

## **NONSTANDARD EXPIRATIONS PILOT PROGRAM: ANNUAL CBOE PILOT PROGRAM REPORT**

On September 14, 2010, the Commission approved the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated's ("CBOE" or "Exchange") proposed rule change to establish a pilot program to list P.M.-settled options on broad-based indexes to expire on (a) any Friday of the month, other than the third Friday-of-the-month ("End of Week Expirations" or "EOWs"), and (b) the last trading day of the month ("End of Month Expirations" or "EOMs"). On January 14, 2016, the Commission approved CBOE's proposed rule change to expand the pilot program to permit P.M.-settled options on broad-based indexes to expire on any Wednesday of the month ("Wednesday Expirations" or "WEDs"), other than Wednesdays that are EOM. Under the Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program ("Program"), EOWs, EOMs, and WEDs are permitted on any broad-based index that is eligible for regular options trading. EOWs, EOMs, and WEDs are cash-settled and may have either a European-style or American-style exercise. The Program is currently scheduled to expire on May 3, 2017.

Pursuant to the most recent rule change related to the Program,<sup>1</sup> CBOE is required to submit an annual report to the Commission, which addresses the following areas: Analysis of Volume & Open Interest, Monthly Analysis of EOW, EOM, & WED Trading Patterns, and Provisional Analysis of Index Price Volatility. For purposes of the annual report, CBOE states that EOWs and EOMs were listed for trading under the Program on the following indexes: the Standard & Poor's 500 Index ("S&P 500"); the Standard & Poor's 100 Index ("S&P 100"), and the Russell 2000 Index ("Russell 2000"). Series of EOW and EOM options on the Russell 2000 were listed for trading on January 21, 2016 and January 5, 2016, respectively. Additionally, CBOE states that WEDs were listed for trading under the Program on the S&P 500. The first WEDs on the S&P 500 were listed for trading on February 23, 2016.

The Exchange notes that in the data provided in the attached Excel spreadsheet (the "Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program Data Spreadsheet"), the symbol "SPX" refers to third-Friday-of-the-month, A.M.-settled S&P 500 options, the symbol "SPXW" refers to EOW, EOM and WED expirations on the S&P 500, and the symbol "XSP" refers to expirations based on the Mini SPX Index, which is 1/10<sup>th</sup> the value of the S&P 500. Additionally, the symbol "OEX" refers to expirations on the S&P 100 with an American-style exercise and the symbol "XEO" refers to expirations on the S&P 100 with a European-style exercise. Finally, the symbol "RUT" refers to A.M.-settled options on the Russell 2000 Index with European-style exercise and the symbol "RUTW" refers to P.M.-settled EOW and EOM options on the Russell 2000 Index with European-style exercise.

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<sup>1</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76909 (January 14, 2016), 81 FR 3512 (January 21, 2016) (SR-CBOE-2015-106).

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### Analysis of Volume & Open Interest

All data pertaining to the analysis of volume and open interest is located in the Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program Data Spreadsheet. EOWs and EOMs include data during the period October 1, 2014 through February 29, 2016. WEDs include data during the period February 23, 2016 through March 31, 2016. The relevant tabs related to each option class are identified below.

(1) Monthly volume aggregated for all EOW, EOM, and WED series:

- SPX/SPXW: *see* Tabs **BP1\_2016** and **BP1\_SPX WEDS. 2016**
- XEO: *see* Tab **XEO\_BP1\_2016**
- OEX: *see* Tab **OEX\_BP1\_2016**
- XSP: *see* Tab **XSP\_BP1\_2016**
- RUT/RUTW: *see* Tab **RUT\_BP1\_2016**

(2) Volume in EOW, EOM, and WED series aggregated by expiration date:

- SPX/SPXW: *see* Tabs **BP2\_2016** and **BP2\_SPX WEDS. 2016**
- XEO: *see* Tab **XEO\_BP2\_2016**
- OEX: *see* Tab **OEX\_BP2\_2016**
- XSP: *see* Tab **XSP\_BP2\_2016**
- RUT/RUTW: *see* Tab **RUT\_BP2\_2016**

(3) Month-end open interest aggregated for all EOW, EOM, and WED series:

- SPX/SPXW: *see* Tabs **BP3\_2016** and **BP3\_SPX WEDS. 2016**
- XEO: *see* Tab **XEO\_BP3\_2016**
- OEX: *see* Tab **OEX\_BP3\_2016**
- XSP: *see* Tab **XSP\_BP3\_2016**
- RUT/RUTW: *see* Tab **RUT\_BP3\_2016**

(4) Month-end open interest for EOM series aggregated by expiration date, week-ending open interest for EOW series aggregated by expiration date, and Wednesday-ending open interest for WED series aggregated by expiration date:

- SPX/SPXW: *see* Tabs **BP4\_2016** and **BP4\_SPX WEDS. 2016**
- XEO: *see* Tab **XEO\_BP4\_2016**
- OEX: *see* Tab **OEX\_BP4\_2016**
- XSP: *see* Tab **XSP\_BP4\_2016**
- RUT/RUTW: *see* Tab **RUT\_BP4\_2016**

(5) Ratio of monthly aggregate volume in EOW, EOM, and WED series to total monthly class volume:

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- SPX/SPXW: *see* Tabs **BP5\_2016** and **BP5\_SPX WEDS. 2016**
- XEO: *see* Tab **XEO\_BP5\_2016**
- OEX: *see* Tab **OEX\_BP5\_2016**
- XSP: *see* Tab **XSP\_BP5\_2016**
- RUT/RUTW: *see* Tab **RUT\_BP5\_2016**

(6) Ratio of month-end open interest in EOM series to total month-end class open interest, ratio of week-ending open interest in EOW series to total week-ending open interest, and ratio of Wednesday-ending open interest in WED series to total week-ending open interest:

- SPX/SPXW: *see* Tabs **BP6\_2016** and **BP6\_SPX WEDS. 2016**
- XEO: *see* Tab **XEO\_BP6\_2016**
- OEX: *see* Tab **OEX\_BP6\_2016**
- XSP: *see* Tab **XSP\_BP6\_2016**
- RUT/RUTW: *see* Tab **RUT\_BP6\_2016**

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### Monthly Analysis of EOW, EOM, & WED Trading Patterns

In the annual report, CBOE proposes to identify EOW, EOM, and WED trading patterns by undertaking a time series analysis of open interest in EOW, EOM, and WED series aggregated by expiration date compared to open interest in near-term standard Expiration Friday A.M.-settled series in order to determine whether users are shifting positions from standard series to EOW, EOM, and WED series. Declining open interest in standard series accompanied by rising open interest in EOW, EOM, and WED series would suggest that users are shifting positions.

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Based on its review of EOW and EOM options on the S&P 500, the Exchange did not observe a sustained migration from standard (i.e., 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday) A.M.-settled SPX options series to S&P 500 EOW and EOM option series, although open interest in S&P 500 EOW and EOM has steadily grown. The Exchange notes that open interest in EOW and EOM options as a percentage of total SPX option volume is higher following the expiration of standard SPX options due to the large amount of open interest in SPX series with standard 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday expiration dates. The Exchange conducted a time series analysis of EOW and EOM open interest as a percentage of near-term standard options on the S&P 500. The Exchange observed a range of change in the percentage of EOWs as a percentage of near-term standard options on the S&P 500 but not a sustained pattern of increasing EOW or EOM open interest share in relation to that of the near-term standard S&P 500 options. In approximately five weeks of trading activity, CBOE did not observe a sustained migration from standard SPX options series to WED series.

All data pertaining to the monthly analysis of EOW, EOM, & WED trading patterns is located in the Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program Data Spreadsheet. EOWs and EOMs include data during the months of October 2014 through February 2016. WEDs include data during the months of February 2016 and March 2016. The relevant tabs related to each option class are identified below.

- SPX/SPXW: *see* Tabs **MonthAn\_2016**, **EOM MonthAn\_2016**, and **MonthAn\_SPX WEDS. 2016**
- XEO: *see* Tabs **XEO\_MonthAn\_2016** and **XEO\_EOM MonthAn\_2016**
- OEX: *see* Tabs **OEX\_MonthAn\_2016** and **OEX\_EOM MonthAn\_2016**
- XSP: *see* Tabs **XSP\_MonthAn\_2016** and **XSP\_EOM MonthAn\_2016**
- RUT/RUTW: *see* Tab **RUT\_MonthAn\_2016**

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**Provisional Analysis of Index Price Volatility**

For each EOW, EOM, and WED Expiration that has open interest that exceeds certain minimum thresholds, the annual report will contain the following analysis related to index price changes and, if needed, underlying share trading volume at the close on expiration dates:

- (1) a comparison of index price changes at the close of trading on a given expiration date with comparable price changes from a control sample. The data will include a calculation of percentage price changes for various time intervals and compare that information to the respective control sample. Raw percentage price change data as well as percentage price change data normalized for prevailing market volatility, as measured by the CBOE Volatility Index ("VIX"), will be provided; and

CBOE will calculate three sets of percentage price changes:

1. Based on the Broad-Based Index price observed at 2:30 p.m. CT and the closing Broad-Based Index price,
2. Based on the Broad-Based Index price observed at 2:40 p.m. CT and the closing Broad-Based Index price, and
3. Based on the Broad-Based Index price observed at 2:55 p.m. CT and the closing Broad-Based Index price

The percentage price changes will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage Price Change} = \frac{P(\text{close}) - P(2:30 \text{ p.m., } 2:40 \text{ p.m. or } 2:55 \text{ p.m. CT})}{P(2:30 \text{ p.m., } 2:40 \text{ p.m. or } 2:55 \text{ p.m. CT})}$$

where: P(\*) is the Broad-Based Index price

- (2) if needed, a calculation of share volume for a sample set of the component securities representing an upper limit on share trading that could be attributable to expiring in-the-money EOW, EOM, and WED expirations. The data, if needed, will include a comparison of the calculated share volume for securities in the sample set to the average daily trading volumes of those securities over a sample period.

The minimum open interest parameters, control sample, time intervals, method for selecting the component securities, and sample periods will be determined by the Exchange and the Commission.

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Observations of the S&P 500 were taken at five minute intervals from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Chicago time) on EOW and EOM options with Friday expiration days and for Fridays from November 2012 through December 2013 as a control. The Exchange did not include Wednesday-expiring EOW SPX options in the index price volatility analysis as there has only been approximately five weeks of trading activity in Wednesday-expiring EOW SPX options.

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The percentage changes in the S&P 500 value from each observation to the close at 3:00 p.m. (Chicago time) were then calculated. In addition, the absolute value of the percentage changes of the observations to the close for both the control were calculated over the study periods. Based on the calculation of the mean and standard deviations of the absolute values of the percentage changes from 2:30 p.m. to 2:55 p.m. to the close over the sampling periods, there was no discernable increase in volatility during the period in which EOW and EOM SPX options were listed. The Exchange notes that the analysis of percentage changes in the S&P 500 value applies for mini-SPX ("XSP") EOW and EOM options as well, due to the fact that XSP is 1/10<sup>th</sup> the value of the S&P 500 Index.

A second study was performed where the absolute percentage changes of the S&P 500 values to the close was divided by CBOE Volatility Index ("VIX") values to control for potential volatility changes during the two periods. In this study there was also no discernable increase in volatility in the period in which EOW and EOM SPX options were listed based on the mean and standard deviations for the respective periods.

All data pertaining to the provisional analysis of index price volatility is located in the Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program Data Spreadsheet. The relevant tabs related to each option class are identified below.

- SPX/SPXW: *see* Tabs **Prov1\_2016** and **Prov1\_2016 (WEDS)**
- OEX and XEO: *see* Tab **OEX\_XEO\_Prov1\_2016**
- RUT/RUTW: *see* Tab **RUT\_Prov1\_2016**

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