



## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-103215; File No. SR-NYSEARCA-2025-15]

### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Order Instituting Proceedings to Determine Whether to Approve or Disapprove a Proposed Rule Change to List and Trade Shares of the Bitwise Bitcoin and Ethereum ETF under NYSE Arca Rule 8.201-E (Commodity-Based Trust Shares)**

June 10, 2025.

#### I. Introduction

On February 19, 2025, NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSE Arca” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> a proposed rule change to list and trade shares (“Shares”) of the Bitwise Bitcoin and Ethereum ETF (“Trust”) under NYSE Arca Rule 8.201-E (Commodity-Based Trust Shares). The proposed rule change was published for comment in the Federal Register on March 12, 2025.<sup>3</sup>

On April 24, 2025, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> the Commission designated a longer period within which to approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposed rule change.<sup>5</sup> This order institutes proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act<sup>6</sup> to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102534 (Mar. 6, 2025), 90 FR 11855 (“Notice”). Comments received on the proposed rule change are available at: <https://www.sec.gov/comments/sr-nysearca-2025-15/srnysearca202515.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102925, 90 FR 17985 (Apr. 30, 2025). The Commission designated June 10, 2025, as the date by which the Commission shall approve or disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove, the proposed rule change.

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

## II. Summary of the Proposal

As described in more detail in the Notice,<sup>7</sup> the Exchange proposes to list and trade the Shares of the Trust under NYSE Arca Rule 8.201-E, which governs the listing and trading of Commodity-Based Trust Shares on the Exchange.

According to the Exchange, the investment objective of the Trust is to seek to provide exposure to the value of bitcoin and ether held by the Trust, less the expenses of the Trust's operations and other liabilities.<sup>8</sup> In seeking to achieve its investment objective, the Trust will hold bitcoin and ether<sup>9</sup> and will establish its net asset value at the end of every business day by reference to the CME CF Bitcoin—New York Variant for its bitcoin holdings and to the CME CF Ether—Dollar Reference Rate—New York Variant for its ether holdings.<sup>10</sup> The Trust's assets will consist solely of bitcoin, ether, and cash.<sup>11</sup> The Trust will create and redeem Shares in cash with authorized participants on an ongoing basis in one or more blocks of 10,000 Shares.<sup>12</sup>

## III. Proceedings to Determine Whether to Approve or Disapprove SR-NYSEARCA-2025-15 and Grounds for Disapproval under Consideration

The Commission is instituting proceedings pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act<sup>13</sup> to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved. Institution of proceedings is appropriate at this time in view of the legal and policy issues raised by the proposed rule change. Institution of proceedings does not indicate that the Commission has

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<sup>7</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 3.

<sup>8</sup> See *id.* at 11855. Bitwise Investment Advisers, LLC is the sponsor of the Trust and Delaware Trust Company is the trustee of the Trust. Coinbase Custody Trust Company, LLC will maintain custody of the Trust's bitcoin and ether. See *id.*

<sup>9</sup> The Trust's allocation of its assets to bitcoin and ether will approximate the relative market capitalization of bitcoin and ether to one another. See *id.* The Exchange states that, as of the date of the filing, the relative market capitalization of bitcoin and ether was 83% bitcoin and 17% ether. See *id.* at 11855 n.9.

<sup>10</sup> See *id.* at 11855. These pricing benchmarks are calculated by CF Benchmarks Ltd. based on an aggregation of executed trade flow of major bitcoin and ether trading platforms. See *id.* at 11855 n.10.

<sup>11</sup> See *id.* at 11855.

<sup>12</sup> See *id.* at 11857.

<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

reached any conclusions with respect to any of the issues involved. Rather, the Commission seeks and encourages interested persons to provide comments on the proposed rule change.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act,<sup>14</sup> the Commission is providing notice of the grounds for disapproval under consideration. The Commission is instituting proceedings to allow for additional analysis of the proposed rule change's consistency with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be "designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices" and "to protect investors and the public interest."<sup>15</sup>

The Commission asks that commenters address the sufficiency of the Exchange's statements in support of the proposal, which are set forth in the Notice, in addition to any other comments they may wish to submit about the proposed rule change. In particular, the Commission seeks comment on whether the proposal to list and trade Shares of the Trust, which would hold bitcoin and ether, is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices or raises any new or novel concerns not previously contemplated by the Commission.

#### IV. Procedure: Request for Written Comments

The Commission requests that interested persons provide written submissions of their views, data, and arguments with respect to the issues identified above, as well as any other concerns they may have with the proposal. In particular, the Commission invites the written views of interested persons concerning whether the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) or any other provision of the Act, and the rules and regulations thereunder. Although there do not appear to be any issues relevant to approval or disapproval that would be facilitated by an oral

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<sup>14</sup> Id.

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

presentation of views, data, and arguments, the Commission will consider, pursuant to Rule 19b-4, any request for an opportunity to make an oral presentation.<sup>16</sup>

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments regarding whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved by [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]. Any person who wishes to file a rebuttal to any other person's submission must file that rebuttal by [INSERT DATE 35 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include file number SR-NYSEARCA-2025-15 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-NYSEARCA-2025-15. 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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). 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

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<sup>16</sup> Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, as amended by the Securities Acts Amendments of 1975, Pub. L. 94-29 (June 4, 1975), grants the Commission flexibility to determine what type of proceeding—either oral or notice and opportunity for written comments—is appropriate for consideration of a particular proposal by a self-regulatory organization. See Securities Acts Amendments of 1975, Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs, S. Rep. No. 75, 94th Cong., 1st Sess. 30 (1975).

that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be 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-NYSEARCA-2025-15 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]. Rebuttal comments should be submitted by [INSERT DATE 35 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>17</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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<sup>17</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(57).