



Investors Exchange Product Information Circular 2016 - 0905

Date: September 2, 2016

Re: VanEck Merk Gold Trust

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.

Securities (the “Trust”)

VanEck Merk Gold Trust

Symbol

OUNZ

Issuer/Trust: VanEckMerk Gold Trust

Issuer Website: www.merkgold.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 issued by the VanEck Merk Gold Trust (“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 unlisted trading privileges of the Exchange, as well as to provide certain characteristics and features of the shares. For a more complete description of the Issuer/Trust, the shares and the underlying market instruments or indexes, visit the Issuer Website, consult the Prospectus available on the Issuer Website or examine the Registration Statement or review the most current information bulletin issued by the Primary Listing Exchange. The Issuer Website, the Prospectus and the Registration Statement are hereafter collectively referred to as the “Issuer Disclosure Materials.”

Background Information on the Fund

The Trust was formed pursuant to the Depositary Trust Agreement (Trust Agreement) on May 6, 2014



under New York State law. The Trust's primary objective is to provide investors with an opportunity to invest in gold through the shares and be able to take delivery of physical gold bullion (physical gold) in exchange for those shares. The Trust's secondary objective is for the shares to reflect the performance of the price of gold less the expenses of the Trust's operations. Each share represents a fractional undivided beneficial interest in the Trust's net assets. The Trust's assets consist principally of gold held on the Trust's behalf in financial institutions for safekeeping. Physical gold that the Trust will hold includes London Bars and, for the limited purposes described herein, other gold bars and coins, without numismatic value, having a minimum fineness (or purity) of 995 parts per 1,000 (99.5%) or, for American Gold Eagle gold coins, with a minimum fineness of 91.67% (American Gold Eagle Coins).

The primary objective of the Trust is to provide investors with an opportunity to invest in gold through shares, and be able to take delivery of physical gold in exchange for their shares. The Trust's secondary objective is for the shares to reflect the performance of the price of gold less the expenses of the Trust's operations. The Trust is not actively managed. It does not engage in any activities designed to obtain a profit from, or to compensate investors for losses caused by, changes in the price of gold.

The Trust holds London Bars and, in connection with a Delivery Applicant's exchange of shares for physical gold, physical gold of other specifications as requested by the Sponsor. The Trust receives gold deposited by Authorized Participants in exchange for the creation of Baskets and delivers gold to Authorized Participants in exchange for Baskets surrendered to it for redemption. Upon the delivery of shares by a Delivery Applicant as described below, the Sponsor may engage in over-the-counter transactions with a precious metals dealer to exchange gold for physical gold of different specifications.

The sponsor of the Trust is Merk Investments LLC (Sponsor). The Sponsor is a Delaware limited liability company. The shares are neither interests in, or obligations of, and are not guaranteed by, the Sponsor, its member(s), or any of its affiliates. The shares provide investors with the opportunity to access the gold market through a traditional brokerage account. The Sponsor believes that investors will be able to more effectively implement strategic and tactical asset allocation strategies that use gold by investing in the shares than by purchasing, holding and trading gold directly. The Trust is one of several exchange-traded products that seek to track the price of physical gold. Certain other financial products may gain exposure to physical gold through the use of derivatives that may be subject to counterparty and credit risks. The Trust will not hold or employ derivatives. Gold also is not subject to borrowing arrangements with third parties. Accordingly, the Trust's allocated gold will not be subject to counterparty or credit risks. The value of Gold will be reported on the Trust's website daily.

Shares are issued by the Trust only in blocks of 50,000 shares called "Baskets" in exchange for gold from certain registered broker-dealers or other securities market participants (Authorized Participants). See the prospectus for requirements to qualify as an Authorized Participant. Baskets may be redeemed by the Trust in exchange for the amount of gold corresponding to their redemption value. The Trust issues and redeems Baskets on an ongoing basis at net asset value to Authorized Participants who have entered into a contract with the Sponsor and the Trustee.

Individual shares will not be redeemed by the Trust but are listed and trade on NYSE Arca under the



symbol “OUNZ.” A Delivery Applicant may deliver shares to the Trust in exchange for physical gold after submitting to the Sponsor a qualifying document that expresses the Delivery Applicant’s non-binding intention to exchange shares for physical gold on the Share Submission Day (Delivery Application) along with the applicable processing fees. The number of shares to be delivered must correspond in value to the Fine Ounce content of physical gold requested. To meet its primary objective to provide investors with an opportunity to invest in gold through the shares and to be able to take delivery of physical gold in exchange for their shares, the Trust is committed to its guiding principles. The material terms of the Trust are discussed in greater detail in the prospectus.

The Trust is not an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (1940 Act), and is not required to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission thereunder.

The Sponsor arranged for the creation of the Trust, the registration of the shares for their public offering in the United States and the listing of the shares on NYSE Arca. The Sponsor generally oversees the performance of the Trustee and the Trust’s principal service providers, but does not exercise day-to-day oversight of the Trustee or such service providers. The Sponsor may remove the Trustee and appoint a successor trustee under certain circumstances. The Sponsor also has the right to direct the Trustee to appoint any new or additional custodian of the Trust’s gold that the Sponsor selects.

The Sponsor: (1) will develop a marketing plan for the Trust on an ongoing basis; (2) will prepare marketing materials regarding the shares; (3) will maintain the Trust’s web site; (4) may engage in over-the-counter transactions with a precious metals dealer to exchange the Trust’s gold for gold of different specifications as requested by a Delivery Applicant in a Delivery Application; (5) may provide instructions for assaying gold, and other instructions relating to the custody of Gold, as necessary; (6) may request the Trustee to order Custodian audits (to the extent permitted under the Custody Agreement); and (7) will review Delivery Applications from Delivery Applicants who want to take delivery of physical gold for their shares and coordinate the delivery of physical gold to the Delivery Applicants.

Pursuant to a services agreement, Foreside Fund Services, LLC assists the Sponsor by providing training to and oversight of certain of the Sponsor’s employees concerning the preparation of marketing material and regulatory requirements for such material, reviewing such material when requested and making other educational programs available to the Sponsor’s employees. In addition, the Sponsor maintains a public website on behalf of the Trust, containing information about the Trust and the shares, including a listing of gold held by the Trust. The internet address of the Trust’s website is www.merkgold.com. This internet address is only provided here as a convenience, and the information contained on or connected to the Trust’s website is not considered part of the prospectus.

The Sponsor has agreed to assume the following administrative and marketing expenses incurred by the Trust: the Trustee’s monthly fee and out-of pocket expenses; the Custodian’s fee; the marketing support fees and expenses; expenses reimbursable under the Custody Agreement; the precious metals dealer’s fees and expenses reimbursable under its agreement with the Sponsor; exchange listing fees;



SEC registration fees; printing and mailing costs; maintenance expenses for the Trust's website; audit fees; and up to \$100,000 per annum in legal expenses. The Sponsor also will pay the costs of the Trust's organization and the initial sale of the shares, including applicable SEC registration fees.

The Trustee is The Bank of New York Mellon. The Trustee is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Trust. The Trustee's responsibilities include: (1) valuing the Trust's gold and calculating the net asset value per share of the Trust; (2) supplying inventory information to the Sponsor for the Trust's website; (3) receiving and processing orders from Authorized Participants for the creation and redemption of Baskets; (4) coordinating the processing of orders from Authorized Participants with the Custodian and The Depository Trust Company (DTC), including coordinating with the Custodian the receipt of unallocated gold transferred to the Trust in connection with each issuance of Baskets; (5) cooperating with the Sponsor, the precious metals dealer and the Custodian in connection with the delivery of physical gold to Delivery Applicants in exchange for their shares; (6) issuing and allocating shares to the Sponsor in lieu of paying the fee to compensate the Sponsor (Sponsor's Fee) in cash; (7) issuing and allocating shares to the Sponsor to reimburse cash payments owed by the Trust, but undertaken by the Sponsor; (8) selling gold pursuant to the Sponsor's direction or otherwise as needed to pay any extraordinary Trust expenses that are not assumed by the Sponsor; (9) holding the Trust's cash and other financial assets, if any; (10) when appropriate, making distributions of cash or other property to investors; and (11) receiving and reviewing reports on the custody of and transactions in gold from the Custodian and taking such other actions in connection with the custody of gold as the Sponsor instructs.

The Custodian is JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. The Custodian is responsible for the safekeeping of the Trust's allocated gold and supplying inventory information to the Trustee and the Sponsor. The Custodian also is responsible for facilitating the transfer of gold in and out of the Trust and facilitating the shipment of London Bars to Delivery Applicants. The Custodian will deposit into the Trust Unallocated Account gold received from an Authorized Participant in exchange for Baskets. The Custodian will promptly convert the deposit to allocated London Bars. At the end of each business day, the Custodian may hold no more than 430 Fine Ounces of unallocated gold, which corresponds to the maximum weight of a London Bar, in the Trust Unallocated Account.

The registration statement for the Trust describes the various fees and expenses for the Trust's Shares. For a more complete description of the Trust, visit the Trust's 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, gold risk, liquidity risk and precious metals 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, (3) 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.

| Name | Listing Market | Trading Symbol | IOPV Symbol | NAV Symbol |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| VanEck Merck Gold Trust | NYSE Arca | OUNZ | OUNZ.IV | OUNZ.NV |



Delivery of a Prospectus

Exchange 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, Exchange Rules require that Exchange 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, Exchange 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 Exchange 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 such Exchange member under this rule.

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

Suitability

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

Trading Halts

The Exchange will halt trading in the Shares of a security in accordance with Exchange 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 Fund 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 Fund (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 Fund 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 Fund 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 Fund to the redeeming holder (“Redemption Securities”). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Fund 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 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 Fund (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. 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.