

Western Gas Equity Partners, LP
Form 424B3
June 03, 2015
Table of Contents

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration No. 333-193163**

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are part of an effective registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JUNE 3, 2015

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement

(To Prospectus dated January 15, 2014)

2,000,000 Common Units Representing Limited Partner Interests

All of the common units representing limited partner interests to be sold in this offering are currently held by a wholly owned subsidiary of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (the Selling Unitholder). We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the common units by the Selling Unitholder.

Our common units are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol WGP. On June 2, 2015, the last reported sales price of our common units on the New York Stock Exchange was \$64.27 per common unit.

Investing in our common units involves risks. Limited partnerships are inherently different than corporations. See Risk Factors on page S-7 of this prospectus supplement and on page 1 of the accompanying base prospectus.

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

	Per Common Unit	Total
Public offering price	\$	\$

Edgar Filing: Western Gas Equity Partners, LP - Form 424B3

Underwriting discount	\$	\$
Proceeds to Selling Unitholder (before expenses)	\$	\$

Concurrently with this offering, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (Anadarko) is conducting a public offering of Tangible Equity Units that may settle, in accordance with their terms, into our common units that Anadarko currently owns or may in the future acquire. We are not required to issue common units in connection with the offering or settlement of the Tangible Equity Units. See Summary Recent Developments.

The Selling Unitholder has granted the underwriters an option to purchase up to 300,000 additional common units on the same terms and conditions as set forth above.

The underwriters are offering the common units as set forth under Underwriting. Delivery of the common units will be made on or about , 2015.

Joint Book-Running Managers

J.P. Morgan

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>Summary</u>	S-1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-7
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-8
<u>Selling Unitholder</u>	S-9
<u>Price Range of Common Units and Distribution</u>	S-10
<u>Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	S-11
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-12
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-17
<u>Experts</u>	S-17
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-17
<u>Information Incorporated by Reference</u>	S-19
Prospectus	
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	i
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	ii
<u>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	iii
<u>About Western Gas Equity Partners, LP</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	1
<u>Description of the Common Units</u>	1
<u>The Partnership Agreement of Western Gas Equity Partners, LP</u>	5
<u>Provisions of Our Partnership Agreement Relating to Cash Distributions</u>	16
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences</u>	18
<u>Investment in Our Common Units by Employee Benefit Plans</u>	31
<u>Selling Unitholder</u>	33
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	34
<u>Legal Matters</u>	37
<u>Experts</u>	37

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering of common units. The second part is the accompanying base prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering of common units. Generally, when we refer only to the prospectus, we are referring to both parts combined. If the information about the common unit offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Any statement made in this prospectus or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any other subsequently filed document that is also incorporated by reference into this prospectus modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus. Please read Information Incorporated by Reference on page S-18 of this prospectus supplement.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and any free writing prospectus prepared by us or on our behalf relating to this offering of common units. None of Western Gas Equity Partners, LP, the Selling Unitholder, the underwriters or any of their respective representatives have authorized anyone to provide you with additional or different information. If anyone provides you with additional, different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. The Selling Unitholder and the underwriters are offering to sell the common units, and seeking offers to buy the common units, only in jurisdictions in which such offers and sales are permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus or any free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the dates shown in these documents or that any information we have incorporated by reference herein is accurate as of any date other than the date of the applicable document incorporated by reference. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since such dates.

None of Western Gas Equity Partners, LP, the Selling Unitholder, the underwriters or any of their respective representatives is making any representation to you regarding the legality of an investment in our common units by you under applicable laws. You should consult with your own advisors as to legal, tax, business, financial and related aspects of an investment in our common units.

Table of Contents

Summary

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. It does not contain all of the information that you should consider before making an investment decision. You should read this entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference for a more complete understanding of this offering of common units. Please read Risk Factors on page S-7 of this prospectus supplement and on page 1 of the accompanying base prospectus for information regarding risks you should consider before investing in our common units. Unless the context otherwise indicates, the information included in this prospectus supplement assumes that the underwriters do not exercise their option to purchase additional common units.

Throughout this prospectus, when we use the terms WGP, we, us, our and Western Gas Equity Partners, LP, we are referring to Western Gas Equity Partners, LP in its individual capacity or to Western Gas Equity Partners, LP and its consolidated subsidiaries collectively, as the context requires. As used in this prospectus, (i) our general partner refers to Western Gas Equity Holdings, LLC, the general partner of Western Gas Equity Partners, LP; (ii) WES refers to Western Gas Partners, LP in its individual capacity or to Western Gas Partners, LP and its subsidiaries collectively, as the context requires; (iii) WES GP refers to Western Gas Holdings, LLC, our wholly owned subsidiary and the general partner of Western Gas Partners, LP; (iv) Anadarko refers to Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiaries and affiliates, other than us, our general partner, WES GP, WES, and its subsidiaries; and (v) the Selling Unitholder refers to Western Gas Resources, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Anadarko.

Western Gas Equity Partners, LP

We are a Delaware limited partnership formed to own three types of partnership interests in Western Gas Partners, LP, a publicly traded limited partnership (NYSE: WES). WES is a growth-oriented Delaware master limited partnership organized by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (NYSE: APC) to acquire, own, develop and operate midstream energy assets. Our only cash-generating assets consist of our partnership interests in WES, which, as of March 31, 2015, consisted of the following:

2,583,068 WES general partner units, representing a 1.8% general partner interest in WES;

all of the incentive distribution rights in WES, which entitle us to receive increasing percentages, up to the maximum level of 48.0%, of any incremental cash distributed by WES as certain target distribution levels are reached in any quarter; and

49,296,205 WES common units, representing a 34.8% limited partner interest in WES.

Our primary objective is to increase distributions to our unitholders over time through growth in the distributions payable with respect to our partnership interests in WES.

Business of Western Gas Partners, LP

Western Gas Partners, LP currently owns, or has investments in, assets located in the Rocky Mountains (Colorado, Utah and Wyoming), the Mid-Continent (Kansas and Oklahoma), North-central Pennsylvania and Texas, and is engaged in the business of gathering, processing, compressing, treating and transporting natural gas, condensate, natural gas liquids, or NGLs, and crude oil for Anadarko, as well as for third-party producers and customers. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, approximately 90% of WES's gross margin came from services provided under long-term contracts with fee-based rates with the remainder provided under percent-of-proceeds and keep-whole contracts. WES has entered into fixed-price swap agreements with Anadarko to manage a substantial majority of the commodity price risk inherent in its percent-of-proceeds and keep-whole contracts. A substantial part of WES's business is conducted under long-term contracts with Anadarko.

Table of Contents

As of March 31, 2015, WES owned and operated fourteen natural gas gathering systems, eight natural gas treating facilities, thirteen natural gas processing facilities, three NGL pipelines, four natural gas pipelines and one oil pipeline. In addition, WES had interests in five non-operated natural gas gathering systems, two operated natural gas gathering systems, five operated natural gas treating facilities and three operated natural gas processing facilities, with separate interests accounted for under the equity method in two natural gas gathering systems, one natural gas treating facility, two natural gas processing facilities, three NGL pipelines and one oil pipeline. WES is also constructing Train II at the Lancaster processing facility, with operations expected to commence in the second quarter of 2015, is preparing for construction of Train IV at the Delaware Basin complex, with operations expected to commence in the first quarter of 2016, and has made progress payments towards the construction of another cryogenic unit at its Delaware Basin complex (Train V), with an expected in-service date of mid-2016.

We believe that one of WES's principal strengths is its relationship with Anadarko, and that Anadarko, through its significant indirect economic interest in WES, will continue to be motivated to promote and support the successful execution of WES's business plan and to pursue projects that help enhance the value of WES's business. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, approximately 48% and 49%, respectively, of WES's gathering, transportation and treating throughput (excluding equity investment throughput and throughput measured in barrels) was attributable to natural gas production owned or controlled by Anadarko. For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, approximately 52% and 59%, respectively, of WES's processing throughput (excluding equity investment throughput and throughput measured in barrels) was attributable to natural gas production owned or controlled by Anadarko.

Recent Developments

Concurrent Tangible Equity Unit Offering

Concurrently with this offering, Anadarko has commenced a public offering (the TEU Offering) of Tangible Equity Units (the TEUs) at an initial price of \$50 per TEU. Each TEU is comprised of a three-year senior amortizing note and a prepaid equity purchase contract (the equity purchase contract), which, unless settled earlier at the holder's option, will settle on June 7, 2018. At such settlement, Anadarko will deliver, at its option, a number of our common units that it currently owns or may in the future acquire, or shares of its common stock. We are not required to issue common units in connection with the TEU Offering or the settlement of the equity purchase contracts.

The number of our common units to be delivered upon settlement will vary depending on the 20-day volume weighted average trading price of our common units for the 20 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 23rd scheduled trading day immediately preceding June 7, 2018, but will be not more than common units per equity purchase contract or fewer than common units per equity purchase contract, subject to certain adjustments (including in the event of certain fundamental change transactions with respect to us). Holders of the equity purchase contracts may also elect to settle such purchase contracts early, in which case they will receive a number of common units equal to 90% of the minimum settlement rate referred to in the preceding sentence, unless such early settlement is in connection with certain fundamental change transactions with respect to us.

Anadarko has filed a preliminary prospectus supplement relating to the TEU Offering that contains more information about the terms of the TEUs and the TEU Offering. There can be no assurance that Anadarko will complete the TEU Offering. The completion of this offering is not contingent on the completion of the TEU Offering and the completion of the TEU Offering is not contingent on the completion of this offering.

Most Recent Quarterly Distribution

We raised our distribution to \$0.3425 per unit for the first quarter of 2015, representing a 10% increase over the distribution for the fourth quarter of 2014 and a 37% increase over the distribution for the first quarter of 2014.

Table of Contents

Ownership and Principal Offices of Western Gas Equity Partners, LP

The chart below depicts our organization and ownership structure as of June 2, 2015, after giving effect to this offering (excluding any exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional common units and any settlement of the equity purchase contracts being offered by Anadarko in the TEU Offering).

S-3

Table of Contents

Our principal executive offices are located at 1201 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77380-1046, and our telephone number is (832) 636-6000. Our website is located at <http://www.westerngas.com>. The information on our website is not part of this prospectus.

S-4

Table of Contents

The Offering

Selling Unitholder	Western Gas Resources, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation.
Common Units Outstanding Before and After This Offering	218,913,688 common units.
Common Units Offered by the Selling Unitholder	2,000,000 common units, or 2,300,000 common units if the underwriters exercise in full their option to purchase additional common units.
Use of Proceeds	We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the common units by the Selling Unitholder. See Use of Proceeds.
Concurrent TEU Offering	Concurrently with this offering, Anadarko is conducting a public offering of TEUs, which include equity purchase contracts that may be settled by delivery of common units that Anadarko currently owns or may in the future acquire. We are not required to issue additional common units in connection with the TEU Offering or the settlement of the equity purchase contracts. The completion of this offering is not contingent on the completion of the TEU Offering and the completion of the TEU Offering is not contingent on the completion of this offering. See Recent Developments.
Cash Distributions	<p>Our partnership agreement requires us to distribute all of our cash on hand at the end of each quarter (including, at our general partner's election, all or a portion of cash on hand resulting from working capital borrowings made after the end of the quarter), less reserves established by our general partner. We refer to this cash as available cash, and we define its meaning in our partnership agreement.</p> <p>On April 20, 2015, the board of directors of our general partner declared a cash distribution to our unitholders of \$0.3425 per common unit, or \$75.0 million in aggregate, for the quarter ended March 31, 2015. The cash distribution was paid on May 22, 2015, to unitholders of record at the close of business on April 30, 2015.</p>
Issuance of Additional Securities	We can issue an unlimited number of common units and debt securities without the consent of our unitholders.
Limited Voting Rights	Our general partner manages and operates us. Unlike the holders of common stock in a corporation, you have only limited voting rights on matters affecting our business. You have no right to elect our general partner or its directors on an annual or continuing basis. Our general partner may not be removed except by a vote of the holders of at least 80% of the outstanding common units voting together as a single class, including any limited partner units owned by our general partner and its affiliates, including the Selling Unitholder. Upon completion of this offering and without giving effect to any delivery of common

Table of Contents

units upon settlement of the equity purchase contracts comprising part of the TEUs, the Selling Unitholder will own approximately 87.4% of our common units, or 87.3% of our common units if the underwriters exercise in full their option to purchase additional common units. This will give the Selling Unitholder the ability to prevent the involuntary removal of our general partner.

Eligible Holders and Redemption Only Eligible Holders are entitled to receive distributions or be allocated income or loss from us. Eligible Holders are:

individuals or entities subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by us;
or

entities not subject to United States federal taxation on the income generated by us, so long as all of the entity's owners are subject to such taxation.

We have the right, which we may assign to any of our affiliates, but not the obligation, to acquire all of the common units of any holder that is not an Eligible Holder or that has failed to certify or has falsely certified that such holder is an Eligible Holder. The purchase price for such acquisition would be equal to the lesser of the holder's purchase price and the then-current market price of the common units and may be paid in cash or by delivery of a promissory note, as determined by our general partner.

Limited Call Right If at any time our general partner and its affiliates own more than 95% of the outstanding common units, our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to purchase all of the remaining common units at a price that is not less than the then-current market price of the common units.

Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations For a discussion of material federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to prospective unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the United States, please read "Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" in this prospectus supplement and "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences" in the accompanying base prospectus.

New York Stock Exchange Symbol WGP.

Risk Factors You should read "Risk Factors" on page S-7 of this prospectus supplement and on page 1 of the accompanying base prospectus and found in the documents incorporated herein by reference, as well as the other cautionary statements throughout this prospectus supplement, to ensure you understand the risks associated with an investment in our common units.

Table of Contents

Risk Factors

An investment in our common units involves risk. Before making an investment in the common units offered hereby, you should carefully consider the risk factors included under the caption "Risk Factors" beginning on page 1 of the accompanying base prospectus, as well as the risk factors included in Item 1A. Risk Factors in our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, together with all of the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. In such case, the trading price of the common units could decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment.

S-7

Table of Contents

Use of Proceeds

The common units to be offered and sold using this prospectus will be offered and sold by the Selling Unitholder named in this prospectus. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of such common units. The Selling Unitholder has agreed to reimburse us for all offering expenses.

S-8

Table of Contents**Selling Unitholder**

This prospectus supplement covers the offering of 2,000,000 common units, or 2,300,000 common units if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional common units in full, owned by the Selling Unitholder. These common units were issued to the Selling Unitholder in connection with our initial public offering on December 12, 2012.

Immediately before this offering, the Selling Unitholder directly or indirectly owned 193,387,365 of our outstanding common units, representing an approximate 88.3% limited partner interest in us. Following this offering and without giving effect to any delivery of common units upon settlement of the equity purchase contracts comprising part of the TEUs, the Selling Unitholder will own 191,387,365 common units, or 191,087,365 common units if the underwriters exercise in full their option to purchase additional common units, representing an approximate 87.4% and 87.3% limited partner interest in us, respectively.

The following table sets forth information relating to the Selling Unitholder as of June 2, 2015, based on information supplied to us by the Selling Unitholder on or prior to that date. The Selling Unitholder has agreed to reimburse us for all expenses incurred in connection with this offering of our common units.

The Selling Unitholder is not a broker-dealer registered under Section 15 of the Exchange Act or an affiliate of a broker-dealer registered under Section 15 of the Exchange Act. In making offers and sales pursuant to this prospectus, the Selling Unitholder is deemed to be acting as an underwriter, and its offers and sales are deemed to be made indirectly on our behalf.

Name of Selling Unitholder	Common Units Held Prior to Offering	Common Units That May Be Offered	Common Units Held After Offering(2)	Percentage of Outstanding Common Units After Offering (2)
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (1)	193,387,365	2,000,000	191,387,365	87.4

(1) The common units offered hereby are directly or indirectly held by Western Gas Resources, Inc. Anadarko owns Western Gas Resources, Inc., which owns our general partner. Anadarko may, therefore, be deemed to beneficially own the common units held by Western Gas Resources, Inc. The address for the Selling Unitholder in this table is 1201 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77380. For more information on the beneficial ownership of our common units held by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, see Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, incorporated herein by reference.

(2) Assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional common units in connection with the offering and does not give effect to any delivery of common units upon settlement of the equity purchase contracts comprising part of the TEUs.

Table of Contents**Price Range of Common Units and Distribution**

Our common units trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol WGP. The following table shows the high and low sales prices per common unit, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange, and cash distributions paid per common unit for the periods indicated.

Quarter Ended	High	Low	Distribution per	
			Limited Partner Unit	
June 30, 2015 (through June 2, 2015)	\$ 66.24	\$ 59.22		(1)
March 31, 2015	\$ 64.87	\$ 50.52	\$	0.34250
December 31, 2014	\$ 66.00	\$ 50.68	\$	0.31250
September 30, 2014	\$ 62.48	\$ 54.47	\$	0.29125
June 30, 2014	\$ 62.85	\$ 47.19	\$	0.27125
March 31, 2014	\$ 49.85	\$ 36.63	\$	0.25000
December 31, 2013	\$ 43.96	\$ 35.28	\$	0.23125
September 30, 2013	\$ 44.27	\$ 35.87	\$	0.21375
June 30, 2013	\$ 42.96	\$ 32.08	\$	0.19750
March 31, 2013	\$ 35.53	\$ 29.80	\$	0.17875

(1) The distribution with respect to the quarter ending June 30, 2015 has not yet been declared or paid. We expect to declare and pay a cash distribution within 55 days following the end of the quarter.

The last reported trading price of our common units on the New York Stock Exchange on June 2, 2015 was \$64.27 per common unit. As of June 2, 2015, there were seven record holders of our common units. Please see our registration statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-35753) filed on December 5, 2012, which is incorporated by reference herein, for a description of our common units.

Table of Contents

Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The tax consequences to you of an investment in common units will depend in part on your own tax circumstances. This section should be read in conjunction with **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences** in the accompanying prospectus and **Tax Risks to Our Common Unitholders** in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. You are urged to consult with your tax advisor about the federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax consequences particular to your circumstances.

Tax-Exempt Organizations & Other Investors

Ownership of common units by tax-exempt entities, including employee benefit plans and individual retirement accounts (known as IRAs), and non-U.S. investors raises issues unique to such persons. Please read **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences Tax-Exempt Organizations and Other Investors** in the accompanying prospectus.

S-11

Table of Contents**Underwriting**

J.P Morgan Securities LLC is acting as book-running manager of the offering and as representative of the underwriters to be named below. Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters and each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase, at the public offering price less the underwriting discounts and commissions set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, the number of common units listed next to its name in the following table:

Underwriters	Number of Common Units
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	
Total	2,000,000

The underwriters are committed to purchase all the common units offered by us if they purchase any common units. The underwriting agreement also provides that if an underwriter defaults, the purchase commitments of non-defaulting underwriters may also be increased or the offering may be terminated.

The underwriters propose to offer the common units directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus and to certain dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of \$ _____ per common unit. Any such dealers may resell common units to certain other brokers or dealers at a discount of up to \$ _____ per common unit from the public offering price. After the offering of the common units to the public, the offering price and other selling terms may be changed by the underwriters. Sales of common units made outside of the United States may be made by affiliates of the underwriters.

The underwriters have the option to purchase, within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, up to an additional 300,000 common units. If any common units are purchased with this option, the underwriters will purchase common units in approximately the same proportion as shown in the table above and the underwriters will offer the additional common units on the same terms as those on which the common units are being offered.

The underwriting fee is equal to the public offering price per common unit less the amount paid by the underwriters to us per common unit. The underwriting fee is \$ _____ per common unit. The following table shows the per common unit and total underwriting discounts and commissions to be paid to the underwriters assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional common units.

Per Common Unit	No exercise	Full exercise
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

We estimate that total expense of this offering, including registration, filing and listing fees, printing fees and legal and accounting expenses, but excluding the underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$200,000. The Selling Unitholder has agreed to reimburse us for all expenses incurred in connection with this offering of our common units.

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the web sites maintained by one or more underwriters, or selling group members, if any, participating in the offering. The underwriters may agree to allocate a number of common units to underwriters and selling group members for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the representatives to underwriters and selling group members that may make Internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations.

Table of Contents

The Selling Unitholder, as well as us, our general partner and the executive officers and members of the board of directors of our general partner, have agreed that, without the prior written consent of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, we and they will not directly or indirectly (1) offer for sale, sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of (or enter into any transaction or device that is designed to, or could be expected to, result in the disposition by any person at any time in the future of) any common units or securities convertible into, or exchangeable for common units, or sell or grant options, rights or warrants with respect to any common units or securities convertible into or exchangeable for common units, (2) enter into any swap or other derivatives transaction that transfers to another, in whole or in part, any of the economic benefits or risks of ownership of the common units, (3) file or cause to be filed a registration statement, including any amendment thereto, with respect to the registration of any of our common units or any securities convertible, exercisable or exchangeable into our common units or (4) publicly disclose the intention to do any of the foregoing for a period of 45 days after the date of this prospectus supplement. The restrictions described in this paragraph do not apply to:

the sale of common units to the underwriters pursuant to the underwriting agreement;

the offer and sale of TEUs in the TEU Offering or the delivery of common units upon the settlement of the equity purchase contracts comprising part of the TEUs;

dispositions by an executive officer or director as required or permitted by our benefit plans to reimburse or pay income tax in connection with the vesting of options, rights or warrants;

bona fide gifts by an executive officer or director or dispositions to any trust for the direct or indirect benefit of the officer or director or the officer's or director's immediate family member, provided that the underwriters have received similar lock-up agreements from the recipient or trust, as applicable; or

the issuance by us of common units pursuant to our long-term incentive plan.

J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, in its sole discretion, may release the common units and other securities subject to lock-up agreements described above in whole or in part at any time with or without notice. When determining whether or not to release the common units and other securities from lock-up agreements, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC will consider, among other factors, the holder's reasons for requesting the release, the number of common units or other securities for which the release is being requested and market conditions at the time.

Our common units are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol WGP.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. In the ordinary course of their respective businesses, the underwriters and their affiliates have engaged, and may in the future engage, in financial advisory, commercial banking and/or investment banking transactions with us and our affiliates for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses.

In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers and may at any time hold long and short positions in such securities and instruments. Such investment and securities activities may involve our and our affiliates' securities and instruments. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Because the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) views the common units offered hereby as interests in a direct participation program, the offering is being made in compliance with Rule 2310 of the

Table of Contents

FINRA Conduct Rules. Investor suitability with respect to the common units should be judged similarly to the suitability with respect to other securities that are listed for trading on a national securities exchange.

We and the Selling Unitholder have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or to contribute to payments that may be required to be made in respect of these liabilities.

In connection with this offering, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, which involves making bids for, purchasing and selling common units in the open market for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common units while this offering is in progress. These stabilizing transactions may include making short sales of the common units, which involves the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of common units than they are required to purchase in this offering, and purchasing common units on the open market to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales may be covered shorts, which are short positions in an amount not greater than the underwriters' option to purchase additional common units referred to above, or may be naked shorts, which are short positions in excess of that amount. The underwriters may close out any covered short position either by exercising their option to purchase additional common units, in whole or in part, or by purchasing common units in the open market. In making this determination, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of common units available for purchase in the open market compared to the price at which the underwriters may purchase common units through the option to purchase additional common units. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the common units in the open market that could adversely affect investors who purchase in this offering. To the extent that an underwriter creates a naked short position, it will purchase common units in the open market to cover the position.

The underwriters have advised us that, pursuant to Regulation M of the Securities Act, they may also engage in other activities that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the common units, including the imposition of penalty bids. This means that if the representatives of the underwriters purchase common units in the open market in stabilizing transactions or to cover short sales, the representatives can require the underwriters that sold those shares as part of this offering to repay the underwriting discount received by them.

These activities may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of the Units or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the Units, and, as a result, the price of the common units may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If the underwriters commence these activities, they may discontinue them at any time. The underwriters may carry out these transactions on The New York Stock Exchange, in the over the counter market or otherwise.

Other than in the United States, no action has been taken by us or the underwriters that would permit a public offering of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required. The securities offered by this prospectus supplement may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, nor may this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any other offering material or advertisements in connection with the offer and sale of any such securities be distributed or published in any jurisdiction, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations of that jurisdiction. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement comes are advised to inform themselves about and to observe any restrictions relating to the offering and the distribution of this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities offered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or a solicitation is unlawful.

Table of Contents

Conflicts of Interest

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include sales and trading, commercial and investment banking, advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, market making, brokerage and other financial and non-financial activities and services. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have provided in the past to us and our affiliates and may provide from time to time in the future certain commercial banking, financial advisory, investment banking and other services in the ordinary course of their business, for which they have received and may continue to receive customary fees and commissions. In addition, from time to time, certain of the underwriters and their affiliates may effect transactions for their own account or the accounts of their customers, and hold on behalf of themselves or their customers, long or short positions in our debt or equity securities or loans, and may do so in the future. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also communicate independent investment recommendations, market color or trading ideas and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such assets, securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they should acquire, long and/or short positions in such assets, securities and instruments. J.P. Morgan Securities LLC currently acts as a co-syndication agent and lender under our Revolving Credit Facility, as amended, dated March 26, 2014. In addition, certain of the underwriters are acting as underwriters in the concurrent Anadarko TEU Offering.

Foreign Selling Restrictions

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

The common units have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold in Hong Kong, by means of any document, other than (a) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong and any rules made under that Ordinance; or (b) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of that Ordinance. No advertisement, invitation or document relating to the common units has been or may be issued or has been or may be in the possession of any person for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the common units which are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made under that Ordinance.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Singapore

This prospectus has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of common units may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the common units be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275, of the SFA, or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Table of Contents

Where the common units are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

- (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or
- (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor, securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the common units pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except:
 - (a) to an institutional investor or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA;
 - (b) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer;
 - (c) where the transfer is by operation of law;
 - (d) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA; or
 - (e) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Japan

The common units have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act. Accordingly, the common units may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or for the benefit of a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments Exchange Act and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Table of Contents

Legal Matters

The validity of the common units offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Houston, Texas. Certain legal matters in connection with the common units offered hereby will be passed upon for the underwriters by Latham & Watkins LLP, Houston, Texas.

Experts

The consolidated financial statements of Western Gas Equity Partners, LP and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Forward-Looking Statements

We have made in this prospectus supplement and in the reports and documents incorporated by reference herein, and may from time to time make in other public filings, press releases and statements by management, forward-looking statements concerning operations, economic performance and financial condition. These forward-looking statements include statements preceded by, followed by or that otherwise include the words believes, expects, anticipates, intends, estimates, projects, target, goal, plans, objective, should or similar expressions. These statements discuss future expectations, contain projections of results of operations or financial condition or include other forward-looking information.

Although we and our general partner believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, neither we nor our general partner can give any assurance that such expectations will prove to have been correct. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations include, but are not limited to, the following:

our ability to pay distributions to our unitholders;

our expected receipt of, and the amounts of, distributions from WES;

WES's and Anadarko's assumptions about the energy market;

WES's future throughput, including Anadarko's production, which is gathered or processed by or transported through WES's assets;

operating results of WES;

competitive conditions;

technology;

the availability of capital resources to fund acquisitions, capital expenditures and other contractual obligations of WES, and WES's ability to access those resources from Anadarko or through the debt or equity capital markets;

Table of Contents

supply of, demand for, and the price of, oil, natural gas, NGLs and related products or services;

weather and natural disasters;

inflation;

the availability of goods and services;

general economic conditions, either internationally or domestically or in the jurisdictions in which WES is doing business;

federal, state and local laws, including those that limit Anadarko and other producers' hydraulic fracturing or other oil and natural gas operations;

environmental liabilities;

legislative or regulatory changes, including changes affecting our or WES's status as a partnership for federal income tax purposes;

changes in the financial or operational condition of WES or Anadarko;

changes in WES's or Anadarko's capital program, strategy or desired areas of focus;

WES's commitments to capital projects;

ability of WES to use its senior unsecured revolving credit facility;

creditworthiness of Anadarko or WES's other counterparties, including financial institutions, operating partners, and other parties;

our and WES's ability to repay debt;

WES's ability to mitigate exposure to a substantial majority of the commodity price risks inherent in its percent-of-proceeds and keep-whole contracts;

conflicts of interest among WES, WES GP, WGP and WGP GP, and affiliates, including Anadarko;

WES's ability to maintain and/or obtain rights to operate its assets on land owned by third parties;

our or WES's ability to acquire assets on acceptable terms;

non-payment or non-performance of Anadarko or WES's other significant customers, including under WES's gathering, processing and transportation agreements and its \$260.0 million note receivable from Anadarko;

timing, amount and terms of our or WES's future issuances of equity and debt securities; and

other factors discussed in Risk Factors and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates, included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and in our other public filings and press releases.

The risk factors and other factors noted throughout or incorporated by reference in this prospectus could cause our actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

S-18

Table of Contents

Information Incorporated by Reference

We file annual, quarterly and other reports with and furnish other information to the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file with or furnish to the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, NE, Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-732-0330 for further information on their public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we have filed with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you without actually including the specific information in this prospectus by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and may replace information in this prospectus and information previously filed with the SEC. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (excluding any information furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 on any current report on Form 8-K), after the date of this prospectus supplement and until the termination of this offering:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed on February 26, 2015;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015 filed on May 6, 2015;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on March 3, 2015 and May 15, 2015; and

The description of our common units contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-35753) filed on December 5, 2012. You may obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus from the SEC through the SEC's website at the address provided above. You may request a copy of any document incorporated by reference into this prospectus (including exhibits to those documents specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement), at no cost, by visiting our website at <http://www.westerngas.com>, or by writing or calling us at the following address:

Investor Relations

Western Gas Equity Partners, LP

1201 Lake Robbins Drive

The Woodlands, Texas 77380-1046

Telephone: (832) 636-6000

The information contained on our website is not part of this prospectus.

S-19

Table of Contents

Prospectus

Western Gas Equity Partners, LP

40,000,000 Common Units

The securities to be offered and sold using this prospectus are currently issued and outstanding common units representing limited partner interests in Western Gas Equity Partners, LP. The selling unitholder named in this prospectus may from time to time, in one or more offerings, offer and sell up to 40,000,000 common units. These common units were issued to the selling unitholder in connection with our initial public offering. For a more detailed discussion of the selling unitholder, please read [Selling Unitholder](#).

The selling unitholder may sell these common units through ordinary brokerage transactions, directly to market makers or through any other means described in the section of this prospectus entitled [Plan of Distribution](#), including through sales to underwriters or dealers (in which case this prospectus will be accompanied by a prospectus supplement listing any underwriters, the compensation to be received by the underwriters, and the total amount of money that the selling unitholder will receive in such sale after expenses of the offering are paid).

The selling unitholder may elect to sell all, a portion or none of the common units it offers hereby. The selling unitholder will determine the prices and terms of the sales at the time of each offering made by it, and will be responsible for any fees, discounts or selling commissions due to brokers, dealers or agents. The selling unitholder has agreed to reimburse us for all of the other offering expenses. We will not receive any of the proceeds from any sale of the common units sold pursuant to this prospectus.

This prospectus describes only the general terms of the common units and the general manner in which the selling unitholder will offer the common units. A prospectus supplement will describe the specific manner in which the selling unitholder will offer the securities and also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. In making offers and sales pursuant to this prospectus, the selling unitholder is deemed to be acting as an underwriter, and its offers and sales are deemed to be made indirectly on our behalf.

Our common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol [WGP](#).

You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. You should also read the documents we refer to in the [Where You Can Find More Information](#) section of this prospectus for information on us and our financial statements.

Investing in our securities involves risks. Limited partnerships are inherently different from corporations. You should carefully consider the Risk Factors beginning on page 1 of this prospectus and contained in any applicable prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein before you make an investment in our securities.

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 January 15, 2014.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	i
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	ii
<u>CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	iii
<u>ABOUT WESTERN GAS EQUITY PARTNERS, LP</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	1
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	1
<u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON UNITS</u>	1
<u>THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT OF WESTERN GAS EQUITY PARTNERS, LP</u>	5
<u>PROVISIONS OF OUR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT RELATING TO CASH DISTRIBUTIONS</u>	16
<u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES</u>	18
<u>INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMON UNITS BY EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS</u>	31
<u>SELLING UNITHOLDER</u>	33
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	34
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	37
<u>EXPERTS</u>	37

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus and any prospectus supplement are not an offer to sell, nor a solicitation of an offer to buy, these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of each such document, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of a security. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus, including any information incorporated by reference herein, is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, the selling unitholder named in this prospectus may, from time to time, offer and sell up to the number of common units representing limited partner interests set forth on the cover of this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of us and the common units offered by the selling unitholder under this prospectus.

Each time the selling unitholder sells common units with this prospectus, the selling unitholder is required to provide you with this prospectus and the related prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of a particular offering. A prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change information in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read carefully this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their

entirety by reference to the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed or will be filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Table of Contents

Unless the context otherwise requires, in this prospectus (i) WGP, we, us and our and like terms refer to Western Gas Equity Partners, LP in its individual capacity or to Western Gas Equity Partners, LP and its consolidated subsidiaries collectively, as the context requires; (ii) our general partner refers to Western Gas Equity Holdings, LLC, the general partner of Western Gas Equity Partners, LP; (iii) WES refers to Western Gas Partners, LP in its individual capacity or to Western Gas Partners, LP and its subsidiaries collectively, as the context requires; (iv) WES GP refers to Western Gas Holdings, LLC, our wholly owned subsidiary and the general partner of WES; and (v) Anadarko refers to Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries, excluding us and our general partner.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed a registration statement with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, that registers the offer and sale by the selling unitholder of the securities covered by this prospectus. The registration statement, including the exhibits attached thereto and incorporated by reference therein, contains additional relevant information about us. In addition, we file annual, quarterly and other reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy documents we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for information on the operation of the SEC's public reference room. The SEC maintains a website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we have filed with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you without actually including the specific information in this prospectus by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Information that we later provide to the SEC, and which is deemed to be filed with the SEC, will automatically update information previously filed with the SEC, and may replace information in this prospectus and information previously filed with the SEC.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act (excluding information deemed to be furnished and not filed with the SEC), after the date on which the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part was initially filed with the SEC until all offerings under such registration statement are completed or terminated:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2013, June 30, 2013 and September 30, 2013;

Current Reports on Form 8-K or Form 8-K/A filed on February 4, 2013, March 5, 2013, March 15, 2013, April 19, 2013, November 29, 2013 and December 30, 2013; and

Edgar Filing: Western Gas Equity Partners, LP - Form 424B3

the description of our common units in our registration statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-35753) filed on December 5, 2012, and any subsequent amendment thereto filed for the purpose of updating such description.

These reports contain important information about us, our financial condition and our results of operations.

We make available free of charge on or through our website, <http://www.westerngas.com>, our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to these reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. We make our website content available for information purposes only. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

You may obtain copies of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus from the SEC through the SEC's website at the address provided above. You also may request a copy of any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus (including exhibits to those documents specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus), at no cost, by visiting our website at <http://www.westerngas.com>, or by writing or calling us at the following address.

Investor Relations

Western Gas Equity Partners, LP

1201 Lake Robbins Drive

The Woodlands, Texas 77380-1046

(832) 636-6000

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

We have made in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein, and may from time to time otherwise make in other public filings, press releases and discussions, forward-looking statements concerning our operations, economic performance and financial condition. These statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology including may, will, believe, expect, anticipate, estimate, continue, or other words. These statements discuss future expectations, contain projections of results of operations or financial condition or include other forward-looking information. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that such expectations will be realized.

Our reports, filings and other public announcements, including without limitation this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, may from time to time contain forward-looking statements that are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, which may include statements about our:

our ability to pay distributions to our unitholders;

our expected receipt of, and the amounts of, distributions from WES;

WES's and Anadarko's assumptions about the energy market;

WES's future throughput, including Anadarko's production, which is gathered or processed by or transported through WES's assets;

operating results of WES;

competitive conditions;

technology;

availability of capital resources to fund acquisitions, capital expenditures and other contractual obligations of WES, and WES's ability to access those resources from Anadarko or through the debt or equity capital markets;

supply of, demand for, and the price of, oil, natural gas, NGLs and related products or services;

weather;

inflation;

availability of goods and services;

Table of Contents

general economic conditions, either internationally or domestically or in the jurisdictions in which WES is doing business;

changes in regulations at the federal, state and local level or WES's inability to timely obtain or maintain permits that could affect WES's and WES's customers' activities; environmental risks; regulations by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and liability under federal and state laws and regulations;

legislative or regulatory changes affecting our or WES's status as a partnership for federal income tax purposes;

changes in the financial or operational condition of WES or Anadarko;

changes in WES's or Anadarko's capital program, strategy or desired areas of focus;

WES's commitments to capital projects;

ability of WES to utilize its revolving credit facility;

creditworthiness of Anadarko or WES's other counterparties, including financial institutions, operating partners, and other parties;

our and WES's ability to repay debt;

WES's ability to mitigate commodity price risks inherent in its percent-of-proceeds and keep-whole contracts;

conflicts of interest between WES, WES GP, WGP and our general partner, and affiliates, including Anadarko;

WES's ability to maintain and/or obtain rights to operate its assets on land owned by third parties;

Our or WES's ability to acquire assets on acceptable terms;

non-payment or non-performance of Anadarko or WES's other significant customers, including under WES's gathering, processing and transportation agreements and its \$260.0 million note receivable from Anadarko;

timing, amount and terms of our or WES' s future issuances of equity and debt securities; and

other factors discussed below, in "Risk Factors" included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, in "Management' s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates, in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and elsewhere in our other public filings and press releases.

The risk factors and other factors noted throughout or incorporated by reference in this prospectus could cause our actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents

ABOUT WESTERN GAS EQUITY PARTNERS, LP

We are a Delaware master limited partnership formed in September 2012 by Anadarko to own partnership interests in WES, a publicly traded partnership. WES is a growth-oriented Delaware master limited partnership formed by Anadarko in 2007 to own, operate, acquire and develop midstream energy assets.

RISK FACTORS

Limited partner interests are inherently different from the capital stock of a corporation, although many of the business risks to which we are subject are similar to those that would be faced by a corporation engaged in a similar business. Before you invest in our securities, you should carefully consider the risk factors included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K that are incorporated herein by reference and those that may be included in the applicable prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference herein or therein.

If any of the risks discussed in the foregoing documents were actually to occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations, or cash flow could be materially adversely affected. In that case, our ability to make distributions to our unitholders may be reduced, the trading price of our securities could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The common units to be offered and sold using this prospectus will be offered and sold by the selling unitholder named in this prospectus or in any supplement to this prospectus. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of such common units.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS

The Common Units

The common units are limited partner interests in us. The holders of common units are entitled to participate in partnership distributions and exercise the rights or privileges available to limited partners under our partnership agreement. For a description of the relative rights and preferences of holders of common units in and to partnership distributions, please read this section and Provisions of Our Partnership Agreement Relating to Cash Distributions. For a description of other rights and privileges of limited partners under our partnership agreement, including voting rights, please read The Partnership Agreement of Western Gas Equity Partners, LP.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Duties

Computershare Trust Company, N.A. serves as the registrar and transfer agent for our common units. We will pay all fees charged by the transfer agent for transfers of common units except the following that must be paid by unitholders:

surety bond premiums to replace lost or stolen certificates, taxes and other governmental charges;

special charges for services requested by a unitholder; and

other similar fees or charges.

Table of Contents

There will be no charge to unitholders for disbursements of our cash distributions. We will indemnify the transfer agent, its agents and each of their stockholders, directors, officers and employees against all claims and losses that may arise out of acts performed or omitted for its activities in that capacity, except for any liability due to any gross negligence or intentional misconduct of the indemnified person or entity.

Resignation or Removal

The transfer agent may resign, by notice to us, or be removed by us. The resignation or removal of the transfer agent will become effective upon our appointment of a successor transfer agent and registrar and its acceptance of the appointment. If no successor has been appointed and accepted the appointment within 30 days after notice of the resignation or removal, our general partner may act as the transfer agent and registrar until a successor is appointed.

Transfer of Common Units

By transfer of common units in accordance with our partnership agreement, each transferee of common units shall be admitted as a limited partner with respect to the common units transferred when such transfer and admission are reflected in our books and records. Each transferee:

represents that the transferee has the capacity, power and authority to become bound by our partnership agreement;

automatically agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of, and is deemed to have executed, our partnership agreement; and

is deemed to have given the consents and approvals contained in our partnership agreement, such as the approval of all transactions and agreements that we are entering into in connection with our formation and this offering.

A transferee will become a substituted limited partner of our partnership for the transferred common units automatically upon the recording of the transfer on our books and records. Our general partner will cause any transfers to be recorded on our books and records no less frequently than quarterly.

We may, at our discretion, treat the nominee holder of a common unit as the absolute owner. In that case, the beneficial holder's rights are limited solely to those that it has against the nominee holder as a result of any agreement between the beneficial owner and the nominee holder.

Common units are securities that are transferable according to the laws governing the transfer of securities. In addition to other rights acquired upon transfer, the transferor gives the transferee the right to become a substituted limited partner in our partnership for the transferred common units.

Until a common unit has been transferred on our books, we and the transfer agent may treat the record holder of the unit as the absolute owner for all purposes, except as otherwise required by law or stock exchange regulations.

Comparison of Rights of Holders of WES's Common Units and Our Common Units

Our common units and WES's common units are unlikely to trade in simple relation or proportion to one another. Instead, while the trading prices of our common units and WES's common units are likely to follow

Table of Contents

generally similar broad trends, the trading prices may diverge because, among other things, we participate in WES' s incentive distribution rights and WES' s common unitholders do not. The following table compares certain features of WES' s common units and our common units.

	WES' s Common Units	Our Common Units
Distributions and Incentive		
Distribution Rights	WES pays its limited partners and general partner quarterly distributions equal to the cash it receives from its operations, less certain reserves for expenses and other uses of cash. WES GP currently has a 2.0% general partner interest in WES and owns the incentive distribution rights in WES.	We pay our limited partners quarterly distributions equal to the cash we receive from WES, less certain reserves for expenses and other uses of cash. We do not have incentive distribution rights. As a result, distributions to our common unitholders are based on their respective ownership interests.
Subordinated Units	At its initial public offering, WES issued subordinated units. During the subordination period, WES' s common units had priority over other units to the initial quarterly distribution from WES' s Distributable cash flow. In addition, during the subordination period, WES' s common units carried arrearage rights, which are similar to cumulative rights on preferred stock. On August 15, 2011, pursuant to the terms of WES' s partnership agreement, all of its subordinated units converted into common units on a one-for-one basis in connection with the expiration of the subordination period.	We do not have subordinated units. As a result, our common units carry no rights to arrearages.
Taxation of Entity and Entity		
Owners	WES is a pass-through entity that is not subject to an entity-level federal income tax.	Similarly, we are a pass-through entity that is not subject to an entity-level federal income tax.

Table of Contents

	WES's Common Units	Our Common Units
	<p>WES expects that holders of its common units will benefit for a period of time from tax basis adjustments and remedial allocations of deductions so that they will be allocated a relatively small amount of federal taxable income compared to the cash distributed to them during that period.</p>	<p>We also expect that holders of our common units will benefit for a period of time from tax basis adjustments and remedial allocations of deductions. However, our ownership of WES's incentive distribution rights will cause more taxable income to be allocated to us. As a result, if WES is successful in increasing its distributions over time, our income allocations from the incentive distribution rights will increase and, therefore, our ratio of federal taxable income to cash distributions will increase.</p>
	<p>WES common unitholders receive Schedule K-1s from WES reflecting the unitholders' share of WES's items of income, gain, loss and deduction at the end of each fiscal year.</p>	<p>Similarly, our common unitholders receive Schedule K-1s from us reflecting the unitholders' share of our items of income, gain, loss and deduction at the end of each fiscal year.</p>
Assets and Operations	<p>WES and its subsidiaries own, operate, acquire and develop midstream energy assets that expand their business and operations.</p>	<p>We currently have no independent operations. Our only cash-generating assets are our partnership interests in WES. Accordingly, our financial performance and our ability to pay cash distributions to our unitholders is directly dependent upon the performance of WES.</p>
Limitation on Issuance of Additional Units	<p>WES may issue an unlimited number of additional partnership interests and other equity securities without obtaining unitholder approval.</p>	<p>Similarly, we may issue an unlimited number of additional partnership interests and other equity securities without obtaining unitholder approval.</p>

Table of Contents

THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT OF WESTERN GAS EQUITY PARTNERS, LP

The following is a summary of the material provisions of our partnership agreement. Our partnership agreement has been filed with the SEC and is incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. We will provide prospective investors with a copy of our partnership agreement upon request at no charge.

We summarize the following provisions of our partnership agreement elsewhere in this prospectus:

with regard to distributions of available cash, please read Provisions of Our Partnership Agreement Relating to Cash Distributions ;

with regard to the rights of holders of common units, please read Description of the Common Units ; and

with regard to allocations of taxable income and taxable loss, please read Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences.

Organization and Duration

We were formed in September 2012 by converting WGR Holdings, LLC into a Delaware limited partnership and changing its name to Western Gas Equity Partners, LP. We have a perpetual existence.

Purpose

Under our partnership agreement we are permitted to engage, directly or indirectly, in any business activity that is approved by our general partner and that lawfully may be conducted by a limited partnership organized under Delaware law; provided, however, that our general partner may not cause us to engage, directly or indirectly, in any business activity that our general partner determines would cause us to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes.

Although our general partner has the ability to cause us, our affiliates or our subsidiaries to engage in activities other than the ownership of partnership interests in WES, our general partner has no current plans to do so and may decline to do so free of any fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including any duty to act in good faith or in the best interest of us or our limited partners. Our general partner is authorized in general to perform all acts it determines to be necessary or appropriate to carry out our purposes and to conduct our business.

Power of Attorney

Each limited partner, and each person who acquires a unit from a unitholder, by accepting the unit, automatically grants to our general partner and, if appointed, a liquidator, a power of attorney to, among other things, execute and file documents required for our qualification, continuance or dissolution. The power of attorney also grants our general partner the authority to amend, and to grant consents and waivers under, our partnership agreement.

Capital Contributions

Our unitholders are not obligated to make additional capital contributions, except as described below under Limited Liability.

Table of Contents

Limited Liability

Assuming that a limited partner does not participate in the control of our business within the meaning of the Delaware Act and that he otherwise acts in conformity with the provisions of our partnership agreement, his liability under the Delaware Act will be limited, subject to possible exceptions, to the amount of capital he is obligated to contribute to us for his common units plus his share of any undistributed profits and assets. If it were determined, however, that the right, or exercise of the right, by the limited partners as a group:

to remove or replace our general partner,

to approve some amendments to our partnership agreement, or

to take other action under our partnership agreement,

constituted participation in the control of our business for the purposes of the Delaware Act, then our limited partners could be held personally liable for our obligations under the laws of Delaware, to the same extent as our general partner. This liability would extend to persons who transact business with us who reasonably believe that the limited partner is a general partner. Neither our partnership agreement nor the Delaware Act specifically provides for legal recourse against our general partner if a limited partner were to lose limited liability through any fault of our general partner. While this does not mean that a limited partner could not seek legal recourse, we know of no precedent for this type of a claim in Delaware case law.

Under the Delaware Act, a limited partnership may not make a distribution to a partner if, after the distribution, all liabilities of the limited partnership, other than liabilities to partners on account of their partnership interests and liabilities for which the recourse of creditors is limited to specific property of the partnership, would exceed the fair value of the assets of the limited partnership. For the purpose of determining the fair value of the assets of a limited partnership, the Delaware Act provides that the fair value of property subject to liability for which recourse of creditors is limited will be included in the assets of the limited partnership only to the extent that the fair value of that property exceeds the nonrecourse liability. The Delaware Act provides that a limited partner who receives a distribution and knew at the time of the distribution that the distribution was in violation of the Delaware Act will be liable to the limited partnership for the amount of the distribution for three years. Under the Delaware Act, a substituted limited partner of a limited partnership is liable for the obligations of his assignor to make contributions to the partnership, except that such person is not obligated for liabilities unknown to him at the time he became a limited partner and that could not be ascertained from the partnership agreement.

Limitations on the liability of limited partners for the obligations of a limited partner have not been clearly established in many jurisdictions. While we currently have no operations distinct from WES, if in the future, by our ownership in an operating company or otherwise, it were determined that we were conducting business in any state without compliance with the applicable limited partnership or limited liability company statute, or that the right or exercise of the right by the limited partners as a group to remove or replace our general partner, to approve some amendments to our partnership agreement, or to take other action under our partnership agreement constituted participation in the control of our business for purposes of the statutes of any relevant jurisdiction, then the limited partners could be held personally liable for our obligations under the law of that jurisdiction to the same extent as our general partner under the circumstances. We will operate in a manner that our general partner considers reasonable and necessary or appropriate to preserve the limited liability of the limited partners.

Table of Contents

Voting Rights

The following is a summary of the unitholder vote required for the matters specified below. The holders of a majority of the outstanding units, represented in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum unless any action by the unitholders requires approval by holders of a greater percentage of the units, in which case the quorum will be the greater percentage. In voting their units, our general partner and its affiliates have no fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including any duty to act in good faith or in the best interests of us or the limited partners.

Issuance of additional units	No approval right.
Amendment of our partnership agreement	Certain amendments may be made by our general partner without the approval of our unitholders. Other amendments generally require the approval of a majority of our outstanding units. Please read Amendments to Our Partnership Agreement.
Merger of our partnership or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets	A majority of our outstanding units in certain circumstances. Please read Merger, Sale or Other Disposition of Assets.
Dissolution	A majority of our outstanding units. Please read Termination and Dissolution.
Reconstitution upon dissolution	A majority of our outstanding units. Please read Termination and Dissolution.
Withdrawal of our general partner	Under most circumstances, the approval of a majority of our outstanding units, excluding units held by our general partner and its affiliates, is required for the withdrawal of the general partner prior to June 30, 2018 in a manner that would cause our dissolution. Please read Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner.
Removal of our general partner	Not less than 80% of our outstanding units, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates. Please read Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner.
Transfer of the general partner interest	Our general partner may transfer all, but not less than all, of its general partner interest in us without a vote of our unitholders to (i) an affiliate (other than an individual) or (ii) another entity in connection with its

merger or consolidation with or into, or transfer of all or substantially all of its assets to, such entity. The approval of a majority of the units, excluding units held by our general partner and its affiliates, is required in other circumstances for a transfer of the general partner interest to a third party prior to June 30, 2018. Please read Transfer of General Partner Interest.

If any person or group other than our general partner and its affiliates acquires beneficial ownership of 20% or more of any class of units, that person or group loses voting rights on all of its units. This loss of voting rights does not apply to any person or group that acquires the units from our general partner, its affiliates, their direct

Table of Contents

transferees and their indirect transferees approved by our general partner in its sole discretion or to any person or group who acquires the units with the specific prior approval of our general partner.

Applicable Law; Forum, Venue and Jurisdiction

Our partnership agreement is governed by Delaware law. Our partnership agreement requires that any claims, suits, actions or proceedings:

arising out of or relating in any way to the partnership agreement (including any claims, suits or actions to interpret, apply or enforce the provisions of the partnership agreement);

brought in a derivative manner on our behalf;

asserting a claim of breach of a fiduciary duty owed by any director, officer, or other employee of us or our general partner, or owed by our general partner, to us or the limited partners;

asserting a claim arising pursuant to any provision of the Delaware Act; and

asserting a claim governed by the internal affairs doctrine;

shall be exclusively brought in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware (or, if such court does not have subject matter jurisdiction thereof, any other court located in the State of Delaware with subject matter jurisdiction), regardless of whether such claims, suits, actions or proceedings sound in contract, tort, fraud or otherwise, are based on common law, statutory, equitable, legal or other grounds, or are derivative or direct claims. By purchasing a common unit, a limited partner is irrevocably consenting to these limitations and provisions regarding claims, suits, actions or proceedings and submitting to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware (or such other Delaware courts) in connection with any such claims, suits, actions or proceedings.

Issuance of Additional Securities

Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of additional limited partner interests and other equity securities for the consideration and on the terms and conditions established by our general partner in its sole discretion without the approval of our unitholders.

It is possible that we will fund acquisitions through the issuance of additional units or other equity securities. Holders of any additional units we issue will be entitled to share equally with the then-existing holders of units in our cash distributions. In addition, the issuance of additional partnership interests may dilute the value of the interests of the then-existing holders of units in our net assets.

In accordance with Delaware law and the provisions of our partnership agreement, we may also issue additional partnership interests that have special voting rights to which the common units are not entitled.

Amendments to Our Partnership Agreement

General

Amendments to our partnership agreement may be proposed only by, or with the consent of, our general partner. However, our general partner has no duty or obligation to propose any amendment and may decline to do so free of any fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including any duty to act in good faith or any other standards imposed by the partnership agreement. To adopt a proposed amendment, other than the amendments discussed below, our general partner must seek written approval of the holders of the number of units required to approve the amendment or call a meeting of the limited partners to consider and vote upon the proposed amendment. Except as described below, an amendment must be approved by a majority of our outstanding units.

Table of Contents

Prohibited Amendments

No amendment may be made that would:

- (1) enlarge the obligations of any limited partner without its consent, unless approved by at least a majority of the type or class of limited partner interests so affected, or
- (2) enlarge the obligations of, restrict in any way any action by or rights of, or reduce in any way the amounts distributable, reimbursable or otherwise payable by us to our general partner or any of its affiliates without the consent of our general partner, which may be given or withheld in its sole discretion.

The provision of our partnership agreement preventing the amendments having the effects described in clauses (1) or (2) above can be amended upon the approval of the holders of at least 90% of the outstanding units (including units owned by our general partner and its affiliates).

No Unitholder Approval

Our general partner may generally make amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner or assignee to reflect:

- (1) a change in our name, the location of our principal place of business, our registered agent or its registered office,
- (2) the admission, substitution, withdrawal or removal of partners in accordance with our partnership agreement,
- (3) a change that our general partner determines is necessary or advisable for us to qualify or to continue our qualification as a limited partnership or a partnership in which the limited partners have limited liability under the laws of any state or to ensure that we will not be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxed as an entity for federal income tax purposes,
- (4) an amendment that is necessary, in the opinion of our counsel, to prevent us or our general partner or its directors, officers, agents or trustees, from in any manner being subjected to the provisions of the Investment Company Act, the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, or plan asset regulations adopted under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, whether or not substantially similar to plan asset regulations currently applied or proposed,
- (5) an amendment that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate in connection with the authorization of additional partnership securities or rights to acquire partnership securities,

- (6) any amendment expressly permitted in our partnership agreement to be made by our general partner acting alone,
- (7) an amendment effected, necessitated or contemplated by a merger agreement that has been approved under the terms of our partnership agreement,
- (8) any amendment that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate to reflect and account for the formation by us, or our investment in, any corporation, partnership or other entity, as otherwise permitted by our partnership agreement,
- (9) a change in our fiscal year or taxable year and related changes,
- (10) a merger with or conveyance to another limited liability entity that is newly formed and has no assets, liabilities or operations at the time of the merger or conveyance other than those it receives by way of the merger or conveyance, or
- (11) any other amendments substantially similar to any of the matters described in (1) through (10) above.

Table of Contents

In addition, our general partner may make any amendment to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner or assignee that it determines:

- (1) does not adversely affect our limited partners (or any particular class of limited partners) in any material respect,
- (2) to be necessary or appropriate to satisfy any requirements, conditions or guidelines contained in any opinion, directive, order, ruling or regulation of any federal or state agency or judicial authority or contained in any federal or state statute,
- (3) to be necessary or appropriate to facilitate the trading of our limited partner interests or to comply with any rule, regulation, guideline or requirement of any securities exchange on which such limited partner interests are or will be listed for trading,
- (4) to be necessary or appropriate for any action taken by our general partner relating to splits or combinations of units under the provisions of our partnership agreement, or
- (5) is required to effect the intent of the provisions of our partnership agreement or are otherwise contemplated by our partnership agreement.

Opinion of Counsel and Unitholder Approval

Any amendment that our general partner determines adversely affects in any material respect one or more particular classes of limited partners will require the approval of at least a majority of the class or classes so affected, but no vote will be required by any class or classes of limited partners that our general partner determines are not adversely affected in any material respect. Any amendment that would have a material adverse effect on the rights or preferences of any type or class of outstanding units in relation to other classes of units will require the approval of at least a majority of the type or class of units so affected. Any amendment that reduces the voting percentage required to take any action, other than to remove the general partner or call a meeting, is required to be approved by the affirmative vote of limited partners whose aggregate outstanding units constitute not less than the voting requirement sought to be reduced. For amendments of the type not requiring unitholder approval, our general partner will not be required to obtain an opinion of counsel that an amendment will neither result in a loss of limited liability to the limited partners nor result in our being treated as a taxable entity for federal income tax purposes in connection with any of the amendments. No other amendments to our partnership agreement will become effective without the approval of holders of at least 90% of the outstanding units, voting as a single class, unless we first obtain an opinion of counsel to the effect that the amendment will not affect the limited liability under applicable law of any of our limited partners.

Merger, Sale or Other Disposition of Assets

Our partnership agreement generally prohibits our general partner, without the prior approval of a majority of our outstanding units, from causing us to, among other things, sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets in a single transaction or a series of related transactions, including by way of merger, consolidation or

other combination, or approving on our behalf the sale, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of WES and its subsidiaries. Our general partner may, however, mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or grant a security interest in all or substantially all of our assets without that approval. Our general partner may also sell all or substantially all of our assets under a foreclosure or other realization upon those encumbrances without that approval. Furthermore, our general partner may consummate any merger without the prior approval of our unitholders if we are the surviving entity in the transaction, our general partner has received an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters, the transaction would not result in a material amendment to the partnership agreement (other than an amendment that the general partner could adopt without the consent of the limited partners), each of our units will be an identical unit of our partnership following the transaction and the partnership interests to be issued do not exceed 20% of our outstanding partnership interests immediately prior to the transaction.

Table of Contents

A merger, consolidation or conversion of us requires the prior consent of the general partner. In addition, our partnership agreement provides that, to the maximum extent permitted by law, our general partner has no duty or obligation to consent to any merger, consolidation or conversion of us and may decline to do so free of any fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us, or any of our unitholders. Further, in declining to consent to a merger, consolidation or conversion, our general partner will not be required to act in good faith or pursuant to any other standard imposed by our partnership agreement, any other agreement, under the Delaware Act or any other law, rule or regulation or at equity.

If conditions specified in our partnership agreement are satisfied, our general partner may merge us or any of our subsidiaries into, or convey some or all of our assets to, a newly formed entity if the sole purpose of that merger or conveyance is to effect a mere change in our legal form into another limited liability entity. Our unitholders are not entitled to dissenters' rights of appraisal under our partnership agreement or applicable Delaware law in the event of a merger or consolidation, a sale of substantially all of our assets or any other transaction or event.

Dissolution

We will continue as a limited partnership until dissolved under our partnership agreement. We will dissolve upon:

- (1) the election of our general partner to dissolve us, if approved by a majority of our outstanding units,
- (2) there being no limited partners, unless we are continued without dissolution in accordance with applicable Delaware law,
- (3) the entry of a decree of judicial dissolution of us, or
- (4) the withdrawal or removal of our general partner or any other event that results in its ceasing to be our general partner other than by reason of a transfer of its general partner interest in accordance with our partnership agreement or withdrawal or removal of our general partner following approval and admission of a successor.

Upon a dissolution under clause (4) above, the holders of a majority of our outstanding units may also elect, within specific time limitations, to continue our business on the same terms and conditions described in our partnership agreement by appointing as a successor general partner an entity approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding units, subject to our receipt of an opinion of counsel to the effect that:

- (1) the action would not result in the loss of limited liability of any limited partner, and
- (2) neither our partnership nor WES would be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise be taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes upon the exercise of that right to continue.

Liquidation and Distribution of Proceeds

Upon our dissolution, unless we are reconstituted and continued as a new limited partnership, the person authorized to wind up our affairs (the liquidator) will, acting with all of the powers of our general partner that the liquidator deems necessary or desirable in its judgment, liquidate our assets. The proceeds of the liquidation will be applied as follows:

first, towards the payment of all of our creditors and the settlement of or creation of a reserve for contingent liabilities; and

then, to all partners in accordance with the positive balance in the respective capital accounts.

Table of Contents

If the liquidator determines that a sale would be impractical or would cause a loss to our partners, it may defer liquidation of our assets for a reasonable period of time or distribute assets to partners in kind if it determines that a sale would be impractical or would cause undue loss to the partners.

Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner

Except as described below, our general partner has agreed not to withdraw voluntarily as our general partner prior to June 30, 2018 without obtaining the approval of the holders of at least 80% of the outstanding units, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates, voting as a single class, and furnishing an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters. On or after June 30, 2018, our general partner may withdraw as general partner without first obtaining approval of any unitholder by giving 90 days' written notice, and that withdrawal will not constitute a violation of our partnership agreement. In addition, our general partner may withdraw without unitholder approval upon 90 days' notice to our limited partners if at least 50% of our outstanding common units are held or controlled by one person and its affiliates other than our general partner and its affiliates.

Upon the voluntary withdrawal of our general partner, the holders of a majority of our outstanding units, excluding units held by the withdrawing general partner and its affiliates, may elect a successor to that withdrawing general partner. If a successor is not elected, or is elected but an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters cannot be obtained, we will be dissolved, wound up and liquidated, unless within 180 days after that withdrawal, the holders of a majority of the outstanding units, excluding units held by the withdrawing general partner and its affiliates, agree in writing to continue our business and to appoint a successor general partner. Please read "Dissolution" above.

Our general partner may not be removed unless that removal is approved by the vote of the holders of not less than 80% of our outstanding units, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates, and we receive an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters. Any removal of our general partner is also subject to the approval of a successor general partner by the vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding units. The ownership of more than 20% of our outstanding units by our general partner and its affiliates would give it the practical ability to prevent its removal.

In addition, we will be required to reimburse the departing general partner for all amounts due the departing general partner, including, without limitation, all employee-related liabilities, including severance liabilities, incurred for the termination of any employees employed by the departing general partner or its affiliates for our benefit.

Transfer of General Partner Interest

Except for transfer by our general partner of all, but not less than all, of its general partner interests in us to:

an affiliate of the general partner (other than an individual); or

another entity as part of the merger or consolidation of the general partner with or into another entity or the transfer by the general partner of all or substantially all of its assets to another entity, our general partner may not transfer all or any part of its general partner interest in us to another person prior to June 30, 2018 without the approval of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding units, excluding units held by our general partner and its affiliates. As a condition of this transfer, the transferee must assume the rights and

duties of the general partner to whose interest that transferee has succeeded, agree to be bound by the provisions of our partnership agreement and furnish an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters.

On or after June 30, 2018, our general partner may transfer all or any of its general partner interest in us without obtaining approval of any unitholder.

Table of Contents

Transfer of Ownership Interests in Our General Partner

At any time, Anadarko, as sole member of our general partner, may sell or transfer all or part of its ownership interest in our general partner without the approval of our unitholders.

Change of Management Provisions

Our partnership agreement contains specific provisions that are intended to discourage a person or group from attempting to remove our general partner as general partner or otherwise change management. If any person or group other than our general partner and its affiliates acquires beneficial ownership of 20% or more of any class of our units, that person or group loses voting rights on all of its units. This loss of voting rights does not apply to (i) any person or group that acquires the units from our general partner or its affiliates, (ii) any transferees of that person or group approved by our general partner, or (iii) any person or group that acquires 20% of any class of units with the prior approval of the board of directors of our general partner.

Limited Call Right

If at any time not more than 5% of the then-issued and outstanding limited partner interests of any class are held by persons other than our general partner and its affiliates, our general partner has the right, which it may assign or transfer in whole or in part to any of its affiliates or to us, to acquire all, but not less than all, of the remaining limited partner interests of the class held by unaffiliated persons as of a record date to be selected by our general partner, on at least ten but not more than 60 days' notice. The purchase price in the event of such a purchase will be not less than the then current market price of the common units.

As a result of our general partner's right to purchase outstanding limited partner interests, a holder of limited partner interests may have his limited partner interests purchased at an undesirable time or price. The tax consequences to a unitholder of the exercise of this call right are the same as a sale by that unitholder of his units in the market. Please read "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences - Disposition of Units."

Meetings; Voting

Except as described below regarding a person or group owning 20% or more of units then outstanding, unitholders on the record date will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, meetings of our limited partners and to act upon matters for which approvals may be solicited. Common units that are owned by non-citizen assignees will be voted by our general partner on behalf of such non-citizen assignees, and our general partner will distribute the votes on those common units in the same ratios as the votes of limited partners on other units are cast.

Our general partner does not anticipate that any meeting of unitholders will be called in the foreseeable future. Any action that is required or permitted to be taken by the unitholders may be taken either at a meeting of the unitholders or without a meeting if consents in writing describing the action so taken are signed by holders of the number of units as would be necessary to authorize or take that action at a meeting. Meetings of the unitholders may be called by our general partner or by unitholders owning at least 20% of the outstanding units. Unitholders may vote either in person or by proxy at meetings. The holders of a majority of the outstanding units, represented in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum unless any action by the unitholders requires approval by holders of a greater percentage of the units, in which case the quorum will be the greater percentage.

Each record holder of a unit has a vote according to his percentage interest in us, although additional limited partner interests having special voting rights could be issued. Please read "Issuance of Additional Securities" above. However, if

at any time any person or group, other than our general partner and its affiliates, or a direct or subsequently approved transferee of our general partner or its affiliates, acquires, in the aggregate, beneficial ownership of 20% or more of any class of units then outstanding, that person or group will lose voting rights on

Table of Contents

all of its units and the units may not be voted on any matter and will not be considered to be outstanding when sending notices of a meeting of unitholders, calculating required votes, determining the presence of a quorum or for other similar purposes. For more information on persons and groups to which this loss of voting rights does not apply, please read [Change of Management Provisions](#) above. Common units held in nominee or street name account will be voted by the broker or other nominee in accordance with the instruction of the beneficial owner unless the arrangement between the beneficial owner and his nominee provides otherwise.

Any notice, demand, request, report or proxy material required or permitted to be given or made to record holders of common units under our partnership agreement will be delivered to the record holder by us or by the transfer agent.

Status as Limited Partner

By transfer of common units in accordance with our partnership agreement, each transferee of common units shall be admitted as a limited partner with respect to the common units transferred when such transfer and admission is reflected in our books and records. Except as described under [Limited Liability](#) above, the common units will be fully paid, and unitholders will not be required to make additional contributions.

Non-Citizen Assignees; Redemption

If we are or become subject to federal, state or local laws or regulations that, in the reasonable determination of our general partner, create a substantial risk of cancellation or forfeiture of any property that we have an interest in because of the nationality, citizenship or other related status of any limited partner, we may redeem the units held by the limited partner or assignee at their current market price. To avoid any cancellation or forfeiture, our general partner may require each limited partner or assignee to furnish information about his nationality, citizenship or related status. If a limited partner or assignee fails to furnish information about his nationality, citizenship or other related status within 30 days after a request for the information or our general partner determines after receipt of the information that the limited partner or assignee is not an eligible citizen, the limited partner or assignee may be treated as a non-citizen assignee. In addition to other limitations on the rights of an assignee that is not a substituted limited partner, a non-citizen assignee does not have the right to direct the voting of his units and may not receive distributions in kind upon our liquidation.

Indemnification

Under our partnership agreement, in most circumstances, we will indemnify the following persons, to the fullest extent permitted by law, from and against all losses, claims, damages or similar events:

our general partner,

any departing general partner,

any person who is or was an affiliate of our general partner or any departing general partner,

any person who is or was a member, manager, partner, officer, director, fiduciary or trustee of our general partner or any departing general partner or any affiliate of our general partner or any departing general partner,

any person who is or was serving at the request of our general partner or any departing general partner or any affiliate of our general partner or any departing general partner as an officer, director, member, manager, partner, fiduciary or trustee of another person, or

any person designated by our general partner.

Any indemnification under these provisions will only be out of our assets. Unless it otherwise agrees, our general partner will not be personally liable for, or have any obligation to contribute or loan funds or assets to us

Table of Contents

to enable it to effectuate, indemnification. We may purchase insurance against liabilities asserted against and expenses incurred by persons for our activities, regardless of whether we would have the power to indemnify the person against liabilities under our partnership agreement.

Reimbursement of Expenses

Our partnership agreement requires us to reimburse our general partner for all direct and indirect expenses it incurs or payments it makes on our behalf and all other expenses allocable to us or otherwise incurred by our general partner in connection with operating our business. These expenses include salary, bonus, incentive compensation and other amounts paid to persons who perform services for us or on our behalf and expenses allocated to our general partner by its affiliates. The general partner is entitled to determine in good faith the expenses that are allocable to us.

Books and Reports

Our general partner is required to keep appropriate books of our business at our principal offices. The books will be maintained for both tax and financial reporting purposes on an accrual basis. For fiscal reporting and tax reporting purposes, our year ends on December 31 each year.

We will furnish or make available to record holders of units, within 130 days after the close of each fiscal year, an annual report containing audited financial statements and a report on those financial statements by our independent public accountants. Except for our fourth quarter, we will also furnish or make available summary financial information within 100 days after the close of each quarter.

We will furnish each record holder of a unit with information reasonably required for tax reporting purposes within 100 days after the close of each calendar year. This information is expected to be furnished in summary form so that some complex calculations normally required of partners can be avoided. Our ability to furnish this summary information to unitholders will depend on the cooperation of unitholders in supplying us with specific information. Every unitholder will receive information to assist him in determining his federal and state tax liability and filing his federal and state income tax returns, regardless of whether he supplies us with information.

Right to Inspect Our Books and Records

Our partnership agreement provides that a limited partner can, for a purpose reasonably related to his interest as a limited partner, upon reasonable written demand and at his own expense, have furnished to him:

a current list of the name and last known address of each partner,

a copy of our tax returns,

information as to the amount of cash, and a description and statement of the agreed value of any other property or services, contributed or to be contributed by each partner and the date on which each became a partner,

copies of our partnership agreement, the certificate of limited partnership of the partnership, related amendments and powers of attorney under which they have been executed;

information regarding the status of our business and financial condition; and

any other information regarding our affairs as is just and reasonable.

Our general partner may, and intends to, keep confidential from the limited partners trade secrets or other information the disclosure of which our general partner believes is not in our best interests or which we are required by law or by agreements with third parties to keep confidential.

Table of Contents

Registration Rights

Under our partnership agreement, we have agreed to register for resale under the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws any units or other partnership securities proposed to be sold by our general partner or any of its affiliates or their assignees if an exemption from the registration requirements is not otherwise available. We are obligated to pay all expenses incidental to the registration, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions. However, with respect to the common units offered by this prospectus, Anadarko has agreed to reimburse us for the registration and offering expenses that we incur.

PROVISIONS OF OUR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT RELATING TO CASH DISTRIBUTIONS

Set forth below is a summary of the significant provisions of our partnership agreement that relate to cash distributions.

General

Our partnership agreement requires that, within 55 days after the end of each quarter, we distribute all of our available cash to unitholders of record on the applicable record date.

Definition of Available Cash

Available cash, for any quarter, consists of all cash on hand at the end of that quarter:

less, the amount of cash reserves established by our general partner to:

provide for the proper conduct of our business (including to satisfy general, administrative and other expenses and any debt service requirements);

permit WES GP to make capital contributions to WES if we choose to maintain our 2.0% general partner interest upon the issuance of additional partnership securities by WES;

comply with applicable law, any of our future debt instruments or other agreements; or

provide funds for distributions to our unitholders for any one or more of the next four quarters;

plus, if our general partner so determines, all or a portion of cash on hand on the date of determination of available cash for the quarter resulting from working capital borrowings made after the end of the quarter.

General Partner Interest

Our general partner owns a non-economic general partner interest in us, which does not entitle it to receive cash distributions. However, our general partner may own common units or other equity securities in us and is entitled to

receive cash distributions on any such interests.

Adjustments to Capital Accounts

We will make adjustments to capital accounts upon the issuance of additional units. In doing so, we will allocate any unrealized and, for tax purposes, unrecognized gain or loss resulting from the adjustments to the unitholders and the general partner in the same manner as we allocate gain or loss upon liquidation.

Distributions of Cash Upon Liquidation

If we dissolve in accordance with our partnership agreement, we will sell or otherwise dispose of our assets in a process called a liquidation. We will first apply the proceeds of liquidation to the payment of our creditors in

Table of Contents

the order of priority provided in our partnership agreement and by law and, thereafter, we will distribute any remaining proceeds to the unitholders and our general partner in accordance with their respective capital account balances, as adjusted to reflect any gain or loss upon the sale or other disposition of our assets in liquidation.

Our Sources of Distributable Cash

Our only cash-generating assets are our partnership interests in WES. Therefore, our cash flow and resulting ability to make cash distributions will be completely dependent upon the ability of WES to make cash distributions in respect of those partnership interests. The actual amount of cash that WES has available for distribution will primarily depend on the amount of cash it generates from its operations. The actual amount of this cash will fluctuate from quarter to quarter based on certain factors, including:

the level of capital expenditures it makes;

the level of its operating and maintenance and general and administrative costs;

its debt service requirements and other liabilities;

fluctuations in its working capital needs;

its ability to borrow funds and access capital markets;

its treatment as a flow-through entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes;

restrictions contained in debt agreements to which it is a party; and

the amount of cash reserves established by WES GP.

Our Partnership Interests in WES

All of our cash flows are generated from the cash distributions we receive with respect to our partnership interests in WES, which, as of December 31, 2013 consisted of the following:

2,385,436 WES general partner units, representing a 2.0% general partner interest in WES;

all of the incentive distribution rights in WES, which entitle us to receive increasing percentages, up to the maximum level of 48.0%, of any incremental cash distributed by WES as certain target distribution levels

are reached in any quarter; and

49,296,205 WES common units, representing a 41.2% limited partner interest in WES.

Distributions by WES of Available Cash from Operating Surplus

WES's partnership agreement provides that distributions of available cash from operating surplus for any quarter will be made in the following manner:

first, 98.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2.0% to WES's general partner until WES distributes for each outstanding unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and

thereafter, in the manner described in WES Incentive Distribution Rights below.

WES Incentive Distribution Rights

The right of WES GP, our wholly owned subsidiary and the general partner of WES, to receive incentive distributions is contained in WES's partnership agreement. WES's partnership agreement provides that if a quarterly cash distribution to WES's common units exceeds a target of \$0.345 per common unit and WES has distributed available cash from operating surplus on outstanding common units in an amount necessary to eliminate any cumulative arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.30 per common

Table of Contents

unit, then WES will distribute any additional available cash from operating surplus for that quarter among the unitholders and its general partner, WES GP, in the following manner:

first, 98.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2.0% to WES's general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.345 per unit for that quarter (the first target distribution);

second, 85.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 15.0% to WES's general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.375 per unit for that quarter (the second target distribution);

third, 75.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 25.0% to WES's general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.450 per unit for that quarter (the third target distribution); and

thereafter, 50.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 50.0% to WES's general partner.

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

This section summarizes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to prospective common unitholders and is based upon current provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), existing and proposed U.S. Treasury regulations thereunder (the Treasury Regulations), and current administrative rulings and court decisions, all of which are subject to change. Changes in these authorities may cause the federal income tax consequences to a prospective common unitholder to vary substantially from those described below, possibly on a retroactive basis. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this section to we or us are references to Western Gas Equity Partners, LP.

Legal conclusions contained in this section, unless otherwise noted, are the opinion of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. insofar as they related to matters of U.S. federal income tax law and are based on the accuracy of representations made by us and by WES to them for this purpose. However, this section does not address all federal income tax matters that affect us or our common unitholders and does not describe the application of the alternative minimum tax that may be applicable to certain unitholders. Furthermore, this section focuses on common unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the United States (for federal income tax purposes), who have the U.S. dollar as their functional currency, who use the calendar year as their taxable year, and who hold common units as capital assets (generally, property that is held for investment). This section has limited applicability to corporations, partnerships, entities treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes, estates, trusts, non-resident aliens or other common unitholders subject to specialized tax treatment, such as tax-exempt institutions, non-U.S. persons, individual retirement accounts (IRAs), employee benefit plans, real estate investment trusts or mutual funds. Accordingly, we encourage each common unitholder to consult such unitholder's own tax advisor in analyzing the federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax consequences that are particular to that unitholder resulting from ownership or disposition of its units and potential changes in applicable tax laws.

No ruling has been or will be requested from the IRS regarding any matter affecting us. Instead, we are relying on opinions and advice of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. with respect to the matters described herein. Unlike a ruling, an opinion of counsel represents only that counsel's best legal judgment and does not bind the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or a court. Accordingly, the opinions and statements made herein may not be sustained by a court if contested by the IRS. Any such contest of the matters described herein may materially and adversely impact the market for our

units and the prices at which such units trade. In addition, our costs of any contest with the IRS will be borne indirectly by our common unitholders because the costs will reduce our cash available for distribution. Furthermore, the tax consequences of an investment in us may be significantly modified by future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions, which may be retroactively applied.

For the reasons described below, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has not rendered an opinion with respect to the following federal income tax issues: (1) the treatment of a common unitholder whose units are the subject of a securities loan (e.g., a loan to a short seller to cover a short sale of units) (please read Tax Consequences of

Table of Contents

Unit Ownership Treatment of Securities Loans); (2) whether our monthly convention for allocating taxable income and losses is permitted by existing Treasury Regulations (please read Disposition of Units Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees); and (3) whether our method for taking into account Section 743 adjustments is sustainable in certain cases (please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Section 754 Election and Uniformity of Units).

Taxation of the Partnership

Partnership Status

We expect to be treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes and, therefore, generally will not be liable for entity-level federal income taxes. Instead, as described below, each of our common unitholders will take into account its respective share of our items of income, gain, loss and deduction in computing its federal income tax liability as if the common unitholder had earned such income directly, even if we make no cash distributions to the common unitholder.

Section 7704 of the Code generally provides that publicly traded partnerships will be treated as corporations for federal income tax purposes. However, if 90% or more of a partnership's gross income for every taxable year it is publicly traded consists of qualifying income, the partnership may continue to be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes (the Qualifying Income Exception). Qualifying income includes (i) income and gains derived from the refining, transportation, storage, processing and marketing of crude oil, natural gas and products thereof (including NGLs), (ii) interest (other than from a financial business), (iii) dividends, (iv) gains from the sale of real property (v) gains from the sale or other disposition of capital assets held for the production of qualifying income and (vi) our allocable share of such income from WES.

We estimate that less than 2% of our current gross income is not qualifying income; however, this estimate could change from time to time.

Based upon the factual representations made by us, by WES and by our general partner, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. is of the opinion that we and WES will each be treated as a partnership and each of our and WES's partnership or limited liability company subsidiaries will be treated as a partnership or will be disregarded as an entity separate from us or WES, as applicable, for federal income tax purposes. The representations made by us, by WES and by our general partner upon which Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has relied in rendering its opinion include, without limitation:

- (a) Neither we nor WES nor any of our or WES's partnership or limited liability company subsidiaries has elected to be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes;
- (b) For each taxable year, more than 90% of our and WES's gross income has been and will be income of a character that Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has opined is qualifying income within the meaning of Section 7704(d) of the Code; and
- (c) Each hedging transaction that we treat or WES treats as resulting in qualifying income has been and will be appropriately identified as a hedging transaction pursuant to applicable Treasury Regulations, and has been and will be associated with oil, natural gas, or products thereof that are held or to be held by us in activities that Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has opined result in qualifying income.

We believe that these representations are true and will be true in the future.

If we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, other than a failure that is determined by the IRS to be inadvertent and that is cured within a reasonable time after discovery (in which case the IRS may also require us to make adjustments with respect to our common unitholders or pay other amounts), we will be treated as transferring all of our assets, subject to liabilities, to a newly formed corporation, on the first day of the year in which we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, in return for stock in that corporation and then as

Table of Contents

distributing that stock to our common unitholders in liquidation. This deemed contribution and liquidation should not result in the recognition of taxable income by our common unitholders or us so long as our liabilities do not exceed the tax basis of our assets. Thereafter, we would be treated as an association taxable as a corporation for federal income tax purposes.

The present federal income tax treatment of publicly traded partnerships, including us, or an investment in our common units may be modified by administrative or legislative action or judicial interpretation at any time. For example, from time to time, members of the U.S. Congress propose and consider substantive changes to the existing federal income tax laws that affect publicly traded partnerships. One such legislative proposal would have eliminated the Qualifying Income Exception upon which we rely for our treatment as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We are unable to predict whether any such changes will ultimately be enacted. However, it is possible that a change in law could affect us and may be applied retroactively. Any such changes could negatively impact the value of an investment in our units.

If for any reason we are taxable as a corporation in any taxable year, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction would be taken into account by us in determining the amount of our liability for federal income tax, rather than being passed through to our common unitholders. Moreover, if WES were taxable as a corporation in any given year, our share of WES's items of income, gain, loss and deduction would generally not be passed through to us, and WES would be subject to tax on its income at corporate rates. In addition, any distribution made to a common unitholder (or by WES to us, as applicable) would be treated as (i) taxable dividend income to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, then (ii) a nontaxable return of capital to the extent of the common unitholder's tax basis in our units (or, if applicable, our tax basis in our interest in WES), and thereafter (iii) taxable capital gain. Accordingly, taxation of us or of WES as a corporation would result in a material reduction in a unitholder's cash flow and after-tax return and thus would likely result in a substantial reduction of the value of the units.

The remainder of this discussion is based on the opinion of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. that we and WES will each be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership

Limited Partner Status

Common unitholders who are admitted as limited partners of the partnership as well as common unitholders whose units are held in street name or by a nominee and who have the right to direct the nominee in the exercise of all substantive rights attendant to the ownership of units, will be treated as partners of the partnership for federal income tax purposes. For a discussion related to the risks of losing partner status as a result of securities loans, please read Treatment of Securities Loans. Unitholders who are not treated as partners of the partnership as described above are urged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences applicable to them under their particular circumstances.

Flow-Through of Taxable Income

Subject to the discussion below under Entity-Level Collections of Unitholder Taxes with respect to payments we may be required to make on behalf of our common unitholders, we will not pay any federal income tax. Rather, each common unitholder will be required to report on its federal income tax return each year its share of our income, gains, losses and deductions for our taxable year or years ending with or within its taxable year. Consequently, we may allocate income to a common unitholder even if that unitholder has not received a cash distribution.

Basis of Units

A common unitholder's tax basis in its units initially will be the amount paid for those units increased by the unitholder's initial allocable share of our liabilities. That basis generally will be (i) increased by the unitholder's

Table of Contents

share of our income and any increases in such unitholder's share of our liabilities, and (ii) decreased, but not below zero, by the amount of all distributions to the unitholder, the unitholder's share of our losses, and any decreases in its the unitholder's share of our liabilities. The IRS has ruled that a partner who acquires interests in a partnership in separate transactions must combine those interests and maintain a single adjusted tax basis for all of those interests.

Treatment of Distributions

Distributions by us to a common unitholder generally will not be taxable to the common unitholder, unless such distributions exceed the unitholder's tax basis in its common units, in which case the unitholder generally will recognize gain taxable in the manner described below under **Disposition of Units**.

Any reduction in a unitholder's share of our liabilities will be treated as a distribution by us of cash to that unitholder. A decrease in a unitholder's percentage interest in us because of our issuance of additional units may decrease the unitholder's share of our liabilities. For purposes of the foregoing, a unitholder's share of our nonrecourse liabilities (liabilities for which no partner bears the economic risk of loss) generally will be based upon that unitholder's share of the unrealized appreciation (or depreciation) in our assets, to the extent thereof, with any excess liabilities allocated based on the unitholder's share of our profits. Please read **Disposition of Units**.

A non-pro rata distribution of money or property (including a deemed distribution as a result of the reallocation of our liabilities described above) may cause a unitholder to recognize ordinary income, if the distribution reduces the unitholder's share of our unrealized receivables, including depreciation and depletion recapture and substantially appreciated inventory items, both as defined in Section 751 of the Code (**Section 751 Assets**). To the extent of such reduction, the unitholder would be deemed to receive its proportionate share of the Section 751 Assets and exchange such assets with us in return for a portion of the non-pro rata distribution. This deemed exchange generally will result in the unitholder's recognition of ordinary income in an amount equal to the excess of (1) the non-pro rata portion of that distribution over (2) the unitholder's tax basis (generally zero) in the Section 751 Assets deemed to be relinquished in the exchange.

Limitations on Deductibility of Losses

A common unitholder may not be entitled to deduct the full amount of loss we allocate to it because its share of our losses will be limited to the lesser of (i) the unitholder's tax basis in its units, and (ii) in the case of a unitholder that is an individual, estate, trust or certain types of closely-held corporations, the amount for which the unitholder is considered to be at risk with respect to our activities. In general, a unitholder will be at risk to the extent of its tax basis in its units, reduced by (1) any portion of that basis attributable to the unitholder's share of our liabilities, (2) any portion of that basis representing amounts otherwise protected against loss because of a guarantee, stop loss agreement or similar arrangement and (3) any amount of money the unitholder borrows to acquire or hold its units, if the lender of those borrowed funds owns an interest in us, is related to another unitholder or can look only to the units for repayment. A unitholder subject to the at risk limitation must recapture losses deducted in previous years to the extent that distributions (including distributions deemed to result from a reduction in a unitholder's share of nonrecourse liabilities) cause the unitholder's at risk amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year.

Losses disallowed to a common unitholder or recaptured as a result of the basis or at risk limitations will carry forward and will be allowable as a deduction in a later year to the extent that the unitholder's tax basis or at risk amount, whichever is the limiting factor, is subsequently increased. Upon a taxable disposition of units, any gain recognized by a unitholder can be offset by losses that were previously suspended by the at risk limitation but not losses suspended by the basis limitation. Any loss previously suspended by the at risk limitation in excess of that gain can no longer be used, and will not be available to offset a unitholder's salary or active business income.

Table of Contents

In addition to the basis and at risk limitations, a passive activity loss limitation generally limits the deductibility of losses incurred by individuals, estates, trusts, some closely-held corporations and personal service corporations from passive activities (generally, trade or business activities in which the taxpayer does not materially participate). The passive loss limitations are applied separately with respect to each publicly-traded partnership. Consequently, any passive losses we generate will be available to offset only passive income generated by us. Passive losses that exceed a unitholder's share of passive income we generate may be deducted in full when the unitholder disposes of all of its units in a fully taxable transaction with an unrelated party. The passive loss rules generally are applied after other applicable limitations on deductions, including the at risk and basis limitations.

The passive loss rules are required to be applied separately with respect to items attributable to each separate publicly traded partnership. The application of this requirement to a WGP unitholder who is also a WES unitholder is uncertain. It is possible that amounts allocated to a WGP unitholder that are attributable to WGP's interest in WES may be combined with amounts allocated directly to a WES unitholder. Alternatively, such amounts may need to be treated as attributable to interests in separate publicly traded partnerships. If you hold interest in both WGP and WES, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the application of the passive loss rules.

Limitations on Interest Deductions

The deductibility of a non-corporate taxpayer's investment interest expense generally is limited to the amount of that taxpayer's net investment income. Investment interest expense includes:

interest on indebtedness allocable to property held for investment;

interest expense allocated against portfolio income; and

the portion of interest expense incurred to purchase or carry an interest in a passive activity to the extent allocated against portfolio income.

The computation of a common unitholder's investment interest expense will take into account interest on any margin account borrowing or other loan incurred to purchase or carry a unit. Net investment income includes gross income from property held for investment and amounts treated as portfolio income under the passive loss rules, less deductible expenses other than interest directly connected with the production of investment income. Net investment income generally does not include qualified dividend income (if applicable) or gains attributable to the disposition of property held for investment. A common unitholder's share of a publicly traded partnership's portfolio income and, according to the IRS, net passive income will be treated as investment income for purposes of the investment interest expense limitation.

Entity-Level Collections of Unitholder Taxes

If we are required or elect under applicable law to pay any federal, state, local or non-U.S. tax on behalf of any current or former common unitholder, we are authorized to treat the payment as a distribution of cash to the relevant unitholder. Where the tax is payable on behalf of all unitholders or we cannot determine the specific unitholder on whose behalf the tax is payable, we are authorized to treat the payment as a distribution to all current unitholders. We are authorized to amend our partnership agreement in the manner necessary to maintain uniformity of intrinsic tax characteristics of units and to adjust later distributions, so that after giving effect to these distributions, the priority and

characterization of distributions otherwise applicable under our partnership agreement is maintained as nearly as is practicable. Payments by us as described above could give rise to an overpayment of tax on behalf of a common unitholder, in which event the common unitholder may be entitled to claim a refund of the overpayment amount. Common unitholders are urged to consult their tax advisors to determine the consequences to them of any tax payment we make on their behalf.

Table of Contents

Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction

Our items of income, gain, loss and deduction generally will be allocated among our common unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us. At any time that incentive distributions are made to our general partner, gross income will be allocated to the recipients to the extent of these distributions

Specified items of our income, gain, loss and deduction will be allocated under Section 704(c) of the Code (or the principles of Section 704(c) of the Code) to account for any difference between the tax basis and fair market value of our assets at the time such assets are contributed to us and at the time of any subsequent offering of our units (a Book-Tax Disparity). As a result, the federal income tax burden associated with any Book-Tax Disparity immediately prior to an offering generally will be borne by our partners holding interests in us prior to such offering. In addition, items of recapture income will be specially allocated to the extent possible to the unitholder who was allocated the deduction giving rise to that recapture income in order to minimize the recognition of ordinary income by other unitholders.

An allocation of items of our income, gain, loss or deduction, other than an allocation required by the Code to eliminate a Book-Tax Disparity, will generally be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction only if the allocation has substantial economic effect. In any other case, a partner's share of an item will be determined on the basis of the partner's interest in us, which will be determined by taking into account all the facts and circumstances, including (i) the partner's relative contributions to us, (ii) the interests of all the partners in profits and losses, (iii) the interest of all the partners in cash flow and (iv) the rights of all the partners to distributions of capital upon liquidation. Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. is of the opinion that, with the exception of the issues described in Section 754 Election and Disposition of Units Allocations Between Transferor and Transferees, allocations of income, gain, loss or deduction under our partnership agreement will be given effect for federal income tax purposes.

Treatment of Securities Loans

A unitholder whose units are loaned (for example, a loan to a short seller to cover a short sale of units) may be treated as having disposed of those units. If so, such unitholder would no longer be treated for tax purposes as a partner with respect to those units during the period of the loan and may recognize gain or loss from the disposition. As a result, during this period (i) any of our income, gain, loss or deduction allocated to those units would not be reportable by the lending unitholder and (ii) any cash distributions received by the unitholder as to those units may be treated as ordinary taxable income.

Due to a lack of controlling authority, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has not rendered an opinion regarding the tax treatment of a unitholder that enters into a securities loan with respect to its units. Unitholders desiring to assure their status as partners and avoid the risk of income recognition from a loan of their units are urged to modify any applicable brokerage account agreements to prohibit their brokers from borrowing and lending their units. The IRS has announced that it is studying issues relating to the tax treatment of short sales of partnership interests. Please read Disposition of Units Recognition of Gain or Loss.

Tax Rates

Under current law, the highest marginal federal income tax rates for individuals applicable to ordinary income and long-term capital gains (generally, gains from the sale or exchange of certain investment assets held for more than one year) are 39.6% and 20%, respectively. These rates are subject to change by new legislation at any time.

In addition, a 3.8% net investment income tax (NIIT) applies to certain net investment income earned by individuals, estates, and trusts. For these purposes, net investment income generally includes a common unitholder's allocable share of our income and gain realized by a common unitholder from a sale of units. In the

Table of Contents

case of an individual, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (i) the common unitholder's net investment income from all investments, or (ii) the amount by which the common unitholder's modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$250,000 (if the common unitholder is married and filing jointly or a surviving spouse), \$125,000 (if married filing separately) or \$200,000 (if the unitholder is unmarried or in any other case). In the case of an estate or trust, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (i) undistributed net investment income, or (ii) the excess adjusted gross income over the dollar amount at which the highest income tax bracket applicable to an estate or trust begins.

Section 754 Election

We have made the election permitted by Section 754 of the Code that permits us to adjust the tax bases in our assets as to specific purchasers of our units under Section 743(b) of the Code. That election is irrevocable without the consent of the IRS. The Section 743(b) adjustment separately applies to each purchaser of common units based upon the values and bases of our assets at the time of the relevant purchase, and the adjustment will reflect the purchase price paid. The Section 743(b) adjustment does not apply to a person who purchases units directly from us.

Under our partnership agreement, we are authorized to take a position to preserve the uniformity of units even if that position is not consistent with applicable Treasury Regulations. A literal application of Treasury Regulations governing a 743(b) adjustment attributable to properties depreciable under Section 167 of the Code may give rise to differences in the taxation of unitholders purchasing units from us and unitholders purchasing from other unitholders. If we have any such properties, we intend to adopt methods employed by other publicly traded partnerships to preserve the uniformity of units, even if inconsistent with existing Treasury Regulations, and Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has not opined on the validity of this approach. Please read [Uniformity of Units](#).

The IRS may challenge the positions we adopt with respect to depreciating or amortizing the Section 743(b) adjustment we take to preserve the uniformity of units due to lack of controlling authority. Because a unitholder's tax basis for its units is reduced by its share of our items of deduction or loss, any position we take that understates deductions will overstate a unitholder's basis in its units, and may cause the unitholder to understate gain or overstate loss on any sale of such units. Please read [Disposition of Units Recognition of Gain or Loss](#). If a challenge to such treatment were sustained, the gain from the sale of units may be increased without the benefit of additional deductions.

The calculations involved in the Section 754 election are complex and are made on the basis of assumptions as to the value of our assets and other matters. The IRS could seek to reallocate some or all of any Section 743(b) adjustment we allocated to our assets or the assets owned by WES subject to depreciation to goodwill or nondepreciable assets. Goodwill, as an intangible asset, is generally amortizable over a longer period of time or under a less accelerated method than our tangible assets. We cannot assure any unitholder that the determinations we make will not be successfully challenged by the IRS or that the resulting deductions will not be reduced or disallowed altogether. Should the IRS require a different tax basis adjustment to be made, and should, in our opinion, the expense of compliance exceed the benefit of the election, we may seek permission from the IRS to revoke our Section 754 election. If permission is granted, a subsequent purchaser of units may be allocated more income than it would have been allocated had the election not been revoked.

Tax Treatment of Operations

Accounting Method and Taxable Year

We use the year ending December 31 as our taxable year and the accrual method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. Each common unitholder will be required to include in its tax return its share of our income, gain, loss and

deduction for each taxable year ending within or with its taxable year. In addition, a common unitholder who has a taxable year ending on a date other than December 31 and who disposes of all of

Table of Contents

its units following the close of our taxable year but before the close of its taxable year must include its share of our income, gain, loss and deduction in income for its taxable year, with the result that it will be required to include in income for its taxable year its share of more than twelve months of our income, gain, loss and deduction. Please read [Disposition of Units Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees](#).

Tax Basis, Depreciation and Amortization

The tax basis of our or WES's assets will be used for purposes of computing depreciation and cost recovery deductions and, ultimately, gain or loss on the disposition of those assets. If we or WES dispose of depreciable property by sale, foreclosure or otherwise, all or a portion of any gain, determined by reference to the amount of depreciation and depletion deductions previously taken, may be subject to the recapture rules and taxed as ordinary income rather than capital gain. Similarly, a unitholder who has taken cost recovery or depreciation deductions with respect to property we own or WES owns will likely be required to recapture some or all of those deductions as ordinary income upon a sale of its interest in us. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction](#).

The costs we incur in offering and selling our units (called [syndication expenses](#)) must be capitalized and cannot be deducted currently, ratably or upon our termination. While there are uncertainties regarding the classification of costs as organization expenses, which may be amortized by us, and as syndication expenses, which may not be amortized by us, the underwriting discounts and commissions we incur will be treated as syndication expenses. Please read [Disposition of Units Recognition of Gain or Loss](#).

Valuation and Tax Basis of Our Properties

The federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of units will depend in part on our estimates of the relative fair market values and the tax bases of our or WES's assets. Although we may from time to time consult with professional appraisers regarding valuation matters, we will make many of the relative fair market value estimates ourselves. These estimates and determinations of tax basis are subject to challenge and will not be binding on the IRS or the courts. If the estimates of fair market value or basis are later found to be incorrect, the character and amount of items of income, gain, loss or deduction previously reported by common unitholders could change, and common unitholders could be required to adjust their tax liability for prior years and incur interest and penalties with respect to those adjustments.

Disposition of Units

Recognition of Gain or Loss

A common unitholder will be required to recognize gain or loss on a sale of units equal to the difference between the unitholder's amount realized and tax basis in the units sold. A common unitholder's amount realized generally will equal the sum of the cash and the fair market value of other property it receives plus its share of our liabilities with respect to the units sold. Because the amount realized includes a unitholder's share of our liabilities, the gain recognized on the sale of units could result in a tax liability in excess of any cash received from the sale.

Except as noted below, gain or loss recognized by a common unitholder on the sale or exchange of a unit held for more than one year generally will be taxable as long-term capital gain or loss. However, gain or loss recognized on the disposition of units will be separately computed and taxed as ordinary income or loss under Section 751 of the Code to the extent attributable to Section 751 Assets, such as depreciation or depletion recapture and our inventory items, regardless of whether such inventory item is substantially appreciated in value. Ordinary income attributable to

Section 751 Assets may exceed net taxable gain realized on the sale of a unit and may be recognized even if there is a net taxable loss realized on the sale of a unit. Thus, a unitholder may recognize both ordinary income and capital gain or loss upon a sale of units. Net capital loss may offset capital gains and, in the case of individuals, up to \$3,000 of ordinary income per year.

Table of Contents

For purposes of calculating gain or loss on the sale of units, the unitholder's adjusted tax basis will be adjusted by its allocable share of our income or loss in respect of its units for the year of the sale. Furthermore, as described above, the IRS has ruled that a partner who acquires interests in a partnership in separate transactions must combine those interests and maintain a single adjusted tax basis for all of those interests. Upon a sale or other disposition of less than all of those interests, a portion of that tax basis must be allocated to the interests sold using an equitable apportionment method, which generally means that the tax basis allocated to the interest sold equals an amount that bears the same relation to the partner's tax basis in its entire interest in the partnership as the value of the interest sold bears to the value of the partner's entire interest in the partnership.

Treasury Regulations under Section 1223 of the Code allow a selling common unitholder who can identify units transferred with an ascertainable holding period to elect to use the actual holding period of the units transferred. Thus, according to the ruling discussed in the paragraph above, a unitholder will be unable to select high or low basis units to sell as would be the case with corporate stock, but, according to the Treasury Regulations, it may designate specific units sold for purposes of determining the holding period of the units transferred. A unitholder electing to use the actual holding period of units transferred must consistently use that identification method for all subsequent sales or exchanges of our units. A unitholder considering the purchase of additional units or a sale of units purchased in separate transactions is urged to consult its tax advisor as to the possible consequences of this ruling and application of the Treasury Regulations.

Specific provisions of the Code affect the taxation of some financial products and securities, including partnership interests, by treating a taxpayer as having sold an appreciated financial position, including a partnership interest with respect to which gain would be recognized if it were sold, assigned or terminated at its fair market value, in the event the taxpayer or a related person enters into:

a short sale;

an offsetting notional principal contract; or

a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest or substantially identical property.

Moreover, if a taxpayer has previously entered into a short sale, an offsetting notional principal contract or a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest, the taxpayer will be treated as having sold that position if the taxpayer or a related person then acquires the partnership interest or substantially identical property. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue Treasury Regulations that treat a taxpayer that enters into transactions or positions that have substantially the same effect as the preceding transactions as having constructively sold the financial position.

Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees

In general, our taxable income or loss will be determined annually, will be prorated on a monthly basis and will be subsequently apportioned among the common unitholders in proportion to the number of units owned by each of them as of the opening of the applicable exchange on the first business day of the month (the Allocation Date). However, gain or loss realized on a sale or other disposition of our assets or, in the discretion of the general partner, any other extraordinary item of income, gain, loss or deduction will be allocated among the common unitholders on the Allocation Date in the month in which such income, gain, loss or deduction is recognized. As a result, a common

unitholder transferring units may be allocated income, gain, loss and deduction realized after the date of transfer.

Although simplifying conventions are contemplated by the Code and most publicly traded partnerships use similar simplifying conventions, the use of this method may not be permitted under existing Treasury Regulations. Recently, however, the Department of the Treasury and the IRS issued proposed Treasury Regulations that provide a safe harbor pursuant to which a publicly traded partnership may use a similar monthly simplifying convention to allocate tax items among transferor and transferee common unitholders, although such

Table of Contents

tax items must be prorated on a daily basis. Nonetheless, the proposed regulations do not specifically authorize the use of the proration method we have adopted. Accordingly, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. is unable to opine on the validity of this method of allocating income and deductions between transferee and transferor common unitholders. If this method is not allowed under the final Treasury Regulations, or only applies to transfers of less than all of the common unitholder's interest, our taxable income or losses might be reallocated among the common unitholders. We are authorized to revise our method of allocation between transferee and transferor common unitholders, as well as among common unitholders whose interests vary during a taxable year, to conform to a method permitted under future Treasury Regulations.

A common unitholder who disposes of units prior to the record date set for a cash distribution for that quarter will be allocated items of our income, gain, loss and deduction attributable to the month of disposition but will not be entitled to receive a cash distribution for that period.

Notification Requirements

A common unitholder who sells or purchases any units is generally required to notify us in writing of that transaction within 30 days after the transaction (or, if earlier, January 15 of the year following the transaction in the case of a seller). Upon receiving such notifications, we are required to notify the IRS of that transaction and to furnish specified information to the transferor and transferee. Failure to notify us of a transfer of units may, in some cases, lead to the imposition of penalties. However, these reporting requirements do not apply to a sale by an individual who is a citizen of the United States and who effects the sale through a broker who will satisfy such requirements.

Constructive Termination

We will be considered to have constructively terminated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes upon the sale or exchange of 50% or more of the total interests in our capital and profits within a twelve-month period. Anadarko currently owns more than 50% of the total interests in our capital and profits. Therefore, a transfer of all or a portion of Anadarko's indirect interests in us could result in a termination of our partnership for federal income tax purposes. For purposes of measuring whether the 50% threshold is reached, multiple sales of the same unit are counted only once. A constructive termination results in the closing of our taxable year for all unitholders. In the case of a common unitholder reporting on a taxable year other than the calendar year, the closing of our taxable year may result in more than twelve months of our taxable income or loss being includable in such common unitholder's taxable income for the year of termination.

A constructive termination occurring on a date other than December 31 generally would require that we file two tax returns for one fiscal year thereby increasing our administration and tax preparation costs. However, pursuant to an IRS relief procedure, the IRS may allow a constructively terminated partnership to provide a single Schedule K-1 for the calendar year in which a termination occurs. Following a constructive termination, we would be required to make new tax elections, including a new election under Section 754 of the Code, and the termination would result in a deferral of our deductions for depreciation. A termination could also result in penalties if we were unable to determine that the termination had occurred. Moreover, a termination may either accelerate the application of, or subject us to, any tax legislation enacted before the termination that would not otherwise have been applied to us as a continuing as opposed to a terminating partnership.

Uniformity of Units

Because we cannot match transferors and transferees of units and other reasons, we must maintain uniformity of the economic and tax characteristics of the units to a purchaser of these units. In the absence of uniformity, we may be

unable to completely comply with a number of federal income tax requirements. Any non-uniformity could have a negative impact on the value of the units. Please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Section 754 Election.

Table of Contents

Our partnership agreement permits our general partner to take positions in filing our tax returns that preserve the uniformity of our units. These positions may include reducing the depreciation, amortization or loss deductions to which a unitholder would otherwise be entitled or reporting a slower amortization of Section 743(b) adjustments for some unitholders than that to which they would otherwise be entitled. Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. is unable to opine as to the validity of such filing positions.

A common unitholder's basis in units is reduced by its share of our deductions (whether or not such deductions were claimed on an individual income tax return) so that any position that we take that understates deductions will overstate the unitholder's basis in its units, and may cause the unitholder to understate gain or overstate loss on any sale of such units. Please read "Disposition of Units Recognition of Gain or Loss" above and "Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Section 754 Election" above. The IRS may challenge one or more of any positions we take to preserve the uniformity of units. If such a challenge were sustained, the uniformity of units might be affected, and, under some circumstances, the gain from the sale of units might be increased without the benefit of additional deductions.

Tax-Exempt Organizations and Other Investors

Ownership of units by employee benefit plans and other tax-exempt organizations as well as by non-resident alien individuals, non-U.S. corporations and other non-U.S. persons (collectively, "Non-U.S. Unitholders") raises issues unique to those investors and, as described below, may have substantially adverse tax consequences to them. Prospective unitholders that are tax-exempt entities or non-U.S. unitholders should consult their tax advisors before investing in our units. Employee benefit plans and most other tax-exempt organizations, including IRAs and other retirement plans, are subject to federal income tax on unrelated business taxable income. Virtually all of our income will be unrelated business taxable income and will be taxable to a tax-exempt unitholder.

Non-U.S. unitholders are taxed by the United States on income effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business ("effectively connected income") and on certain types of U.S.-source non-effectively connected income (such as dividends), unless exempted or further limited by an income tax treaty will be considered to be engaged in business in the United States because of their ownership of our units. Furthermore, it is probable that they will be deemed to conduct such activities through permanent establishments in the United States within the meaning of applicable tax treaties. Consequently, they will be required to file federal tax returns to report their share of our income, gain, loss or deduction and pay federal income tax on their share of our net income or gain in a manner similar to a taxable U.S. unitholder. Moreover, under rules applicable to publicly traded partnerships, distributions to non-U.S. unitholders are subject to withholding at the highest applicable effective tax rate. Each non-U.S. unitholder must obtain a taxpayer identification number from the IRS and submit that number to our transfer agent on a Form W-8BEN or applicable substitute form in order to obtain credit for these withholding taxes.

In addition, because a non-U.S. unitholder classified as a corporation will be treated as engaged in a United States trade or business, that corporation may be subject to the U.S. branch profits tax at a rate of 30%, in addition to regular federal income tax, on its share of our income and gain as adjusted for changes in the foreign corporation's U.S. net equity to the extent reflected in the corporation's effectively connected earnings and profits. That tax may be reduced or eliminated by an income tax treaty between the United States and the country in which the foreign corporate unitholder is a qualified resident. In addition, this type of unitholder is subject to special information reporting requirements under Section 6038C of the Code.

A non-U.S. unitholder who sells or otherwise disposes of a unit will be subject to federal income tax on gain realized from the sale or disposition of that unit to the extent the gain is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. unitholder. Under a ruling published by the IRS interpreting the scope of "effectively connected income," gain recognized by a non-U.S. person from the sale of its interest in a partnership that is engaged in a trade or business

in the United States will be considered to be effectively connected with a U.S.

Table of Contents

trade or business. Thus, part or all of a non-U.S. unitholder's gain from the sale or other disposition of its units may be treated as effectively connected with a unitholder's indirect U.S. trade or business constituted by its investment in us. Moreover, under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act, a non-U.S. unitholder generally will be subject to federal income tax upon the sale or disposition of a unit if (i) it owned (directly or indirectly constructively applying certain attribution rules) more than 5% of our units at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of such disposition and (ii) 50% or more of the fair market value of our worldwide real property interests and our other assets used or held for use in a trade or business consisted of U.S. real property interests (which include U.S. real estate (including land, improvements, and certain associated personal property) and interests in certain entities holding U.S. real estate) at any time during the shorter of the period during which such unitholder held the units or the five-year period ending on the date of disposition. Currently, more than 50% of our assets consist of U.S. real property interests and we do not expect that to change in the foreseeable future. Therefore, non-U.S. unitholders may be subject to federal income tax on gain from the sale or disposition of their units.

Administrative Matters

Information Returns and Audit Procedures

We intend to furnish to each common unitholder, within 90 days after the close of each taxable year, specific tax information, including a Schedule K-1, which describes its share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for our preceding taxable year. In preparing this information, which will not be reviewed by counsel, we will take various accounting and reporting positions, some of which have been mentioned earlier, to determine each common unitholder's share of income, gain, loss and deduction. We cannot assure our common unitholders that those positions will yield a result that conforms to all of the requirements of the Code, Treasury Regulations or administrative interpretations of the IRS.

The IRS may audit our federal income tax information returns. Neither we nor Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. can assure prospective common unitholders that the IRS will not successfully challenge the positions we adopt, and such a challenge could adversely affect the value of the units. Adjustments resulting from an IRS audit may require each common unitholder to adjust a prior year's tax liability and may result in an audit of the unitholder's own return. Any audit of a common unitholder's return could result in adjustments unrelated to our returns.

Publicly traded partnerships generally are treated as entities separate from their owners for purposes of federal income tax audits, judicial review of administrative adjustments by the IRS and tax settlement proceedings. The tax treatment of partnership items of income, gain, loss and deduction are determined in a partnership proceeding rather than in separate proceedings of the partners. The Code requires that one partner be designated as the Tax Matters Partner for these purposes, and our partnership agreement designates our general partner.

The Tax Matters Partner has made and will make some elections on our behalf and on behalf of common unitholders. The Tax Matters Partner can extend the statute of limitations for assessment of tax deficiencies against common unitholders for items in our returns. The Tax Matters Partner may bind a common unitholder with less than a 1% profits interest in us to a settlement with the IRS unless that common unitholder elects, by filing a statement with the IRS, not to give that authority to the Tax Matters Partner. The Tax Matters Partner may seek judicial review, by which all the common unitholders are bound, of a final partnership administrative adjustment and, if the Tax Matters Partner fails to seek judicial review, judicial review may be sought by any common unitholder having at least a 1% interest in profits or by any group of common unitholders having in the aggregate at least a 5% interest in profits. However, only one action for judicial review may go forward, and each common unitholder with an interest in the outcome may participate in that action.

A common unitholder must file a statement with the IRS identifying the treatment of any item on its federal income tax return that is not consistent with the treatment of the item on our return. Intentional or negligent disregard of this consistency requirement may subject a common unitholder to substantial penalties.

Table of Contents

Nominee Reporting

Persons who hold an interest in us as a nominee for another person are required to furnish to us:

- (1) the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the beneficial owner and the nominee;
- (2) a statement regarding whether the beneficial owner is:
 - (a) a non-U.S. person;
 - (b) a non-U.S. government, an international organization or any wholly owned agency or instrumentality of either of the foregoing; or
 - (c) a tax-exempt entity;
- (3) the amount and description of units held, acquired or transferred for the beneficial owner; and
- (4) specific information including the dates of acquisitions and transfers, means of acquisitions and transfers, and acquisition cost for purchases, as well as the amount of net proceeds from sales.

Brokers and financial institutions are required to furnish additional information, including whether they are U.S. persons and specific information on units they acquire, hold or transfer for their own account. A penalty of \$100 per failure, up to a maximum of \$1.5 million per calendar year, is imposed by the Code for failure to report that information to us. The nominee is required to supply the beneficial owner of the units with the information furnished to us.

Accuracy-Related Penalties

Certain penalties may be imposed on taxpayers as a result of an underpayment of tax that is attributable to one or more specified causes, including negligence or disregard of rules or regulations, substantial understatements of income tax and substantial valuation misstatements. No penalty will be imposed, however, for any portion of any such underpayment if it is shown that there was a reasonable cause for the underpayment of that portion and that the taxpayer acted in good faith regarding the underpayment of that portion. Penalties may also be imposed for engaging in transactions without economic substance. We do not anticipate engaging in transactions without economic substance or otherwise participating in transactions that would subject our unitholders to accuracy-related penalties.

State, Local, Non-U.S. and Other Tax Considerations

In addition to federal income taxes, common unitholders may be subject to other taxes, including state and local and non-U.S. income taxes, unincorporated business taxes, and estate, inheritance or intangibles taxes that may be imposed by the various jurisdictions in which we or WES conduct business or own property or in which the common

unitholder is a resident. Moreover, we or WES may also own property or do business in other states in the future that impose income or similar taxes on nonresident individuals. Although an analysis of those various taxes is not presented here, each prospective common unitholder should consider their potential impact on its investment in us.

Although you may not be required to file a return and pay taxes in some jurisdictions because your income from that jurisdiction falls below the filing and payment requirement, you will be required to file income tax returns and to pay income taxes in many of these jurisdictions in which we do business or own property and may be subject to penalties for failure to comply with those requirements. Some of the jurisdictions may require us, or we may elect, to withhold a percentage of income from amounts to be distributed to a unitholder who is not a resident of the jurisdiction. Withholding, the amount of which may be greater or less than a particular unitholder's income tax liability to the jurisdiction, generally does not relieve a nonresident unitholder from the obligation to file an income tax return.

Table of Contents

It is the responsibility of each common unitholder to investigate the legal and tax consequences, under the laws of pertinent jurisdictions, of its investment in us. We strongly recommend that each prospective common unitholder consult, and depend on, its own tax counsel or other advisor with regard to those matters. Further, it is the responsibility of each common unitholder to file all state, local, and non-U.S., as well as U.S. federal tax returns that may be required of it. Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. has not rendered an opinion on the state, local, alternative minimum tax or non-U.S. tax consequences of an investment in us.

INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMON UNITS BY EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

The following is a summary of certain considerations associated with investment in our common units by employee benefit plans that are subject to the fiduciary responsibility and prohibited transaction provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, or ERISA, as well as the prohibited transaction restrictions imposed by Section 4975 of the Code, and may be subject to provisions under certain other laws or regulations that are similar to ERISA or the Code (collectively, "Similar Laws"). As used herein, the term "employee benefit plan" includes, but is not limited to, qualified pension, profit-sharing, and stock bonus plans, certain Keogh plans, certain simplified employee pension plans, and tax-deferred annuities, IRAs and other arrangements established or maintained by an employer or employee organization, and entities whose underlying assets are considered to include plan assets of such plans, accounts and arrangements.

This summary is based on the provisions of ERISA and the Code (and related regulations and administrative and judicial interpretations) as of the date of this prospectus. This summary does not purport to be complete and future legislation, court decisions, administrative regulations, rulings or pronouncements could significantly modify the requirements summarized below. Any of these changes may be retroactive and may thereby apply to transactions entered into prior to the date of their enactment or release.

General Fiduciary Matters

ERISA and the Code impose certain duties on persons who are fiduciaries of an employee benefit plan that is subject to Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (an "ERISA Plan") and prohibit certain transactions involving the assets of an ERISA Plan and its fiduciaries or other interested parties. Under ERISA and the Code, any person who exercises any discretionary authority or control over the administration of an ERISA Plan or the management or disposition of the assets of an ERISA Plan, or who renders investment advice for a fee or other compensation to an ERISA Plan, is generally considered to be a fiduciary of the ERISA Plan. In considering an investment of a portion of the assets of any employee benefit plan in our common units, among other things, consideration should be given to:

whether the investment is prudent under Section 404(a)(1)(B) of ERISA and any other applicable Similar Laws;

whether in making the investment, the employee benefit plan will satisfy the diversification requirements of Section 404(a)(1)(C) of ERISA and any other applicable Similar Laws;

whether making the investment will comply with the delegation of control and prohibited transaction provisions under ERISA, the Code and other applicable Similar Laws (see the discussion under "Prohibited Transaction Issues" below);

whether, in making the investment, the employee benefit plan will be considered to hold, as plan assets, (1) only the investment in our common units or (2) an undivided interest in our underlying assets (see the discussion under [Plan Asset Issues](#) below); and

whether the investment will result in recognition of unrelated business taxable income by the employee benefit plan and, if so, the potential after-tax investment return. Please read [Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences Tax-Exempt Organizations and Other Investors](#).

Table of Contents

The person with investment discretion with respect to the assets of an employee benefit plan should determine whether an investment in our common units is authorized by the appropriate governing instruments and whether such investment is otherwise a proper investment for the employee benefit plan or IRA.

Prohibited Transaction Issues

Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit employee benefit plans, and certain IRAs that are not considered part of an employee benefit plan, from engaging in specified transactions, referred to as prohibited transactions involving plan assets with parties that, with respect to the employee benefit plan or IRA are parties in interest under ERISA or disqualified persons under the Code with respect to the employee benefit plan or IRA, unless an exemption is applicable. A party in interest or disqualified person who engages in a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to excise taxes and other penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code. In addition, the fiduciary of an ERISA Plan that engages in such a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to excise taxes, penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code.

Plan Asset Issues

In addition to considering whether the purchase of our common units is a prohibited transaction, a fiduciary of an employee benefit plan should consider whether the plan will, by investing in our common units, be deemed to own an undivided interest in our assets, with the result that our general partner also would be a fiduciary of the plan and our operations would be subject to the regulatory restrictions of ERISA, including its prohibited transaction rules, as well as the prohibited transaction rules of the Code and any other applicable Similar Laws.

The Department of Labor regulations provide guidance with respect to whether, in certain circumstances, the assets of an entity in which employee benefit plans acquire equity interests would be deemed plan assets. Under these regulations, an entity's underlying assets generally would not be considered to be plan assets if, among other things:

- (a) the equity interests acquired by the employee benefit plan are publicly offered securities i.e., the equity interests are part of a class of securities that are widely held by 100 or more investors independent of the issuer and each other, freely transferable (as defined in the applicable Department of Labor regulations), and either part of a class of securities registered pursuant to certain provisions of the federal securities laws or sold to the employee benefit plan as part of a public offering under certain conditions;
- (b) the entity is an operating company i.e., it is primarily engaged in the production or sale of a product or service other than the investment of capital either directly or through a majority-owned subsidiary or subsidiaries; or
- (c) there is no significant investment by benefit plan investors, which is defined to mean that, immediately after the most recent acquisition of an equity interest in an entity by an employee benefit plan, less than 25% of the total value of each class of equity interest, disregarding certain interests held by our general partner, its affiliates, and certain other persons is held by employee benefit plans that are subject to part 4 of Title I of ERISA (which excludes governmental plans and non-electing church plans) and/or Section 4975 of the Code and IRAs.

With respect to an investment in our common units, we believe that our assets should not be considered plan assets under these regulations because it is expected that the investment will satisfy the requirements in (a) and (b) above and may also satisfy the requirement in (c) above (although we do not monitor the level of investment by benefit plan investors as required for compliance with (c)).

Table of Contents

The foregoing discussion of issues arising for employee benefit plan investments under ERISA, the Code and applicable Similar Laws is general in nature and is not intended to be all inclusive, nor should it be construed as legal advice. In light of the complexity of these rules and the excise taxes, penalties and liabilities that may be imposed on persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions or other violations, plan fiduciaries contemplating a purchase of our common units should consult with their own counsel regarding the consequences of such purchase under ERISA, the Code and Similar Laws.

SELLING UNITHOLDER

This prospectus covers the offering for resale from time to time, in one or more offerings, of up to 40,000,000 common units representing limited partner interests in Western Gas Equity Partners, LP, owned by a wholly owned subsidiary of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, the selling unitholder. These common units were issued to the selling unitholder in connection with our initial public offering on December 12, 2012.

The selling unitholder will determine the prices and terms of the sales at the time of each offering made by it, and will be responsible for any fees, discounts or selling commissions due to brokers, dealers or agents. The selling unitholder has agreed to reimburse us for all of the other offering expenses. We will not receive any of the proceeds from any sale of the common units sold pursuant to this prospectus.

The following table sets forth information relating to the selling unitholder based on information supplied to us by the selling unitholder at or prior to the time of the initial filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We have not sought to verify such information. Information concerning the selling unitholder may change over time, and if necessary, we will supplement this prospectus accordingly. The selling unitholder may hold or acquire at any time common units in addition to those offered by this prospectus and may have acquired additional common units since the date on which the information reflected herein was provided to us. In addition, the selling unitholder may have sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of some or all of its common units since the date on which the information reflected herein was provided to us and may in the future sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of some or all of its common units in private placement transactions exempt from or not subject to the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

Name of Selling Unitholder	Common Units Owned Prior to Offering	Common Units Offered in this Offering	Common Units Owned Following this Offering
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (1)	199,137,365	40,000,000	159,137,365

- (1) The common units offered hereby are directly held by Western Gas Resources, Inc. Anadarko owns Western Gas Resources, Inc., which owns our general partner. Anadarko may, therefore, be deemed to beneficially own any limited partner interests in us held by Western Gas Resources, Inc. and the WES common units held by us. Western Gas Resources, Inc. owns a 100% interest in our general partner and a 91.0% limited partner interest in us and may, therefore, be deemed to own the WES common units held by us. The address for the selling unitholder in this table is 1201 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77380.

In making offers and sales pursuant to this prospectus, the selling unitholder is deemed to be acting as an underwriter, and its offers and sales are deemed to be made indirectly on our behalf.

Our Relationship with the Selling Unitholder

We are a Delaware master limited partnership formed in September 2012 by Anadarko to own partnership interests in WES, a publicly traded partnership. WES is a growth-oriented Delaware master limited partnership formed by Anadarko in 2007 to own, operate, acquire and develop midstream energy assets. As of December 31, 2013, Anadarko controlled our general partner and held approximately 199,137,365 of our outstanding common units, representing a 91.0% limited partner interest in us.

Table of Contents

In connection with our initial public offering in December 2012, we entered into an omnibus agreement with our general partner and Anadarko that governs: (i) our obligation to reimburse Anadarko for expenses incurred or payments made on our behalf in conjunction with Anadarko's provision of general and administrative services to us, including our public company expenses and general and administrative expenses; (ii) our obligation to pay Anadarko in quarterly installments an administrative services fee of \$250,000 per year (subject to an annual increase as described in the omnibus agreement); and (iii) our obligation to reimburse Anadarko for all insurance coverage expenses it incurs or payments it makes with respect to our assets. Our only cash generating assets consist of our partnership interest in WES, and we currently have no independent operations. In addition to the WES common units Anadarko may be deemed to beneficially own, Anadarko also owned 449,129 WES common units as of December 31, 2013.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling unitholder may sell the offered securities in and outside the United States (1) through one or more broker-dealers, (2) through underwriters or (3) directly to investors. The prospectus supplement will set forth the following information:

the terms of the offering;

the names of any underwriters or agents;

the name or names of any managing underwriter or underwriters;

the purchase price of the securities from the selling unitholder;

the net proceeds the selling unitholder will receive from the sale of the securities;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any underwriting discounts, commissions and other items constituting underwriters' compensation;

the initial public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any commissions paid to agents.

In addition, the selling unitholder may from time to time sell securities in compliance with Rule 144 under the Securities Act, if available, or pursuant to other available exemptions from the registration requirements under the Securities Act, rather than pursuant to this prospectus. In such event, the selling unitholder may be required by the securities laws of certain states to offer and sell the common units only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers.

The selling unitholder will fix a price of the securities at:

market prices prevailing at the time of any sale under this prospectus;

prices related to market prices; or

negotiated prices.

The selling unitholder may change the price of the securities offered from time to time.

The selling unitholder will pay or allow distributor's or seller's commissions that will not exceed those customary in the types of transactions involved. Broker-dealers may act as agents or may purchase securities as principal and thereafter resell the securities from time to time:

in or through one or more transactions or distributions;

Table of Contents

on the New York Stock Exchange;

in the over-the-counter market; or

in private transactions.

The selling unitholder may act independently of us in making decisions with respect to the timing, manner and size of each of their sales.

Sale Through Underwriters or Dealers

If the selling unitholder uses underwriters in the sale of the offered securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may offer securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless the selling unitholder informs you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the offered securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may sell securities to or through dealers, and the dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent. The underwriters may change from time to time the public offering price and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

During and after an offering through underwriters, the underwriters may purchase and sell the securities in the open market. These transactions may include overallotment and stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover syndicate short positions created in connection with the offering. The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid, which means that selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other broker-dealers for the offered securities sold for their account may be reclaimed by the syndicate if the offered securities are repurchased by the syndicate in stabilizing or covering transactions. These activities may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered securities, which may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market. If commenced, these activities may be discontinued at any time.

If the selling unitholder uses dealers in the sale of securities, selling unitholder may sell the securities to them as principals. The dealers may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. The dealers participating in any sale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of these securities. The selling unitholder will include in the prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction. The distribution of the securities by the selling unitholder may also be effected through the issuance by the selling unitholder or others of derivative securities, including warrants, exchangeable securities, forward delivery contracts and the writing of options.

Direct Sales and Sales Through Agents

The selling unitholder may sell the securities directly. In that event, no underwriters or agents would be involved. The selling unitholder may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. The selling unitholder may also sell the securities through agents it designates from time to time. The selling unitholder will describe the terms of any such sales in the prospectus supplement. In the prospectus supplement, the selling unitholder

will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities, and the selling unitholder will describe any commissions payable by them to the agent. Unless the selling unitholder informs you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

Table of Contents

At-the-Market Offerings

To the extent that the selling unitholder make sales through one or more underwriters or agents in at-the-market offerings, the selling unitholder will do so pursuant to the terms of a sales agency financing agreement or other at-the-market offering arrangement between the selling unitholder and the underwriters or agents. If the selling unitholder engages in at-the-market sales pursuant to any such agreement, the selling unitholder will issue and sell our common units through one or more underwriters or agents, which may act on an agency basis or on a principal basis. During the term of any such agreement, the selling unitholder may sell our common units on a daily basis in exchange transactions or otherwise as the selling unitholder agrees with the underwriters or agents. The agreement will provide that any common units sold will be sold at prices related to the then-prevailing market prices for our common units. Therefore, exact figures regarding proceeds that will be raised or commissions to be paid cannot be determined at this time. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, the selling unitholder also may agree to sell, and the relevant underwriters or agents may agree to solicit offers to purchase, blocks of our common units. The terms of each such agreement will be set forth in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Delayed Delivery Contracts

If the selling unitholder so indicates in the prospectus supplement, the selling unitholder may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from selected types of institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

Security Interest

From time to time, the selling unitholder may pledge or grant a security interest in some or all of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered. If the selling unitholder defaults in performance of its secured obligations, the pledged or secured parties may offer and sell the securities from time to time by this prospectus. The selling unitholder also may transfer the securities in other circumstances. The number of securities beneficially owned by the selling unitholder will decrease as and when it transfers its securities or defaults in performing obligations secured by the securities. The plan of distribution for the securities offered and sold under this prospectus will otherwise remain unchanged, except that the transferees, distributees, pledgees, affiliates, other secured parties or other successors in interest will be selling unitholders for purposes of this prospectus.

General Information

The selling unitholder may have agreements with firms, agents, dealers and underwriters to indemnify them against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments that the firms, agents, dealers or underwriters may be required to make. Such firms, agents, dealers and underwriters may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us and/or the selling unitholder in the ordinary course of their businesses.

Because the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., or FINRA, views our common units as interests in a direct participation program, any offering of common units under the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part will be made in compliance with Rule 2310 of the FINRA Conduct Rules.

We have informed the selling unitholder that during such time as it may be engaged in a distribution of the common units covered by this prospectus it is required to comply with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. With exceptions,

Regulation M prohibits the selling unitholder, any affiliated purchasers and other persons who participate in such a distribution from bidding for or purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase, any security which is the subject of the distribution until the entire distribution is complete.

Table of Contents

We have also informed the selling unitholder that it is legally required to deliver copies of this prospectus in connection with any sale of securities made under this prospectus in accordance with applicable prospectus delivery requirements.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the issuance of the securities offered hereby and the legal matters described under **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations** will be passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. Additional legal matters may be passed on for us, or any underwriters, dealers or agents, by counsel we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Western Gas Equity Partners, LP and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2012, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

**2,000,000 Common Units
Representing Limited Partner Interests**

J.P. Morgan

, 2015