

that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated December 18, 1995, as supplemented on May 3, June 11, July 1, July 3, and August 22, 1996, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Florida International University, University Park, Miami, Florida 33199.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of September 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Frederick J. Hebdon,

Director, Project Directorate II-3, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Agriculture Department; Alternative Personnel Management System; Demonstration Project

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice of amendment of the Department of Agriculture demonstration project plan.

SUMMARY: This action provides for changes in the final project plan published March 9, 1990, to modify the demonstration project coverage to include term appointments. The project was originally conceived to test an alternative to the traditional recruiting and hiring system in an anticipated tight labor market as described in Workforce 2000 and Civil Service 2000. On March 8, 1996, a Federal Register notice was published to modify the list of experiment sites to include comparison sites. This change provided the opportunity to test these flexibilities in a downsizing environment with a more than adequate high-quality labor market even though there are occasional shortages of qualified candidates. By amending the project plan to include term appointments, a need to operate a parallel examining system for permanent and term positions will be eliminated thus avoiding administrative inefficiencies and ineffectiveness.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 18, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Ann Jenkins, (202) 720-0515, at the Department of Agriculture; Joan Jorgenson, (202) 606-1315, at the Office of Personnel Management.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 9, 1990, OPM published a notice to demonstrate an alternative personnel management system at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. One of the project innovations is to test a candidate assessment method which uses categorical groupings instead of numeric score. The demonstration authority replaces the traditional system of examining applicants and ranking candidates, instead the candidates will be assigned to one of two groups—quality or eligible—based on job related evaluation criteria. To be placed in the quality group, a candidate's background must show: above average educational achievement; or, quality experience which is defined as experience clearly above and beyond (Operating Manual: Qualification Standards for General Schedule Positions) basic qualification requirements, and which is directly related to the work of the position to be filled; or, evidence of high ability to do the work of the position. Candidates who do not meet the quality group criteria but who meet basic qualification requirements will be assigned to the eligible group. Within each group, preference eligibles will be listed ahead of nonpreference eligibles. In addition, for positions other than scientific and professional at GS-9 and above, preference eligibles with a compensable service-connected disability of 10 percent or more who meet basic eligibility requirements will be listed at the top of the quality group.

Selection will be made from among candidates in the quality group. When an inadequate number of candidates is in the quality group, all qualified candidates will be listed as a single group.

With the addition of term appointments, project participation will still not exceed the statutory limit of 5000 at any given time.

Dated: September 11, 1996.
Office of Personnel Management.
James B. King,
Director.

Project Plan Modification

The project plan which appeared in the Federal Register on March 9, 1990 (55 FR 9062) is hereby modified to include using the candidate assessment method for term appointments for the

Agricultural Research Service and Forest Service.

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BILLING CODE 6325-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Rel. No. IC-22217; File No. 812-10110]

Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America, et al.

September 11, 1996.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission").

ACTION: Notice of application for exemption under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act").

APPLICANTS: Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America ("Allianz"), Allianz Life Variable Account A ("Account A"), Allianz Life Variable Account B ("Account B"), Preferred Life Insurance Company of New York ("Preferred") and Preferred Life Variable Account C ("Account C," together with Account A and Account B, the "Accounts").

RELEVANT 1940 ACT SECTIONS: Order requested pursuant to Section 26(b) of the 1940 Act, approving the proposed substitution of securities, and pursuant to Section 17(b) or, in the alternative, Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act, exempting the proposed transactions from the provisions of Section 17(a) of the 1940 Act.

SUMMARY OF THE APPLICATION:

Applicants request an order of the Commission pursuant to Section 26(b) of the 1940 Act approving the substitution of shares of the U.S. Government Securities Fund ("Government Fund") of the Franklin Valuemark Funds (the "Trust") for shares of the Adjustable U.S. Government Fund ("Adjustable Fund") and the investment Grade Intermediate Bond Fund ("Bond Fund") of the Trust held by the Accounts. Applicants also request an order pursuant to Section 17(b) or, in the alternative, pursuant to Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act, granting exemptions from the provisions of Section 17(a) of the 1940 Act to the extent necessary to permit certain purchase and sale transactions between affiliates in connection with the substitution.

FILING DATE: The application was filed on April 26, 1996.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request