

*Brief description of amendment:* The amendment revised Technical Specification (TS) 3.3.1, "Reactor Trip System Instrumentation," and TS 3.4.1, "RCS [Reactor Coolant System] Pressure, Temperature, and Flow DNB [Departure from Nucleate Boiling] Limits." The revised TS allows the measurement of RCS flow using the elbow flow tap methodology as an alternative to the current flow calorimetric method.

*Date of issuance:* October 3, 2003.

*Effective date:* As of the date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days.

*Amendment No.:* 47.

*Facility Operating License No. NPF-90:* Amendment revised the Technical Specifications.

*Date of initial notice in Federal Register:* June 24, 2003 (68 FR 37584). The supplemental letter provided clarifying information that did not expand the scope of the original request and did not change the initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination.

The Commission's related evaluation of the amendment is contained in a Safety Evaluation dated October 3, 2003.

No significant hazards consideration comments received: No.

*Tennessee Valley Authority, Docket No. 50-390, Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1, Rhea County, Tennessee*

*Date of application for amendment:* May 30, 2003, as supplemented August 18, September 10, September 30, and October 3, 2003.

*Brief description of amendment:* The amendment revised Technical Specification (TS) 3.5.1, "Accumulators," TS 3.5.4, "Refueling Water Storage Tank (RWST)" and TS 4.2.1, "Fuel Assemblies," to revise the minimum and maximum accumulator and RWST boron concentration and to limit the maximum number of tritium producing burnable absorber rods (TPBARs) that can be loaded into the reactor core accordingly. The requested change would also add the cycle-specific number of TPBARs to the Core Operating Limits Report. The licensee is revising the corresponding TS Bases pages.

*Date of issuance:* October 8, 2003.

*Effective date:* As of the date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days.

*Amendment No.:* 48.

*Facility Operating License No. NPF-90:* Amendment revised the Technical Specifications.

*Date of initial notice in Federal Register:* July 8, 2003 (68 FR 40720). The supplemental letters provided clarifying

information that did not expand the scope of the original request and did not change the initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination.

The Commission's related evaluation of the amendment is contained in a Safety Evaluation dated October 8, 2003.

No significant hazards consideration comments received: No.

*TXU Generation Company LP, Docket Nos. 50-445 and 50-446, Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Somervell County, Texas*

*Date of amendment request:* July 10, 2003, as supplemented by letter dated August 28, 2003.

*Brief description of amendments:* The amendments revise the Technical Specification (TS) reflecting approval of a one-time extension for each unit of allowable outage time for restoring the operability of control room emergency filtration system boundary.

*Date of issuance:* October 2, 2003.

*Effective date:* As of the date of issuance. The TS shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

*Amendment Nos.:* 108 and 108.

*Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-87 and NPF-89:* The amendments revised the TS.

*Date of initial notice in Federal Register:* August 5, 2003 (68 FR 46246)

The August 28, 2003, supplemental letter provided clarifying information and did not change the scope of the original **Federal Register** notice or the staff's original no significant hazards consideration determination.

The Commission's related evaluation of the amendments is contained in a Safety Evaluation dated October 2, 2003.

No significant hazards consideration comments received: No.

*Union Electric Company, Docket No. 50-483, Callaway Plant, Unit 1, Callaway County, Missouri*

*Date of application for amendment:* October 3, 2002.

*Brief description of amendment:* The amendment revises Tables 3.3.1-1 (Reactor Trip System (RTS) Instrumentation) and 3.3.2-1 (Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System (ESFAS) Instrumentation) of Limiting Conditions for Operation 3.3.1, "RTS Instrumentation," and 3.3.2, "ESFAS Instrumentation," of the TSs. The revisions are for the SG water level low-low (adverse and normal containment environment) functions.

*Date of issuance:* October 2, 2003.

*Effective date:* October 2, 2003, and shall be implemented within 60 days of the date of issuance.

*Amendment No.:* 157.

*Facility Operating License No. NPF-30:* The amendment revised the Technical Specifications.

*Date of initial notice in Federal Register:* November 26, 2003 (67 FR 70770). The Commission's related evaluation of the amendment is contained in a Safety Evaluation dated October 2, 2003.

No significant hazards consideration comments received: No.

*Virginia Electric and Power Company, et al., Docket Nos. 50-280 and 50-281, Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2, Surry County, Virginia*

*Date of application for amendments:* November 5, 2002, as supplemented February 14 and June 9, 2003.

*Brief Description of amendments:* These amendments revise the technical specifications to delete the monthly analog rod position test for the control rod bottom bistables.

*Date of issuance:* October 1, 2003.

*Effective date:* As of the date of issuance, and shall be implemented within 30 days.

*Amendment Nos.:* 237 and 236.

*Renewed Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-32 and DPR-37:* Amendments change the Technical Specifications surveillance requirements.

*Date of initial notice in Federal Register:* February 4, 2003 (68 FR 5683). The February 14 and June 9, 2003, supplements contained clarifying information only and did not change the initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination or expand the scope of the initial application.

The Commission's related evaluation of the amendments is contained in a Safety Evaluation dated October 1, 2003.

No significant hazards consideration comments received: No.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 20th day of October, 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Ledyard B. Marsh,**

*Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 03-26890 Filed 10-27-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## POSTAL SERVICE

### Flat Mail Identification Code System (FICS)

**ACTION:** Notice.

**AGENCY:** Postal Service.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a new system that the United States Postal Service (USPS) plans to deploy for

applying unique USPS identification (ID) codes (or "tags") to flat-size mailpieces not bearing POSTNET barcodes. Deployment is scheduled for early 2004. Once the initial ID code is applied to the mailpiece, subsequent sorting will recognize the code and sort the flat-size piece without need for further manual keying. The ID code provides reference to access a database containing the original keying results. The application of these codes onto mailpieces will have no impact on current mailing standards or preparation requirements for flat-size mail.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

George Coupar, (703) 280-7437, Engineering, United States Postal Service.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The manual video keying of nonbarcoded flat-size mailpieces by Postal Service employees represents a significant cost to the Postal Service. Currently, the keying of a mailpiece by video keying operators can occur several additional times as the nonbarcoded piece is sorted through stages of mail processing. In order to reduce the costs associated with this labor-intensive manual keying, the Postal Service has developed a system that should eliminate most of the additional keying.

This new system, called the Flat Mail Identification Code System (FICS), applies a unique USPS identification (ID) code (tag) to flat-size mailpieces not bearing a POSTNET barcode. The ID code, printed on a label, will be mechanically applied to the address side of the mailpiece in the bottom right or top left corner, before the address is manually resolved by a video keying operator. The FICS saves the initially keyed information in a database along with the corresponding ID code assigned to the piece. Once the FICS ID code is generated and a label containing that code is applied to the mailpiece, further manual keying will not be required for that piece as it moves through additional mail processing operations. Moreover, because a label bearing the ID code will be placed on individual flat-size pieces, this new system will provide additional capabilities in tracking and tracing these coded (tagged) flat-size pieces.

The FICS physical ID code consists of a black, International Mailing Standard, 4-state barcode printed on a white pressure-sensitive label measuring 1/2 inch high by 3 inches wide or 1/2 inch high by 4 3/8 inches wide. The label is applied to the address side of nonbarcoded flats. The label, which can be manually peeled from the mailpiece, is made of the same material as is

currently used by the USPS Letter Mail Labeling Machine (LMLM) which affixes labels on certain types of letter mail pieces, such as postcards.

Preproduction testing is currently in progress and the USPS expects to deploy the system nationally in the second quarter of fiscal year 2004. The USPS does not plan to introduce new mailing requirements related to FICS.

**Neva R. Watson,**

*Attorney, Legislative, Office of Legal Policy and Ratemaking.*

[FR Doc. 03-27087 Filed 10-27-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7710-12-P**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. IC-26229; File No. 812-12989]

**Merrill Lynch Life Insurance Company, et al.; Notice of Application**

October 22, 2003.

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

**ACTION:** Notice of application (the "Application") for an order pursuant to Section 26(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act") approving a substitution of securities and an order of exemption pursuant to Section 17(b) of the 1940 Act from Section 17(a) of the 1940 Act.

**APPLICANTS:** Merrill Lynch Life Insurance Company ("MLLIC"), Merrill Lynch Variable Life Separate Account ("Separate Account 1"), Merrill Lynch Life Variable Life Separate Account II ("Separate Account 2"), Merrill Lynch Life Variable Annuity Separate Account A ("Separate Account 3"), ML Life Insurance Company of New York ("MLNY"), ML of New York Variable Life Separate Account ("Separate Account 4"), ML of New York Variable Life Separate Account II ("Separate Account 5"), ML of New York Variable Annuity Separate Account A ("Separate Account 6"), and, only for the purpose of seeking an order of exemption pursuant to Section 17(b) of the 1940 Act, MLIIG Variable Insurance Trust ("MLIIG Trust") (except for MLLIC, MLNY, and MLIIG Trust, each a "Separate Account;" Separate Accounts 1 through 6 collectively referred to herein as the "Separate Accounts") (all foregoing parties, with the exception of MLIIG Trust, collectively referred to herein as the "Applicants") (all foregoing parties, with the inclusion of MLIIG Trust, collectively referred to herein as the "Section 17(b) Applicants").

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATION:** The Applicants request an order pursuant to Section 26(c) of the 1940 Act to permit certain registered unit investment trusts to substitute shares of certain portfolios of the MLIIG Trust (the "Replacement Portfolios") for shares of certain portfolios of the AllianceBernstein Variable Products Series Fund, Inc. ("AllianceBernstein Fund"), the Delaware VIP Trust ("Delaware Trust"), and the MFS® Variable Insurance Trust<sup>SM</sup> ("MFS Trust") (collectively, the "Substituted Portfolios") currently held by those unit investment trusts. The Section 17(b) Applicants request an order of the Commission pursuant to Section 17(b) of the 1940 Act exempting them from Section 17(a) of the 1940 Act to the extent necessary to permit MLLIC and MLNY to carry out substitutions by redeeming shares issued by AllianceBernstein Fund, Delaware Trust, and MFS Trust in-kind and using the proceeds to purchase shares issued by MLIIG Trust.

**FILING DATE:** The Application was filed on July 18, 2003 and was amended and restated on October 9, 2003.

**HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING:** An order granting the Application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested person may request a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the Commission and serving Applicants (including Section 17(b) Applicants) with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on November 12, 2003, and should be accompanied by proof of service on Applicants (including Section 17(b) Applicants), in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons may request notification of a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Applicants (including Section 17(b) Applicants), c/o Edward W. Diffin, Jr., Esq., Merrill Lynch Insurance Group, Inc., 1300 Merrill Lynch Drive, 2nd Floor, Pennington, New Jersey 08534. Copies to Stephen E. Roth, Esq. and Mary E. Thornton, Esq., Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, 1275 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** H. Yuna Peng, at (202) 942-0676, or Lorna J. MacLeod, Branch Chief, at (202) 942-0670, Office of Insurance Products, Division of Investment Management.