

merger (January 28, 2000) authorized in the Commission's order of December 15, 1999 (HCAR No. 27113) ("Merger Order"), authorizing DRI's proposed acquisition of Consolidated Natural Gas Company ("Merger").

At the time of the Merger Order DCI was, through its subsidiaries, a diversified financial services company with its core operations in commercial finance, corporate finance, and consumer finance. Under the terms of the Merger Order, DCI and each of its subsidiaries were to be divested within three years of the Merger.<sup>1</sup> DRI states that in accordance with the Merger Order DRI has diligently undertaken to divest the businesses and assets of DCI. DRI states that it has succeeded in reducing the assets of DCI by a factor of two thirds, from a balance as of December 31, 1999, of \$3,576,460,000 to a balance as of September 30, 2002, of \$1,175,164,000. DRI states that its efforts to divest itself of DCI have been frustrated by the economic recession, low interest rates, and the diverse assets held by DCI. DRI therefore requests that the Commission issue an order authorizing an extension of the time to accomplish divestiture until January 28, 2006, and reserve jurisdiction over any further extension of time which may be required.

DRI states that it proposes to continue an expeditious and prudent program of divesting the assets and lines of business of DCI and to apply the resulting proceeds to reduce the debt portion of DRI's consolidated capitalization. DRI proposes to conduct an annual evaluation as of June 30th of each year of the feasibility of expediting the divestiture of DCI's remaining assets and lines of business in light of changing business and financial market conditions (including the relative feasibility of selling assets at that time or subsequently in order to recover fair value).

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

**Margaret H. McFarland,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-498 Filed 1-9-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 25882; 812-12484]

### Van Kampen Funds Inc., et al.; Notice of Application

January 3, 2003.

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

**ACTION:** Notice of an application under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") for an exemption from section 26(a)(2)(D) of the Act.

*Summary of Application:* Applicants request an order to supercede a prior order ("Prior Order")<sup>1</sup> to permit certain unit investment trusts ("UIT's") to deposit trust assets in the custody of foreign banks and securities depositories.

*Applicants:* Van Kampen Funds Inc. (the "Sponsor") and Van Kampen Focus Portfolios (the "Trust").

*Filing Dates:* The application was filed on March 21, 2001 and amended on December 19, 2002.

*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 Commission's Secretary 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 January 28, 2003 and should be accompanied by proof of service on the applicants 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 Commission's Secretary.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Applicants, 1 Parkview Plaza, P.O. Box 5555, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5555.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Emerson S. Davis, Sr., Senior Counsel, at (202) 942-0714, or Janet M. Grossnickle, Branch Chief, 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

Commission's Public Reference Branch, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0102 (telephone (202) 942-8090).

### Applicants' Representations

1. The Sponsor is a broker-dealer registered under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934. The Trust is registered under the Act and consists of several UITs registered or to be registered under the Securities Act of 1933 ("Trust Series"). Each Trust Series is created under the laws of the United States pursuant to a trust agreement that will contain information specific to that Trust Series and which will incorporate by reference a master trust indenture (the "Indenture") among the Sponsor, a bank (as defined in section 2(a)(5) of the Act), an evaluator and a supervisor. Applicants request that any order granted pursuant to the application extend to any future UIT sponsored by the Sponsor or an entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Sponsor (together with the Trust, the "Trusts" and their series, "Trust Series") and any bank which acts as trustee (a "Trustee") for any Trust Series.

2. Several Trust Series have investment objectives that specify the investment of assets in non-United States securities. To date, the existing Trust Series which invest in foreign securities have been able to deposit such securities in the custody of foreign banks and securities depositories pursuant to the Prior Order. Applicants state that the Commission granted the Prior Order before the most recent amendments to rule 17f-5 under the Act and the adoption of rule 17f-7 under the Act<sup>2</sup> and seek to amend the Prior Order to reflect these changes. Applicants therefore request an order to supercede the Prior Order to permit the Trust Series to deposit investments, including foreign currencies, for which the primary market is outside the United States and such cash and cash equivalents as reasonably necessary to effect the Trust Series' transactions in those investments (collectively, "Foreign Investments"), with any foreign bank or securities depository subject to the requirements described below.

### Applicants' Legal Analysis

1. Under sections 2(a)(5) and 26(a)(1) of the Act, the trustee of a UIT must be a bank that is subject to regulation by the U.S. government or one of the states. Section 26(a)(2)(D) also requires that the

<sup>1</sup> DRI was allowed to retain the owner-lessor interest held by DCI in a hydroelectric facility in Vidalia, Louisiana that is leased to Catalyst Old River Hydroelectric Limited Partnership.

<sup>1</sup> Investment Company Act Release Nos. 23032 (Feb. 20, 1998) (notice) and 23069 (Mar. 18, 1998) (order).

<sup>2</sup> See Investment Company Act Rel. Nos. 23815 (April 29, 1999) (proposing release) and 24424 (April 27, 2000) (adopting release).