

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, Wayzata, 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

NEPA regulations, 40 CFR 1501.4 and 1508.13 and with State Department Regulations, 22 CFR 161.8 (c) an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

#### Factors Considered

The environmental assessment carefully considered delivery alternatives, truck and rail exports of LPG, as well as alternative pipeline routes. National statistics show that pipelines are safer than rail and many times safer than trucks for transporting liquid petroleum products. LPG exports to Mexico by pipeline are the safer alternative than their shipment by rail or truck, especially in the congested border crossing areas. Delivery of LPG to Mexico by pipeline produces substantially less emissions than does delivery by diesel truck and enhances highway safety. The pipeline route corridor selection is based on the most direct routing, use of existing rights-of-way, avoidance of populated areas, and avoidance of cultural and biological resources. No conflicts with active locatable mineral operations, metallic or non-metallic, were identified along the proposed pipeline route. Wetlands, including jurisdictional wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act, will not be affected by the pipeline as all aquatic features will be crossed by boring beneath them. There is no specific habitat for any federally listed Endangered or Threatened species identified in the area. Any disturbances to land, vegetation, wildlife, and socioeconomic resources are expected to be minimal and short-term, arising mainly due to initial pipeline construction.

Further analysis and reasoning supporting the pipeline routing are presented in the original pipeline application. Copies of supporting information for this finding and the final environmental assessment can be obtained from the State Department's office of International Energy and Commodities Policy, 202-647-2887.

#### Environmental Justice

In addition to the analysis conducted in accordance with NEPA, the Department of State addressed environmental justice considerations pursuant to Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994 ("Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations"). Based on its examination of environmental justice considerations, the Department has determined that the proposed pipeline will not have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects

on minority and low-income populations. The analysis supporting this determination can be obtained from the State Department Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy, 202-647-2887.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PIPELINE PERMIT APPLICATION, CONTACT:** Susan Phillips, Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy, Room 3529, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC, 20520, (202) 647-2887.

Dated: August 22, 1996.

Herbert Yarvin,

*Acting Director, International Energy and Commodities Policy.*

[FR Doc. 96-23937 Filed 9-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-M

#### [Public Notice 2442]

#### **Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs; Finding of No Significant Impact: Express Pipeline To Cross the U.S.-Canadian Border From Alberta to Montana**

**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 across the Canada-U.S. border.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Express Pipeline Partnership has applied for a Presidential Permit to authorize construction, connection, operation and maintenance of a crude oil pipeline that would originate at a terminal near Hardisty, Alberta, Canada and cross the international boundary near Simpson, Montana.

Express Pipeline, Inc (Express), an affiliate of Alberta Energy Company Ltd., and TransCanada PipeLines Limited, proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a 24 inch pipeline from Wild Horse (located on the border between Montana and Canada) to Casper, Wyoming.

The pipeline would transport crude oil from the production fields in Alberta, Canada to refineries in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Kansas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee via the existing pipelines downstream of Casper. Initially, the pipeline would be capable of transporting 172,000 barrels of crude oil per day between Hardisty and Casper. With additional pump stations, the capacity could ultimately increase to 280,000 b/d.

#### Summary

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. § 4321 *et seq.*, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, 40 CFR 1500-1508, and the State Department Regulations for Implementation of NEPA, 22 CFR Part 161, the Department of State has prepared an Environmental Assessment of the proposed Express Pipeline permit. In our Environmental Assessment (EA), the State Department proposes to incorporate by reference a final Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management for the proposed pipeline in February 1996. The State Department's EA also includes supplemental information requested by the Department to review the additional reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts from the connection of Express to the existing Platte pipeline or other pipelines, and in particular, any anticipated construction or modifications as a result of the acquisitions and/or connection of such pipelines.

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.

Interested parties were invited to comment on the proposed application in a Federal Register Notice number 2416, in the Federal Register Vol. 61, 37787, July 19, 1996.

Based on the final environmental assessment, which incorporated the final Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior, supplemental information on the cumulative impact of the proposed pipeline and 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 permittee's application of May 3, 1996) will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment within the United States. Therefore, in accordance with CEQ's NEPA regulations, 40 CFR 1501.4 and 1508.13 and with State Department Regulations, 22 CFR 161.8(c), an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.