



Investors Exchange Product Information Circular 2016 - 0146

Date: August 31, 2016

Re: First Trust Preferred Securities and Income ETF

Investors Exchange LLC commenced operating as a national securities exchange on August 19, 2016 followed by a two-week security-by-security phase-in period. This Information Circular is being issued to advise you that the following security has been approved for trading pursuant to unlisted trading privileges (“UTP”) on the Exchange as UTP Derivative Securities pursuant to IEX Rule 16.160, and will begin trading on IEX during the phase-in period. See [the Exchange's Website](#) for the phase-in schedule.

<u>Securities (the “Funds”)</u>	<u>Symbol</u>
First Trust Preferred Securities and Income ETF	FPE

Issuer/Trust: The First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund III

Issuer Website: www.ftportfolios.com

Primary Listing Exchange: NYSE Arca

Compliance and supervisory personnel should note that, among other things, this Information Circular discusses the need to deliver a prospectus to customers purchasing shares of the Fund (“Shares”) issued by The First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund III (“Trust”). Please forward this Information Circular to other interested persons within your organization.

The purpose of this information circular is to outline various rules and policies that will be applicable to trading in these new products pursuant to the Exchange’s unlisted trading privileges, as well as to provide certain characteristics and features of the Shares. For a more complete description of the Issuer, the Shares and the underlying market instruments or indexes, visit the Issuer Website, consult the Prospectus available on the Issuer Website or examine the Issuer Registration Statement or review the most current information bulletin issued by the Primary Listing Exchange. The Issuer Website, the Prospectus and the Issuer Registration Statement are hereafter collectively referred to as the “Issuer Disclosure Materials.”

Background Information on the Fund

The First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund III (the “Trust”) is a management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), consisting of several investment portfolios. This circular relates only to the First Trust Preferred Securities and Income ETF (the “Fund”). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as “Shares.” First Trust Advisors L.P. (“First Trust” or the “Advisor”) is the investment advisor to the Fund.

The Fund’s investment objective is to provide current income and total return.

Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (including investment borrowings) in preferred securities (“Preferred Securities”) and income-producing debt securities



("Income Securities"). Initially, 50% of the Preferred Securities and 50% of the Income Securities held by the Fund will be exchange-listed. For purposes of the 80% test set forth above, securities of other open-end funds, closed-end funds or exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), that invest primarily in Preferred Securities or Income Securities will be deemed to be Preferred Securities or Income Securities, respectively.

Preferred Securities held by the Fund generally pay fixed or adjustable-rate distributions to investors and have preference over common stock in the payment of distributions and the liquidation of a company's assets, but are generally junior to all forms of the company's debt, including both senior and subordinated debt. Certain of the Preferred Securities may be issued by trusts or other special purpose entities created by companies specifically for the purpose of issuing such securities ("Trust Preferred Securities"). For purposes of the 80% test set forth above, Income Securities consist of both foreign and domestic debt instruments, including corporate bonds, high-yield bonds, convertible securities, contingent convertible capital and hybrid-preferred securities. The broad category of corporate debt securities includes debt issued by U.S. and non-U.S. companies of all kinds, including those with small-, mid- and large-capitalizations. Corporate debt may carry fixed or floating rates of interest.

The Fund may invest in debt and equity securities issued by non-U.S. companies that are traded over-the-counter or listed on an exchange. The non-U.S. equity securities listed on a foreign exchange in which the Fund may invest will be limited to securities that trade in markets that are members of the Intermarket Surveillance Group ("ISG"), which includes all U.S. national securities exchanges and certain foreign exchanges, or are parties to a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement with the Exchange.

Because the issuers of preferred securities are often financial companies, the Fund intends to concentrate its investments (invest at least 25% of its net assets) in such companies. The Fund invests in the securities of companies in the financial sector which may include banks, thrifts, brokerage firms, broker/dealers, investment banks, finance companies, real estate investment trusts ("REITs") and companies involved in the insurance industry.

Initially, the Fund will invest at least 80% of the Income Securities in securities of an issuing firm when the issuing firm has a long-term issuer credit rating of investment grade at the time of the investment. However, the Fund may reduce the percentage of assets invested in investment grade securities. "Investment grade" is defined as those issuers that have a long-term credit rating of "BBB- "or higher by Standard & Poor's Rating Group, a division of McGraw Hill Companies, Inc. ("S&P"), or "Baa3" or higher by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") or comparably rated by another nationally recognized statistical rating organization ("NRSRO"). The Fund may also invest in securities that are unrated by an NRSRO if such securities are of comparable credit quality. For securities with a split rating, the highest rating will be used. Initially, the Fund may also invest up to 20% of the Income Securities in securities issued by below-investment grade issuers if that security has acceptable credit quality and attractive relative value. However, the Fund may increase the percentage of assets invested in below-investment grade securities.

Under normal market conditions, the Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in cash and/or cash equivalents. The Fund may invest in securities issued by companies domiciled in the United States, U.S. dollar-denominated depositary receipts and U.S. dollar-denominated foreign securities. The Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in Rule 144A Securities. Rule 144A Securities are generally subject to resale restrictions and may be illiquid.

As described more fully in the Trust's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, the Fund will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous basis at their net asset value ("NAV") only in large blocks of 50,000 Shares (each, a "Creation Unit"). Creation Units will be issued and redeemed principally in-kind



for securities included in the underlying index. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, the Shares may not be redeemed with the Fund.

Dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid quarterly by the Fund. The Fund distributes its net realized capital gains, if any, to shareholders at least annually.

Shares are held in book-entry form, which means that no Share certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding Shares of the Funds and is recognized as the owner of all Shares for all purposes.

The NAV per Share for the Fund is computed by dividing the value of the net assets of the Fund (i.e., the value of its total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of Shares outstanding. Expenses and fees are accrued daily and taken into account for purposes of determining NAV. The NAV of each Fund is determined each business day after the close of trading (ordinarily 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time or “ET”) of the New York Stock Exchange. Any assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources.

The registration statement for the Funds describes the various fees and expenses for the Funds’ Shares. For a more complete description of the Funds and the Underlying Indexes, visit the Issuer Website.

Principal Risks

Interested persons are referred to the discussion in the prospectus for the Fund of the principal risks of an investment in the Fund. These include tracking error risk (factors causing the Fund’s performance to not match the performance of the underlying index), market trading risk (for example, trading halts, trading above or below net asset value), investment style risk, sector risk, investment approach risk, non-diversification risk, equity risk, active management risk and liquidity risk.

Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares

Trading in the Shares on IEX is subject to IEX trading rules.

Trading Hours

The value of the Index underlying the Shares will be disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds during the Regular Trading Session.

The Shares will trade on IEX between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Please note that trading in the Shares during the Exchange’s Pre-Market and Post-Market Sessions (“Extended Market Sessions”) may result in additional trading risks which include: (1) that the current underlying indicative value may not be updated during the Extended Market Sessions, (2) lower liquidity in the Extended Market Sessions may impact pricing, higher volatility in the Extended Market Sessions may impact pricing, (4) wider spreads may occur in the Extended Markets Sessions, and (5) because the indicative value is not calculated or widely disseminated during the Extended Market Sessions, an investor who is unable to calculate an implied value for the Shares in those sessions may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.



Dissemination of Data

The Consolidated Tape Association will disseminate real time trade and quote information for the Shares to Tape B.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Listing Market</i>	<i>Trading Symbol</i>	<i>IOPV Symbol</i>	<i>NAV Symbol</i>
First Trust Preferred Securities and Income ETF	NYSE Arca	FPE	FPE.IV	FPE.NV

Delivery of a Prospectus

IEX Members should be mindful of applicable prospectus delivery requirements under the federal securities laws with respect to transactions in the Fund. Prospectuses may be obtained through the Fund's website. The prospectus for the Fund does not contain all of the information set forth in the Funds Registration Statement (including the exhibits to the Registration Statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about the Fund, please refer to its Registration Statement.

In the event that the Fund relies upon an order by the SEC exempting the Shares from certain prospectus delivery requirements under Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act and in the future make available a written product description, IEX Rules require that IEX Members provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Issuer of the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, IEX Members shall include such a written description with any sales material relating to the Shares that is provided to customers or the public. Any other written materials provided by an IEX member to customers or the public making specific reference to the Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: "A circular describing the terms and characteristics of [*the UTP Derivative Securities*] has been prepared by the [*open-ended management investment company name*] and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing [*the UTP Derivative Securities*]."

An IEX member carrying an omnibus account for a non-member broker-dealer is required to inform such non-member that execution of an order to purchase Shares for such omnibus account will be deemed to constitute agreement by the non-member to make such written description available to its customers on the same terms as are directly applicable to IEX member under this rule.

Upon request of a customer, IEX Members also shall provide a copy of the Prospectus.

Suitability

Trading in the securities on the Exchange will be subject to the provisions of IEX Rule 3.170 and other applicable suitability rules. Members recommending transactions in the securities to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer.



Trading Halts

IEX will halt trading in the Shares of a security in accordance with IEX Rules. The grounds for a halt include a halt because the intraday indicative value of the security and/or the value of its underlying index are not being disseminated as required, a halt for other regulatory reasons or due to other conditions or circumstances deemed to be detrimental to the maintenance of a free and orderly market.

Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) has issued letters granting exemptive, interpretive and no-action relief from certain provisions of rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for exchange-traded securities listed and traded on a registered national securities exchange that meet certain criteria.

AS WHAT FOLLOWS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE RELIEF OUTLINED IN THE NO-ACTION LETTERS REFERENCED ABOVE, THE EXCHANGE ADVISES INTERESTED PARTIES TO CONSULT THE NO-ACTION LETTERS FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION REGARDING THE MATTERS COVERED THEREIN AND THE APPLICABILITY OF THE RELIEF GRANTED IN RESPECT OF TRADING IN SECURITIES. INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD ALSO CONSULT THEIR PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS.

Regulation M Exemptions

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any “distribution participant” and its “affiliated purchasers” from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The SEC has granted an exemption from Rule 101 under Regulation M to permit persons participating in a distribution of shares of the above-mentioned Funds to engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution. In addition, the SEC has granted relief under Regulation M to permit persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of Shares of the above-mentioned Funds (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations of Fund Shares and (ii) to tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the SEC has clarified that the tender of Fund Shares to the Funds for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Funds’ securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The SEC has also granted an exemption pursuant to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M to allow the redemption of Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations during the continuous offering of Shares.

Rule 10b-10 (Customer Confirmations for Creation or Redemption of Fund Shares)

Broker-dealers who handle purchases or redemptions of Fund Shares in Creation Unit size for customers will be permitted to provide such customers with a statement of the number of Creation Unit Aggregations created or redeemed without providing a statement of the identity, number and price of shares of the individual securities tendered to the Funds for purposes of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations (“Deposit Securities”) or the identity, number and price of shares to be delivered by the



Trust for the Funds to the redeeming holder (“Redemption Securities”). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Funds for creation purposes and of the securities to be delivered on redemption will be disseminated each business day and will be applicable to requests for creations or redemption, as the case may be, on that day. This exemptive relief under Rule 10b-10 with respect to creations and redemption is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Confirmations to customers engaging in creations or redemptions must state that all information required by Rule 10b-10 will be provided upon request;
- 2) Any such request by a customer for information required by Rule 10b-10 will be filed in a timely manner, in accordance with Rule 10b-10(c); and
- 3) Except for the identity, number, and price of shares of the component securities of the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities, as described above, confirmations to customers must disclose all other information required by Rule 10b-10(a).

Section 11(d)(1); Rules 11d1-1 and 11d1-2

Section 11(d)(1) of the Act generally prohibits a person who is both a broker and a dealer from effecting any transaction in which the broker-dealer extends credit to a customer on any security which was part of a new issue in the distribution of which he participated as a member of a selling syndicate or group within thirty days prior to such transaction. The SEC has clarified that Section 11(d)(1) does not apply to broker-dealers that are not Authorized Participants (and, therefore, do not create Creation Unit Aggregations) that engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in Shares of a Fund in the secondary market, and for broker-dealer Authorized Participants that engage in creations of Creation Unit Aggregations. This relief is subject to specific conditions, including the condition that such broker-dealer (whether or not an Authorized Participant) does not, directly or indirectly, receive from the Fund complex any payment, compensation or other economic incentive to promote or sell the Shares of a Fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD Rule 2830(I)(5)(A), (B) or (C). (See letter from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities

Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.) The SEC also has taken a no-action position under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act that broker-dealers may treat Shares of a Fund, for purposes of Rule 11d1-2, as “securities issued by a registered open-end investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act” and thereby extend credit or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on Shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days, in reliance on the exemption contained in the rule.

Rule 14e-5

An exemption from Rule 14e-5 has been granted to permit any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of the Funds (1) to redeem Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase Fund Shares during such tender offer. In addition, a no-action position has been taken under Rule 14e-5 if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more Creation Unit Aggregations of Shares, if made in conformance with the following:



- 1) such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchase; or
- 2) purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- 3) such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6

The SEC has taken a no-action position with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of Fund Shares and secondary market transactions therein. (See letter from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.)

This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. IEX Members should consult the prospectus for a security and the security's website for relevant information.

Please contact IEX Regulation at 646-343-2000 with any inquiries regarding this Information Circular.