

ASHLAND INC
Form SC 13G/A
January 09, 2009

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities exchange Act of 1934

(AMENDMENT NO.2) *

ASHLAND INC NEW

(NAME OF ISSUER)

COM

(TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES)

044209104

(CUSIP NUMBER)

December 31, 2008

(Date of event which requires filing of this Statement)

NOTE: A MAJORITY OF THE SHARES REPORTED IN THIS SCHEDULE 13G ARE HELD BY UNAFFILIATED THIRD-PARTY CLIENT ACCOUNTS MANAGED BY ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN L.P., AS INVESTMENT ADVISER. (ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN L.P. IS A MAJORITY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF AXA FINANCIAL, INC.)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- X Rule 13d-1(b)
- Rule 13d-1(c)
- Rule 13d-1(d)

* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be 'filed' for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ('Act') or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

(CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE(S))

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	No. of Shares	
	Subtotals	--

AXA		0
AXA Entity or Entities		
Common acquired solely for investment		
AXA Rosenberg Investment		4,284
AXA Financial, Inc.		0
Subsidiaries:		
AllianceBernstein L.P.		
acquired solely for investment		
purposes on behalf of client		
discretionary investment advisory		
accounts:		
Common Stock	1,603,647	
		1,603,647
AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company		
acquired solely for investment		
purposes:		
Common Stock	1,765	
		1,765

Total		1,609,696
		=====

Each of the Mutuelles AXA, as a group, and AXA expressly declares that the filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that it is, for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, the beneficial owner of any securities covered by this Schedule 13G.

Each of the above subsidiaries of AXA Financial, Inc. operates under independent management and makes independent decisions.

(b) Percent of Class:	2.2%
	=====

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ITEM 4. Ownership as of

(CONT.)

(c) Deemed Voting Power and Disposition Power:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
Deemed	Deemed	Deemed	Deemed
to have	to have	to have	to have

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Power	Sole Power to Vote or to Direct the Vote -----	Shared Power to Vote or to Direct the Vote -----	Sole Power to Dispose or to Direct the Disposition -----	Shared to Dispose or to Direct the Disposition -----
The Mutuelles AXA, AXA	0	0	0	0
AXA Entity or Entities:				
AXA Rosenberg Investment Management LLC	4,284	0	4,284	0
AXA Financial, Inc.	0	0	0	0
Subsidiaries: -----				
AllianceBernstein	1,152,861	0	1,603,647	0
AXA Equitable Life Insurance	1,765	0	1,765	0
	----- 1,158,91 =====	----- 0 =====	----- 1,609,696 =====	----- 0 =====

Each of the above subsidiaries of AXA Financial, Inc. operates under independent management and makes independent voting and investment decisions.

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Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following.
(X)

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on behalf of Another Person. N/A

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary which Acquired the Security Being Reporting on by the Parent Holding Company:

This Schedule 13G is being filed by AXA Financial, Inc.; AXA, which owns AXA Financial, Inc.; and the Mutuelles AXA, which as a group control AXA:

(X) in the Mutuelles AXAs' capacity, as a group, acting as a parent holding company with respect to the holdings of the following AXA entity or entities:

(X) in AXA's capacity as a parent holding company with respect to the holdings of the following AXA entity or entities:

AXA Rosenberg Investment Management LLC

(X) in AXA Financial, Inc.'s capacity as a parent holding company with respect to the holdings of the following subsidiaries:

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- (X) AllianceBernstein L.P.
(13-3434400), an investment adviser registered under
Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.
- (X) AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company
(13-5570651), an insurance company and an investment
adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment
Advisers Act of 1940.

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- Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group. N/A
- Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group: N/A
- Item 10. Certification:

By signing below I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purposes or effect.

Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: January 9, 2009

AXA FINANCIAL, INC.*

/s/ Alvin H. Fenichel

Alvin H. Fenichel
Senior Vice President
and Controller

*Pursuant to the Joint Filing Agreement with respect to Schedule 13G attached hereto as Exhibit I, among AXA Financial, Inc., AXA Assurances I.A.R.D Mutuelle, AXA Assurances Vie Mutuelle, and AXA, this statement Schedule 13G is filed on behalf of each of them.

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Contingent Income Auto-Callable Securities due September 28, 2017

With the Coupon and Payment at Maturity Subject to the Performance of the Common Stock of Marathon Oil Corporation

Principal at Risk Securities

Common Stock of Marathon Oil Corporation – Historical Closing Prices

January 1, 2013 to March 20, 2017

* The red solid line indicates the hypothetical downside threshold level, assuming an initial share price of \$15.48, which was the closing price of the underlying stock on March 20, 2017.

This document relates only to the securities offered hereby and does not relate to the underlying stock or other securities of the underlying company. We have derived all disclosures contained in this document regarding the underlying company's stock from the publicly available documents described in the preceding paragraph. In connection with the offering of the securities, neither we nor the agent has participated in the preparation of those documents or made any due diligence inquiry with respect to the underlying company. Neither we nor the agent makes any representation that those publicly available documents or any other publicly available information regarding the underlying company is accurate or complete. Furthermore, we cannot give any assurance that all events occurring prior to the date hereof (including events that would affect the accuracy or completeness of the publicly available documents described in the preceding paragraph) that would affect the trading price of the underlying stock (and therefore the price of the underlying stock at the time we price the securities) have been publicly disclosed. Subsequent disclosure of any such events or the disclosure of or failure to disclose material future events concerning the underlying company could affect the value received at maturity with respect to the securities and therefore the value of the securities.

Neither the issuer nor any of its affiliates makes any representation to you as to the performance of the underlying stock.

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Contingent Income Auto-Callable Securities due September 28, 2017

With the Coupon and Payment at Maturity Subject to the Performance of the Common Stock of Marathon Oil Corporation

Principal at Risk Securities

Additional Information About the Securities

Please read this information in conjunction with the summary terms on the front cover of this document.

Additional

Provisions:

The “closing price” for the underlying stock (or one unit of any other security for which a closing price must be determined) on any trading day means:

- (i) if the underlying stock (or any such other security) is listed on a national securities exchange (other than the NASDAQ), the last reported sale price, regular way, of the principal trading session on such day on the principal national securities exchange registered under the Exchange Act, on which the underlying stock (or any such other security) is listed,
- (ii) if the underlying stock (or any such other security) is a security of the NASDAQ, the official closing price published by the NASDAQ on such day, or
- (iii) if the underlying stock (or any such other security) is not listed on any national securities exchange but is included in the OTC Bulletin Board Service (the “OTC Bulletin Board”) operated by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”), the last reported sale price of the principal trading session on the OTC Bulletin Board on that day.

Closing Price:

If the underlying stock (or any such other security) is listed on any national securities exchange but the last reported sale price or the official closing price published by the NASDAQ, as applicable, is not available under the preceding sentence, then the closing price for one share of the underlying stock (or one unit of any such other security) on any trading day will mean the last reported sale price of the principal trading session on the over-the-counter market as reported on the NASDAQ or the OTC Bulletin Board on that day. If a market disruption event (as defined below) occurs with respect to the underlying stock (or any such other security) or the last reported sale price or the official closing price published by the NASDAQ, as applicable, for the underlying stock (or any such other security) is not available under either of the two preceding sentences, then the closing price for any trading day will be the mean, as determined by the calculation agent, of the bid prices for the underlying stock (or any such other security) for that trading day obtained from as many recognized dealers in that security, but not exceeding three, as will make such bid prices available to the calculation agent. Bids of RBCCM and its successors or any of its affiliates may be included in the calculation of that mean, but only to the extent that any such bid is the highest of the bids obtained. If no bid prices are provided from any third party dealers, the closing price will be determined by the calculation agent in its sole and absolute discretion (acting in good faith) taking into account any information that it deems relevant. The term “OTC Bulletin Board Service” will include any successor service.

Record date:

The record date for each contingent payment date shall be the date one business day prior to such scheduled contingent payment date; provided, however, that any contingent monthly coupon payable at maturity or upon redemption shall be payable to the person to whom the payment at maturity or early redemption payment, as the case may be, shall be payable.

Postponement of determination dates:

In the calculation of the determination closing prices and the final share price, the calculation agent will take into account market disruption events and non-trading days as follows: If any scheduled determination date is not a trading day or if there is a market disruption event on that date, the determination date shall be the next succeeding trading day on which there is no market disruption event; provided that if a market disruption event has occurred on each of the five consecutive trading days immediately succeeding the scheduled determination date, then (i) that fifth succeeding trading day will be deemed to be the relevant determination date notwithstanding the occurrence of a market disruption event on that date and (ii) with respect to any that fifth trading day on which a market disruption event occurs, the calculation agent will determine the determination

closing price or the final share price, as applicable, of the underlying stock on that fifth trading day based on the mean of the bid prices for the underlying stock for that date obtained from as many recognized dealers in that security, but not exceeding three, as will make such bid prices available to the calculation agent. Bids of RBCCM or any of its affiliates may be included in the calculation of the mean, but only to the extent that any such bid is the highest of the bids obtained. If no bid prices are provided from any third party dealers, the closing price or the final share price, as applicable, will be determined by the calculation agent in its sole and absolute discretion (acting in good faith) taking into account any information that it deems relevant.

Postponement
of maturity

If the scheduled final determination date is not a trading day or if a market disruption event occurs on

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With the Coupon and Payment at Maturity Subject to the Performance of the Common Stock of Marathon Oil Corporation

Principal at Risk Securities

date: that day so that the final determination date is postponed and falls less than two business days prior to the scheduled maturity date, the maturity date will be postponed to the second business day following that final determination date as postponed.

Trading day: "Trading day" means a day, as determined by the calculation agent, on which trading is generally conducted on the New York Stock Exchange, NASDAQ, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board of Options Exchange and in the over-the-counter market for equity securities in the United States.

"Market disruption event" means:
(a) a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading of the underlying stock on its primary market for more than two hours of trading or during the one-half hour period preceding the close of the principal trading session in that market; or a breakdown or failure in the price and trade reporting systems of the primary market for the underlying stock as a result of which the reported trading prices for the underlying stock during the last one-half hour preceding the close of the principal trading session in that market are materially inaccurate; or the suspension, absence or material limitation of trading on the primary market for trading in options contracts related to the underlying stock, if available, during the one-half hour period preceding the close of the principal trading session in the applicable market, in each case as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion; and
(b) a determination by the calculation agent in its sole discretion that any event described in clauses (a) above materially interfered with our ability or the ability of any of our affiliates to unwind or adjust all or a material portion of the hedge position with respect to the securities.

Market disruption events: For the purpose of determining whether a market disruption event has occurred: (1) a limitation on the hours or number of days of trading will not constitute a market disruption event if it results from an announced change in the regular business hours of the primary market, (2) a decision to permanently discontinue trading in the relevant options contract will not constitute a market disruption event, (3) a suspension of trading in options contracts on the underlying stock by the primary securities market trading in such contracts by reason of (i) a price change exceeding limits set by that securities exchange or market, (ii) an imbalance of orders relating to such contracts or (iii) a disparity in bid and ask quotes relating to those contracts will constitute a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in options contracts related to the underlying stock and (4) a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading on the primary securities market on which options contracts related to the underlying stock are traded will not include any time when that securities market is itself closed for trading under ordinary circumstances.

Antidilution adjustments: 1. If the underlying stock is subject to a stock split or reverse stock split, then once the split has become effective, the adjustment factor will be adjusted to equal the product of the prior adjustment factor and the number of shares issued in the stock split or reverse stock split with respect to one share of the underlying stock.

2. If the underlying stock is subject (i) to a stock dividend (issuance of additional shares of underlying stock) that is given ratably to all holders of the underlying stock or (ii) to a distribution of shares of the underlying stock as a result of the triggering of any provision of the corporate charter of the underlying company, then once the dividend has become effective and the underlying stock is trading ex-dividend, the adjustment factor will be adjusted so that the new adjustment factor shall equal the prior adjustment factor plus the product of (i) the number of shares issued with respect to one share of the underlying stock and (ii) the prior adjustment factor.

3. If the underlying company issues rights or warrants to all holders of the underlying stock to subscribe for or purchase the underlying stock at an exercise price per share less than the closing price of the underlying stock on both (i) the date the exercise price of the rights or warrants is determined and (ii) the expiration date of the rights or warrants, and if the expiration date of the rights or warrants

precedes the maturity date of the securities, then the adjustment factor will be adjusted to equal the product of the prior adjustment factor and a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the number of shares of the underlying stock outstanding immediately prior to the issuance of the rights or warrants plus the number of additional shares of the underlying stock offered for subscription or purchase under the rights or warrants and the denominator of which shall be the number of shares of the underlying stock outstanding immediately prior to the issuance of the rights or warrants plus the number of additional shares of the underlying stock which the aggregate offering price of the total number of shares of the underlying stock so offered for subscription or purchase under the rights or warrants would purchase at the closing price on the expiration date of the rights or warrants, which will be determined by multiplying the total number of shares offered by the exercise price of the rights or warrants and dividing the

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Principal at Risk Securities

product so obtained by the closing price.

4. There will be no adjustments to the adjustment factor to reflect cash dividends or other distributions paid with respect to the underlying stock other than distributions described in paragraph 2, paragraph 3 and clauses (i), (iv) and (v) of paragraph 5 below and “Extraordinary Dividends” as described below. A cash dividend or other distribution with respect to the underlying stock will be deemed to be an “Extraordinary Dividend” if that cash dividend or distribution exceeds the immediately preceding non-Extraordinary Dividend for the underlying stock by an amount equal to at least 10% of the closing price of the underlying stock (as adjusted for any subsequent corporate event requiring an adjustment hereunder, such as a stock split or reverse stock split) on the trading day preceding the ex-dividend date (that is, the day on and after which transactions in the underlying stock on the primary U.S. organized securities exchange or trading system on which the underlying stock is traded no longer carry the right to receive that cash dividend or that cash distribution) for the payment of the Extraordinary Dividend. If an Extraordinary Dividend occurs with respect to the underlying stock, the adjustment factor with respect to the underlying stock will be adjusted on the ex-dividend date with respect to such Extraordinary Dividend so that the new adjustment factor will equal the product of (i) the then current adjustment factor and (ii) a fraction, the numerator of which is the closing price on the trading day preceding the ex-dividend date, and the denominator of which is the amount by which the closing price on the trading day preceding the ex-dividend date exceeds the Extraordinary Dividend Amount. The “Extraordinary Dividend Amount” with respect to an Extraordinary Dividend for the underlying stock will equal (i) in the case of cash dividends or other distributions that constitute regular dividends, the amount per share of such Extraordinary Dividend minus the amount per share of the immediately preceding non-Extraordinary Dividend for the underlying stock or (ii) in the case of cash dividends or other distributions that do not constitute regular dividends, the amount per share of the Extraordinary Dividend. To the extent an Extraordinary Dividend is not paid in cash, the value of the non-cash component will be determined by the calculation agent, whose determination will be conclusive. A distribution on the underlying stock described in clause (i), (iv) or (v) of paragraph 5 below that also constitutes an Extraordinary Dividend will cause an adjustment to the adjustment factor only under clause (i), (iv) or (v) of paragraph 5, as applicable.

5. If (i) there occurs any reclassification or change of the underlying stock, including, without limitation, as a result of the issuance of any tracking stock or similar security by the underlying stock issuer, (ii) the underlying stock issuer or any surviving entity or subsequent surviving entity of the underlying stock issuer (the “successor corporation”) has been subject to a merger, combination or consolidation and is not the surviving entity, (iii) any statutory exchange of securities of the underlying stock issuer or any successor corporation with another corporation occurs (other than under clause (ii) above), (iv) the underlying stock issuer is liquidated, (v) the underlying stock issuer issues to all of its shareholders equity securities of an issuer other than the underlying stock issuer (other than in a transaction described in clause (ii), (iii) or (iv) above) (a “spin-off event”) or (vi) a tender or exchange offer or going-private transaction is consummated for all the outstanding shares of the underlying stock (any event in clauses (i) through (vi), a “reorganization event”), the method of determining whether an early redemption has occurred and the amount payable upon an early redemption date or at maturity for each security will be as follows:

· Upon any determination date following the effective date of a reorganization event and prior to the final determination date: if the exchange property value (as defined below) is greater than or equal to the redemption threshold level, the securities will be automatically redeemed for the early redemption payment.

· Upon the final determination date, if the securities have not previously been automatically redeemed: You will receive for each security that you hold a payment at maturity equal to:

Ø If the exchange property value on the final determination date is greater than or equal to the downside threshold level: (i) the stated principal amount plus (ii) the contingent monthly coupon with respect to the final determination date.

Ø If the exchange property value on the final determination date is less than the downside threshold level: (i) the stated principal amount multiplied by (ii) the share performance factor. For purposes of calculating the share performance factor, the “final share price” will be deemed to equal the exchange property value on the final

determination date.

Following the effective date of a reorganization event, the contingent monthly coupon will be payable for each determination date on which the exchange property value is greater than or equal to the downside threshold level. In the event exchange property consists of securities, those securities will, in turn, be subject to the antidilution adjustments set forth in paragraphs 1 through 5.

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For purposes of determining whether or not the exchange property value is less than the redemption threshold level or less than the downside threshold level, “exchange property value” means (x) for any cash received in any reorganization event, the value, as determined by the calculation agent, as of the date of receipt, of the cash received for one share of the underlying stock, as adjusted by the adjustment factor at the time of such reorganization event, (y) for any property other than cash or securities received in any such reorganization event, the market value, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion, as of the date of receipt, of the exchange property received for one share of the underlying stock, as adjusted by the adjustment factor at the time of the reorganization event and (z) for any security received in any such reorganization event, an amount equal to the closing price, as of the day on which the exchange property value is determined, per share of the security multiplied by the quantity of the security received for each share of the underlying stock, as adjusted by the adjustment factor at the time of such reorganization event.

For purposes of paragraph 5 above, in the case of a consummated tender or exchange offer or going-private transaction involving consideration of particular types, exchange property shall be deemed to include the amount of cash or other property delivered by the offeror in the tender or exchange offer (in an amount determined on the basis of the rate of exchange in the tender or exchange offer or going-private transaction). In the event of a tender or exchange offer or a going-private transaction with respect to exchange property in which an offeree may elect to receive cash or other property, exchange property will be deemed to include the kind and amount of cash and other property received by offerees who elect to receive cash.

Following the occurrence of any reorganization event referred to in paragraph 5 above, all references in this document with respect to the securities to “the underlying stock” shall be deemed to refer to the exchange property and references to a “share” or “shares” of the underlying stock shall be deemed to refer to the applicable unit or units of the exchange property, unless the context otherwise requires.

No adjustment to the adjustment factor will be required unless such adjustment would require a change of at least 0.1% in the adjustment factor then in effect. The adjustment factor resulting from any of the adjustments specified above will be rounded to the nearest one hundred-thousandth, with five one-millionths rounded upward. Adjustments to the adjustment factor will be made up to the close of business on the final determination date.

No adjustments to the adjustment factor or method of calculating the adjustment factor will be required other than those specified above. The adjustments specified above do not cover all events that could affect the determination closing price or the final share price of the underlying stock, including, without limitation, a partial tender or exchange offer for the underlying stock.

The calculation agent will be solely responsible for the determination and calculation of any adjustments to the adjustment factor or method of calculating the adjustment factor and of any related determinations and calculations with respect to any distributions of stock, other securities or other property or assets (including cash) in connection with any corporate event described in this section, and its determinations and calculations will be conclusive in the absence of manifest error.

The calculation agent will provide information as to any adjustments to the adjustment factor or to the method of calculating the amount payable at maturity of the securities made under paragraph 5 above upon written request by any investor in the securities.

Alternate exchange calculation in the case of an event of default:

In case an event of default with respect to the securities shall have occurred and be continuing, the amount of cash declared due and payable per security upon any acceleration of the securities (the “Acceleration Amount”) shall be determined by the calculation agent and will be an amount of cash equal to the payment at maturity calculated as if the date of acceleration were the final determination date; provided that the unpaid portion of the contingent monthly coupon, if any, will be calculated on a 30/360 basis.

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If the maturity of the securities is accelerated because of an event of default as described above, we will, or will cause the calculation agent to, provide written notice to the trustee at its New York office, on which notice the trustee may conclusively rely, and to DTC of the Acceleration Amount and the aggregate cash amount due with respect to the securities as promptly as possible and in no event later than two business days after the date of acceleration.

Listing: The securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Minimum
ticketing size: \$1,000 / 100 securities

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Trustee: The Bank of New York Mellon

Calculation agent: RBCCM. The calculation agent will make all determinations regarding the securities. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you and us, without any liability on the part of the calculation agent. You will not be entitled to any compensation from us for any loss suffered as a result of any of the above determinations or confirmations by the calculation agent.

Additional amounts: We will pay any amounts to be paid by us on the securities without deduction or withholding for, or on account of, any and all present or future income, stamp and other taxes, levies, imposts, duties, charges, fees, deductions or withholdings (taxes) now or hereafter imposed, levied, collected, withheld or assessed by or on behalf of Canada or any Canadian political subdivision or authority that has the power to tax, unless the deduction or withholding is required by law or by the interpretation or administration thereof by the relevant governmental authority. At any time a Canadian taxing jurisdiction requires us to deduct or withhold for or on account of taxes from any payment made under or in respect of the securities, we will pay such additional amounts (“Additional Amounts”) as may be necessary so that the net amounts received by each holder (including Additional Amounts), after such deduction or withholding, shall not be less than the amount the holder would have received had no such deduction or withholding been required.

However, no Additional Amounts will be payable with respect to a payment made to a holder of a security or of a right to receive payments in respect thereto (a “Payment Recipient”), which we refer to as an “Excluded Holder,” in respect of a beneficial owner or Payment Recipient:

- (i) with whom we do not deal at arm’s length (within the meaning of the Income Tax Act (Canada)) at the time of making such payment;
- (ii) who is subject to such taxes by reason of the holder being connected presently or formerly with Canada or any province or territory thereof otherwise than by reason of the holder’s activity in connection with purchasing the securities, the holding of securities or the receipt of payments thereunder;
- (iii) who is, or who does not deal at arm’s length with a person who is, a “specified shareholder” (within the meaning of subsection 18(5) of the Income Tax Act (Canada)) of Royal Bank of Canada (generally a person will be a “specified shareholder” for this purpose if that person, either alone or together with persons with whom the person does not deal at arm’s length, owns 25% or more of (a) our voting shares, or (b) the fair market value of all of our issued and outstanding shares);
- (iv) who presents such security for payment (where presentation is required, such as if a security is issued in definitive form) more than 30 days after the relevant date; for this purpose, the “relevant date” in relation to any payments on any security means:
 - a. the due date for payment thereof (whether at maturity or upon an earlier acceleration), or
 - b. if the full amount of the monies payable on such date has not been received by the Trustee on or prior to such due date, the date on which the full amount of such monies has been received and notice to that effect is given to holders of the securities in accordance with the Indenture;
- (v) who could lawfully avoid (but has not so avoided) such withholding or deduction by complying, or requiring that any agent comply with, any statutory requirements necessary to establish qualification for an exemption from withholding or by making, or requiring that any agent make, a declaration of non-residence or other similar claim for exemption to any relevant tax authority; or
- (vi) who is subject to deduction or withholding on account of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of the application of Section 1471 through 1474 of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) (or any successor provisions), any regulation, pronouncement, or agreement thereunder, official interpretations thereof, or any law implementing an intergovernmental approach thereto, whether currently in effect or as published and amended from time to time.

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For the purposes of clause (iv) above, if a security is presented for payment more than 30 days after the relevant date, we shall only be required to pay such Additional Amounts as shall have accrued as of such 30th day, and no further Additional Amounts shall accrue or become payable after such date.

For the avoidance of doubt, we will not have any obligation to pay any holders Additional Amounts on any tax which is payable otherwise than by deduction or withholding from payments made under or in respect of the securities.

We will also make such withholding or deduction and remit the full amount deducted or withheld to the

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relevant authority in accordance with applicable law. We will furnish to the Trustee, within 30 days after the date the payment of any taxes is due pursuant to applicable law, certified copies of tax receipts evidencing that such payment has been made or other evidence of such payment satisfactory to the Trustee. We will indemnify and hold harmless each holder of securities (other than an Excluded Holder) and upon written request reimburse each such holder for the amount of (x) any taxes so levied or imposed and paid by such holder as a result of payments made under or with respect to the securities, and (y) any taxes levied or imposed and paid by such holder with respect to any reimbursement under (x) above, but excluding any such taxes on such holder's net income or capital.

Canadian tax consequences:

An investor should read carefully the description of material Canadian federal income tax considerations relevant to a Non-resident Holder owning debt securities under "Tax Consequences—Canadian Taxation" in the accompanying prospectus.

U.S. tax considerations:

The following is a general description of the material U.S. tax considerations relating to the securities. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all tax considerations relating to the securities. Prospective purchasers of the securities should consult their tax advisors as to the consequences under the tax laws of the country of which they are resident for tax purposes and the tax laws of the U.S. of acquiring, holding and disposing of the securities and receiving payments under the securities. This summary is based upon the law as in effect on the date of this document and is subject to any change in law that may take effect after such date.

The following section supplements the discussion of U.S. federal income taxation in the accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement. It applies only to those holders who are not excluded from the discussion of U.S. federal income taxation in the accompanying prospectus. This discussion applies only to U.S. holders and non-U.S. holders that will purchase the securities upon original issuance and will hold the securities as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In addition, the discussion below assumes that an investor in the securities will be subject to a significant risk that it will lose a significant amount of its investment in the securities. You should consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and other tax consequences of your investment in the securities in your particular circumstances, including the application of state, local or other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.

NO STATUTORY, JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY DIRECTLY DISCUSSES HOW THE SECURITIES SHOULD BE TREATED FOR U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. AS A RESULT, THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF AN INVESTMENT IN THE SECURITIES ARE UNCERTAIN. BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY, YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR TAX ADVISOR IN DETERMINING THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE SECURITIES, INCLUDING THE APPLICATION OF STATE, LOCAL OR OTHER TAX LAWS AND THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN FEDERAL OR OTHER TAX LAWS.

We will not attempt to ascertain whether the underlying company would be treated as a "U.S. real property holding corporation," within the meaning of Section 897 of the Code. If the underlying company were so treated, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences could possibly apply to a non-U.S. holder. You should refer to any available information filed with the SEC and other authorities by the underlying company and consult your tax advisor regarding the possible consequences to you in this regard.

In the opinion of our counsel, Morrison & Foerster LLP, it would generally be reasonable to treat a security with terms described in this document as a callable pre-paid cash-settled contingent income-bearing derivative contract linked to the underlying stock for U.S. federal income tax

purposes, and the terms of the securities require a holder and us (in the absence of a change in law or an administrative or judicial ruling to the contrary) to treat the securities for all tax purposes in accordance with such characterization. Although the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the contingent monthly coupon is uncertain, we intend to take the position, and the following discussion assumes, that such contingent monthly coupon (including any contingent monthly coupon paid on or with respect to the call or maturity date) constitutes taxable ordinary income to a U.S. holder at the time received or accrued in accordance with the holder's regular method of tax accounting. If the securities are so treated, a U.S. holder should generally recognize capital gain or loss upon the call, sale or maturity of the securities in an amount equal to the difference between the cash amount a holder receives at such time (other than amounts properly attributable to any contingent monthly coupon, which would be taxed, as described above, as ordinary income) and the holder's tax basis in the securities. In general, a U.S. holder's tax basis in the securities will be equal to the price the holder paid for the securities. Capital gain

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recognized by an individual U.S. holder is generally taxed at ordinary income rates where the property is held for one year or less. The ordinary income treatment of the contingent monthly coupons, in conjunction with the capital loss treatment of any loss recognized upon the sale, exchange or maturity of the securities, could result in adverse tax consequences to a holder because the deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Alternative Treatments. Alternative tax treatments of the securities are also possible and the Internal Revenue Service might assert that a treatment other than that described above is more appropriate. For example, it is possible to treat the securities, and the Internal Revenue Service might assert that the securities should be treated, as a single debt instrument. Pursuant to such characterization, the securities would generally be subject to the rules concerning short-term debt instruments as described under the heading "Tax Consequences --- United States Taxation --- Original Issue Discount --- Short-Term Debt Securities" in the accompanying prospectus.

Because of the absence of authority regarding the appropriate tax characterization of the securities, it is also possible that the Internal Revenue Service could seek to characterize the securities in a manner that results in other tax consequences that are different from those described above. For example, the Internal Revenue Service could possibly assert that any gain or loss that a holder may recognize upon the call, sale or maturity of the securities should be treated as ordinary gain or loss.

The Internal Revenue Service has released a notice that may affect the taxation of holders of the securities.

According to the notice, the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Treasury Department are actively considering whether the holder of an instrument such as the securities should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis irrespective of any contingent monthly coupons. It is not possible to determine what guidance they will ultimately issue, if any. It is possible, however, that under such guidance, holders of the securities will ultimately be required to accrue income currently irrespective of any contingent monthly coupons and this could be applied on a retroactive basis. The Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Treasury Department are also considering other relevant issues, including whether additional gain or loss from such instruments should be treated as ordinary or capital and whether the special "constructive ownership rules" of Section 1260 of the Code, which very generally can operate to recharacterize certain long-term capital gains as ordinary income and impose an interest charge, might be applied to such instruments. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors concerning the significance, and the potential impact, of the above considerations. We intend to treat the securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described in this document unless and until such time as the U.S. Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting. Payments made with respect to the securities and proceeds from the sale or exchange of the securities may be subject to a backup withholding tax unless, in general, the holder complies with certain procedures or is an exempt recipient. Any amounts so withheld generally will be refunded by the Internal Revenue Service or allowed as a credit against the holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the holder makes a timely filing of an appropriate tax return or refund claim to the Internal Revenue Service.

Reports will be made to the Internal Revenue Service and to holders that are not exempted from the reporting requirements.

Non-U.S. holders. The following discussion applies to non-U.S. holders of the securities. A non-U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of a security that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is a non-resident alien individual, a foreign corporation, or a foreign estate or trust.

While the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the securities (including proper characterization of the contingent monthly coupons for U.S. federal income tax purposes) is uncertain, U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate (or at a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty) will be withheld in respect of the contingent monthly coupons paid to a non-U.S. holder unless such payments are effectively connected with the conduct by the non-U.S. holder of a trade or business in the U.S. (in which case, to avoid withholding, the non-U.S. holder will be required to provide a Form W-8ECI). We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of such withholding. To claim benefits under an income tax treaty, a non-U.S. holder must obtain a taxpayer identification number and certify as to its eligibility under the appropriate treaty's limitations on benefits article, if applicable (which certification may generally be made

on a Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, or a substitute or successor form). In addition, special rules may apply to claims for treaty benefits made by corporate non-U.S. holders. A non-U.S. holder that is eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. federal withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by filing an appropriate claim for refund with the Internal Revenue Service. The availability of a lower rate of withholding or an exemption from withholding under an applicable income tax treaty will depend on the proper characterization of the contingent monthly coupons under U.S. federal income tax laws and whether such treaty rate or exemption applies

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to such contingent monthly coupon payments. No assurance can be provided on the proper characterization of the contingent monthly coupons for U.S. federal income tax purposes and, accordingly, no assurance can be provided on the availability of benefits under any income tax treaty. Non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors in this regard.

Except as discussed below, a non-U.S. holder will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on any gain (not including, for the avoidance of doubt, any amounts properly attributable to any contingent monthly coupon which would be subject to the rules discussed in the previous paragraph) upon the call, sale or maturity of the securities, provided that (i) the holder complies with any applicable certification requirements (which certification may generally be made on a Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, or a substitute or successor form), (ii) the payment is not effectively connected with the conduct by the holder of a U.S. trade or business, and (iii) if the holder is a non-resident alien individual, such holder is not present in the U.S. for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the call, sale or maturity of the securities. In the case of (ii) above, the holder generally would be subject to U.S. federal income tax with respect to any income or gain in the same manner as if the holder were a U.S. holder and, in the case of a holder that is a corporation, the holder may also be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or such lower rate provided by an applicable U.S. income tax treaty) of a portion of its earnings and profits for the taxable year that are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business in the U.S., subject to certain adjustments. Payments made to a non-U.S. holder may be subject to information reporting and to backup withholding unless the holder complies with applicable certification and identification requirements as to its foreign status.

A “dividend equivalent” payment is treated as a dividend from sources within the United States and such payments generally would be subject to a 30% U.S. withholding tax if paid to a non-U.S. holder. Under U.S. Treasury Department regulations, payments (including deemed payments) with respect to equity-linked instruments (“ELIs”) that are “specified ELIs” may be treated as dividend equivalents if such specified ELIs reference an interest in an “underlying security,” which is generally any interest in an entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes if a payment with respect to such interest could give rise to a U.S. source dividend. However, the IRS has issued guidance that states that the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS intend to amend the effective dates of the U.S. Treasury Department regulations to provide that withholding on dividend equivalent payments will not apply to specified ELIs that are not delta-one instruments and that are issued before January 1, 2018. Based on our determination that the securities are not delta-one instruments, non-U.S. holders should not be subject to withholding on dividend equivalent payments, if any, under the securities. However, it is possible that the securities could be treated as deemed reissued for U.S. federal income tax purposes upon the occurrence of certain events affecting the basket components or the securities, and following such occurrence the securities could be treated as subject to withholding on dividend equivalent payments. Non-U.S. holders that enter, or have entered, into other transactions in respect of the basket components or the securities should consult their tax advisors as to the application of the dividend equivalent withholding tax in the context of the securities and their other transactions. If any payments are treated as dividend equivalents subject to withholding, we (or the applicable paying agent) would be entitled to withhold taxes without being required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts so withheld.

As discussed above, alternative characterizations of the securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes are possible. Should an alternative characterization, by reason of change or clarification of the law, by regulation or otherwise, cause payments as to the securities to become subject to withholding tax in addition to the withholding tax described above, we will withhold tax at the applicable statutory rate. The Internal Revenue Service has also indicated that it is considering whether income in respect of instruments such as the securities should be subject to withholding tax. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors in this regard.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act. The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (“FATCA”), enacted on March 18, 2010, imposes a 30% U.S. withholding tax on certain U.S. source payments of interest (and OID), dividends, or other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gain, profits, and income, and on the gross proceeds from a disposition of property (including payments at maturity, or upon a redemption or sale) of a type which can produce U.S. source interest or dividends (“withholdable payments”), if paid to a foreign financial institution (including amounts paid to a

foreign financial institution on your behalf) unless such institution enters into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury Department to collect and provide to the U.S. Treasury Department certain information regarding U.S. account holders, including certain account holders that are foreign entities with U.S. owners, with such institution or otherwise complies with FATCA. In addition, the securities may constitute a “financial account” for these purposes and thus, be subject to information reporting requirements pursuant to FATCA. The legislation also generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on withholdable payments made to a non-financial foreign entity, unless that entity provides the withholding agent with a certification that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or a certification identifying the direct and

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indirect substantial U.S. owners of the entity.

The U.S. Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service have announced that withholding on payments of gross proceeds from a sale, exchange or redemption of the securities will only apply to payments made after December 31, 2018. We will not pay additional amounts with respect to any FATCA withholding. Therefore, if such withholding applies, any payments on the securities will be significantly less than what you would have otherwise received. Depending on your circumstances, these amounts withheld may be creditable or refundable to you. Foreign financial institutions and non-financial foreign entities located in jurisdictions that have an intergovernmental agreement with the United States governing FATCA may be subject to different rules. You are urged to consult with your own tax advisor regarding the possible implications of FATCA on your investment in the securities.

Use of proceeds and hedging:

The net proceeds from the sale of the securities will be used as described under “Use of Proceeds” in the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus and to hedge market risks of Royal Bank of Canada associated with its obligation to make a payment at maturity of the securities. The initial public offering price of the securities includes the underwriting discount and commission and the estimated cost of hedging our obligations under the securities.

Employee Retirement Income Security Act:

This section is only relevant to you if you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan (including a governmental plan, an IRA or a Keogh Plan) proposing to invest in the securities.

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”), imposes certain requirements on “employee benefit plans” (as defined in Section 3(3) of ERISA) subject to ERISA, including entities such as collective investment funds and separate accounts whose underlying assets include the assets of such plans (collectively, “ERISA Plans”) and on those persons who are fiduciaries with respect to ERISA Plans. Each fiduciary of an ERISA Plan should consider the fiduciary standards of ERISA in the context of the ERISA Plan’s particular circumstances before authorizing an investment in the securities. Accordingly, among other factors, the fiduciary should consider whether the investment would satisfy the prudence and diversification requirements of ERISA and would be consistent with the documents and instruments governing the ERISA Plan.

In addition, Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit certain transactions involving the assets of an ERISA Plan, as well as those plans that are not subject to ERISA but which are subject to Section 4975 of the Code, such as individual retirement accounts, including entities whose underlying assets include the assets of such plans (together with ERISA Plans, “Plans”) and certain persons (referred to as “parties in interest” or “disqualified persons”) having certain relationships to such Plans, unless a statutory or administrative exemption is applicable to the transaction. Governmental plans may be subject to similar prohibitions. Therefore, a plan fiduciary considering purchasing securities should consider whether the purchase or holding of such instruments might constitute a “prohibited transaction.” Royal Bank of Canada and certain of its affiliates each may be considered a “party in interest” or a “disqualified person” with respect to many employee benefit plans by reason of, for example, Royal Bank of Canada (or its affiliate) providing services to such plans. Prohibited transactions within the meaning of ERISA or the Code may arise, for example, if securities are acquired by or with the assets of a Plan, and with respect to which Royal Bank of Canada or any of its affiliates is a “party in interest” or a “disqualified person,” unless those securities are acquired under an exemption for transactions effected on behalf of that Plan by a “qualified professional asset manager” or an “in-house asset manager”, for transactions involving insurance company general accounts, for transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts, for transactions involving bank collective investment funds, or under another available exemption. Section 408(b) (17) provides an additional exemption for the purchase and sale of securities and related lending transactions where neither the issuer of the securities nor any of its affiliates have or exercise any discretionary authority or control or render any investment

advice with respect to the assets of any Plan involved in the transaction and the Plan pays no more than “adequate consideration” in connection with the transaction. The person making the decision on behalf of a Plan or a governmental plan shall be deemed, on behalf of itself and any such plan, by purchasing and holding the securities, or exercising any rights related thereto, to represent that (a) such purchase, holding and exercise of the securities will not result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or the Code (or, with respect to a governmental plan, under any similar applicable law or regulation) and (b) neither Royal Bank of Canada nor any of its affiliates is a “fiduciary” (within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA) with respect to the purchaser or holder in connection with such person’s acquisition, disposition or holding of the securities, or any exercise related thereto or as a result of any exercise by Royal Bank of Canada or any of its affiliates of any rights in connection with the securities, and no advice provided by Royal Bank of Canada or any of its

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affiliates has formed a primary basis for any investment decision by or on behalf of such purchaser or holder in connection with the securities and the transactions contemplated with respect to the securities.

If you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan, and propose to invest in the securities, you should consult your legal counsel.

Under the terms of a distribution agreement, RBCCM, an affiliate of Royal Bank of Canada, will purchase the securities from Royal Bank of Canada for distribution to MSWM. RBCCM will act as agent for the securities and will receive a fee of \$0.125 per \$10 stated principal amount and will pay to MSWM a fixed sales commission of \$0.075 for each of the securities they sell. Of the amount per \$10 stated principal amount received by RBCCM, RBCCM will pay MSWM a structuring fee of \$0.05 for each security.

MSWM may reclaim selling concessions allowed to individual brokers within MSWM in connection with the offering if, within 30 days of the offering, Royal Bank of Canada repurchases the securities distributed by those brokers.

We expect that delivery of the securities will be made against payment for the securities on or about March 29, 2017, which is the third business day following the pricing date (this settlement cycle being referred to as "T+3").

Supplemental information regarding plan of distribution; conflicts of interest:

In addition, RBCCM or another of its affiliates or agents may use this document in market-making transactions after the initial sale of the securities, but is under no obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice.

The value of the securities shown on your account statement may be based on RBCCM's estimate of the value of the securities if RBCCM or another of our affiliates were to make a market in the securities (which it is not obligated to do). That estimate will be based on the price that RBCCM may pay for the securities in light of then prevailing market conditions, our creditworthiness and transaction costs. For an initial period of approximately three months, the value of the securities that may be shown on your account statement is expected to be higher than RBCCM's estimated value of the securities at that time. This is because the estimated value of the securities will not include the agent's commission and our hedging costs and profits; however, the value of the securities shown on your account statement during that period is initially expected to be a higher amount, reflecting the addition of the agent's commission and our estimated costs and profits from hedging the securities. This excess is expected to decrease over time until the end of this period, and we reserve the right to shorten this period. After this period, if RBCCM repurchases your securities, it expects to do so at prices that reflect its estimated value.

For additional information as to the relationship between us and RBCCM, please see the section "Plan of Distribution—Conflicts of Interest" in the accompanying prospectus.

Structuring the securities:

The securities are our debt securities, the return on which is linked to the performance of the underlying stock. As is the case for all of our debt securities, including our structured notes, the economic terms of the securities reflect our actual or perceived creditworthiness at the time of pricing. In addition, because structured notes result in increased operational, funding and liability management costs to us, we typically borrow the funds under these securities at a rate that is more favorable to us than the rate that we might pay for a conventional fixed or floating rate debt security of comparable maturity. Using this relatively lower implied borrowing rate, rather than the secondary market rate, along with the fees and expenses associated with structured notes, typically reduces the initial estimated value of the securities at the time their terms are set. Unlike the estimated value included in this pricing supplement, any value of the securities determined for purposes of a secondary market transaction may be based on a different funding rate, which may result in a lower value for the securities than if our initial internal funding rate were used.

In order to satisfy our payment obligations under the securities, we may choose to enter into certain hedging arrangements (which may include call options, put options or other derivatives) on the original issue date with RBCCM or one of our other subsidiaries. The terms of these hedging arrangements take into account a number of factors, including our creditworthiness, interest rate movements, the volatility of the underlying stock, and the tenor of the securities. The economic terms of the securities and their initial estimated value depend in part on the terms of these hedging arrangements.

The lower implied borrowing rate, the underwriting commission and the hedging-related costs relating to the securities reduce the economic terms of the securities to you and result in the initial estimated value for the securities on the pricing date being less than their public offering price. See “Risk Factors—The initial estimated value of the securities will be less than the price to the public” above.

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Contact: Morgan Stanley Wealth Management clients may contact their local Morgan Stanley branch office or our principal executive offices at 1585 Broadway, New York, New York 10036 (telephone number 1-(866)-477-4776). All other clients may contact their local brokerage representative. Third-party distributors may contact Morgan Stanley Structured Investment Sales at 1-(800)-233-1087. Royal Bank of Canada has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this communication relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus in that registration statement and other documents the issuer has filed with the SEC for more complete information about the issuer and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC website at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, the issuer, any underwriter or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you the prospectus if you request it by calling toll-free 1-800-584-6837.

You should read this document together with the prospectus dated January 8, 2016, as supplemented by the prospectus supplement dated January 8, 2016 relating to our Senior Global Medium-Term Notes, Series G, of which these securities are a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this document will have the meanings given to them in the prospectus supplement. In the event of any conflict, this document will control. The securities vary from the terms described in the prospectus supplement in several important ways. You should read this document carefully.

Where you can find more information: This document, together with the documents listed below, contains the terms of the securities and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous oral statements as well as any other written materials including preliminary or indicative pricing terms, correspondence, trade ideas, structures for implementation, sample structures, brochures or other educational materials of ours. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters set forth in "Risk Factors" in the prospectus supplement dated January 8, 2016 and in this document, as the securities involve risks not associated with conventional debt securities. We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting and other advisors before you invest in the securities.

You may access these documents on the SEC website at www.sec.gov as follows (or if such address has changed, by reviewing our filings for the relevant date on the SEC website):

Prospectus dated January 8, 2016:

<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1000275/000121465916008810/j18160424b3.htm>

Prospectus Supplement dated January 8, 2016:

<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1000275/000121465916008811/p14150424b3.htm>

Our Central Index Key, or CIK, on the SEC website is 1000275.

Please see the section "Documents Incorporated by Reference" on page i of the above prospectus for a description of our filings with the SEC that are incorporated by reference therein.