Management as soon as reasonably practicable following the fiscal year-end of each LUSA Portfolio, unless the chief Financial Analyst notifies applicants that the information need no longer be submitted: (a) Monthly average total assets for each LUSA Portfolio and each Underlying Portfolios; (b) monthly purchase and redemptions (other than by exchange) for each LUSA Portfolio and each Underlying Portfolio; (c) monthly exchanges into and out of each LUSA Portfolio and each Underlying Portfolio; (d) month-end allocations of each LUSA Portfolio's assets among the Underlying Portfolios; (e) annual expense ratios for each LUSA Portfolio and each Underlying Portfolio; and (f) a description of any vote taken by the shareholders of any Underlying Portfolio, including a statement of the percentage of votes cast for and against the proposal by LUSA Fund and by the other shareholders of that Underlying Portfolio.

For the SEC, by the Division of Investment Management, Under delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–23703 Filed 9–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–M

[Rel. No. IC–22216; File No. 812–9994]

Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company, et al.

September 11, 1996.

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

ACTION: Notice of application for an order under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the ''1940 Act'').

APPLICANTS: Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company (''Transamerica''), Transamerica Occidental's Separate Account Fund C (''Old Account''), Transamerica Variable Insurance Fund, Inc. (''Fund''), Transamerica Securities Sales Corporation (''TSSC''), and Transamerica Occidental Separate Account C (''New Account'').

RELEVANT 1940 ACT SECTIONS: Order requested under Section 17(b) of the 1940 Act granting exemptions from the provisions of Section 17(a) thereof, and under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act granting exemptions from the provisions of Sections 26(a)(2)(C) and 27(c)(2) thereof.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applications seek an order: (1) exempting Transamerica, the Old Account and the Fund from the provision of Section 17(a) of the 1940 Act, pursuant to Section 17(b) of the 1940 Act, to the extent necessary to permit the transfer of the securities and other instruments (''portfolio investments'') held by the Old Account to the Growth Portfolio of the Fund in exchange for shares of the Growth Portfolio of the Fund; and (2) exempting Transamerica, TSSC, the New Account, as restructured into a unit investment trust following the transfer of the Old Account's portfolio investments to the Growth Portfolio, and certain principal underwriters other than TSSC (''Future Underwriters'') from the provisions of Sections 26(a)(2)(C) and 27(c)(2) of the 1940 Act, pursuant to Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act, to the extent necessary to permit the deduction of a mortality and expense risk change from the New Account under certain variable annuity contracts.

FILING DATE: The application was field on February 14, 1996, and amended on August 8, 1996.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the Commission and serving 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 October 7, 1996, and should be accompanied by proof of service on Applicants in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the requester'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, SEC, 450 5th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Applicants, Regina M. Fink, Esq., Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company, 1150 South Olive Street, Los Angeles, California 90015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark C. Amorosi, Attorney, or Patrice M. Pitts, Special Counsel, Office of Insurance Products, Division of Investment Management, at (202) 942–0670.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Following is a summary of the application; the complete application is available for a fee from the Public Reference Branch of the Commission.

Applicants' Representations

1. Transamerica, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Transamerica Corporation, is a stock life insurance company incorporated in California. Transamerica is the depositor of the Old Account and will become the depositor of the New Account pursuant to the proposed transactions and associated restructuring of the Old Account (the ''Reorganization'').

2. The Old Account was established by Transamerica as a separate investment account to fund three non-qualified variable annuity contracts (''Contracts''). The Old Account meets the definition of a ''separate account'' under the 1940 Act and is registered under the 1940 Act as an open-end management investment company. The Old Account consists of a single portfolio of primarily equity securities. The investment objective of the Old Account is long-term capital growth. Transamerica is the investment adviser for the Old Account. Transamerica has contracted with Transamerica Investment Services, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Transamerica Corporation, to act as the Old Account's sub-adviser.

3. The Fund is registered open-end, diversified management investment company, established as a Maryland corporation on June 23, 1995. A registration statement on Form N–1A was filed with the Commission on November 3, 1995. The Fund currently consists of one investment portfolio: the Growth Portfolio (''Portfolio''). Additional portfolios may be created from time to time. The Fund initially will offer its shares solely to the New Account as a funding vehicle for the variable annuity contracts supported by the New Account. In the future, the Fund may offer its shares to other insurance company separate accounts supporting other variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts and to qualified pension and retirement plans.

4. The investment objective of the Growth Portfolio is long-term capital growth. Pursuant to an investment advisory agreement and subject to the authority of the Fund's Board of Directors, Transamerica will serve as the Portfolio's investment adviser and will engage Transamerica Investment Services, Inc. to serve as the Fund's sub-adviser.

5. As part of the Reorganization, TSSC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Transamerica Insurance Corporation of California, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Transamerica Corporation, will replace Transamerica Financial Resources, Inc. as the principal underwriter for the Contracts. Future Underwriters also may serve as distributors and principal underwriter for the Contracts. Any such Future Underwriter will be registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and will be a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.

6. As part of the Reorganization, the New Account will be registered as a unit investment trust on Form N–4 under the 1940 Act. The New Account will invest exclusively in shares of the Growth Portfolio.

7. Applicants state that three types of Contracts have been offered through the Old Account in connection with certain retirement programs—Annual Deposit, Single Deposit Deferred and Single Deposit Immediate. Purchase payments made under the Contracts are invested in a portfolio which is comprised principally of equity securities. The Contracts are no longer being offered for sale but additional payments may be made on certain outstanding Contracts.

8. The Annual Deposit Contract and the Single Deposit Deferred Contract provide deferred variable annuities. The Single Deposit Immediate Contract provides an immediate variable annuity. The contracts also provide for, among other things: (a) a variety of annuity payout options beginning on the retirement date; (b) certain minimum and maximum initial and subsequent purchase payments; and (c) a death benefit payable if the annuitant dies before the retirement date.

9. Transamerica deducts an administrative expense charge from each payment made under the Contracts for record keeping and administrative functions related to the Contracts and each Contract owner's account. The charge is guaranteed not to increase and is equal to 2.5% of the first $15,000 of payments made under the contract, 1.5% of the next $35,000 of payments made under the Contract, 0.75% of the next $100,000 of payments made under the Contract, and no charge for payments exceeding $150,000 under the Contract. This charge will continue to be deducted after the Reorganization and will be deducted in reliance upon Rule 26a–1 under the 1940 Act.

10. Transamerica deducts a sales charge from each payment made under the Contracts which is equal to 6.5% of the first $15,000 of payments made under the Contract, 4.5% of next $35,000 of payments made under the contract, 2.0% of the next $100,000 of payments made under the Contract, and no charge for payments exceeding $150,000 under the contract. The sales charge covers expenses relating to the sales of the Contracts. Transamerica will continue to deduct the charge after the Reorganization. Transamerica does not anticipate that the sales charge has or will generate sufficient revenue to pay the cost of distributing the Contracts. If these charges are insufficient to cover Transamerica's expenses, the deficiency will be met from Transamerica's general account, which may include amounts derived from the charge for mortality and expense risks.

11. Transamerica will impose a daily charge on the assets of the New Account to compensate it for bearing certain mortality and expense risks in connection with the Contracts. The maximum amount of the mortality and expense risk charge is equal to an effective annual rate of 1.10% (of which approximately 0.77% is attributable to mortality risk and approximately 0.33% is attributable to expense risk) of the value of the net assets of the New Account. This charge is guaranteed not to increase and will continue to be assessed after the retirement date (the date the first annuity payment is made under a Contract) if annuity payments are made on a variable basis.

12. The mortality risk borne by Transamerica arises from its contractual obligation to make annuity payments (determined in accordance with the annuity tables and other provisions contained in the Contracts) regardless of how long all annuitants or any individual annuitant may live. The mortality risk assumed by Transamerica is the risk that the persons on whose life annuity payments depend, as a group, will live longer than Transamerica's actuarial tables predict. In this event, Transamerica guarantees that annuity payments will not be affected by a change in mortality experience that results in the payment of greater annuity income than assumed under the annuity options in the Contract.

13. The expense risk assumed by Transamerica is the risk that Transamerica's actual expenses in issuing and administering the Contracts and operating the New Account will be more than the charges assessed for such expenses.

14. A fee at an annual rate of 0.30% of the average daily net assets of the Old Account is charged for Transamerica's advisory services. Under the proposed restructuring, the Growth Portfolio will pay Transamerica an advisory fee for managing its investment and business operations which is expected to be equal to an effective annual rate of 0.75% of the average daily net assets of the Growth Portfolio.

15. Transamerica will deduct the aggregate premium taxes paid on behalf of a particular Contract either from: (a) payments as they are received; or (b) the accumulated account value when a conversion is made to provide annuity benefits. Premium taxes currently range up to 3.5%.

16. With respect to Contract outstanding on the date of the Reorganization, Transamerica has agreed to waive a portion of the mortality and expense risk charge to the extent that the sum of the annual expenses to be charged against the Contracts by the New Account plus the Fund's total annual expenses exceeds the annual expenses that would have been charged by the Old Account had the Reorganization not occurred. Any such waiver will remain in effect for the duration of the Contracts and will operate to prevent Contract owners from being charged higher overall fees after the Reorganization than before the Reorganization.[1]

The Proposed Reorganization

1. The Board of Directors of Transamerica, the Board of Managers of the Old Account, and the Board of Directors of the Fund, including a majority of the disinterested members of each of the latter two, have approved an Agreement and Plan of Reorganization (the ''Plan'') and have each adopted resolutions authorizing (1) the restructuring of the old Account from a managed separate account to a separate account organized as a unit investment trust, and (2) the transfer of the portfolio assets and related liabilities of the Old Account to the Growth Portfolio in exchange for shares of the Growth Portfolio of equal value. The Plan is subject to the consideration and approval of persons entitled to vote with respect to the old Account (the ''Old Account Voters'').

2. In connection with its approval of the Plan, the Board of Managers of the Old Account, including a majority of disinterested members, has determined that the Reorganization is in the best interests of the Old Account and that the interests of existing Contract owners will not be diluted as a result of the Reorganization. The Board of Directors of the Fund, including a majority of disinterested members, has determined that the Reorganization is in the best interests of the Fund and that the interests of existing Contract owners will not be diluted as a result of the Reorganization.[2]

3. On the closing date of the Reorganization, Transamerica will

[1] The full 1.10% mortality and expense risk charge is being deducted from the assets of the Old Account. Under the terms of the Plan of Reorganization, Transamerica has agreed to waive or reimburse the mortality and expense risk charge on Contracts outstanding as of the date of the Reorganization to the extent that the sum of annual expenses to be charged by the Fund and the New Account exceeds 1.40% during any year. Applicants currently expect that the mortality and expense risk charge will be assessed at an annual rate of 0.55% of the net assets in the New Account.

[2] The membership of the Board of Managers of the Old Account is the same as that of the Board of Directors of the Fund.

transfer the portfolio assets and related liabilities of the Old Account to the Growth Portfolio of the Fund in exchange for shares of the Growth Portfolio of equal value. Transamerica will record shares issued by the Fund with respect to the Growth Portfolio as assets of the New Account.[3] The indirect interests of Contract owners in the Growth Portfolio immediately following the Reorganization will be equal to their interest in the Old Account immediately prior to the Reorganization.

4. The use of a common underlying investment vehicle will enhance investment flexibility for Contract owners. It is expected that the Reorganization also will reduce costs through less complex record keeping for the New Account, administrative efficiencies, and economies of scale. Contract owners also may benefit to the extent that the common management of a larger asset base will enhance investment flexibility and return, and increase the potential for additional portfolios.

5. The Growth Portfolio will have the same investment objective, substantially the same investment policies and restrictions, the same Board of Directors, and the same investment adviser and sub-adviser as the Old Account, provided such arrangements are approved by the Old Account Voters. The investment advisory fee for the Growth Portfolio may be higher than the current management fee charged to the old Account. The Fund may incur certain other operating expenses which, when added to the investment advisory fee incurred by the Growth Portfolio, results in an amount that may exceed the sum of the investment advisory charge and the other charges currently imposed against the assets of the Old Account. However, if the annual expenses to be charged by the Fund and New Account exceed the annual expenses that would have been charged by the old Account had the Reorganization not occurred, then, as to Contracts outstanding as of the closing date of the Reorganization, Transamerica will reduce the mortality and expense risk charge to fully offset the effect of any and all expenses of a type or in an amount which would not have been borne by the Old Account had the Reorganization not occurred.

6. Transamerica will assume all costs to be incurred in effecting the transactions. The Reorganization will not affect the total amount of fees and charges assessed, directly or indirectly, under existing Contracts. Therefore, the Reorganization will not have any adverse economic impact on Contract owners.

7. Following the Reorganization, Transamerica will offer each Contract owner the opportunity to instruct Transamerica in voting the Growth Portfolio shares attributable to that Contract owner on matters for which Contract owners currently have voting rights. Transamerica will vote shares of the Growth Portfolio held by the New Account which are deemed attributable to the Contracts for which instructions are not provided in proportion to instructions received from the Contract owners. Shares of the Growth Portfolio held by the New Account which are not deemed attributable to Contract owners also will be voted in the same proportions on each issue as the votes received from Contract owners.

Applicants' Legal Analysis

Affilated Transactions

1. Section 17(a) of the 1940 Act generally prohibits any affiliated person of a registered investment company, or an affiliated person of an affiliated person, from selling or purchasing any security or other property to or from such registered investment company. Section 17(b) of the 1940 Act provides generally that the Commission may grant an order exempting a transaction otherwise prohibited by Section 17(a) of the 1940 Act if evidence establishes that: (1) the terms of the proposed transaction, including the consideration to be paid or received, are reasonable and fair and do not involve overreaching on the part of any person concerned; (2) the proposed transaction is consistent with the policy of each registered investment company concerned, as recited in its registration statement and reports filed under the 1940 Act; and (3) the proposed transaction is consistent with the general purposes of the 1940 Act.

2. Each applicant may be deemed to be an affiliated person of the other Applicants or an affiliated person of an affiliated person by virtue of being under the common control of Transamerica, or having Transamerica as investment adviser, under Section 2(a)(3) of the 1940 Act, and the Reorganization may be deemed to entail one or more purchases or sales of securities or property between and among certain Applicants.

3. Rule 17a–8 under the 1940 Act provides exemptive relief for sales of substantially all the assets of one registered investment company to another if such companies are affiliated solely because of common directors, officers or investment advisers. Because of the various relationships among them, Applicants state that they may not be able to rely on Rule 17a–8 in connection with the Reorganization. Applicants state that they intend to conform to the conditions set forth in Rule 17a–8, however, including the requirement that a majority of the independent directors of the Board of Managers of the Old Account and a majority of the independent directors of the Board of Directors of the Fund make certain determinations.

4. Applicants maintain that the proposed Reorganization is in the best interests of the Old Account, benefiting existing Contract owners by facilitating the future expansion of investment alternatives under the Contracts. The addition of new investment portfolios with different investment objectives will be accomplished more economically through the use of a unit investment trust than by the establishment of a new management separate account. Applicants also maintain that, to the extent the Fund is used to fund other separate accounts and qualified pension and retirement plans, Contract owners will benefit from the economies of scale involved, particularly with respect to the level of fixed administrative expenses.

5. Applicants state the conversion of the Old Account from a management investment company to a unit investment trust will result in Contract owner interests which, in practical economic terms, do not differ in any measurable way from such interests immediately prior to the Reorganization. The exchange of the portfolio assets of the Old Account for shares of the Growth Portfolio will be effected in conformity with Section 22(c) of the 1940 Act and Rule 22c–1 thereunder. Transamerica will assume all expenses incurred in preparing for and carrying out the transactions. In addition, the Fund will be organized at no expense to the Old Account or Contract owners. As a result, Contract owners' interests in the New Account immediately after the transactions will be equal to their former interests in the Old Account immediately prior to the transactions, and such Contract owners' interests will not be diluted as a result of the Reorganization.

[3] The total net assets of the Old Account will be determined, in the customary manner, as of the business day immediately preceding the effective date of the Reorganization. The number of shares of the Growth Portfolio of the Fund to be issued to the New Account will be determined by dividing the value of the net assets to be transferred from the old Account by the net asset value per share of the Growth Portfolio. Both determinations will be made in accordance with Section 22(c) and Rule 22c–1.

6. Applicants state that the Reorganization will not require the liquidation of any assets of the Old Account because the Reorganization will take the form of an exchange of the portfolio investments of the Old Account for shares of the Growth Portfolio. Because the investment policies and restrictions of the Growth Portfolio will be identical in substance to those of the Old Account, the only sales of Old Account assets following the Reorganization will be those arising in the ordinary course of business. Therefore, neither the Old Account nor the Fund will incur any extraordinary costs, such as brokerage commissions, in effecting the transfer of assets.

7. Applicants state that Transamerica has received a private letter ruling from the Internal Revenue Service which confirms that the Reorganization will be a tax-free event.

8. Applicants maintain that because the investment objective of the Growth Portfolio will be substantially identical to the investment objectives of the Old Account immediately prior to the Reorganization, the transactions are consistent with the objectives and policies of the Old Account and the Growth Portfolio. Applicants state that, in any case, Transamerica will obtain Contract owner approval of the transactions by at least the vote required under the 1940 Act to effect any change in fundamental investment policy. This eliminates any questions that might otherwise exist as to whether investment in the Growth Portfolio is in compliance with the investment objective and policies of the Old Account.

9. Applicants represent that the proposed transactions do not present any of the issues or abuses that the 1940 Act was designed to prevent. Moreover, Applicants submit that the proposed transactions will be effected in a manner consistent with the public interest and the protection of investors.

Mortality and Expense Risk Charge

1. Sections 26(a)(2)(C) and 27(c)(2) of the 1940 Act, in relevant part, prohibit a registered unit investment trust, its depositor or principal underwriter, from selling periodic payment plan certificates unless the proceeds of all payments, other than sales loads, are deposited with a qualified bank and held under arrangements which prohibit any payment to the depositor or principal underwriter except a reasonable fee, as the Commission may prescribe, for performing bookkeeping and other administrative duties normally performed by the bank itself. Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act authorizes the Commission to grant an exemption from any provision, rule or regulation of the 1940 Act to the extent necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act.

2. Applicants request exemptions from Sections 26(a)(2)(C) and 27(c)(2) of the 1940 Act to the extent necessary to permit the deduction of the 1.10% maximum mortality and expense risk charge from the assets of the New Account. Applicants also request that the relief sought herein apply to Future Underwriters.

3. Applicants state that, without the requested relief as to Future Underwriters, a separate application would have to be filed to request and obtain exemptive relief for any Future Underwriter. Applicants assert that these additional requests for exemptive relief would present no issues under the 1940 Act not already addressed in this application. Applicants state that if exemptive relief were to be sought repeatedly with respect to the same issues addressed in this application, investors would not receive additional protection or benefit, and investors and the new applicants could be disadvantaged by increased costs. Applicants argue that the requested relief is appropriate in the public interest because the relief will promote competitiveness in the variable annuity market by eliminating the need for Transamerica to file redundant exemptive applications, thereby reducing administrative expenses and maximizing efficient use of resources. Elimination of the delay and the expense of repeatedly seeking exemptive relief would enhance the ability to take effective advantage of business opportunities as such opportunities arise. Applicants submit, for all the reasons stated herein, that their request for relief with respect to Future Underwriters is necessary and appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act.

4. Applicants represent that the level of the mortality and expense risk charge proposed under the Contracts is within the range of industry practice for comparable annuity products. This representation is based upon Transamerica's analysis of publicly available information regarding comparable contracts of other companies, taking into consideration the particular annuity features of the comparable contracts, including such factors as annuity purchase rate guarantees, death benefit guarantees, other contract charges, the administrative services performed by Transamerica with respect to the Contracts, the market for the Contracts, investment options under the Contracts, payment features, and the tax status of the Contracts. Applicants state that Transamerica will maintain a memorandum, available to the Commission upon request, setting forth in detail the products analyzed in the course of, and the methodology and results, of its review.

5. Transamerica does not anticipate that the sales charge deducted under the Contracts has or will generate sufficient revenues to pay the cost of distributing the Contracts. If the sales charge is insufficient to cover Transamerica's expenses, the deficiency will be met from Transamerica's general account. Transamerica acknowledges that the charge for mortality and expense risks may be a source of profit, which would increase the general assets of Transamerica available to pay distribution expenses that Transamerica may bear. Under such circumstances, the charges for mortality and expense risks might be viewed as providing for some of the costs related to the distribution of the Contracts.

6. Applicants state that currently there is no distribution financing arrangement for the Contracts because no new Contracts are being distributed. However, to the extent new Contracts are sold in the future, or the continued receipt of payments under the Contracts is deemed to be a distribution, Transamerica will maintain a memorandum demonstrating its conclusion that there is a reasonable likelihood that such distribution financing arrangement will benefit Contract owners and the New Account.

7. Transamerica's represents that the assets of the New Account will be invested only in a management investment company which undertakes, in the event it should adopt a plan for financing distribution expenses pursuant to Rule 12b–1 under the 1940 Act, to have such plan formulated and approved by a board of directors, the majority of whom are not ''interested persons'' of the management investment company within the meaning of Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that, for the reasons set forth above, the requested exemption from Section 17(a) of the 1940 Act to permit the Reorganization meets the standards in Section 17(b) of the 1940 Act. In this regard, Applicants

assert that the Reorganization is fair and reasonable, does not involve overreaching on the part of any person concerned, is consistent with the policy of each registered investment company concerned, as recited in its registration statement and reports filed under the 1940 Act, and is consistent with the provisions, policies and purposes of the 1940 Act.

Applicants further represent that the requested exemptions from Section 26(a)(2)(C) and 27(c)(2) are necessary and appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–23776 Filed 9–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[License No. 10/10–5181]

Calista Business Investment Corporation; Notice of Surrender of License

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 107.105 of the Small Business Administration (SBA) Rules and Regulations governing Small Business Investment Companies (13 CFR 107.105 (1991)), Calista Business Investment Corporation, 516 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, incorporated under the laws of the State of Alaska has surrendered its license, No. 10/10–5181 issued by the SBA on March 31, 1983.

Calista Business Investment Corporation has complied with all conditions set forth by SBA for surrender of its license. Therefore, under the authority vested by the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended, and pursuant to the above-cited Regulation, the license of Calista Business Investment Corporation is hereby accepted and it is no longer licensed to operate as a Small Business Investment Company.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59.011, Small Business Investment Companies)

Dated: September 9, 1996.

Don A. Christensen,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 96–23720 Filed 9–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025–01–P

[License No. 05/05/–0183]

Threshold Ventures, Inc.; Notice of Surrender of License

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 107.105 of the Small Business Administration (SBA) Rules and Regulations governing Small Business Investment Companies (13 CFR 107.105 (1991)), Threshold Ventures, Inc., 819 Twelve Oaks Center, 15500 Wayzata Boulevard, Wazata, MN 55391, incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota has surrendered its license, No. 05/05–0183 issued by the SBA on March 20, 1984.

Threshold Ventures, Inc. has complied with all conditions set forth by SBA for surrender of its license. Therefore, under the authority vested by the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended, and pursuant to the above-cited Regulation, the license of Threshold Ventures, Inc. is hereby accepted and it is no longer licensed to operate as a Small Business Investment Company.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59.011, Small Business Investment Companies)

Dated: September 9, 1996.

Don A. Christensen,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 96–23721 Filed 9–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2443]

Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs; Finding of No Significant Impact: Rio Grande Pipeline Company, Pipeline To Cross the U.S.-Mexico Border at El Paso County, TX

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact with regard to an application to construct, connect, operate and maintain a pipeline to transport petroleum products (liquid petroleum gas) across the U.S.-Mexico border.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Rio Grande Pipeline Company has applied for a Presidential Permit to authorize construction, connection, operation and maintenance of a 8.625 inch diameter pipeline to convey liquid petroleum gas (LPG) across the border to Mexico in El Paso County, Texas.

The proposed pipeline will utilize existing pipelines commencing in Hardisty County, Texas. Approximately 30 miles of new pipeline will be constructed commencing in Hudspeth County, Texas, crossing El Paso County, Texas to cross the border south of the town of San Elizario into Mexico.

The pipeline will continue approximately 20 miles into Mexico, with a terminus at the Mendez Terminal in Ciudad Juarez. The pipeline will initially receive an estimated 16,000 barrels per day for transportation with a capacity for approximately 24,000 barrels per day. The pipeline will facilitate LPG exports from the United States to Mexico at an estimated annual value of 60 to 65 million dollars.

Summary

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500–1508, and the Department's regulations for implementation of NEPA (22 CFR Part 161), the Department of State has conducted an environmental assessment of the proposed construction by Rio Grande Pipeline Company of a LPG pipeline across the international boundary in El Paso County south of San Elizario, Texas. The Department of State is charged with the issuance of Presidential Permits authorizing construction of such international pipelines under Executive Order 11423 (1968), as amended by Executive Order 12847 (1993). Several Federal agencies cooperated in preparation of the environmental assessment, reviewing and commenting on the analysis and conclusions presented therein.

Agencies participating in this process together with the Department of State included: the Environmental Protection Agency, the Departments of Defense, Treasury, Interior, Commerce, Transportation, the Attorney General, the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Safety Board, and the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Interested parties were invited to comment on the proposed application in a Federal Register Notice number 2397, in the Federal Register Vol. 61, No. 104, pages 26945–26946.

Based on the final environmental assessment, which included a preliminary environmental assessment, comments received from interested agencies and responses to those comments, the Department of State has concluded that issuance of a Presidential Permit authorizing construction of the proposed pipeline (as described in the final environmental assessment) will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment within the United States. Therefore, in accordance with CEQ's