

Commission's Office of Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by February 8, 1996, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC 20549, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es) specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing shall identify specifically the issues of fact or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After said date, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

Columbia Gas System, Inc. et al. (70-8471)

Columbia Gas System, Inc. ("Columbia"), 20 Montchanin Road, Wilmington, Delaware, 19807, a registered holding company, nineteen wholly-owned subsidiary companies of Columbia,¹ all of which are engaged in

¹ Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. ("Columbia Pennsylvania"), 200 Civic Center Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43215; Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. ("Columbia Ohio"), 200 Civic Center Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43215; Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. ("Columbia Maryland, Inc. "Columbia Maryland"), 200 Civic Center Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43215; Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. ("Columbia Kentucky"), 200 Civic Center Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43215; Commonwealth Gas Services, Inc. ("Commonwealth Services"), 200 Civic Center Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43215; Columbia Gulf Transmission Co. ("Columbia Gulf"), 1700 MacCorkle Avenue, SE., Charleston, West Virginia 25314; Columbia Gas Development Corp. ("Columbia Development"), One Riverway, Houston, Texas 77056; Columbia Natural Resources, Inc. ("Columbia Resources"), 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Charleston, West Virginia 25302; Columbia Coal Gasification Corp. ("Columbia Coal"), 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Charleston, West Virginia 25302; Columbia Energy Services Corp. ("Columbia Services"), 2581 Washington Road, Upper Saint Clair, Pennsylvania 15241; Columbia Gas System Service Corp. ("Service Corporation"), 20 Montchanin Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19807; Columbia Propane Corp. ("Columbia Propane"), 800 Moorehead Park Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23236; Commonwealth Propane, Inc. ("Commonwealth Propane"), 800 Moorehead Park Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23236; Tristar Ventures Corp. ("TriStar Ventures"), 20 Montchanin Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19807; Tristar Capital Corp. ("TriStar Capital"), 20 Montchanin Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19807; Columbia Atlantic Trading Corp. ("Columbia Atlantic"), 20 Montchanin Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19807; Columbia LNG Corp. ("Columbia LNG"), 20 Montchanin Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19807; Columbia Gas Transmission Corp. ("Gas Transmission"), 1700 MacCorkle Avenue, SE, Charleston, West Virginia, 25314; and Columbia Energy Marketing Corp. ("Energy Marketing"), 2581 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15241.

the natural gas business, and twelve subsidiary companies of TriStar Ventures Subsidiaries"),² have filed a post-effective amendment to the application-declaration previously filed under sections 6, 7, 9(a), 10, 12(b), 12(c), and 12(f) of the Act and Rules 42, 43, 45, and 46 thereunder.

By order dated December 22, 1994 (HCAR No. 26201), ("Order"), Columbia, and fourteen of the subsidiary companies ("Subsidiaries"),³ were authorized to recapitalize Columbia Gulf, Columbia Development, and Columbia Coal, to implement the 1995 and 1996 Long-Term and Short-Term Financing Programs of the Subsidiaries, and to continue the Intrastate Money Pool ("Money Pool") through 1996.

By order dated March 14, 1995 (HCAR No. 26251), the TriStar Ventures Subsidiaries were authorized to invest in, but not to borrow from, the Money Pool. By order dated November 8, 1995 (HCAR No. 26404), Gas Transmission and Energy Marketing were authorized to invest in, but not to borrow from, the Money Pool.⁴

Columbia now proposes that the cost of money on all short-term advances from, and the investment rate for money invested in, the Money Pool will be the interest rate per annum (i) equal to the composite weighted average rate on short-term borrowings by Columbia deposited in the Money Pool and/or the weighted average short-term investment rate of the Money Pool, or (ii) should there be no Columbia short-term borrowings deposited in the Money Pool and no Money Pool investments, the interest rate will be the average Federal Funds rate published in the Federal Reserve Statistical Release, Publication

² TriStar Pedrick Limited Corporation, TriStar Pedrick General Corporation, TriStar Binghamton Limited Corporation, TriStar Binghamton General Corporation, TriStar Vineland Limited Corporation, TriStar Vineland General Corporation, TriStar Rumford Limited Corporation, TriStar Georgetown General Corporation, TriStar Georgetown Limited Corporation, TriStar Fuel Cells Corporation, TVC Nine Corporation, and TVC Ten Corporation, all of 20 Montchanin Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19807.

³ Columbia Pennsylvania, Columbia Ohio, Columbia Maryland, Columbia Kentucky, Commonwealth Services, Columbia Gulf, Columbia Development, Columbia Resources, Columbia Coal, Service Corporation, Columbia Propane, Commonwealth Propane, TriStar Capital, and Columbia Atlantic.

⁴ Columbia, Columbia Maryland, and thirty other subsidiary companies of Columbia have pending before the Commission a post-effective amendment that seeks authorization for the sale of securities by Columbia Maryland to Columbia, the proceeds of which will be used to refund other securities previously sold by Columbia Maryland to Columbia and to meet the capital needs of Columbia Maryland in 1996. The Commission issued a notice of the filing of the post-effective amendment on November 17, 1995 (HCAR No. 26411).

H.15(519). A default rate equal to 2% per annum above the pre-default rate on unpaid principal or interest amounts will be assessed if interest or principal payment becomes past due.

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

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-1038 Filed 1-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

[Investment Company Act Release No. 21688; 811-8446]

Van Kampen Merritt California Quality Municipal Trust II; Notice of Application

January 18, 1996.

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

ACTION: Notice of Application for Deregistration under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act").

APPLICANT: Van Kampen Merritt California Quality Municipal Trust II.

RELEVANT ACT SECTION: Section 8 (f).

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicant requests an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company.

FILING DATE: The application was filed on December 27, 1995.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the SEC's Secretary and serving applicant with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on February 12, 1996, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the applicant, 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 SEC's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC. 20549. Applicant, One Parkview Plaza, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane L. Titus, Paralegal Specialist, at (202) 942-0584, or H.R. Hallock, Jr., Special Counsel, at (202) 942-0564 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the

application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee from the SEC's Public Reference Branch.

Applicant's Representations

1. Applicant is a closed-end, diversified management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust. On or about March 25, 1994, applicant registered under the Act and filed a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933. Applicant's registration statement was not declared effective, and applicant has made no public offering of its shares.

2. Applicant has never issued or sold shares of which it is the issuer. Applicant has no shareholders, liabilities, or assets. Applicant is not party to any litigation or administrative proceeding.

3. Applicant is not engaged, and does not propose to engage, in any business activities other than those necessary for the winding-up of its affairs.

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

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-1039 Filed 1-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

[Investment Company Act Release No. 21686; 811-4805]

Van Kampen Merritt Growth Fund (A Series of Van Kampen American Capital Equity Trust); Notice of Application

January 18, 1996.

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

ACTION: Notice of Application for Deregistration under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act").

APPLICANT: Van Kampen Merritt Growth Fund (a series of Van Kampen American Capital Equity Trust, formerly a sub-trust of Van Kampen Merritt Equity Trust).

RELEVANT ACT SECTION: Section 8(f).

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicant requests an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company.

FILING DATE: The application was filed on December 27, 1995.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the SEC's Secretary and serving applicant with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on

February 12, 1996, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the applicant, 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 SEC's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Applicant, One Parkview Plaza, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane L. Titus, Paralegal Specialist, at (202) 942-0584, or H.R. Hallock, Jr., Special Counsel, at (202) 942-0564 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee from the SEC's Public Reference Branch.

Applicant's Representations

1. Applicant is an open-end, diversified management investment company organized as a sub-trust of a Massachusetts business trust. On or about April 19, 1988, applicant registered under the Act and a filed registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933. Applicant's registration statement was declared effective on October 29, 1986, but applicant has made no public offering of its shares.

2. Applicant has never issued or sold shares of which it is the issuer. Applicant has no shareholders, liabilities, or assets. Applicant is not a party to any litigation or administrative proceeding.

3. Applicant is not engaged, and does not propose to engage, in any business activities other than those necessary for the winding-up of its affairs.

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

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-1040 Filed 1-23-96; 8:45 am]

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[Investment Company Act Release No. 21687; 811-8444]

Van Kampen Merritt New York Quality Municipal Trust II; Notice of Application

January 18, 1996.

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

ACTION: Notice of Application for Deregistration under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act").

APPLICANT: Van Kampen Merritt New York Quality Municipal Trust II.

RELEVANT ACT SECTION: Section 8(f).

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicant requests an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company.

FILING DATE: The application was filed on December 27, 1995.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the SEC's Secretary and serving applicant with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on February 12, 1996, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the applicant, 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 SEC's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Applicant, One Parkview Plaza, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane L. Titus, Paralegal Specialist, at (202) 942-0584, or H.R. Hallock, Jr., Special Counsel, at (202) 942-0564 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee from the SEC's Public Reference Branch.

Applicant's Representations

1. Applicant is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust. On or about March 25, 1994, applicant registered under the Act and filed a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933. Applicant's registration statement was not declared effective, and applicant has made no public offering of its shares.

2. Applicant has never issued or sold shares of which it is the issuer. Applicant has no shareholders, liabilities, or assets. Applicant is not a party to any litigation or administrative proceeding.

3. Applicant is not engaged, and does not propose to engage, in any business