To: 2014 SIFMA Industry Test Participants  
Date: 29 May 2014  
Subject: 2014 Industry Test Changes and Table Top Exercise (TTX) Scenario

The 2014 Industry Test scope will be expanded to include a Table Top Exercise (TTX) on Friday, 24 October that will measure the securities industry’s ability to react to a “New Jersey unavailable” scenario from a technology and people perspective. This scenario will be utilized by the SIFMA Equity Market Response and Fixed Income Market Response Committees to discuss how the orderly operation of the markets would be effected. The scenario will activate the Committee’s response processes to a situation that covers the loss of certain key data and operations centers in New Jersey which will require the activation of contingency work and technology locations. Firms will have to assess the safety of their people as well as their own operational readiness.

That same TTX scenario will be utilized on Saturday, 25 October. Industry Test participants (firms) have the option to connect with market exchanges and utilities in accordance with the scenario (from their DR sites if in the effected area) or they can connect with market entities as they have in previous exercises.

An online survey will be part of the TTX on 24 October to gauge the business continuity response to the scenario. This will be available to all members regardless if a firm is represented on the Equity Market Response and Fixed Income Market Response Committees. It is recommended that Committee members ensure that their business continuity and/or technology colleagues participate in the survey.

The equities exchanges and other providers (utilities, service bureaus, etc.) will have to determine based on the scenario if they will have to activate their respective remote locations. As part of the registration process, the providers will have to make available the IP addresses for those locations to firms that register with them per their test scripts. As a lesson learned from Hurricane Sandy, some market-side entities now use a Domain Name System (DNS). This means that firms use one address and it is up to the market entity to determine which location to route the connection. Testing would follow the same process as in recent years. As part of role-play, firms that have backup data centers/property in New Jersey have the option to connect to an exchange backup from a production facility. This is not mandatory since individual firms have compliance obligations regarding the testing of backup systems. Firms with no facilities that would be impacted in the scenario are encouraged to take part by assessing the potential disruption to their operations due to vendors/third parties who are located in the area of the scenario

Please contact us with any questions/concerns.

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