

GULFPORT ENERGY CORP
Form S-3/A
July 16, 2007
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 16, 2007

Registration No. 333-143659

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

AMENDMENT NO. 1

TO

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

GULFPORT ENERGY CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation or Organization)

14313 North May Avenue, Suite 100

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73134

(405) 848-8807

73-1521290
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification Number)

Edgar Filing: GULFPORT ENERGY CORP - Form S-3/A

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number,

Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Benjamin E. Russ

General Counsel

14313 North May Avenue, Suite 100

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73134

(405) 242-4404

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

Copies to:

Seth R. Molay, P.C.

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.

1700 Pacific Avenue, Suite 4100

Dallas, TX 75201

(214) 969-2800

(214) 969-4343 (facsimile)

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. "

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. x

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

Table of Contents

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered (1)(2)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit (2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (2)(3)	Amount of Registration Fee (3)
Primary Offering:				
Debt securities (4)				
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (5)				
Total Primary Offering			\$100,000,000	\$3,070
Secondary Offering:				
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	150,000	\$21.82	\$ 3,273,000	\$ 100.48
Total			\$103,273,000	\$3,170.48(6)

- (1) There are being registered an indeterminate principal amount or number of debt securities and common stock as shall have an aggregate offering price not to exceed \$100,000,000. This registration statement shall also cover any additional securities to be offered or issued from stock splits, stock dividends, recapitalizations or similar transactions.
- (2) With respect to the primary offering and pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3, the amount of securities to be registered for each class of securities, the proposed maximum offering price per unit for each class of securities and the proposed aggregate offering price of each class of securities are not specified.
- (3) With respect to securities to be offered for sale by the registrant in the primary offering, the proposed maximum aggregate offering price has been estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) of the rules and regulations under the Securities Act. With respect to shares of our common stock to be offered for resale by the selling stockholder in the secondary offering, the proposed maximum aggregate offering price has been estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) of the rules and regulations under the Securities Act based on the average of the high and low prices reported for the registrant's common stock traded on The Nasdaq Global Select Market on July 12, 2007.
- (4) For debt securities issued with an original issue discount, the amount to be registered is calculated as the initial accreted value of such debt securities.
- (5) In addition to common stock that may be offered for cash, the registrant is registering hereunder such indeterminate number of shares of common stock as may be issuable upon conversion of the debt securities being registered hereunder to the extent any of such debt securities are by their terms convertible into common stock.
- (6) A portion of the fee in the amount of \$3,070 was previously paid with the initial filing of the registration statement on June 11, 2007.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. Neither we nor the selling stockholder may sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Prospectus

Subject to Completion, dated July 16, 2007

\$100,000,000

Common Stock

Debt Securities

150,000 Shares of Common Stock

Offered by

the Selling Stockholder

We may offer and sell, from time to time in one or more offerings, shares of our common stock and debt securities that have an aggregate maximum offering price of \$100,000,000. We may offer these securities separately or together, or in separate series. In addition, the selling stockholder identified in this prospectus under the heading **Selling Stockholder** may sell up to a total of 150,000 shares of our common stock from time to time under this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of our common stock by the selling stockholder.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we or the selling stockholder may offer. Each time we or the selling stockholder sell securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the offering. The supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus, all prospectus supplements and all other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus before you invest in our securities.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 2.

Our common stock is quoted on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol **GPOR**. On July 12, 2007, the last reported sale price of our common stock on The Nasdaq Global Select Market was \$21.77 per share.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is .

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	ii
<u>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	ii
<u>Our Company</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	2
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	11
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	11
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	12
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	19
<u>Selling Stockholder</u>	21
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	22
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	24
<u>Information Incorporated By Reference</u>	24
<u>Legal Matters</u>	25
<u>Experts</u>	25

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. Under this registration statement, we may sell up to a total of \$100,000,000 of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus from time to time in one or more offerings and the selling stockholder may, from time to time, sell up to 150,000 shares of common stock in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we or the selling stockholder may offer. This prospectus does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement as permitted by the rules of the SEC. Each time we or the selling stockholder sell securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. That prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully read both this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, together with the additional information described in this prospectus under the headings "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Information Incorporated by Reference."

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus and in any applicable prospectus supplement, including any information incorporated by reference. Neither we nor the selling stockholder has authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. You should not assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference is accurate at any date other than as of the date of each such document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since the date indicated on the cover page of such documents.

The distribution of this prospectus may be restricted by law in certain jurisdictions. You should inform yourself about and observe any of these restrictions. This prospectus does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which the offer or solicitation is not authorized, or in which the person making the offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so, or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make the offer or solicitation.

When used in this prospectus or in any supplement to this prospectus, the terms "Gulfport," the "Company," "we," "our" and "us" refer to Gulfport Energy Corporation and its subsidiaries, unless otherwise indicated or the context otherwise requires.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus include "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as "may," "will," "should," "could," "would," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "intends," "believes," "estimates," "projects," "predicts," "potential" and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus that address activities, events or developments that we expect or anticipate will or may occur in the future, including such things as estimated future net revenues from oil and gas reserves and the present value thereof, future capital expenditures (including the amount and nature thereof), business strategy and measures to implement strategy, competitive strength, goals, expansion and growth of our business and operations, plans, references to future success, reference to intentions as to future matters and other such matters are forward-looking statements. These statements are based on certain assumptions and analyses made by us in light of our experience and our perception of historical trends, current

Table of Contents

conditions and expected future developments as well as other factors we believe are appropriate in the circumstances. However, whether actual results and developments will conform with our expectations and predictions is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, including those discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement and those discussed in the documents we have incorporated by reference. Consequently, all of the forward-looking statements made in this prospectus, and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, are qualified by these cautionary statements and we cannot assure you that the actual results or developments anticipated by us will be realized or, even if realized, that they will have the expected consequences to or effects on us, our business or operations. We have no intention, and disclaim any obligation, to update or revise any forward looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future results or otherwise.

Table of Contents

OUR COMPANY

We are an independent oil and natural gas exploration and production company with our principal properties located along the Louisiana Gulf Coast. Our operations are concentrated in two fields: West Cote Blanche Bay, or WCBB, and the Hackberry fields. We seek to achieve reserve and production growth and increase our cash flow through our annual drilling programs.

The WCBB field lies approximately five miles off the coast of Louisiana in a shallow bay with water depths averaging eight to ten feet. We own a 100% working interest (79.4% net revenue interest, or NRI), and are the operator, in depths above the base of the 13900 Sand which is located at 11,320 feet. In addition, we own a 40.4% non-operated working interest (30.0% NRI) in depths below the base of the 13900 Sand, which is operated by Chevron Corporation. Our leasehold interests at WCBB contain 5,668 gross acres.

The East Hackberry field is located along the western shore of Lake Calcasieu in Louisiana, 15 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico. We own a 100% working interest (approximately 79% average NRI) in certain producing oil and natural gas properties situated in the East Hackberry field. We hold beneficial interests in approximately 4,150 acres, including the Erwin Heirs Block, which is located on land, and the adjacent State Lease 50 Block, which is located primarily in the shallow waters of Lake Calcasieu. In addition, we recently exercised our option to acquire additional acreage at the Hackberry field. The option will increase our acreage position significantly to approximately 7,450 acres, an increase of approximately 3,300 acres. State approval on the lease is pending.

The West Hackberry field is located on land and is five miles west of Lake Calcasieu in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, approximately 85 miles west of Lafayette and 15 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico. We own a 100% working interest (approximately 87.5% NRI) in 592 acres within the West Hackberry field. Our leases at West Hackberry are located within two miles of one of the United States Department of Energy's Strategic Petroleum Reserves.

We also hold ownership interests in entities that operate in Southeast Asia, Canada and the Williston Basin area of western North Dakota and eastern Montana.

We were organized in June 1997. Our principal executive offices are located at 14313 North May Avenue, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73134, and our telephone number is (405) 848-8807. Our website address is www.gulfportenergy.com. Information contained on our website does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the following risks and all other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus before deciding to invest in our securities. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially and adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of our common stock and our ability to meet our obligations under our debt securities could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Related to Our Business and Industry

The volatility of oil and natural gas prices due to factors beyond our control greatly affects our profitability.

Our revenues, operating results, profitability, future rate of growth and the carrying value of our oil and natural gas properties depend primarily upon the prevailing prices for oil and natural gas. Historically, oil and natural gas prices have been volatile and are subject to fluctuations in response to changes in supply and demand, market uncertainty and a variety of additional factors that are beyond our control, including:

worldwide and domestic supplies of oil and natural gas;

the level of prices, and expectations about future prices, of oil and natural gas;

the cost of exploring for, developing, producing and delivering oil and natural gas;

the expected rates of declining current production;

weather conditions, including hurricanes, that can affect oil and natural gas operations over a wide area;

the level of consumer demand;

the price and availability of alternative fuels;

technical advances affecting energy consumption;

risks associated with operating drilling rigs;

the availability of pipeline capacity;

the price and level of foreign imports;

domestic and foreign governmental regulations and taxes;

Edgar Filing: GULFPORT ENERGY CORP - Form S-3/A

the ability of the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to agree to and maintain oil price and production controls;

political instability or armed conflict in oil and natural gas producing regions; and

the overall economic environment.

These factors and the volatility of the energy markets make it extremely difficult to predict future oil and natural gas price movements with any certainty. For example, over the last three years, the West Texas Intermediate posted price for crude oil has ranged from a low of \$30.83 per barrel, or bbl, in January 2004 to a high of \$71.17 per bbl in July 2006. The Henry Hub spot market price of natural gas has ranged from a low of \$4.20 per million British thermal units, or MMBtu, in October 2006 to a high of \$13.93 per MMBtu in October 2005. Until recently, these prices have generally been at historically high levels. On July 12, 2007, the West Texas Intermediate posted price for crude oil was \$72.50 per bbl for crude oil and the Henry Hub spot market price of natural gas was \$6.655 per MMBtu. Any substantial decline in the price of oil and natural gas will likely have a material adverse effect on our operations, financial condition and level of expenditures for the development of our oil and natural gas reserves, and may result in write downs of oil and natural gas properties due to ceiling test limitations.

Our success depends on finding, developing or acquiring additional reserves.

Our future success depends upon our ability to find, develop or acquire additional oil and natural gas reserves that are economically recoverable. Our proved reserves will generally decline as reserves are depleted,

Table of Contents

except to the extent that we conduct successful exploration or development activities or acquire properties containing proved reserves, or both. To increase reserves and production, we undertake development, exploration and other replacement activities or use third parties to accomplish these activities. We make and expect to continue to make substantial capital expenditures in our business and operations for the development, production, exploration and acquisition of oil and natural gas reserves. To date, we have financed capital expenditures primarily with cash flow from operations, the issuance of equity securities and borrowings under our bank and other credit facilities. Our cash flow from operations and access to capital are subject to a number of variables, including:

our proved reserves;

the level of oil and natural gas we are able to produce from existing wells;

the prices at which oil and natural gas are sold; and

our ability to acquire, locate and produce new reserves.

We cannot assure you that we will have sufficient resources to undertake our exploration and development activity, production and acquisition of oil and natural gas reserves, that our exploratory projects or other replacement activities will result in significant additional reserves or that we will have success drilling productive wells at low finding and development costs. Furthermore, although our revenues may increase if prevailing oil and natural gas prices increase significantly, our finding costs for additional reserves could also increase.

Our failure to successfully identify, complete and integrate future acquisitions of properties or businesses could reduce our earnings and slow our growth.

There is intense competition for acquisition opportunities in our industry. Competition for acquisitions may increase the cost of, or cause us to refrain from, completing acquisitions. Our ability to complete acquisitions is dependent upon, among other things, our ability to obtain debt and equity financing and, in some cases, regulatory approvals. Completed acquisitions could require us to invest further in operational, financial and management information systems and to attract, retain, motivate and effectively manage additional employees. The inability to effectively manage the integration of acquisitions could reduce our focus on subsequent acquisitions and current operations, which, in turn, could negatively impact our earnings and growth. Our financial position and results of operations may fluctuate significantly from period to period, based on whether or not significant acquisitions are completed in particular periods.

Our Canadian oil sands project is a complex undertaking and may not be completed on schedule or at budgeted cost or at all.

During the third quarter of 2006, we purchased a 25% interest in Grizzly Oil Sands ULC, a Canadian unlimited liability company holding leases in the Athabasca region located in northern Alberta Province, Canada near Fort McMurray in the same area as existing oil sands projects. The remaining interests of Grizzly are owned by other entities controlled by Wexford, an affiliate of ours. As of December 31, 2006, our net investment in Grizzly was approximately \$8.5 million. As of July 12, 2007, Grizzly had approximately 400,000 acres under lease. Grizzly drilled 62 core holes during the 2006/2007 winter delineation drilling season and tested three separate lease blocks with four drilling rigs. Core hole samples have been collected and sent to a lab to assess the quantity and thickness of the bitumen in place on our acreage. Future plans may include continuing to acquire leases, additional core hole drilling during the 2007/2008 winter drilling season, and possible construction of a 10,000 barrel per day steam assisted gravity drainage facility as soon as 2008, which could lead to initial production in 2009. Gross capital expenditures for such production facility are currently estimated to be between \$225.0 million and \$250.0 million. This is a complex project and financing has not yet been secured. There can be no assurance that this project can be completed on schedule, at our estimated cost or at all.

Shortage of rigs, equipment, supplies or personnel may restrict our operations.

The oil and natural gas industry is cyclical, and at the present time there is a shortage of drilling rigs, equipment, supplies and personnel. The costs and delivery times of rigs, equipment and supplies has increased as

Table of Contents

drilling activities have increased. In addition, demand for, and wage rates of, qualified drilling rig crews have risen with increases in the number of active rigs in service. In accordance with customary industry practice, we rely on independent third party service providers to provide most of the services necessary to drill new wells. Shortages of drilling rigs, equipment, supplies, personnel, trucking services, tubulars, fracing and completion services and production equipment could delay or restrict our exploration and development operations, which in turn could impair our financial condition and results of operations.

We rely on a few key employees whose absence or loss could disrupt our operations resulting in a loss of revenues.

Many key responsibilities within our business have been assigned to a small number of employees. The loss of their services, particularly the loss of Mike Liddell, our Chairman of the Board, James D. Palm, our Chief Executive Officer, Michael G. Moore, our Chief Financial Officer, or our two geophysicists, Stuart Maier and Randy Wilson, could disrupt our operations resulting in a loss of revenues. We do not have an employment contract with any of our executives, with the exception of Mr. Liddell, and our executives are not restricted from competing with us if they cease to be employed by us. Additionally, as a practical matter, any employment agreement we may enter into will not assure the retention of our employees. In addition, we do not maintain key person life insurance policies on any of our employees. As a result, we are not insured against any losses resulting from the death of our key employees.

Estimates of oil and natural gas reserves are uncertain and may vary substantially from actual production.

There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of proved reserves and in projecting future rates of production and timing of expenditures, including many factors beyond our control. The reserve information incorporated by reference in this prospectus represents only estimates based on reports prepared by Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc. as of December 31, 2006 with respect to our WCBB field and by our personnel with respect to our Hackberry fields and our overrides and non-operated interests. Petroleum engineering is not an exact science. Information relating to our proved oil and natural gas reserves is based upon engineering estimates. Estimates of economically recoverable oil and natural gas reserves and of future net cash flows necessarily depend upon a number of variable factors and assumptions, such as historical production from the area compared with production from other producing areas, future site restoration and abandonment costs, the assumed effects of regulations by governmental agencies and assumptions concerning future oil and natural gas prices, future operating costs, severance and excise taxes, capital expenditures and workover and remedial costs, all of which may in fact vary considerably from actual results. For these reasons, estimates of the economically recoverable quantities of oil and natural gas attributable to any particular group of properties, classifications of such reserves based on risk of recovery and estimates of the future net cash flows expected therefrom prepared by different engineers or by the same engineers at different times may vary substantially. Actual production, revenues and expenditures with respect to our reserves will likely vary from estimates, and such variances may be material.

The present value of future net revenues from our proved reserves is not necessarily the same as the current market value of our estimated oil and natural gas reserves. We base the estimated discounted future net revenue from our proved reserves on prices and costs in effect on the day of estimate. However, actual future net revenues from our oil and natural gas properties also will be affected by factors such as:

actual prices we receive for oil and natural gas;

the amount and timing of actual production;

supply of and demand for oil and natural gas; and

changes in governmental regulations or taxation.

The timing of both our production and our incurrence of costs in connection with the development and production of oil and natural gas properties will affect the timing of actual future net revenues from proved

Table of Contents

reserves, and thus their actual present value. In addition, the 10% discount factor we use when calculating discounted future net cash flows may not be the most appropriate discount factor based on interest rates in effect from time to time and risks associated with us or the oil and natural gas industry in general.

The marketability of our production is dependent upon gathering lines, transportation barges and other facilities that we do not control. When these facilities are unavailable, our operations can be interrupted and our revenues reduced.

The marketability of our oil and natural gas production depends in part upon the availability, proximity and capacity of natural gas lines and transportation barges owned by third parties. In general, we do not control these facilities and our access to them may be limited or denied due to circumstances beyond our control. A significant disruption in the availability of these facilities could adversely impact our ability to deliver to market the oil and natural gas we produce and thereby cause a significant interruption in our operations. We are at particular risk with respect to oil and natural gas produced at our WCBB field, which is our largest field. In October 2006, for example, a natural gas line in this field operated by our natural gas purchaser was ruptured by a third party contractor, requiring the field to be shut in for approximately seven weeks until the line could be repaired. Further, we are dependent on our oil purchaser to provide the barges necessary to transport our oil production from the WCBB field. The increasing demand for transportation barges in the Louisiana Gulf Coast region has adversely impacted our ability to transport our oil production from the tank batteries in our field to shore for delivery. This has required us to shut in or curtail production from time to time as we have only limited storage capacity in the field. If, in the future, we are unable, for any sustained period, to implement acceptable delivery or transportation arrangements, we will be required to again shut in or curtail production from the field. Any such shut in or curtailment, or an inability to obtain favorable terms for delivery of the oil and natural gas produced from the field, would adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Substantially all of our producing properties are located in Louisiana, making us vulnerable to risks associated with operating in this region.

Our operations are concentrated in Louisiana and our largest field, WCBB, is located approximately five miles off the coast of Louisiana in a shallow bay with water depths averaging eight to ten feet. As a result, we may be disproportionately exposed to the impact of delays or interruptions of production from this region caused by weather conditions such as fog or rain, hurricanes or other natural disasters, or lack of field infrastructure. Losses could occur for uninsured risks or in amounts in excess of any existing insurance coverage. We cannot assure you that we will be able to obtain and maintain adequate insurance at rates we consider reasonable or that any particular types of coverage will be available.

Our identified drilling locations comprise an estimation of part of our future drilling plans over several years, making them susceptible to uncertainties that could materially alter the occurrence or timing of their drilling.

We have identified over 200 drilling locations on our Louisiana properties. These drilling locations represent a significant part of our growth strategy. Our ability to drill and develop these locations depends on a number of uncertainties, including the availability of capital, oil and natural gas prices, inclement weather, costs and drilling results. Because of these uncertainties, we do not know if the numerous potential drilling locations we have identified will ever be drilled or if we will be able to produce oil or natural gas from these or any other potential drilling locations. As such, our actual drilling activities may materially differ from those presently identified, which could adversely affect our business.

Operating hazards and uninsured risks may result in substantial losses.

Our operations are subject to all of the hazards and operating risks inherent in drilling for and production of oil and natural gas, including the risk of fire, explosions, blowouts, pipe failure, abnormally pressured formations

Table of Contents

and environmental hazards such as oil spills, gas leaks, ruptures or discharges of toxic gases. The occurrence of any of these events could result in substantial losses to us due to injury or loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property, natural resources and equipment, pollution or other environmental damage, clean-up responsibilities, regulatory investigation and penalties and suspension of operations. For example, in October 2006, an accident occurred north of our production facilities in the WCBB field in southern Louisiana involving two contracted vessels that were performing work on our behalf in the field. A tugboat and two barges laden with construction materials ruptured an underwater natural gas pipeline and a subsequent fire damaged the vessels. Six fatalities resulted from the accident, which is currently under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board and the United States Coast Guard. Several lawsuits relating to this incident have been filed against us, among other parties. Information with respect to this litigation is incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our reports that we file with the SEC. Litigation is inherently uncertain and its outcome cannot be predicted at this time; however, if this litigation is not resolved in a manner that is favorable to us, our financial condition and results of operations may be negatively impacted.

In accordance with customary industry practice, we historically have maintained insurance against some, but not all, of our business risks. We cannot assure you that our insurance will be adequate to cover any losses or liabilities we may suffer. We also cannot predict the continued availability of insurance, or its availability at premium levels that justify its purchase. In addition, we understand that insurance carriers are modifying or otherwise restricting insurance coverage or ceasing to provide certain types of insurance coverage in the Gulf Coast region. We may also be liable for environmental damage caused by previous owners of properties purchased by us, which liabilities may not be covered by insurance.

Our operations are subject to various governmental regulations which require compliance that can be burdensome and expensive.

Our oil and natural gas operations are subject to various federal, state and local governmental regulations that may be changed from time to time in response to economic and political conditions. Matters subject to regulation include discharge permits for drilling operations, drilling bonds, reports concerning operations, the spacing of wells, unitization and pooling of properties and taxation. From time to time, regulatory agencies have imposed price controls and limitations on production by restricting the rate of flow of oil and natural gas wells below actual production capacity to conserve supplies of oil and gas. In addition, the production, handling, storage, transportation, emission and disposal of oil and gas, by-products thereof and other substances and materials produced or used in connection with oil and natural gas operations are subject to regulation under federal, state and local laws and regulations relating to protection of human health and the environment. These laws and regulations have continually imposed increasingly strict requirements for water and air pollution control and waste management. Significant expenditures may be required to comply with governmental laws and regulations applicable to us. We believe the trend of more expansive and stricter environmental legislation and regulations will continue.

We face extensive competition in our industry.

The oil and natural gas industry is intensely competitive, and we compete with other companies that have greater resources. Many of these companies not only explore for and produce oil and natural gas, but also carry on midstream and refining operations and market petroleum and other products on a regional, national or worldwide basis. These competitors may be better positioned to take advantage of industry opportunities and to withstand changes affecting the industry, such as fluctuations in oil and natural gas prices and production, the availability of alternative energy sources and the application of government regulation.

We depend upon two customers for the sale of most of our oil and natural gas production.

The availability of a ready market for any oil and natural gas we produce depends on numerous factors beyond the control of our management, including but not limited to the extent of domestic production and

Table of Contents

imports of oil, the proximity and capacity of gas pipelines, the availability of skilled labor, materials and equipment, the effect of state and federal regulation of oil and natural gas production and federal regulation of gas sold in interstate commerce. The oil and natural gas we produce in Louisiana is sold to purchasers who service the areas where our wells are located. We sell the majority of our oil to Shell Trading Company, or Shell. Shell takes custody of the oil at the outlet from our oil storage barge. At March 31, 2007, our production was being sold in accordance with the posted price for West Texas/New Mexico Intermediate crude plus Platt's trade month average P+ value, plus or minus the Platt's WII/LLS differential less \$3.70 per Bbl for transportation. For the three months ended March 31, 2007 and the year ended December 31, 2006, we sold 99% and 100%, respectively, of our oil production to Shell and 70% and 96%, respectively, of our natural gas production to Chevron. During 2005, we sold 99% of our oil production to Shell and 88% of our natural gas production to Chevron. Our wells are not subject to any agreements that would prevent us from either selling our production on the spot market or committing such gas to a long-term contract; however, there can be no assurance that we will continue to have ready access to suitable markets for our future oil and natural gas production.

Our method of accounting for oil and natural gas properties may result in impairment of asset value.

We use the full cost method of accounting for oil and natural gas operations. Accordingly, all costs, including nonproductive costs and certain general and administrative costs associated with acquisition, exploration and development of oil and natural gas properties, are capitalized. Net capitalized costs are limited to the estimated future net revenues, after income taxes, discounted at 10% per year, from proven oil and natural gas reserves and the cost of the properties not subject to amortization. Such capitalized costs, including the estimated future development costs and site remediation costs, if any, are depleted by an equivalent units-of-production method, converting gas to barrels at the ratio of six Mcf of gas to one barrel of oil.

Companies that use the full cost method of accounting for oil and gas properties are required to perform a ceiling test each quarter. The test determines a limit, or ceiling, on the book value of the oil and gas properties. Net capitalized costs are limited to the lower of unamortized cost net of deferred income taxes or the cost center ceiling. The cost center ceiling is defined as the sum of (a) estimated future net revenues, discounted at 10% per annum, from proved reserves, based on unescalated year-end prices and costs, adjusted for any contract provisions or financial derivatives, if any, that hedge oil and natural gas revenue, and excluding the estimated abandonment costs for properties with asset retirement obligations recorded on the balance sheet, (b) the cost of properties not being amortized, if any, and (c) the lower of cost or market value of unproved properties included in the cost being amortized, less income tax effects related to differences between the book and tax basis of the oil and natural gas properties. If the net book value reduced by the related net deferred income tax liability exceeds the ceiling, an impairment or noncash writedown is required. A ceiling test impairment can give us a significant loss for a particular period. Once incurred, a write down of oil and natural gas properties is not reversible at a later date, even if oil or gas prices increase.

Our use of 2-D and 3-D seismic data is subject to interpretation and may not accurately identify the presence of oil and natural gas, which could adversely affect the results of our drilling operations.

Even when properly used and interpreted, 2-D and 3-D seismic data and visualization techniques are only tools used to assist geoscientists in identifying subsurface structures and hydrocarbon indicators and do not enable the interpreter to know whether hydrocarbons are, in fact, present in those structures. In addition, the use of 3-D seismic and other advanced technologies requires greater predrilling expenditures than traditional drilling strategies, and we could incur losses as a result of such expenditures. As a result, our drilling activities may not be successful or economical.

We have hedged and may in the future hedge a portion of our production, which may result in our making cash payments or prevent us from receiving the full benefit of increases in prices for oil and gas.

To reduce our exposure to short-term fluctuations in the price of oil and natural gas, we periodically enter into hedging arrangements. As of March 31, 2007, we had no hedging arrangements in place. We subsequently

Table of Contents

entered into agreements to hedge 3,500 barrels of production per day for the period of June 2007 through May 2008 at a weighted average daily price of \$70.29 per barrel before transportation costs. For June 2008, we have hedged 3,500 barrels of production per day at a weighted average daily price of \$71.21 per barrel before transportation costs. Under these agreements we have hedged approximately 62% of our estimated production for June through December 2007. Such hedging arrangements may expose us to risk of financial loss in certain circumstances, including instances where production is less than expected or oil prices increase. Significant increases in oil prices could adversely affect our financial position. In addition, our hedging arrangements may limit the benefit to us of increases in the price of oil.

A terrorist attack or armed conflict could harm our business.

Terrorist activities, anti-terrorist efforts and other armed conflicts involving the United States or other countries may adversely affect the United States and global economies and could prevent us from meeting our financial and other obligations. If any of these events occur, the resulting political instability and societal disruption could reduce overall demand for oil and natural gas, potentially putting downward pressure on demand for our services and causing a reduction in our revenues. Oil and natural gas related facilities could be direct targets of terrorist attacks, and our operations could be adversely impacted if infrastructure integral to our customers' operations is destroyed or damaged. Costs for insurance and other security may increase as a result of these threats, and some insurance coverage may become more difficult to obtain, if available at all.

Conservation measures and technological advances could reduce demand for oil and natural gas.

Fuel conservation measures, alternative fuel requirements, increasing consumer demand for alternatives to oil and natural gas, technological advances in fuel economy and energy generation devices could reduce demand for oil and natural gas. Management cannot predict the impact of the changing demand for oil and gas services and products, and any major changes may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We will be subject to the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. If we are unable to timely comply with Section 404 or if the costs related to compliance are significant, our profitability, stock price and results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

Under current rules, we will be required to comply with the provisions of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 as of December 31, 2007. Section 404 requires that we document and test our internal control over financial reporting and issue management's assessment of our internal control over financial reporting. This section also requires that our independent registered public accounting firm opine on those internal controls and management's assessment of those controls. We will be required to evaluate our existing controls against the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, or COSO. During the course of our ongoing evaluation and integration of the internal control over financial reporting, we may identify areas requiring improvement, and we may have to design enhanced processes and controls to address issues identified through this review.

We believe that the out-of-pocket costs, the diversion of management's attention from running the day-to-day operations and operational changes caused by the need to comply with the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act could be significant.

We cannot be certain at this time that we will be able to successfully complete the procedures, certification and attestation requirements of Section 404 or that we or our auditors will not identify material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting. If we fail to comply with the requirements of Section 404 or if we or our auditors identify and report such material weakness, the accuracy and timeliness of the filing of our annual and quarterly reports may be materially adversely affected and could cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which could have a negative effect on the trading price of our common stock. In

Table of Contents

addition, a material weakness in the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting could result in an increased chance of fraud and the loss of customers, reduce our ability to obtain financing and require additional expenditures to comply with these requirements, each of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Risks Related to Our Common Stock

If our quarterly revenues and operating results fluctuate significantly, the price of our common stock may be volatile.

Our revenues and operating results may in the future vary significantly from quarter to quarter. If our quarterly results fluctuate, it may cause our stock price to be volatile. We believe that a number of factors could cause these fluctuations, including:

changes in oil and natural gas prices;

changes in production levels;

changes in governmental regulations and taxes;

geopolitical developments;

the level of foreign imports of oil and natural gas; and

conditions in the oil and natural gas industry and the overall economic environment.

Because of the factors listed above, among others, we believe that our quarterly revenues, expenses and operating results may vary significantly in the future and that period-to-period comparisons of our operating results are not necessarily meaningful. You should not rely on the results of one quarter as an indication of our future performance. It is also possible that in some future quarters, our operating results will fall below our expectations or the expectations of market analysts and investors. If we do not meet these expectations, the price of our common stock may decline significantly.

Our officers and directors together with our largest stockholder control a significant percentage of our common stock, and their interests may conflict with those of our other stockholders.

As of July 12, 2007, our executive officers and directors, in the aggregate, beneficially owned approximately 4% of our outstanding common stock. Additionally, Charles E. Davidson beneficially owned approximately 41% of our outstanding common stock. As a result, these stockholders acting together are able to exercise significant influence over most matters requiring approval by our stockholders, including the election of directors and the approval of significant corporate transactions. Such a concentration of ownership may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of us, including transactions in which stockholders might otherwise receive a premium for their shares over then current market prices.

We can give no assurances as to the market for our common stock.

Since July 14, 2006, our common stock has been listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol GPOR. From February 28, 2006 until that date, our common stock was listed on the NASDAQ National Market. Prior to that date, our common stock was traded on the NASD OTC Bulletin Board under the symbol GPOR.OB. There is a limited market for our shares. We cannot assure you that an active trading market will develop, or if it does, that it will be sustained.

We do not currently pay dividends on our common stock and do not anticipate doing so in the future.

Edgar Filing: GULFPORT ENERGY CORP - Form S-3/A

We have paid no cash dividends on our common stock, and there can be no assurance that we will achieve sufficient earnings to pay cash dividends on our common stock in the future. We intend to retain any earnings to fund our operations. Therefore, we do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. In addition, the terms of our credit agreement prohibit the payment of any dividends to the holders of our common stock.

Table of Contents

A change of control could limit our use of net operating losses.

As of December 31, 2006, we had a net operating loss, or NOL, carry forward of approximately \$95.9 million for federal income tax purposes. Transfers of our stock in the future could result in an ownership change. In such a case, our ability to use the NOLs generated through the ownership change date could be limited. In general, the amount of NOLs we could use for any tax year after the date of the ownership change would be limited to the value of our stock (as of the ownership change date) multiplied by the long-term tax-exempt rate.

Future sales of our common stock may depress our stock price.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market, or the perception that these sales may occur, could cause the market price of our common stock to decline. In addition, the sale of these shares could impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of common or preferred stock. As of July 12, 2007, there were 36,899,563 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding, excluding 117,888 shares of restricted stock awarded under our 2005 Stock Incentive Plan.

In addition, some of our current stockholders may have demand and/or piggyback registration rights in connection with future offerings of our common stock. Demand rights enable the holders to demand that their shares be registered and may require us to file a registration statement under the Securities Act at our expense. Piggyback rights require that we provide notice to the relevant holders of our stock if we propose to register any of our securities under the Securities Act, and grant such holders the right to include their shares in the registration statement.

We could issue additional preferred stock which could be entitled to dividend, liquidation and other special rights and preferences not shared by holders of our common stock or which could have anti-takeover effects.

We are authorized to issue up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. Shares of preferred stock may be issued from time to time in one or more series as our board of directors, by resolution or resolutions, may from time to time determine, each such series to be distinctively designated. The voting powers, preferences and relative, participating, optional and other special rights, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions, if any, of each such series of preferred stock may differ from those of any and all other series of preferred stock at any time outstanding, and, subject to certain limitations of our certificate of incorporation and the Delaware General Corporation Law, or DGCL, our board of directors may fix or alter, by resolution or resolutions, the designation, number, voting powers, preferences and relative, participating, optional and other special rights, and qualifications, limitations and restrictions thereof, of each such series preferred stock. The issuance of any such preferred stock could materially adversely affect the rights of holders of our common stock and, therefore, could reduce the value of our common stock.

In addition, specific rights granted to future holders of preferred stock could be used to restrict our ability to merge with, or sell our assets to, a third party. The ability of our board of directors to issue preferred stock could discourage, delay or prevent a takeover of us, thereby preserving control of the company by the current stockholders.

Provisions in our organizational documents could delay or prevent a change in control of our company, even if that change would be beneficial to our stockholders.

The existence of some provisions in our organizational documents could delay or prevent a change in control of our company, even if that change would be beneficial to our stockholders. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that may make acquiring control of our company difficult.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for general corporate purposes, including without limitation repaying or refinancing all or a portion of our existing short-term and long-term debt, making acquisitions of assets, businesses or securities, capital expenditures and for working capital. Pending the application of the net proceeds, we intend to invest our net proceeds in short-term, investment-grade securities, interest-bearing securities or guaranteed obligations of the United States or its agencies. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of our common stock by the selling stockholder.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated. We have calculated the ratio of earnings to fixed charges by dividing the sum of income from continuing operations plus fixed charges by fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense.

	Three Months Ended	Year Ended December 31,				
	March 31, 2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	12.4	15.2	21.9	3.0	1.6	3.4

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities will be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. The debt securities will be issued under one or more separate indentures between us and a trustee that is qualified to act under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. The trustee for each series of debt securities will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement. Any senior debt securities will be issued under a senior indenture and any subordinated debt securities will be issued under a subordinated indenture. Together, the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are called indentures.

The following description is a summary of the material provisions of the indentures. It does not describe those agreements in their entirety. The forms of indentures are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Any supplemental indentures will be filed by us from time to time by means of an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K and will be available for inspection at the corporate trust office of the trustee, or as described below under **Where You Can Find More Information** and **Information Incorporated By Reference**. The indentures will be subject to, and governed by, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. We will execute a supplemental indenture if and when we issue any debt securities. We urge you to read the indentures and any supplemental indenture because they, and not this description, define your rights as a holder of the debt securities.

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following is a description of the general terms of the debt securities that we may offer. If the terms of any series of debt securities differ from the terms described below, those terms will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of debt securities.

General

The senior debt securities will rank equally with all of our other senior and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will have a junior position to all of our senior debt. The debt securities may be secured or unsecured obligations.

A prospectus supplement and a supplemental indenture relating to any series of debt securities being offered will include specific terms relating to the offering. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the title and type of the debt securities;

the currency or currency unit in which the debt securities will be payable;

the total principal amount of the debt securities;

the percentage of the principal amount at which the debt securities will be issued and any payments due if the maturity of the debt securities is accelerated;

the dates on which the principal of the debt securities will be payable;

the interest rate that the debt securities will bear (or, if they are floating rate securities, the basis for the interest rate) and the interest payment dates for the debt securities;

any conversion or exchange provisions;

any optional redemption provisions;

any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to repurchase or otherwise redeem some or all of the debt securities;

any provisions granting special rights to holders when a specified event occurs;

any changes to or additional events of default or covenants;

Table of Contents

any special tax implications of the debt securities, including provisions for original issue discount securities, if offered;

any restriction on the declaration of dividends or restrictions requiring the maintenance of any asset ratio or the creation or maintenance of reserves;

the names and duties of any co-trustees, calculation agents, paying agents or registrars for the debt securities; and

any other terms of the debt securities.

None of the indentures will limit the amount of debt securities that may be issued by us. Each indenture will allow debt securities to be issued up to the principal amount that may be authorized by us and may be in any currency or currency unit designated by us.

Debt securities of a series may be issued in registered, bearer, coupon or global form.

Denominations