MERRILL LYNCH RETIREMENT ASSET SAVINGS PROGRAM FACT SHEET

[1] This Fact Sheet describes the Retirement Asset Savings Program offered to certain sponsors and beneficiaries of retirement plan accounts at Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("Merrill Lynch").

ABOUT THE RETIREMENT ASSET SAVINGS PROGRAM

[2] The Retirement Asset Savings Program ("RASP") is a feature of retirement plan accounts for which Merrill Lynch is custodian (each a "Retirement Plan Account"). These include Individual Retirement Accounts, Roth Individual Retirement Accounts, Individual Retirement Rollover Accounts, Simplified Employee Pension, SIMPLE IRA, Coverdell Education Savings Accounts and BASIC™ Plan accounts. (The Internal Revenue Code does not allow RASP to be used in connection with Retirement Selector® Account-403(b)(7)-custodial accounts.)

[3] The RASP feature makes available to you a money market deposit account ("Deposit Account") for each Retirement Plan Account which is opened on your behalf at one or more participating depository institutions, the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), an independent agency of the U.S. Government.

[4] A minimum deposit of $1 is required to open an account through RASP. However, no deposit relationship shall be deemed to exist prior to the receipt and acceptance of your funds by a participating depository institution.

[5] Each deposit into a Deposit Account is a direct obligation of the depository institution at which the Deposit Account is established and is not directly or indirectly an obligation of Merrill Lynch. Merrill Lynch does not guarantee in any way the financial condition of any institution at which you may establish accounts through RASP. Upon request, you will be provided with the publicly available summary financial information relating to participating institutions. Merrill Lynch is not a bank and securities offered by Merrill Lynch are not backed or guaranteed by any bank nor are they insured by the FDIC.

[6] Deposits at each depository institution in which your funds are deposited through RASP are insured by the FDIC to a maximum amount of $250,000 (including principal and accrued interest) for all qualifying retirement account deposits held in the same legal capacity, except for Coverdell Education Savings Accounts which are FDIC insured in the irrevocable trust ownership category. Your federal deposit insurance protection takes effect as soon as a depository institution receives your deposit. Any deposits, including certificates of deposit ("CDs"), that you maintain in the same legal capacity as your Retirement Plan Account directly with a particular depository institution, through other Merrill Lynch accounts or through another intermediary would be aggregated with the deposits maintained in the Deposit Accounts at that institution for purposes of the FDIC insurance limit. Since there may be more than one depository institution at which you may establish a Deposit Account, you may have more than the Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount in federal deposit insurance protection for funds deposited through RASP.

[7] You are responsible for monitoring the total amount of deposits that you hold with one depository institution, in a single legal capacity, including deposits maintained through RASP, deposits (including CDs) held through other Merrill Lynch accounts and deposits held directly with the depository institution.

How the RASP feature works

[8] Your money is remitted initially for deposit by Merrill Lynch, acting as your agent, into a Deposit Account at the primary depository institution. The primary depository institution is Bank of America, N.A. ("BANA"). The secondary depository institution is Bank of America California, N.A. ("BA-CA") (and together with BANA, are the Merrill Lynch Affiliated Banks, the "Merrill Lynch Banks") (which will accept deposits once you exceed $246,000 in the Deposit Account at the primary institution as described below).

[9] From time to time, one or more of the participating depository institutions may be replaced with a new institution, including one that may not have been previously included. Also, new depository institutions may be added and the depository sequence changed. You will receive notification in advance of such movement, inclusion or change before any funds you have in a Deposit Account are moved to another institution. Notification may be by means of a letter, an entry on your Retirement Plan Account statement, or the delivery to you of a new listing of available depository institutions.

[10] For each Retirement Plan Account, the following rules apply: Funds up to $246,000 are remitted to the Deposit Account established for you at the primary depository institution, BANA. If the balance in your Deposit Account at BANA reaches $246,000, then your funds are remitted for deposit in the same manner to a Deposit Account established for you at BA-CA, until the balance in your Deposit Account at BA-CA reaches $246,000. If the balance in your Deposit Accounts at BA-CA reaches $246,000, subsequent funds are deposited in your Deposit Account at BANA, even if the amounts then deposited in your Deposit Account at BANA exceed $246,000. This may cause the amount deposited in BANA through RASP to exceed the Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount. All deposits at an institution held in the same legal capacity are protected by federal insurance up to a maximum of the Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount. Amounts on deposit at BANA or BA-CA held in the same legal capacity, including deposits maintained through RASP, in excess of the Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount, will not be covered by federal deposit insurance.

[11] **It is important for you to monitor the amounts of your total deposits with each participating depository institution, so that you will know the extent of federal deposit insurance available to you for such deposits (see the following section Additional Information on Federal Deposit Insurance).**

[12] Generally, funds will be transferred to the next priority depository institution, if any, in the priority sequence established. However, there may be exceptions if a depository institution is closed for the day, or if it reaches the aggregate deposit limit it will accept from Merrill Lynch clients. If a depository institution in which you have a Deposit Account chooses to no longer make its accounts available through RASP, funds in your Deposit Account at that institution will be transferred, after notification to you, to another participating depository institution.

[13] Available free credit balances of $1 or more will be automatically deposited in your Deposit Account on a daily basis, except for Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. The funds will be deposited into the Deposited Account on the next Business Day after funds are credited to your account. All such deposits will be made only in whole dollar amounts.

Transfers and withdrawals

[14] Merrill Lynch, as your agent, will make withdrawals from your Deposit Accounts as necessary to satisfy any debits in the Retirement Plan Account. However, as required by federal regulations, each depository institution at which Deposit Accounts may be established reserves the right to require seven days prior notice before permitting a withdrawal out of an individual account.

[15] If you have funds on deposit at both BANA and BA-CA, withdrawals will be made from your Deposit Accounts in the reverse of the order in which deposits are made to the Deposit Accounts.

[16] Payment out of your account may be delayed when funds placed in an account on your behalf had as their original source a check, draft or similar instrument given to Merrill Lynch. Merrill Lynch may delay the deposit of funds into a Deposit Account until funds submitted to your Retirement Plan Account have cleared.

[17] The Deposit Accounts established at the Merrill Lynch Affiliated Banks are not transferable.

Interest

[18] The interest rates paid for RASP will be established periodically as determined by the Merrill Lynch Affiliated Banks, and other participating depositories. For accounts established through RASP, the Merrill Lynch Affiliated Banks, and any other participating depositories, will set interest rates based on economic and business conditions. For RASP, interest rates will be tiered based upon your relationship with Merrill Lynch as determined by the value of assets in your eligible Retirement Plan Account(s), Deposit Account(s) and accounts linked through the Merrill Lynch Statement Link service. For these tiered Deposit Accounts, deposits of clients in higher Asset Tiers (as defined below) generally will receive higher interest rates than deposits of clients in lower Asset Tiers.

[19] Your interest rate generally will correspond with your Asset Tier as determined by the value of assets in your eligible Retirement Plan Account(s), Deposit Account(s) and accounts linked through the Merrill Lynch Statement Link service. Retirement Plan Accounts enrolled in the Merrill Lynch Investment Advisory Program®, or any other Managed Solutions program will receive the interest rate that corresponds to the highest Asset Tier. For more information on the Merrill Lynch Statement Link service, please refer to the description in this booklet. The following Asset Tier levels took effect on September 30, 2005:

- $10,000,000 or more
- $1,000,000 to $9,999,999
- $250,000 to $999,999
- less than $250,000

[20] In general, Merrill Lynch will determine your Asset Tier toward the end of each month (the "Valuation Date") for application the next statement month. The valuation procedure generally will work like this:

- Your Asset Tier(s) will be based on Merrill Lynch's determination of the long market value of assets and Deposit Account balances in your eligible Retirement Plan, including other eligible accounts linked through the Merrill Lynch Statement Link service.
- Your Asset Tier(s) will not change until the next Valuation Date even if you open new accounts or link accounts.
- If you have accounts enrolled in the Merrill Lynch Statement Link service on the Valuation Date, then the valuation will reflect the dollar value of assets in those linked accounts (except excluded accounts) to determine your Asset Tier.
- If your accounts are not linked on the Valuation Date, then the assets in each Retirement Plan Account will be valued individually to determine your Asset Tier for that account.
- New Retirement Plan Accounts are not valued until the next applicable Valuation Date. In the first month, deposit balances in all new accounts will receive the interest rate that corresponds to the Asset Tier that ranges from $250,000 to $999,999. This Asset Tier may be adjusted, as appropriate, on the next Valuation Date.

[21] Without notice, interest rates may change daily, the interest rate differential between Asset Tiers may change, and Asset Tiers may also change. To learn the current or new interest rate for the RASP program offered in connection with your Retirement Plan Account, call your Merrill Lynch financial advisor.

[22] The rates of return paid with respect to the Deposit Accounts may be higher or lower than the rates of return available to other depositors of the participating depository institution for comparable accounts. Of course, you should compare the terms, rates of return, required account minimums, charges and other features of a Deposit Account with other accounts and alternative investments before deciding to maintain a Deposit Account.

[23] Interest will accrue on the balances in a Deposit Account from the day funds are deposited with a participating depository institution to (but not including) the date of withdrawal, and will be compounded daily and credited monthly.

Client statements

[24] All of your transactions will be confirmed and will appear in chronological sequence on your Merrill Lynch Retirement Plan Account statement. The statement will show the total of your opening and closing Deposit Account balances, along with a breakdown of your Deposit Account balance at each individual depository institution (if more than one depository institution is participating in RASP and your funds are deposited in more than one depository institution). The statement will also show interest earned for the statement period.

Your relationship with Merrill Lynch

[25] Merrill Lynch is acting as agent and messenger for its Retirement Plan Account clients who establish accounts through RASP. The separate accounts established by Merrill Lynch on its records on behalf of its Retirement Plan Account clients will be evidenced by a book entry on the account record of the participating depository institution. No evidence of ownership, such as a passbook or certificate, will be issued to the Retirement Plan Account clients who establish accounts through RASP, nor will any depository institution be given the names of Retirement Plan Account clients. In addition, all transactions are effected through Merrill Lynch, as agent, and not directly between a client and the participating depository institution.

[26] You may obtain information about your Deposit Accounts, including the names of each depository institution in which your funds are currently being deposited, balances, the current interest rate and the names and priority of the other institutions at which Deposit Accounts are currently available, by calling your Merrill Lynch financial advisor.

[27] Each participating depository institution, in its sole discretion and without notice, may change the conditions of or terminate a client's Deposit Account. If Merrill Lynch does not wish to continue to act as your agent or custodian with respect to your Deposit Account(s), you may deal directly with each depository institution (subject to its rules in effect at that time) with respect to maintaining such an account.

[28] Similarly, if you decide that you no longer wish to have Merrill Lynch act as your agent and messenger with respect to the Deposit Account established for you at a depository institution, you may establish a direct depository relationship with the depository institution (subject to its rules in effect at that time) with respect to maintaining such an account.

[29] This may result in the severing of your Deposit Account at that depository institution account from the Retirement Plan Account service.

Benefits to Merrill Lynch

[30] The Merrill Lynch Affiliated Banks use bank deposits to fund current and new lending, investment and other business activities. Like many other depository institutions, the profitability of the Merrill Lynch Affiliated Banks is determined in large part by the difference between the interest paid and other costs incurred by them on bank deposits, and the interest or other income earned on their loans, investments and other assets. The deposits provide a stable source of funding for the Merrill Lynch Affiliated Banks, and borrowing costs incurred to fund the business activities of the Merrill Lynch Affiliated Banks have been reduced by the use of deposits from Merrill Lynch clients.

[31] Merrill Lynch receives compensation from the Merrill Lynch Affiliated Banks of up to $85 per year for each Retirement Plan Account that has uninvested cash balances automatically swept to the Merrill Lynch Affiliated Banks under the RASP program. The amount of this fee is subject to change from time to time, and Merrill Lynch may waive all or part of it. Other than the Retirement Plan Account fees, no charge, fee or commission will be imposed on you with respect to your participation in RASP in connection with your Retirement Plan Account. Merrill Lynch pays a fee to financial advisors based on total client deposits swept to the Merrill Lynch Affiliated Banks.

Additional information

[32] You will always know where your money is by referring to the information in the section titled Your relationship with Merrill Lynch, this page, in conjunction with your Retirement Plan Account statement. Additionally, by calling your financial advisor, you can confirm the name of the depository institution that has accepted your most recent deposit. Upon request, you will be provided with the publicly available information that Merrill Lynch has relating to the participating depository institutions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE

[33] In the event that federal deposit insurance payments become necessary, the FDIC is required to pay principal plus unpaid and accrued interest to the date of the closing of the relevant depository institution, as prescribed by law and applicable regulations. Since there is no specific time period during which the FDIC must make available such insurance payments, you should be prepared for the possibility of an indeterminate delay in obtaining insurance payments. In addition, you may be required to provide certain documentation to the FDIC and to Merrill Lynch before any insurance payouts are released to you. For example, you may be required to furnish affidavits and indemnities regarding the payout. Merrill Lynch will not be obligated to you for amounts not covered by deposit insurance and will not be obligated to you in advance of payment from the FDIC.

[34] Since deposit insurance coverage is based on a customer's funds on deposit in any one depository institution, coverage can change if two or more institutions where you have funds on deposit merge. In this case, deposits maintained through RASP continue to be separately insured for six months from the date that the merger takes effect. Thereafter, any assumed deposits will be aggregated with your existing deposits with the acquirer held in the same legal ownership category for purposes of federal deposit insurance. Any deposit opened at the acquired institution after the acquisition will be aggregated with deposits established with the acquirer for purposes of federal deposit insurance.

Special rules for Retirement Plan Accounts

[35] You may have interests in various retirement and employee benefit plans and accounts that have deposits in a depository institution. The amount of deposit insurance you will be entitled to will vary depending on the type of plan or account and on whether deposits held by the plan or account will be treated separately or aggregated with deposits in the same depository institution held by other plans or accounts. It is therefore important to understand the type of plan or account holding the deposit. The following sections entitled Pass-through deposit insurance for retirement and employee benefit plan deposits and Aggregation of Retirement and Employee Benefit Plans and Accounts generally discuss the rules that apply to deposits of retirement and employee benefits plans and accounts.

[36] On February 8, 2006, the President of the United States signed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (the "Act"), which contains provisions affecting federal deposit insurance coverage. The principal amount of your deposits held in Qualified Retirement Accounts (as defined below), plus accrued interest, together with any other deposits held at the issuing depository institution through such Qualified Retirement Accounts, are protected by federal deposit insurance and backed by the U.S. government to a maximum amount of $250,000 for the total amount of all such deposits held by you in the same ownership capacity at the depository institution. Retirement accounts that qualify for this increased coverage are: (i) any individual retirement accounts ("IRAs") described in section 408(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"); (ii) any eligible deferred compensation plan described in section 457 of the Code; (iii) any individual account plan described in section 3(34) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"), to the extent the participants and beneficiaries under such plans have the right to direct the investment assets held in the accounts; and (iv) any plan described in section 401(d) of the Code, to the extent the participants and beneficiaries under such plans have the right to direct the investment assets held in the accounts (each, a "Qualified Retirement Account").

Pass-through deposit insurance for retirement and employee benefit plan deposits

[37] Subject to the limitations discussed below, under FDIC regulations, an individual's non-contingent interest in the deposits of one depository institution held by certain types of employee benefit plans are eligible for insurance on a "pass-through" basis up to the Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount for that type of plan. This means that, instead of an employee benefit plan's deposits at one depository institution being entitled to only the applicable Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount in total per depository institution, each participant in the employee benefit plan is entitled to insurance of his or her interest in the employee benefit plan's deposits of up to the applicable Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount per institution (subject to the aggregation of the participant's interests in different plans, as discussed below). The pass-through insurance provided to an individual as an employee benefit plan participant is in addition to the deposit insurance allowed on other deposits held by the individual at the issuing institution. However, pass-through insurance is aggregated across certain types of accounts (see the following section, Aggregation of Retirement and Employee Benefit Plans and Accounts).

[38] A deposit held by an employee benefit plan that is eligible for pass-through insurance is **not** insured for an amount equal to the number of plan participants multiplied by the applicable Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount. For example, assume an employee benefit plan that is a Qualified Retirement Account (i.e., a plan that is eligible for deposit insurance coverage up to $250,000 per qualified beneficiary) owns $500,000 in deposits at one institution and the plan has two participants, one with a vested non-contingent interest of $350,000 and one with a vested non-contingent interest of $150,000. In this case, the individual with the $350,000 interest would be insured up to the $250,000 limit, and the individual with the $150,000 interest would be insured up to the full value of such interest.

[39] Moreover, the contingent interests of employees in an employee benefit plan and overfunded amounts attributed to any employee defined benefit plan are **not** insured on a pass-through basis. Any interests of an employee in an employee benefit plan deposit which are not capable of evaluation in accordance with FDIC rules (i.e., contingent interests) will be aggregated with the contingent interest of other participants and insured up to the applicable Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount. Similarly, overfunded amounts are insured, in the aggregate for all participants, up to the applicable Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount separately from the insurance provided for any other funds owned by or attributable to the employer or an employee benefit plan participant.

AGGREGATION OF RETIREMENT AND EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS AND ACCOUNTS

Self-directed retirement accounts

[40] The principal amount of deposits held in Qualified Retirement Accounts described above, plus accrued but unpaid interest, if any, are protected by FDIC insurance up to a maximum of $250,000 for all such deposits held by you at the issuing depository institution together with other accounts held in the same capacity. The FDIC sometimes generically refers to Qualified Retirement Accounts as "self-directed retirement accounts." Supplementary FDIC materials indicate that Roth IRAs, self-directed Keogh Accounts, Simplified Employee Pension plans, and self-directed defined contribution plans are intended to be included within this group of Qualified Retirement Accounts. Accordingly, all accounts that participate in RASP, other than Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, should qualify for $250,000 of FDIC insurance in the aggregate.

Other employee benefit plans

[41] Any employee benefit plan, as defined in Section 3(3) of ERISA, described in Section 401(d) of the Code, or eligible deferred compensation plan under section 457 of the Code, that does not constitute a Qualified Retirement Account—for example, certain employer-sponsored profit sharing plans—can still satisfy the requirements for pass-through insurance with respect to non-contingent interest of individual plan participants, provided that FDIC requirements for recordkeeping and account titling are met ("Non-Qualifying Benefit Plans"). For Non-Qualifying Benefit Plans, the Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount ("SMDIA") applies. Under FDIC regulations, an individual's interests in Non-Qualifying Benefit Plans maintained by the same employer or employee organization (e.g., a union) which are holding deposits at the same institution will be insured up to the SMDIA in the aggregate, separate from other accounts held at the same depository institution in other ownership capacities.

[42] If you have questions about the FDIC insurance coverage of your account, please contact your Merrill Lynch financial advisor or visit the FDIC website at fdic.gov for more information.

[43] FDIC regulations and interpretations governing the availability of federal deposit insurance are subject to change from time to time. Neither BANA nor BA-CA or any other depository institution participating in RASP assumes any responsibility with respect to any such changes.

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