upon issuance, equal to or in excess of 20% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding before the issuance of the common stock or of securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock. Nasdaq Rule 5635 and NYSE American Company Guide Section 713 include comparable requirements. Consequently, generally, rights offerings by listed issuers of common stock or of securities that are convertible into or exercisable for common stock would be subject to shareholder approval if the rights were being issued to recipients other than the holders of the listed common stock and (1) the shares of common stock underlying the rights have, or will have upon issuance, voting power equal to or in excess of 20% of the voting power outstanding before the issuance of such stock or of securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock; or (2) the number of shares of common stock to be issued is, or will be upon issuance, equal to or in excess of 20% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding before the issuance of the common stock or of securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock. As such, the holders of the listed common stock would have the ability to block any rights offering that was materially dilutive of their economic or voting interests.

The Exchange believes it is consistent with the protection of investors to expand the circumstances in which a right may be listed to permit the listing of a right where the security into which such right is exercisable will be listed upon exercise of the rights and such exercise is pursuant to a Securities Act Registration Statement that has been declared effective by the SEC prior to or simultaneous with the listing of such rights (i.e., Prospective Listing Rights). The requirement that there be an effective Securities Act Registration Statement in relation to the exercise of the rights prior to or simultaneous with the listing of the Prospective Listing Rights would, in the Exchange's view, provide a significant investor protection as it would ensure that investors trading or exercising the Prospective Listing Rights would have access to the appropriate level of disclosure to enable them to make informed investment decisions. In particular, the Exchange believes

Section 312.04(h) defines "Minimum Price" as a price that is the lower of: (i) the Official Closing Price immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement; or (ii) the average Official Closing Price for the five trading days immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement. Section 312.04(i) defines the "Official Closing Price" of the issuer's common stock as the official closing price on the Exchange as reported to the Consolidated Tape immediately preceding the signing of a binding agreement to issue the securities. For example, if the transaction is signed after the close of the regular session at 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on a Tuesday, then Tuesday's official closing price is used. If the transaction is signed at any time between the close of the regular session on Monday and the close of the regular session on Tuesday, then Monday's official closing price is used.

that the availability of an effective Securities Act Registration Statement at the time of initial listing of the Prospective Listing Rights including disclosure about the anticipated business and financial position of the issuer as it will exist upon exercise of the Prospective Listing Rights (and the listing of the underlying securities on the Exchange) will provide investors in the Prospective Listing Rights with the ability to make judgments about the anticipated value of the underlying securities by making comparisons to the market values of comparable listed companies. The Exchange also believes that the obligation of the issuer of Prospective Listing Rights under the Securities Act and the rules thereunder to amend the Securities Act Registration Statement up to the time of exercise of the Prospective Listing Rights to reflect any material changes in the issuer's business or financial condition will ensure that investors will have access to adequate disclosure to enable them to value the securities throughout the life of the Prospective Listing Rights. Furthermore, the issuer of Prospective Listing Rights would be subject to the requirements of Sections 202.05 and 202.06 of the Manual, which require immediate disclosure of all material news. The Exchange believes that these requirements under the securities laws and Exchange rules will provide investors in Prospective Listing Rights with an appropriate level of access to information to make investment decisions and that this robust level of disclosure will also act as a significant safeguard against illegal manipulation of the securities.

The Exchange notes that the proposal does not include any limitations on how long Prospective Listing Rights may remain outstanding prior to their exercise and the listing of the underlying securities. The Exchange believes that there are practical commercial reasons why such a requirement is unnecessary. Investors are unlikely to find it attractive to commit their capital to the exercise of rights if the exercise period is extended for more than a limited period. If the exercise period is excessive, rightholders are likely to withdraw from the offer, making the success of a long offering period unlikely.

As proposed, Prospective Listing Rights must meet initial listing requirements of at least (i) 1,000,000 rights issued and (ii) 400 public holders of round lots. In addition, listed Prospective Listing Rights would be subject to the prompt commencement of suspension and delisting procedures if (i) it is determined that the security for which the Prospective Listing Rights are exercisable will not be listed on the Exchange or (ii) the market value of publicly-held shares of a series of Prospective Listing Rights falls below \$4,000,000. If the Exchange commences delisting procedures in the circumstances with respect to Prospective Listing Rights set forth in this paragraph, the issuer of the Prospective Listing Rights will not be eligible to avail itself of the provisions of Sections 802.02 and 802.03 and any such listed rights will be subject to delisting procedures as set forth in Section 804.00. The Exchange believes that these initial and continued listing requirements will protect investors by helping to ensure trading liquidity in the Prospective Listing Rights and also ensuring that such rights will not be traded unless the underlying security is expected to list on the Exchange. The Exchange notes that the proposed initial and continued quantitative listing standards for Prospective Listing Rights are identical to (or, in the case of the market-value of publicly-held shares requirement more rigorous than) those required for securities to be listed under the "equity" standards (i.e., for trading on the NYSE's trading floor) under Section 703.19 ("Other Securities") of the Manual. As

the Exchange has extensive experience with the application of those standards under Section 703.19 and believes that they have provided adequate investor protection when used in that context, the Exchange believes that these standards will also provide adequate protection to investors in Prospective Listing Rights.

The Exchange is not proposing to adopt any initial market value or security price requirements for Prospective Listing Rights. However, the Exchange notes that proposed \$4,000,000 market value of publicly-held shares requirement would be applied immediately and therefore imposes a minimum trading value for Prospective Listing Rights at the time of initial listing. The Exchange believes that this requirement ensures that Prospective Listing Rights will not commence trading on the Exchange unless the market believes that they have a more than nominal trading value.

The Exchange believes that its existing surveillance procedures are adequate to enable it to detect manipulative trading practices with respect to Prospective Listing Rights. The Exchange notes that the NYSE and other self-regulatory organizations have extensive experience in conducting surveillance of the trading in securities whose value, like that of Prospective Listing Rights, is substantially dependent on the issuer's future acquisition of an identified operating asset, including for example, listed SPACs that are trading on the Exchange after entering into a definitive agreement with respect to a business combination. The Exchange also believes that market participants are able to arrive at market prices for such securities without excessive volatility and that this experience provides a reasonable basis for understanding how Prospective Listing Rights are likely to trade.

### 4. 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. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will increase competition by giving issuers enhanced opportunities to raise capital by giving them greater flexibility in structuring rights offering as a capital raising tool.

### 5. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change</u> <u>Received from Members, Participants or Others</u>

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

### 6. <u>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</u>

The Exchange does not consent at this time to an extension of any time period for Commission action.

## 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

Not applicable.

8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission</u>

Not applicable.

9. <u>Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act</u>

Not applicable.

10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – Form of Notice of Proposed Rule Change for Federal Register

Exhibit 5 – Proposed Rule Text

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EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-NYSE-2024-23)

[Date]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to amend Section 703.12(II) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>2</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>3</sup> notice is hereby given that on April 19, 2024, New York Stock Exchange LLC ("NYSE" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend Section 703.12(II) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual ("Manual") to expand the circumstances under which rights may be listed on the NYSE. The text of the proposed rule change is set forth in Exhibit 5 attached hereto. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <a href="https://www.nyse.com">www.nyse.com</a>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78a.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

# II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization 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 those statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

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

### 1. Purpose

Section 703.12(II) of the Manual provides for the listing of rights on the NYSE. For purposes of Section 703.12(II), the term "rights" refers to the privilege offered to holders of record of issued equity securities to subscribe for additional securities of the same class. Consistent with this definition, rights that have traded on the Exchange historically have involved a distribution of rights to the holders of a class of equity securities that is already listed on the Exchange, and such rights have typically been limited to granting the recipients the right to subscribe for additional shares of the listed class of equity securities they already hold.

While it has historically been the case that rights traded on the Exchange have been granted only to existing shareholders of the issuer, the Exchange does not believe that there is an investor protection concern that justifies that limitation. Consequently, the Exchange proposes to amend Section 703.12(II) to provide that the term "rights" will also refer to the privilege offered recipients of such rights to subscribe for shares of a class of securities of such issuer that is listed or to be listed on the Exchange, regardless of whether the recipients of the rights are existing shareholders of record of such issuer.

Section 703.12(II) currently provides that, in order to be listed on the Exchange, rights must be issued to purchase or receive a security that is already listed on the Exchange or that will be listed on the Exchange concurrent with the rights. The Exchange proposes to expand the circumstances in which a right may be listed to permit the listing of a right where the security into which such right is exercisable will be listed on the Exchange upon exercise of the rights and such exercise is pursuant to a registration statement filed under the Securities Act of 1933 (a "Securities Act Registration Statement") that has been declared effective by the SEC prior to or simultaneous with the listing of such rights (such rights will be defined in the proposed amended rule as "Prospective Listing Rights"). The proposed provisions relating to Prospective Listing Rights mean that some listed rights may list and trade on the Exchange prior to the listing and trading of the securities for which such rights are exercisable. The Exchange believes that this amendment will give issuers greater flexibility in structuring a rights offering as a capital raising tool. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the requirement that there be an effective Securities Act Registration Statement in relation to the exercise of the Prospective Listing Rights prior to or simultaneous to the listing of the Prospective Listing Rights would provide a significant investor protection as it would ensure that investors trading or exercising the Prospective Listing Rights would have access to the appropriate level of disclosure to enable them to make informed investment decisions. The Exchange notes that the issuer of the Prospective Listing rights will be required by law to update this Securities Act Registration Statement to reflect any material changes in the information required to be included therein that arise between the time of effectiveness of the Securities Act Registration Statement and the exercise of the Prospective Listing Rights, thereby ensuring that investors trading the Prospective Listing Rights on the Exchange will have access to current information about the issuer on a

continuous basis.

Any security underlying a Prospective Listing Right will be required to meet applicable initial listing standards set forth in Section 102.00 or Section 103.00. Prospective Listing Rights would only be eligible for initial listing if, at the time of initial listing, there were (i) at least 1,000,000 rights issued and (ii) at least 400 public holders of round lots.<sup>4</sup> The Exchange notes that these distribution requirements are identical to those required for securities to be listed under the "equity" standards (i.e., for trading on the NYSE's trading floor) under Section 703.19 ("Other Securities") of the Manual.

If it is determined that the security for which the Prospective Listing Rights are exercisable will not be listed on the Exchange (which may occur for a variety of reasons, including because the Exchange determines that the underlying securities are no longer eligible for listing or the issuer chooses to terminate the Prospective Listing Rights because the transaction that they were intended to fund has been terminated), the Exchange will promptly initiate suspension and delisting procedures with respect to such Prospective Listing Rights.

In addition, if the market value of publicly-held shares of a series of Prospective Listing Rights at any time is less than \$4,000,000, the Exchange will promptly initiate suspension and delisting procedures with respect to such Prospective Listing Rights. The Exchange notes that this \$4,000,000 continued listing requirement is comparable to the \$4,000,000 initial market value requirement for securities to be listed under the "equity" standards under Section 703.19 ("Other Securities") of the Manual. If Prospective Listing Rights remain outstanding at the time of the initial listing on the Exchange of the securities into which such Prospective Listing Rights

For purposes of Section 703.12(II), "Public holders" excludes holders that are directors, officers, or their immediate families and holders of other concentrated holdings of 10 percent or more of the total outstanding shares.

are exercisable, the Prospective Listing Rights must at such time meet all of the initial listing requirements applicable to the listing of rights other than Prospective Listing Rights. Any Prospective Listing Rights that do not meet such requirements will be subject to immediate suspension and delisting procedures. If the Exchange commences delisting procedures in either of the circumstances with respect to Prospective Listing Rights set forth in this paragraph, the issuer of the Prospective Listing Rights will not be eligible to avail itself of the provisions of Sections 802.02 and 802.03 and any such Prospective Listing Rights will be subject to delisting procedures as set forth in Section 804.00.

Finally, as the definition of "public holders" will now also be used in the proposed listing requirements for Prospective Listing Rights, the Exchange proposes to move that definition to the end of Section 703.12(II) without changing the wording of the definition in any way.

### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act in particular, in that it is designed 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 and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>6 15</sup> U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

The Exchange notes the existence of a significant protection of the interests of existing shareholders of listed common stock where the listed issuer grants rights to recipients other than the existing shareholders of that listed class. Section 312.03(c) of the Manual requires (subject, generally, to exceptions for cash sales at the Minimum Price<sup>7</sup> and public offerings) that a listed issuer must obtain shareholder approval prior to the issuance of common stock, or of securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock, in any transaction or series of related transactions if: (1) the common stock has, or will have upon issuance, voting power equal to or in excess of 20% of the voting power outstanding before the issuance of such stock or of securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock; or (2) the number of shares of common stock to be issued is, or will be upon issuance, equal to or in excess of 20% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding before the issuance of the common stock or of securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock. Nasdaq Rule 5635 and NYSE American Company Guide Section 713 include comparable requirements. Consequently, generally, rights offerings by listed issuers of common stock or of securities that are convertible into or exercisable for common stock would be subject to shareholder approval if the rights were being issued to recipients other than the holders of the listed common stock and (1) the shares of common stock underlying the rights have, or will have upon issuance, voting power equal to or in excess of 20% of the voting power outstanding before the issuance of such stock or of securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock; or (2) the number of shares of

Section 312.04(h) defines "Minimum Price" as a price that is the lower of: (i) the Official Closing Price immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement; or (ii) the average Official Closing Price for the five trading days immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement. Section 312.04(i) defines the "Official Closing Price" of the issuer's common stock as the official closing price on the Exchange as reported to the Consolidated Tape immediately preceding the signing of a binding agreement to issue the securities. For example, if the transaction is signed after the close of the regular session at 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on a Tuesday, then Tuesday's official closing price is used. If the transaction is signed at any time between the close of the regular session on Monday and the close of the regular session on Tuesday, then Monday's official closing price is used.

common stock to be issued is, or will be upon issuance, equal to or in excess of 20% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding before the issuance of the common stock or of securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock. As such, the holders of the listed common stock would have the ability to block any rights offering that was materially dilutive of their economic or voting interests.

The Exchange believes it is consistent with the protection of investors to expand the circumstances in which a right may be listed to permit the listing of a right where the security into which such right is exercisable will be listed upon exercise of the rights and such exercise is pursuant to a Securities Act Registration Statement that has been declared effective by the SEC prior to or simultaneous with the listing of such rights (i.e., Prospective Listing Rights). The requirement that there be an effective Securities Act Registration Statement in relation to the exercise of the rights prior to or simultaneous with the listing of the Prospective Listing Rights would, in the Exchange's view, provide a significant investor protection as it would ensure that investors trading or exercising the Prospective Listing Rights would have access to the appropriate level of disclosure to enable them to make informed investment decisions. In particular, the Exchange believes that the availability of an effective Securities Act Registration Statement at the time of initial listing of the Prospective Listing Rights including disclosure about the anticipated business and financial position of the issuer as it will exist upon exercise of the Prospective Listing Rights (and the listing of the underlying securities on the Exchange) will provide investors in the Prospective Listing Rights with the ability to make judgments about the anticipated value of the underlying securities by making comparisons to the market values of comparable listed companies. The Exchange also believes that the obligation of the issuer of Prospective Listing Rights under the Securities Act and the rules thereunder to amend the

Securities Act Registration Statement up to the time of exercise of the Prospective Listing Rights to reflect any material changes in the issuer's business or financial condition will ensure that investors will have access to adequate disclosure to enable them to value the securities throughout the life of the Prospective Listing Rights. Furthermore, the issuer of Prospective Listing Rights would be subject to the requirements of Sections 202.05 and 202.06 of the Manual, which require immediate disclosure of all material news. The Exchange believes that these requirements under the securities laws and Exchange rules will provide investors in Prospective Listing Rights with an appropriate level of access to information to make investment decisions and that this robust level of disclosure will also act as a significant safeguard against illegal manipulation of the securities.

The Exchange notes that the proposal does not include any limitations on how long Prospective Listing Rights may remain outstanding prior to their exercise and the listing of the underlying securities. The Exchange believes that there are practical commercial reasons why such a requirement is unnecessary. Investors are unlikely to find it attractive to commit their capital to the exercise of rights if the exercise period is extended for more than a limited period. If the exercise period is excessive, rightholders are likely to withdraw from the offer, making the success of a long offering period unlikely.

As proposed, Prospective Listing Rights must meet initial listing requirements of at least (i) 1,000,000 rights issued and (ii) 400 public holders of round lots. In addition, listed Prospective Listing Rights would be subject to the prompt commencement of suspension and delisting procedures if (i) it is determined that the security for which the Prospective Listing Rights are exercisable will not be listed on the Exchange or (ii) the market value of publicly-held shares of a series of Prospective Listing Rights falls below \$4,000,000. If the Exchange

commences delisting procedures in the circumstances with respect to Prospective Listing Rights set forth in this paragraph, the issuer of the Prospective Listing Rights will not be eligible to avail itself of the provisions of Sections 802.02 and 802.03 and any such listed rights will be subject to delisting procedures as set forth in Section 804.00. The Exchange believes that these initial and continued listing requirements will protect investors by helping to ensure trading liquidity in the Prospective Listing Rights and also ensuring that such rights will not be traded unless the underlying security is expected to list on the Exchange. The Exchange notes that the proposed initial and continued quantitative listing standards for Prospective Listing Rights are identical to (or, in the case of the market-value of publicly-held shares requirement more rigorous than) those required for securities to be listed under the "equity" standards (i.e., for trading on the NYSE's trading floor) under Section 703.19 ("Other Securities") of the Manual. As the Exchange has extensive experience with the application of those standards under Section 703.19 and believes that they have provided adequate investor protection when used in that context, the Exchange believes that these standards will also provide adequate protection to investors in Prospective Listing Rights.

The Exchange is not proposing to adopt any initial market value or security price requirements for Prospective Listing Rights. However, the Exchange notes that proposed \$4,000,000 market value of publicly-held shares requirement would be applied immediately and therefore imposes a minimum trading value for Prospective Listing Rights at the time of initial listing. The Exchange believes that this requirement ensures that Prospective Listing Rights will not commence trading on the Exchange unless the market believes that they have a more than nominal trading value.

The Exchange believes that its existing surveillance procedures are adequate to enable it to detect manipulative trading practices with respect to Prospective Listing Rights. The Exchange notes that the NYSE and other self-regulatory organizations have extensive experience in conducting surveillance of the trading in securities whose value, like that of Prospective Listing Rights, is substantially dependent on the issuer's future acquisition of an identified operating asset, including for example, listed SPACs that are trading on the Exchange after entering into a definitive agreement with respect to a business combination. The Exchange also believes that market participants are able to arrive at market prices for such securities without excessive volatility and that this experience provides a reasonable basis for understanding how Prospective Listing Rights are likely to trade.

### B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

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. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will increase competition by giving issuers enhanced opportunities to raise capital by giving them greater flexibility in structuring rights offering as a capital raising tool.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>
Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the <u>Federal Register</u> 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 self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (A) by order approve or disapprove the 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
   (<a href="https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>); or
- Send an email to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include file number
   SR-NYSE-2024-23 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-NYSE-2024-23. 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 (<a href="https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>). 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

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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-NYSE-2024-23 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>8</sup>

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

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Additions <u>underlined</u> Deletions [bracketed].

NYSE Listed Company Manual

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703.12 Listing Standards for Warrants and Rights

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### (II) Rights

(A) For purposes of this Section 703.12(II), the term "rights" refers to the privilege offered to [holders] the recipients of [record of issued equity securities] such rights to subscribe for [additional securities of the same] a class of securities of the issuer of such rights that is listed or intended to be listed on the Exchange.

In order to be listed on the Exchange, rights must be issued to purchase or receive a security that:

- (i) is already listed on the Exchange[ or that];
- (ii) will be listed on the Exchange concurrent with the rights; or
- (iii) will be listed on the Exchange upon exercise of the rights and such exercise is pursuant to a Securities Act registration statement that has been declared effective by the SEC prior to or simultaneous with the listing of such rights (such rights as described in this clause (iii) are defined as "Prospective Listing Rights"). Any security underlying a Prospective Listing Right will be required to meet applicable initial listing standards set forth in Section 102.00 or Section 103.00.

The rights holders shall not be entitled to any privileges of the holder of common stock (e.g., dividends, preemptive rights or voting rights). If the rights are exercisable into listed common stock, the listing of the rights and the underlying common stock is subject to the NYSE shareholder approval policy. (See Section 312.00.)

### (B) **Quantitative Requirements**

For initial listing <u>of rights other than Prospective Listing Rights</u>, rights must meet the following requirements:

- 1. At least 400,000 issued; and
- 2. The underlying security must be listed on the Exchange; and

3. At least 100 public holders of round lots.\*

[\* "Public holders" excludes holders that are directors, officers, or their immediate families and holders of other concentrated holdings of 10 percent or more of the company's total outstanding shares.]

For initial listing, Prospective Listing Rights, rights must meet the following requirements:

### 1. At least 1,000,000 issued; and

### 2, At least 400 public holders of round lots.\*

For rights to remain listed (other than Prospective Listing Rights), the underlying security must remain listed on the Exchange. In the event that the security underlying a listed right ceases to be listed on the Exchange (or in the case of Prospective Listing Rights, if it is determined that the security for which the Prospective Listing Rights are exercisable will not be listed on the Exchange), the Exchange will promptly initiate suspension and delisting procedures with respect to the listed rights. In addition, if the market value of publicly-held shares of a series of Prospective Listing Rights at any time is less than \$4,000,000, the Exchange will promptly initiate suspension and delisting procedures with respect to such Prospective Listing Rights. If Prospective Listing Rights remain outstanding at the time of the initial listing on the Exchange of the securities into which such Prospective Listing Rights are exercisable, the Prospective Listing Rights must at such time meet all of the initial listing requirements set forth herein as applicable to the listing of rights other than Prospective Listing Rights. Any Prospective Listing Rights that do not meet such requirements will be subject to immediate suspension and delisting procedures.

[In such case] If the Exchange commences delisting procedures in the circumstances set forth in the immediately preceding paragraph, the issuer of the listed rights or Prospective Listing Rights will not be eligible to avail itself of the provisions of Sections 802.02 and 802.03 and any such listed rights will be subject to delisting procedures as set forth in Section 804.00.

### (C) Filing a Listing Application Relating to Rights

The general instructions for preparation and filing of a listing application are described in Section 703.01.

The form of listing application and information regarding supporting documents required in connection with the listing of rights are available on the Exchange's website or from the Exchange upon request.

\* "Public holders" excludes holders that are directors, officers, or their immediate families and holders of other concentrated holdings of 10 percent or more of the company's total outstanding shares.

\* \* \* \* \*