

MORGAN STANLEY EMERGING MARKETS DEBT FUND INC  
Form N-CSR  
March 09, 2018

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-CSR**

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED  
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number 811-07694

Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

522 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York  
(Address of principal executive offices)

10036  
(Zip code)

John H. Gernon

522 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10036  
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 212-296-0289

Date of fiscal year December 31,  
end:

Date of reporting period: December 31, 2017

---

Item 1 - Report to Shareholders

---

**Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc.**

**Directors**

Frank L. Bowman

Kathleen A. Dennis

Nancy C. Everett

Jakki L. Haussler

Dr. Manuel H. Johnson

Joseph J. Kearns

Michael F. Klein

Patricia Maleski

Michael E. Nugent,

*Chair of the Board*

W. Allen Reed

Fergus Reid

**Officers**

John H. Gernon

*President and Principal  
Executive Officer*

Timothy J. Knierim

*Chief Compliance Officer*

Francis J. Smith

*Treasurer and Principal  
Financial Officer*

Mary E. Mullin

*Secretary*

Michael J. Key

*Vice President*

**Adviser and Administrator**

Morgan Stanley Investment Management Inc.

522 Fifth Avenue

New York, New York 10036

**Custodian**

State Street Bank and Trust Company

One Lincoln Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02111

**Stockholder Servicing Agent**

Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

211 Quality Circle, Suite 210

College Station, Texas 77845

**Legal Counsel**

Dechert LLP

1095 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036

**Counsel to the Independent Directors**

Perkins Coie LLP

30 Rockefeller Plaza

New York, New York 10112

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Ernst & Young LLP

200 Clarendon Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02116

For additional Fund information, including the Fund's net asset value per share and information regarding the investments comprising the Fund's portfolio, please call toll free 1 (800) 231-2608 or visit our website at [www.morganstanley.com/im](http://www.morganstanley.com/im). All investments involve risks, including the possible loss of principal.

© 2018 Morgan Stanley.

## INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Morgan Stanley  
Investment Management Inc.  
Adviser

Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc.  
NYSE: MSD

Annual Report

December 31, 2017

CEMSDANN  
2012262 EXP 2.28.19

---



**Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc.**

**December 31, 2017**

Table of Contents

Letter to Stockholders	3
Portfolio of Investments	6
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	12
Statement of Operations	13
Statements of Changes in Net Assets	14
Financial Highlights	15
Notes to Financial Statements	16
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	29
Portfolio Management	30
Investment Policy	31
Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan	36
Privacy Notice	37
Director and Officer Information	41

## **Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc.**

**December 31, 2017**

Letter to Stockholders (unaudited)

### **Performance**

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc. (the "Fund") had total returns of 10.48%, based on net asset value, and 16.21% based on market value per share (including reinvestment of distributions), compared to its benchmark, the J.P. Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Global Index (the "Index")\*, which returned 9.32%. On December 31, 2017, the closing price of the Fund's shares on the New York Stock Exchange was \$9.98, representing a 9.2% discount to the Fund's net asset value per share. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Please keep in mind that double-digit returns are highly unusual and cannot be sustained. Investors should also be aware that these returns were primarily achieved during favorable market conditions.

### **Factors Affecting Performance**

- With the close of 2017, emerging markets (EM) fixed income assets capped two consecutive years of above-average performance as markets digested the well-anticipated U.S. Federal Reserve ("Fed") rate hikes with the support of sustained global economic expansion, rebounding commodity prices, and continued easy financial conditions. The U.S. Treasury curve flattened in the year as 10-year yields rose 7 basis points ("bps") after touching lows of 2.04% and highs of 2.63%, while yields on the 5-year segment rose 27 bps in the year.<sup>i</sup> Sovereign debt outperformed corporate debt, and EM currencies strengthened versus the U.S. dollar. Prices for energy and many hard commodities continued to strengthen in the year, sustaining a rally that began early in 2015, mitigating the impact from the downturn which started in 2013. Investors set a new record by adding over \$109 billion to the EM fixed income asset class, outpacing the \$103 billion added in 2012.<sup>ii</sup> Despite the strong run and the outlook for a more challenging global liquidity backdrop, fundamentals in emerging markets have improved, supporting valuations, and the prospects for continued synchronized global economic and trade growth could lend further support to EM fixed income assets.
- While financial market volatility for the year was one of the lowest on record, political volatility remained elevated with tensions rising, most notably in the Middle East and Asia. The election of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency triggered a range of concerns, including the possibility of changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the subsequent impact on the Mexican economy. Tensions on the Korean peninsula boiled as North Korea's government conducted repeated missile tests and bellicose rhetoric between North Korea and the U.S. escalated. Additional pressure was applied to North Korea in the form of U.N. sanctions targeting economic activity not directly related to nuclear proliferation. In the Middle East, tensions flared between Qatar and four Arab nations (Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain), who moved to physically and politically isolate their smallest neighbor. The "group of four" accused Qatar of supporting terror groups and maintaining close relations with Iran. Qatar is of economic and strategic importance as it hosts roughly 10,000 American troops and is the world's biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas. The U.S. government also passed sanctions on Russia and Venezuela following allegations of Russian interference in the U.S. presidential election and Venezuela's repression of political opposition. Russian sanctions prompted a response by the Russian government, which ordered the expulsion of U.S. embassy staff, as well as rebukes from European allies over the potential impact to their energy security and economic interests. The U.S. administration





## **Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc.**

**December 31, 2017**

Letter to Stockholders (unaudited) (cont'd)

announced additional sanctions on the Venezuelan government, which, among other restrictions, bar U.S. financial firms from dealing in new debt issuance by the Venezuelan government and by state-owned oil company Petroleos de Venezuela S.A., known as PDVSA (as of December 31, 2017, the portfolio owned PDVSA-issued bonds). However, trading in most of the existing outstanding debt is still permitted. Venezuelan assets also suffered after the government announced it would seek a debt restructuring.

- EM external sovereign and quasi-sovereign debt returned 9.32% in the year, as measured by the Index. Bonds from high-yielding, lower-rated countries outperformed lower-yielding, higher-rated countries. Bonds from Belize, Angola, Mongolia, Iraq, and Zambia outperformed the broader market. Conversely, bonds from Venezuela, Bolivia, Latvia, Slovakia, and Lithuania lagged the broader market.
- For the year, security selection and overweight positions in Argentina, Brazil, and Jamaica contributed to relative performance. Overweight positions in Mexico, Ukraine, Indonesia, Ghana, Mongolia, Ecuador, Nigeria, Paraguay, and Honduras also contributed to relative performance in the period, as did security selection in Russia and Mexico, specifically the use of local currency debt.
- Conversely, security selection in Venezuela detracted from relative performance. Underweight positions in Turkey, Uruguay, Malaysia, China, Colombia, and Costa Rica also detracted from relative performance in the period.
- Derivatives, primarily the use of FX forwards to adjust currency exposure, had no significant impact on portfolio performance.

### **Management Strategies**

- From a fundamental perspective, EM economies, in aggregate, have continued to improve. The emerging markets/developed markets growth differential appears to be increasing in favor of EM as the negative growth impacts from Brazil and Russia improve. China's growth slowdown is likely to continue in the medium term, as the government emphasizes the quality of growth over rapidity. Volatility has remained low as investor concerns have been offset by global central bank liquidity and an improved outlook for global growth, despite U.S. Fed rate hikes and balance sheet reduction. This positive fundamental outlook could be threatened by a variety of factors including a sharp return of volatility, resurgence in inflation expectations, monetary policy missteps or a flare-up in geopolitical tensions. De-globalization risks may intensify as NAFTA renegotiation talks continue into 2018, but we remain constructive on the final outcome. A U.S. withdrawal from the agreement would be economically self-defeating, causing severe disruptions in the existing value chains of key U.S. industries. Moreover, the political gain from exiting NAFTA does not appear to be clear-cut, since there are segments of the president's support base that stand to lose significantly from such a decision (for example, states with strong agricultural sectors).

**Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc.**

**December 31, 2017**

Letter to Stockholders (unaudited) (cont'd)

- We remain optimistic about the prospects for EM fixed income for 2018 as country fundamentals and the macroeconomic environment remain supportive. The various factors both pushing and pulling investors into EM fixed income remain in place: developed market yields remain very low, economic data in EM is improving, Fed rate hikes are likely to remain gradual, U.S. protectionist inclinations may have diminished and concerns of a sharp slowdown in China have eased. We believe that EM assets should be able to weather Fed rate hikes if driven by increasing U.S. growth and not inflation; however, assets remain vulnerable to spikes in U.S. policy uncertainty from undue Fed hawkishness or Chinese policy tightening triggering a sharper-than-expected growth downturn. We are also cognizant of potential geopolitical risks, which may flare up and trigger spikes in volatility. However, we anticipate such events will be transitory and idiosyncratic to specific countries, rather than systemic.

Sincerely,

John H. Gernon  
President and Principal Executive Officer January 2018

\*The J.P. Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Global Index tracks total returns for U.S. dollar-denominated debt instruments issued by emerging markets sovereign and quasi-sovereign entities: Brady Bonds, loans, Eurobonds and local market instruments for emerging market countries. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

<sup>i</sup> Source: Bloomberg L.P. Data as of December 31, 2017

<sup>ii</sup> Source: JP Morgan, EPFR Global. Data as of December 31, 2017



**Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc.****December 31, 2017**

Portfolio of Investments

*(Showing Percentage of Total Value of Investments)*

	Face Amount (000)	Value (000)
<b>FIXED INCOME SECURITIES (92.1%)</b>		
<b>Argentina (8.3%)</b>		
<b>Corporate Bonds (5.4%)</b>		
Province of Santa Fe, 6.90%, 11/1/27 (a)	\$ 1,180	\$ 1,252
Provincia de Buenos Aires, 7.88%, 6/15/27	1,580	1,758
BADLAR + 3.83%, 26.96%, 5/31/22 (b)	ARS 18,762	1,019
Provincia de Cordoba, 7.45%, 9/1/24 (a)	\$ 1,610	1,765
Provincia de Entre Rios Argentina, 8.75%, 2/8/25 (a)	2,230	2,403
Provincia de Mendoza Argentina, BADLAR + 4.38%, 27.50%, 6/9/21 (b)	ARS 16,600	893
Provincia de Rio Negro, 7.75%, 12/7/25 (a)	\$ 580	589
Provincia del Chaco Argentina, 9.38%, 8/18/24 (a)	2,380	2,519
YPF SA, 7.00%, 12/15/47 (a)	705	700
		12,898
<b>Sovereign (2.9%)</b>		
Argentina Bonar Bonds, BADLAR + 2.00%, 25.41%, 4/3/22 (b)	ARS 19,910	1,011
Argentine Republic Government International Bond, 6.88%, 1/26/27	\$ 1,950	2,133
7.13%, 7/6/36	720	782
7.13%, 6/28/99 (a)(c)	970	1,002
7.50%, 4/22/26	730	828
Republic of Argentina, 2.50%, 12/31/38 (d)	1,750	1,291
		7,047
		19,945
<b>Brazil (6.3%)</b>		

**Corporate Bonds (3.1%)**

Minerva Luxembourg SA, 5.88%, 1/19/28 (a)	1,360	1,325
8.75%, 4/3/19 (a)(e)	1,290	1,356
Petrobras Global Finance BV, 6.00%, 1/27/28 (a)	2,950	2,961
6.13%, 1/17/22	644	685
	<b>Face Amount (000)</b>	<b>Value (000)</b>
Rumo Luxembourg Sarl, 7.38%, 2/9/24	\$ 1,070	\$ 1,154
		7,481

**Sovereign (3.2%)**

Brazilian Government International Bond, 5.00%, 1/27/45	2,988	2,792
6.00%, 4/7/26 (c)	4,460	4,995
		7,787
		15,268

**Chile (1.9%)****Corporate Bonds (1.4%)**

Colbun SA, 4.50%, 7/10/24 (a)	1,372	1,441
Geopark Ltd., 6.50%, 9/21/24 (a)(c)	850	874
Latam Finance Ltd., 6.88%, 4/11/24 (a)	1,000	1,045
		3,360

**Sovereign (0.5%)**

Empresa Nacional del Petroleo, 4.75%, 12/6/21	1,102	1,171
		4,531

**China (3.3%)****Sovereign (3.3%)**

Sinopec Group Overseas Development 2013 Ltd., 4.38%, 10/17/23	4,740	5,037
Three Gorges Finance I Cayman Islands Ltd., 2.30%, 6/2/21 (a)	2,000	1,968
3.70%, 6/10/25 (a)	780	801
		7,806

**Colombia (1.9%)****Sovereign (1.9%)**

Colombia Government International Bond, 4.38%, 7/12/21	1,460	1,543
5.00%, 6/15/45	1,930	2,046
11.75%, 2/25/20	815	977
		4,566

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc.****December 31, 2017**

Portfolio of Investments (cont'd)

*(Showing Percentage of Total Value of Investments)*

	Face Amount (000)	Value (000)
<b>Croatia (1.0%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (1.0%)</b>		
Croatia Government International Bond, 5.50%, 4/4/23	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,430
<b>Dominican Republic (1.1%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (1.1%)</b>		
Dominican Republic International Bond, 6.85%, 1/27/45 (a)	432	487
6.88%, 1/29/26 (a)	1,215	1,390
7.45%, 4/30/44 (a)	666	798
		2,675
<b>Ecuador (1.9%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (1.9%)</b>		
Ecuador Government International Bond, 8.75%, 6/2/23 (a)	1,160	1,286
8.88%, 10/23/27 (a)	1,890	2,086
10.75%, 3/28/22 (a)	1,010	1,183
		4,555
<b>Egypt (1.4%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (1.4%)</b>		
Egypt Government International Bond, 5.88%, 6/11/25	980	991
6.13%, 1/31/22 (a)	1,320	1,384
7.50%, 1/31/27 (a)	840	930
		3,305
<b>El Salvador (0.9%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (0.9%)</b>		
El Salvador Government International Bond, 6.38%, 1/18/27	1,185	1,210
8.63%, 2/28/29 (a)	760	891
		2,101
<b>Gabon (0.5%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (0.5%)</b>		
	1,200	1,249



	Face Amount (000)	Value (000)
Republic of Gabon, 6.95%, 6/16/25 (a)		
<b>Ghana (1.1%) Sovereign (1.1%)</b>		
Ghana Government International Bond, 10.75%, 10/14/30	\$ 1,950	\$ 2,689
<b>Guatemala (0.4%) Sovereign (0.4%)</b>		
Guatemala Government Bond, 4.50%, 5/3/26 (a)	890	902
<b>Honduras (1.1%) Sovereign (1.1%)</b>		
Honduras Government International Bond, 6.25%, 1/19/27 (a)	1,360	1,458
8.75%, 12/16/20	1,030	1,158
		2,616
<b>Hungary (1.3%) Sovereign (1.3%)</b>		
Hungary Government International Bond, 7.63%, 3/29/41 (c)	1,970	3,093
<b>India (0.4%) Corporate Bond (0.1%)</b>		
Adani Transmission Ltd., 4.00%, 8/3/26 (a)	288	287
<b>Sovereign (0.3%)</b>		
Export-Import Bank of India, 3.38%, 8/5/26 (a)	800	788
		1,075
<b>Indonesia (9.1%) Sovereign (9.1%)</b>		
Indonesia Government International Bond, 4.13%, 1/15/25	2,670	2,779
4.75%, 1/8/26 - 7/18/47 (a)	2,140	2,314
5.13%, 1/15/45 (a)	1,530	1,694
5.88%, 1/15/24 (a)	1,200	1,369
5.88%, 1/15/24	4,360	4,975
5.95%, 1/8/46 (a)	1,360	1,681
7.75%, 1/17/38	2,079	2,977
Majapahit Holding BV, 7.75%, 1/20/20	729	799

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.



**Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc.****December 31, 2017**

Portfolio of Investments (cont'd)

*(Showing Percentage of Total Value of Investments)*

	<b>Face Amount (000)</b>	<b>Value (000)</b>
Pertamina Persero PT, 4.30%, 5/20/23	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,152
6.45%, 5/30/44 (a)	1,720	2,065
		21,805
<b>Iraq (0.5%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (0.5%)</b>		
Iraq International Bond, 6.75%, 3/9/23 (a)	1,140	1,169
<b>Jamaica (1.7%)</b>		
<b>Corporate Bond (0.5%)</b>		
Digicel Group Ltd., 8.25%, 9/30/20	1,150	1,134
<b>Sovereign (1.2%)</b>		
Jamaica Government International Bond, 7.63%, 7/9/25 (c)	380	452
7.88%, 7/28/45	870	1,061
8.00%, 3/15/39	1,010	1,242
		2,755
		3,889
<b>Jordan (0.3%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (0.3%)</b>		
Jordan Government International Bond, 7.38%, 10/10/47 (a)	730	762
<b>Kazakhstan (2.6%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (2.6%)</b>		
Development Bank of Kazakhstan JSC, 4.13%, 12/10/22 (a)	278	287
KazAgro National Management Holding JSC, 4.63%, 5/24/23 (a)	1,390	1,413
Kazakhstan Government International Bond, 5.13%, 7/21/25 (a)	2,100	2,344
KazMunayGas National Co., JSC, 9.13%, 7/2/18	2,180	2,249

		6,293
<b>Lithuania (0.7%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (0.7%)</b>		
Lithuania Government International		
Bond,		
6.63%, 2/1/22	950	1,103
7.38%, 2/11/20	500	553
		1,656
	<b>Face</b>	<b>Value</b>
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>(000)</b>
	<b>(000)</b>	<b>(000)</b>
<b>Mexico (12.3%)</b>		
<b>Corporate Bonds (1.1%)</b>		
Alfa SAB de CV,		
6.88%, 3/25/44	\$ 1,340	\$ 1,447
Mexichem SAB de CV,		
5.50%, 1/15/48 (a)	1,180	1,152
		2,599
<b>Sovereign (11.2%)</b>		
Banco Nacional de Comercio		
Exterior SNC,		
3.80%, 8/11/26 (a)	2,250	2,259
Mexico Government International		
Bond,		
4.15%, 3/28/27 (c)	3,409	3,539
4.35%, 1/15/47	1,110	1,063
4.60%, 1/23/46	2,080	2,056
6.05%, 1/11/40	898	1,061
Petroleos Mexicanos,		
4.88%, 1/24/22	1,863	1,946
5.63%, 1/23/46	2,000	1,856
6.38%, 1/23/45	2,520	2,540
6.50%, 3/13/27 (a)	1,240	1,357
6.50%, 3/13/27 - 6/2/41	3,500	3,666
6.63%, 6/15/35 - 6/15/38	2,030	2,149
6.75%, 9/21/47 (a)	950	994
8.63%, 12/1/23	1,990	2,359
		26,845
		29,444
<b>Mongolia (0.3%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (0.3%)</b>		
Mongolia Government International		
Bond,		
8.75%, 3/9/24 (a)	640	739
<b>Nigeria (0.6%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (0.6%)</b>		
Nigeria Government International		
Bond,		
6.38%, 7/12/23	530	564
6.50%, 11/28/27 (a)(c)	870	909
		1,473

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc.****December 31, 2017**

Portfolio of Investments (cont'd)

*(Showing Percentage of Total Value of Investments)*

	Face Amount (000)	Value (000)
<b>Panama (1.7%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (1.7%)</b>		
Aeropuerto Internacional de Tocumen SA, 5.63%, 5/18/36 (a)	\$ 1,530	\$ 1,656
Panama Government International Bond, 4.00%, 9/22/24	1,434	1,529
5.20%, 1/30/20	460	486
8.88%, 9/30/27	263	383
		4,054
<b>Paraguay (1.9%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (1.9%)</b>		
Paraguay Government International Bond, 4.63%, 1/25/23 (a)	1,580	1,664
4.70%, 3/27/27 (a)	1,120	1,176
6.10%, 8/11/44 (a)	1,420	1,622
		4,462
<b>Peru (2.5%)</b>		
<b>Corporate Bond (0.4%)</b>		
Union Andina de Cementos SAA, 5.88%, 10/30/21 (a)	960	995
<b>Sovereign (2.1%)</b>		
Corporación Financiera de Desarrollo SA, 5.25%, 7/15/29 (a)	978	1,022
Fondo MIVIVIENDA SA, 3.50%, 1/31/23 (a)	491	494
Peruvian Government International Bond, 6.55%, 3/14/37	1,550	2,104
Petroleos del Peru SA, 4.75%, 6/19/32 (a)	1,440	1,460
		5,080
		6,075
<b>Philippines (2.8%)</b>		
<b>Sovereign (2.8%)</b>		
	3,114	3,213

Philippine Government  
International Bond,  
3.95%, 1/20/40 (c)  
9.50%, 2/2/30

2,200  
3,484  
6,697

**Face  
Amount  
(000)**

**Value  
(000)**

**Poland (1.3%)**

**Sovereign (1.3%)**

Poland Government  
International  
Bond,

3.00%, 3/17/23 \$ 1,910 \$ 1,945  
4.00%, 1/22/24 570 609  
5.00%, 3/23/22 470 515  
3,069

**Russia (7.6%)**

**Corporate Bond (0.8%)**

Sibur Securities DAC,  
4.13%, 10/5/23 (a)

2,030 2,033

**Sovereign (6.8%)**

Russian Federal Bond - OFZ,  
6.40%, 5/27/20

RUB 139,800 2,402

Russian Foreign Bond -  
Eurobond,

4.50%, 4/4/22 \$ 12,600 13,362  
5.63%, 4/4/42 400 449  
16,213  
18,246

**Senegal (0.5%)**

**Sovereign (0.5%)**

Senegal Government  
International  
Bond,

6.25%, 5/23/33 (a) 1,140 1,207

**Serbia (0.6%)**

**Sovereign (0.6%)**

Republic of Serbia,  
7.25%, 9/28/21

1,245

The interest rate on the notes is subject to increase if the registration statement to which this prospectus relates is not declared effective on a timely basis or if certain other conditions specified by the registration rights agreements are not satisfied, all as further described under the caption "Registration Rights." All references to interest on the notes include any such additional interest that may be payable.

**Methods of Receiving Payments on  
the Notes**

If a Holder of not less than \$5.0 million aggregate principal amount of any notes has given wire transfer instructions to the Company, the Company will make all principal, premium and interest payments on the notes in accordance with those instructions. All other payments on the notes will be made at the office or agency of the Paying Agent within the City and State of New York unless the Company elects to make interest payments by check mailed to the Holders at their addresses set forth in the register of Holders.

The Company will make all principal, premium and interest payments on each note in global form registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or its nominee in immediately available funds to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the Holder of such global note.

**Paying Agent and Registrar for the Notes**

The Trustee currently acts as Paying Agent and Registrar. The Company may change the Paying Agent or Registrar without prior notice to the Holders of the notes, and the Company or any of its Subsidiaries may act as Paying Agent or Registrar.



Table of Contents

**Transfer and Exchange**

A Holder may transfer or exchange notes in accordance with the applicable Indenture. The Registrar and the Trustee may require a Holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents and the Company may require a Holder to pay any taxes and fees required by law or permitted by the Indenture. The Company is not required to transfer or exchange any note selected for redemption. Also, the Company is not required to transfer or exchange any note for a period of 15 days before a selection of notes to be redeemed.

The Holder of a note will be treated as the owner of it for all purposes.

**Subsidiary Guarantees**

The Guarantors will jointly and severally guarantee the Company's obligations under these notes on a senior unsecured basis. The obligations of each Guarantor under its Subsidiary Guarantee will be limited in a manner intended to prevent that Subsidiary Guarantee from constituting a fraudulent conveyance under applicable laws, although no assurance can be given that a court would give the Holders the benefit of such a provision. Please read "Risk Factors - Risks Relating to Our Indebtedness and the Notes - A subsidiary guarantee could be voided if it constitutes a fraudulent transfer under United States bankruptcy or similar state law, which would prevent the holders of the notes from relying on that subsidiary to satisfy claims."

Except in a transaction resulting in the release of a Subsidiary Guarantee of a Guarantor, the Company will not permit a Guarantor to sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets, or consolidate with or merge with or into (whether or not such Guarantor is the surviving Person), another Person (other than the Company or another Guarantor) unless:

(1)  
immediately after  
giving effect to that  
transaction, no

Default or Event of  
Default shall have  
occurred and be  
continuing; and

(2)  
the Person acquiring  
the assets in any  
such sale or  
disposition or the  
Person formed by or  
surviving any such  
consolidation or  
merger (if other than  
such Guarantor)  
assumes all the  
obligations of that  
Guarantor under its  
Subsidiary  
Guarantee pursuant  
to a supplemental  
indenture  
satisfactory to the  
Trustee.

The Subsidiary Guarantee of a  
Guarantor will be released in accordance  
with the applicable provisions of the  
Indenture governing the particular series  
of notes:

(1)  
in connection with  
any sale or other  
disposition of all or  
substantially all of  
the assets of that  
Guarantor  
(including by way of  
merger or  
consolidation) other  
than to the Company  
or another  
Guarantor, if such  
transaction complies  
with the provisions  
of the Indenture  
described under the  
caption " Repurchase  
at the Option of  
Holders Asset  
Sales;"

(2)  
in connection with  
any sale or other  
disposition of the  
Capital Stock of a  
Guarantor  
(including by way of  
merger or  
consolidation) other

than to the Company  
or another  
Guarantor, if such  
transaction complies  
with the provisions  
of the Indenture  
described under the  
caption " Repurchase  
at the Option of  
Holders Asset Sales"  
and the Guarantor  
ceases to be a  
Restricted  
Subsidiary of the  
Company as a result  
of such transaction;

(3)  
if the Company  
designates any  
Restricted  
Subsidiary that is a  
Guarantor as an  
Unrestricted  
Subsidiary in  
accordance with the  
provisions of the  
Indenture; or

(4)  
if the Company  
effects a Legal  
Defeasance or  
Covenant  
Defeasance as  
described under  
" Legal Defeasance  
and Covenant  
Defeasance" or if it  
satisfies and  
discharges the  
Indenture as  
described under  
" Satisfaction and  
Discharge."

Please read " Repurchase at the  
Option of Holders Asset Sales."

Table of Contents

**Optional Redemption**

**2020 Notes**

On or prior to July 15, 2015, the Company may on any one or more occasions redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of 2020 notes (including any additional 2020 Notes) originally issued prior to the redemption date under the 2020 Indenture in an amount not greater than the Net Cash Proceeds of one or more Equity Offerings, at a redemption price of 109.75% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date (subject to the right of Holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on an interest payment date that is on or prior to the redemption date); provided that:

(1)  
at least 65% in aggregate principal amount of 2020 notes (including any additional 2020 Notes) originally issued under the 2020 Indenture remain outstanding immediately after the occurrence of such redemption (excluding notes held by the Company and its Subsidiaries); and

(2)  
each such redemption must occur within 180 days of the date of the closing of the related Equity Offering.

In addition, at any time prior to July 15, 2016, the Company may redeem all or part of the 2020 notes at a redemption price equal to the sum of:

(i)  
the principal amount thereof, plus

(ii)  
 accrued and unpaid  
 interest, if any, to  
 the redemption date  
 (subject to the right  
 of Holders of record  
 on the relevant  
 record date to  
 receive interest due  
 on an interest  
 payment date that is  
 on or prior to the  
 redemption date),  
 plus

(iii)  
 the Make Whole  
 Premium at the  
 redemption date.

On or after July 15, 2016, the Company may redeem all or a part of the 2020 notes at any time or from time to time, at the redemption prices (expressed as percentages of principal amount) set forth below plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to the applicable redemption date (subject to the right of Holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on an interest payment date that is on or prior to the redemption date), if redeemed during the twelve-month period beginning on July 15 of the years indicated below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2016	104.875
2017	102.438
2018 and thereafter	100.000

Except pursuant to the preceding paragraphs, or as described below in the last paragraph under "Repurchase at the Option of Holders Change of Control," the 2020 notes will not be redeemable at the Company's option prior to maturity.

**2021 Notes**

On or prior to November 15, 2015, the Company may on any one or more occasions redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of 2021 notes (including any additional 2021 Notes) originally issued prior to the redemption date under the 2021 Indenture in an amount not greater than the Net Cash Proceeds of one or more Equity Offerings, at a redemption price of 108.875% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest

to the redemption date (subject to the  
right of

32

---

Table of Contents

Holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on an interest payment date that is on or prior to the redemption date); provided that:

(1)  
at least 65% in aggregate principal amount of 2021 notes (including any additional 2021 Notes) originally issued under the 2021 Indenture remain outstanding immediately after the occurrence of such redemption (excluding notes held by the Company and its Subsidiaries); and

(2)  
each such redemption must occur within 180 days of the date of the closing of the related Equity Offering.

In addition, at any time prior to November 15, 2016, the Company may redeem all or part of the 2021 notes at a redemption price equal to the sum of:

(i)  
the principal amount thereof, plus

(ii)  
accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date (subject to the right of Holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on an interest payment date that is on or prior to the redemption date), plus

(iii)  
the Make Whole Premium at the

redemption date.

On or after November 15, 2016, the Company may redeem all or a part of the 2021 notes at any time or from time to time, at the redemption prices (expressed as percentages of principal amount) set forth below plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to the applicable redemption date (subject to the right of Holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on an interest payment date that is on or prior to the redemption date), if redeemed during the twelve-month period beginning on November 15 of the years indicated below:

Year	Percentage
2016	104.438
2017	102.219
2018 and thereafter	100.000

Except pursuant to the preceding paragraphs, or as described below in the last paragraph under "Repurchase at the Option of Holders Change of Control," the 2021 notes will not be redeemable at the Company's option prior to maturity.

**Selection and Notice**

If less than all of the notes are to be redeemed at any time, the Trustee will select notes for redemption as follows:

- (1) if the notes are listed, in compliance with the requirements of the principal national securities exchange on which the notes are listed; or
- (2) if the notes are not so listed, on a pro rata basis.

Notes or portions of notes the Trustee selects for redemption shall be in minimum amounts of \$2,000 or a whole multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof. Notices of redemption shall be mailed by first class mail at least 30 but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each Holder of notes to be redeemed at its registered address, except that notices of redemption may be mailed more than 60 days prior to a



redemption date if the notice is issued in connection with a defeasance of the notes or a satisfaction and discharge of the Indenture. Notices of redemption may not be conditional, except that a notice of redemption to be made with proceeds of an Equity Offering under the first paragraph of " Optional Redemption" may be conditioned on completion of such Equity Offering.

Table of Contents

If any note is to be redeemed in part only, the notice of redemption that relates to that note shall state the portion of the principal amount thereof to be redeemed. A new note in principal amount equal to the unredeemed portion of the original note will be issued in the name of the Holder thereof upon cancellation of the original note. Notes called for redemption become due on the date fixed for redemption. On and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on notes or portions of them called for redemption.

**Mandatory Redemption; Offers to Purchase; Open Market Purchases**

The Company is not required to make any mandatory redemption or sinking fund payments with respect to the notes. However, under certain circumstances, the Company may be required to offer to purchase notes as described under the captions "Repurchase at the Option of Holders Change of Control" and "Asset Sales." The Company may at any time and from time to time purchase notes in the open market or otherwise.

**Repurchase at the Option of Holders**

*Change of Control*

If a Change of Control occurs, unless the Company has previously or concurrently exercised its right to redeem all of the notes as described under "Optional Redemption," each Holder of notes will have the right to require the Company to repurchase all or any part (equal to \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof) of that Holder's notes pursuant to the offer described below (the "Change of Control Offer"). In the Change of Control Offer, the Company will offer a payment (the "Change of Control Payment") in cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of notes to be repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to the date of purchase (subject to the right of Holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on an interest payment date that is on or prior to the date of purchase).

Within 30 days following any Change of Control, the Company will mail a notice to each Holder describing the transaction or transactions that constitute the Change of Control and offering to repurchase notes on the Change of Control Payment Date specified in such notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days nor later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed, pursuant to the procedures required by the applicable Indenture and described in such notice. The Company will comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent such laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the notes as a result of a Change of Control. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the provisions of the covenant described herein, the Company will comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached its obligations under this covenant by virtue of the Company's compliance with such securities laws or regulations.

On the Change of Control Payment Date, the Company will, to the extent lawful:

(1)  
accept for payment all notes or portions thereof properly tendered pursuant to the Change of Control Offer;

(2)  
deposit with the Paying Agent an amount equal to the Change of Control Payment in respect of all notes or portions thereof so tendered; and

(3)  
deliver or cause to be delivered to the Trustee the notes so accepted together with an officers' certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of

notes or portions  
thereof being  
purchased by the  
Company.

34

---

Table of Contents

The Paying Agent will promptly mail to each Holder of notes so tendered and not withdrawn the Change of Control Payment for such tendered notes, with such payments to be made through the facilities of DTC for all notes in global form, and the Trustee will promptly authenticate and mail (or cause to be transferred by book entry) to each Holder a new note equal in principal amount to any unpurchased portion of the notes surrendered, if any, by such Holder; provided that each such new note will be in a principal amount of \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

The Company will publicly announce the results of the Change of Control Offer on or as soon as practicable after the Change of Control Payment Date.

The provisions described above that require the Company to make a Change of Control Offer following a Change of Control will be applicable regardless of whether or not any other provisions of the applicable Indenture are applicable. Except as described above with respect to a Change of Control, the Indenture will not contain provisions that permit the Holders of the notes to require that the Company repurchase or redeem the notes in the event of a takeover, recapitalization or similar transaction.

Also, the Company's senior secured revolving credit facility currently treats certain change of control events with respect to the Company as an event of default entitling the lenders to terminate all further lending commitments, to accelerate all loans then outstanding and to exercise other remedies. The occurrence of a Change of Control may result in a default under future Indebtedness of the Company and its Subsidiaries, and give the lenders thereunder the right to require the Company to repay obligations outstanding thereunder. Moreover, the exercise by Holders of their right to require the Company to repurchase the notes could cause a default under such future Indebtedness, even if the Change of Control itself does not, due to the financial effect of such repurchase on

the Company. The Company's ability to repurchase notes following a Change of Control also may be limited by the Company's then existing financial resources.

The Company will not be required to make a Change of Control Offer upon a Change of Control if (1) a third party makes the Change of Control Offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements set forth in the applicable Indenture applicable to a Change of Control Offer made by the Company and purchases all notes validly tendered and not withdrawn under such Change of Control Offer, or (2) a notice of redemption for all outstanding notes has been given, unless and until there is a default in payment of the applicable redemption price.

A Change of Control Offer may be made in advance of a Change of Control, and conditioned upon the occurrence of a Change of Control, if a definitive agreement is in place for the Change of Control at the time of making the Change of Control Offer.

The definition of Change of Control includes a phrase relating to the sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of "all or substantially all" of the assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase "substantially all," there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a Holder of notes to require the Company to repurchase such notes as a result of a sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of the assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole may be uncertain. In addition, Holders of notes may not be entitled to require the Company to repurchase their notes in certain circumstances involving a significant change in the composition of the Board of Directors of the Company, including in connection with a proxy contest, where the Company's Board of Directors does not endorse a dissident slate of directors but approves them for purposes of the Indenture.

If Holders of not less than 90% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding notes validly tender and do not withdraw such notes in a Change of Control Offer and the Company, or any other Person making a Change of Control Offer in lieu of the Company as described above, purchases all of

Table of Contents

the notes validly tendered and not withdrawn by such Holders, the Company will have the right, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' prior notice, given not more than 30 days following such purchase pursuant to the Change of Control Offer described above, to redeem all notes that remain outstanding following such purchase at a redemption price in cash equal to the applicable Change of Control Payment plus, to the extent not included in the Change of Control Payment, accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of redemption (subject to the right of Holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on an interest payment date that is on or prior to the date of purchase).

*Asset Sales*

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, consummate an Asset Sale unless:

(1)  
the Company (or the Restricted Subsidiary, as the case may be) receives consideration at the time of such Asset Sale at least equal to the Fair Market Value of the Equity Interests or other assets issued or sold or otherwise disposed of; and

(2)  
(A) at least 75% of the aggregate consideration therefor received by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary, as the case may be, from such Asset Sale and all other Asset Sales since the Issue Date, on a cumulative basis, is in the form of cash, Cash Equivalents or assets of the type



referred to in clauses (2) or (3) of the next succeeding paragraph, or any combination of the foregoing (together, "Permitted Consideration") or (B) the Fair Market Value of all forms of consideration other than Permitted Consideration since the Issue Date does not exceed in the aggregate 10% of the ACNTA of the Company at the time when such determination is made. For purposes of this provision, each of the following shall be deemed to be cash:

- (a) any liabilities (as shown on the Company's or such Restricted Subsidiary's most recent balance sheet) of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary (other than contingent liabilities and liabilities that are by their terms subordinated to the notes or any Subsidiary Guarantee) that are assumed by the transferee of any

such  
assets  
pursuant  
to a  
customary  
novation  
agreement  
or similar  
agreement  
that  
releases  
the  
Company  
or such  
Restricted  
Subsidiary  
from  
further  
liability;  
and  
  
(b)  
any  
securities,  
notes or  
other  
obligations  
received  
by the  
Company  
or any  
such  
Restricted  
Subsidiary  
from such  
transferee  
that are  
converted  
within  
180 days  
by the  
Company  
or such  
Restricted  
Subsidiary  
into cash  
(to the  
extent of  
the cash  
received  
in that  
conversion).

Within the later of (x) one year  
after the date of receipt of any Net  
Proceeds from an Asset Sale and (y) six  
months after the date of an agreement  
entered into within such one-year period  
committing the Company to make an  
acquisition or expenditure referred to in  
clauses (2) or (3) below, the Company  
may apply such Net Proceeds at its

option, in any one or more of the following:

(1)  
to repay, prepay, redeem or repurchase the Senior Debt of the Company or any Guarantor; *provided* that any reduction in outstanding Indebtedness under any revolving credit facility shall be deemed to have been made temporarily pursuant to the next-following paragraph and not under this clause (1) unless the Board of Directors of the Company shall determine otherwise;

(2)  
to acquire all or substantially all of the assets of, or a majority of the Voting Stock of, a Company principally engaged in the Oil and Gas Business that will, upon such acquisition, become a Restricted Subsidiary; or

Table of Contents

(3)

to make capital expenditures or to acquire properties or assets, in each case that are used or useful in the Oil and Gas Business.

Pending the final application of any such Net Proceeds, the Company may temporarily reduce revolving credit borrowings or otherwise invest such Net Proceeds in any manner not prohibited by the Indenture.

Any Net Proceeds from Asset Sales that are not applied or invested as provided in the preceding paragraph will constitute "Excess Proceeds." When the aggregate amount of Excess Proceeds exceeds \$25.0 million, the Company will make an offer (the "Asset Sale Offer") to all Holders of notes and, to the extent required by the terms thereof, all holders of other Indebtedness that is pari passu with the notes containing provisions similar to those set forth in the applicable Indenture with respect to offers to purchase or redeem with the proceeds of sales of assets to purchase the maximum principal amount of notes and such other pari passu Indebtedness that may be purchased out of the Excess Proceeds. The offer price in any Asset Sale Offer will be equal to 100% of principal amount (or accreted value in the case of any such other pari passu Indebtedness issued with a significant original issue discount) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of purchase (subject to the right of Holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on an interest payment date that is on or prior to the date of purchase), and will be payable in cash. If any Excess Proceeds remain after consummation of an Asset Sale Offer, the Company may use such Excess Proceeds for any purpose not otherwise prohibited by the applicable Indenture. If the aggregate principal amount of notes and such other pari passu Indebtedness tendered into such Asset Sale Offer exceeds the amount of Excess Proceeds, the Trustee shall select the notes and such other pari passu Indebtedness to be purchased on a pro rata basis, on the basis of the aggregate

principal amounts (or accreted values) tendered in round denominations (which in the case of the notes will be minimum denominations of \$2,000 principal amount or multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof). Upon completion of each Asset Sale Offer, the amount of Excess Proceeds shall be reset at zero.

The Company will publicly announce the results of the Asset Sale Offer on or as soon as practicable after the date such Asset Sale Offer is completed.

The Company will comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent such laws and regulations are applicable in connection with an Asset Sale Offer. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the provisions of the covenant described herein, the Company will comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached its obligations under this covenant by virtue of the Company's compliance with such securities laws or regulations.

#### **Certain Covenants**

##### ***Restricted Payments***

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, directly or indirectly:

- (1) declare or pay any dividend or make any other payment or distribution on account of the Company's or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries' Equity Interests (including, without limitation, any payment by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary in connection with any merger or consolidation involving the Company or any of

its Restricted  
Subsidiaries) or to  
the direct or indirect  
holders of the  
Company's or any of  
its Restricted  
Subsidiaries' Equity  
Interests in their  
capacity as such  
(other than  
dividends or  
distributions payable  
in Equity Interests  
(other than  
Disqualified Stock)  
of the Company or  
to the Company or a  
Restricted  
Subsidiary of the  
Company);

Table of Contents

(2)  
purchase, redeem or  
otherwise acquire or  
retire for value  
(including, without  
limitation, in  
connection with any  
merger or  
consolidation  
involving the  
Company) any  
Equity Interests of  
the Company or any  
direct or indirect  
parent of the  
Company (other  
than any such  
Equity Interests  
owned by the  
Company or any  
Restricted  
Subsidiary of the  
Company);

(3)  
make any payment  
on or with respect  
to, or purchase,  
redeem, defease or  
otherwise acquire or  
retire for value,  
prior to scheduled  
maturity or  
scheduled sinking  
fund payment, any  
Subordinated  
Indebtedness of the  
Company or any  
Guarantor, except(a)  
a payment of  
interest or principal  
on or after the date  
when due or within  
three business days  
prior thereto, (b) in  
anticipation of  
satisfying a sinking  
fund obligation,  
principal installment  
payment or payment  
due at final  
maturity, in each  
case due within one  
year of the date of  
such payment,  
purchase or other  
acquisition or  
retirement or  
(c) payments on  
Indebtedness owed

to the Company or a Guarantor; or

(4) make any Investment other than a Permitted Investment (all such payments and other actions set forth in clauses (1) through (3) above and this clause (4) being collectively referred to as "Restricted Payments"), unless, at the time of and after giving effect to such Restricted Payment:

(1) no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing or would occur as a consequence thereof;

(2) the Company would, at the time of such Restricted Payment and after giving pro forma effect thereto as if such Restricted Payment had been made at the beginning of the applicable four-quarter period, have been permitted to incur at least \$1.00



of  
additional  
Indebtedness  
pursuant  
to the  
Fixed  
Charge  
Coverage  
Ratio test  
set forth in  
the first  
paragraph  
of the  
covenant  
described  
below  
under the  
caption  
" Incurrence  
of  
Indebtedness;"  
and  
  
(3)  
such  
Restricted  
Payment,  
together  
with the  
aggregate  
amount of  
all other  
Restricted  
Payments  
made by  
the  
Company  
and its  
Restricted  
Subsidiaries  
after the  
Issue Date  
(excluding  
Restricted  
Payments  
permitted  
by  
clauses (2),  
(3), (4),  
(6), (7),  
(8), (9),  
(10), (11),  
(12) or  
(13) of the  
next  
succeeding  
paragraph,  
but  
including  
Restricted  
Payments  
permitted

by  
clauses (1),  
(5) and  
(14) of  
such  
paragraph),  
is less  
than the  
sum,  
without  
duplication,  
of:  
  
(a)  
50%  
of  
the  
Consolidated  
Net  
Income  
of  
the  
Company  
for  
the  
period  
(taken  
as  
one  
accounting  
period)  
from  
July 1,  
2012  
to  
the  
end  
of  
the  
Company's  
most  
recently  
ended  
fiscal  
quarter  
for  
which  
internal  
financial  
statements  
are  
available  
at  
the  
time  
of  
such  
Restricted  
Payment  
(or,  
if  
such

Consolidated  
Net  
Income  
for  
such  
period  
is  
a  
deficit,  
less  
100%  
of  
such  
deficit);  
plus  
  
(b)  
100%  
of  
the  
aggregate  
Net  
Cash  
Proceeds  
and  
100%  
of  
the  
Fair  
Market  
Value  
of  
securities  
or  
other  
property  
other  
than  
cash  
(including  
Capital  
Stock  
of  
Persons  
engaged  
in  
the  
Oil  
and  
Gas  
Business  
that  
become  
Restricted  
Subsidiaries  
or  
assets  
used  
in  
the  
Oil  
and

Gas  
Business)  
received  
by  
the  
Company  
since  
the  
Issue  
Date  
from  
the  
issue  
or  
sale  
of  
Equity  
Interests  
of  
the  
Company  
(other  
than  
Disqualified  
Stock),  
other  
than  
Equity  
Interests  
(or  
Disqualified  
Stock  
or  
debt  
securities)  
sold  
to  
a  
Subsidiary  
of  
the  
Company  
or  
to  
an  
employee  
stock  
ownership  
plan  
or  
to  
a  
trust  
established  
by  
the  
Company  
or  
any  
of  
its  
Subsidiaries

for  
the  
benefit  
of  
their  
employees;  
plus  
  
(c)  
the  
amount  
by  
which  
Indebtedness  
is  
reduced  
on  
the  
Company's  
consolidated  
balance  
sheet  
upon  
the  
conversion  
or  
exchange  
(other  
than  
by  
a  
Subsidiary  
of  
the  
Company)  
subsequent  
to  
the  
Issue  
Date  
of  
any  
Indebtedness  
convertible  
or

Table of Contents

exchangeable  
for  
Capital  
Stock  
(other  
than  
Disqualified  
Stock)  
of  
the  
Company  
(plus  
the  
amount  
of  
any  
accrued  
interest  
then  
outstanding  
on  
such  
Indebtedness  
to  
the  
extent  
the  
obligation  
to  
pay  
such  
interest  
is  
extinguished  
less  
the  
amount  
of  
any  
cash,  
or  
the  
Fair  
Market  
Value  
of  
any  
property  
(as  
determined  
in  
good  
faith  
by  
an  
officer  
of  
the  
Company),  
distributed

by  
the  
Company  
upon  
such  
conversion  
or  
exchange);  
provided,  
however,  
that  
the  
foregoing  
amount  
shall  
not  
exceed  
the  
Net  
Cash  
Proceeds  
received  
by  
the  
Company  
or  
any  
Restricted  
Subsidiary  
from  
the  
sale  
of  
such  
Indebtedness  
(excluding  
Net  
Cash  
Proceeds  
from  
sales  
to  
a  
Subsidiary  
of  
the  
Company  
or  
to  
an  
employee  
stock  
ownership  
plan  
or  
to  
a  
trust  
established  
by  
the  
Company

or  
any  
of  
its  
Subsidiaries  
for  
the  
benefit  
of  
their  
employees);  
plus  
  
(d)  
an  
amount  
equal  
to  
the  
sum  
of  
(i) the  
net  
reduction  
in  
the  
Investments  
(other  
than  
Permitted  
Investments)  
made  
by  
the  
Company  
or  
any  
Restricted  
Subsidiary  
in  
any  
Person  
resulting  
from  
repurchases,  
repayments  
or  
redemptions  
of  
such  
Investments  
by  
such  
Person,  
proceeds  
realized  
on  
the  
sale  
of  
such  
Investments



and  
proceeds  
representing  
the  
return  
of  
capital  
(excluding  
dividends  
and  
distributions  
to  
the  
extent  
included  
in  
Consolidated  
Net  
Income),  
in  
each  
case  
received  
by  
the  
Company  
or  
any  
Restricted  
Subsidiary  
since  
the  
Issue  
Date,  
and  
(ii) to  
the  
extent  
such  
Person  
is  
an  
Unrestricted  
Subsidiary,  
the  
portion  
(proportionate  
to  
the  
Company's  
equity  
interest  
in  
such  
Subsidiary)  
of  
the  
Fair  
Market  
Value  
of  
the

net  
assets  
of  
such  
Unrestricted  
Subsidiary  
at  
the  
time  
such  
Unrestricted  
Subsidiary  
is  
designated  
a  
Restricted  
Subsidiary;  
provided,  
however,  
that  
to  
the  
extent  
the  
foregoing  
sum  
exceeds,  
in  
the  
case  
of  
any  
such  
Person  
or  
Unrestricted  
Subsidiary,  
the  
amount  
of  
Investments  
(excluding  
Permitted  
Investments)  
previously  
made  
(and  
treated  
as  
a  
Restricted  
Payment)  
by  
the  
Company  
or  
any  
Restricted  
Subsidiary  
in  
such  
Person

or  
Unrestricted  
Subsidiary  
since  
the  
Issue  
Date,  
such  
excess  
shall  
not  
be  
included  
in  
this  
clause (d)  
unless  
the  
amount  
represented  
by  
such  
excess  
has  
not  
been  
and  
will  
not  
be  
taken  
into  
account  
in  
one  
of  
the  
foregoing  
clauses (a)-(c).

The preceding provisions will not  
prohibit:

(1)  
the payment of any  
dividend within  
60 days after the  
date of declaration  
thereof, if at said  
date of declaration  
such payment would  
have complied with  
the provisions of the  
applicable Indenture  
(and such payment  
shall be deemed to  
be paid on the date  
of payment for  
purposes of any  
calculation required  
by this covenant);

(2)  
the redemption,  
repurchase,  
retirement,  
defeasance or other  
acquisition of any  
Subordinated  
Indebtedness of the  
Company or any  
Guarantor or of any  
Equity Interests of  
the Company or any  
Restricted  
Subsidiary in  
exchange for, or out  
of the Net Cash  
Proceeds of the  
substantially  
concurrent sale  
(other than to a  
Subsidiary of the  
Company) of,  
Equity Interests of  
the Company (other  
than Disqualified  
Stock); *provided*  
that the amount of  
any such Net Cash  
Proceeds that are  
utilized for any such  
redemption,  
repurchase,  
retirement,  
defeasance or other  
acquisition shall be  
excluded from  
clause (3)(b) of the  
preceding  
paragraph;

(3)  
the defeasance,  
redemption,  
repurchase,  
retirement or other  
acquisition of any  
Subordinated  
Indebtedness of the  
Company or any  
Guarantor with the  
Net Cash Proceeds  
from an incurrence  
of any Permitted  
Refinancing  
Indebtedness  
permitted to be  
incurred under the  
caption " Incurrence  
of Indebtedness;"

(4)

the payment of any dividend or other distribution by a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company to the holders of its common Equity Interests on a pro rata basis;

(5) so long as no Default has occurred and is continuing, the repurchase, redemption or other acquisition or retirement for value of any Equity Interests of the Company or any Restricted

Table of Contents

Subsidiary of the Company held by any employees, former employees, directors or former directors of Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries (or heirs, estates or other permitted transferees of such employees or directors) pursuant to any agreements (including employment agreements), management equity subscription agreements or stock option agreements or plans (or amendments thereto), approved by the Board of Directors, under which such individuals purchase or sell or are granted the right to purchase or sell shares of Capital Stock; provided that the aggregate price paid for all such repurchased, redeemed, acquired or retired Equity Interests shall not exceed \$3.5 million in any twelve-month period (with any unused portion of such amount permitted to be carried forward to the next succeeding twelve month period);

(6)

so long as no Default has occurred and is continuing, loans or advances to employees of the Company or employees or directors of any

Subsidiary of the Company, in each case as permitted by Section 402 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the proceeds of which are used to purchase Capital Stock of the Company, or to refinance loans or advances made pursuant to this clause (6), in an aggregate amount not in excess of \$2.0 million at any one time outstanding;

(7) repurchases or other acquisitions for value of Capital Stock deemed to occur upon the exercise or exchange of stock options, warrants or other convertible securities if such Capital Stock represents a portion of the exercise or exchange price thereof or made in lieu of withholding taxes in connection with any such exercise or exchange; provided, however, that the aggregate amount of such repurchases, redemption or acquisitions to satisfy federal income tax obligations shall not exceed \$2.0 million in any twelve-month period;

(8) upon the occurrence of a Change of Control or an Asset Sale and within 60 days after the completion of the offer to repurchase the notes under the

covenants described under " Repurchase at the Option of Holders Change of Control" or " Asset Sales" above (including the purchase of all notes tendered and required to be purchased), any purchase, repurchase, redemption, defeasance, acquisition or other retirement for value of Subordinated Indebtedness required under the terms thereof as a result of such Change of Control or Asset Sale at a purchase or redemption price not to exceed 101% of the outstanding principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, provided that, in the notice to Holders relating to a Change of Control or Asset Sale hereunder, the Company shall describe this clause (8);

(9)  
so long as no Default has occurred or is continuing, the purchase by the Company of fractional shares arising out of stock dividends, splits or business combinations;

(10)  
payments to dissenting stockholders (x) pursuant to applicable law or (y) in connection with the settlement or other satisfaction



of legal claims made pursuant to or in connection with a consolidation, merger or transfer of assets in connection with a transaction that is not prohibited by the applicable Indenture;

(11) the purchase by the Company of fractional shares arising out of stock dividends, splits or combinations or business combinations or conversion of convertible or exchangeable securities of debt or equity issued by the Company;

(12) dividends on Disqualified Stock if such dividends are included in the calculation of Fixed Charges;

(13) payments made by any Person other than the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary to the stockholders of the Company in connection with or as part of (a) a merger or consolidation of the Company with or into such Person or a subsidiary of such Person, or (b) a merger of a subsidiary of such Person into the Company; or

Table of Contents

(14)  
 other Restricted  
 Payments not to  
 exceed  
 \$25.0 million in the  
 aggregate since the  
 Issue Date.

The amount of all Restricted Payments (other than cash) shall be the Fair Market Value on the date of the Restricted Payment of the asset(s) or securities proposed to be transferred or issued by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary, as the case may be, pursuant to the Restricted Payment. The Fair Market Value of any assets or securities that are required to be valued at the time of such Restricted Payment by this covenant shall be evidenced by an officers' certificate which shall be delivered to the Trustee not later than five Business Days following the date of the making of any Restricted Payment. Such officers' certificate shall state that such Restricted Payment is permitted, together with a copy of any related resolution of the Board of Directors.

For purposes of determining compliance with this covenant, if a Restricted Payment meets the criteria of more than one of the types of Restricted Payments described in clauses (1)-(14) above, the Company, in its sole discretion, may order and classify, and subsequently reorder and reclassify, such Restricted Payment in any manner in compliance with this covenant.

***Incurrence of Indebtedness***

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, directly or indirectly, create, incur, issue, assume, Guarantee or otherwise become directly or indirectly liable, contingently or otherwise, with respect to (collectively, "incur") any Indebtedness (including Acquired Debt); provided, however, that the Company and any Guarantor may incur Indebtedness (including Acquired Debt), if the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio for the Company's most recently ended four full fiscal quarters for which internal financial statements are available immediately preceding the date on which such additional Indebtedness is

incurred would have been at least 2.0 to 1, determined on a pro forma basis (including a pro forma application of the Net Cash Proceeds therefrom), as if the additional Indebtedness had been incurred at the beginning of such four-quarter period.

The first paragraph of this covenant will not prohibit the incurrence of any of the following items of Indebtedness (collectively, "Permitted Indebtedness"):

(1) the incurrence by the Company and any Guarantor of the Indebtedness under Credit Facilities; provided that the aggregate principal amount of all Indebtedness of the Company and the Guarantors outstanding at any time under this clause (1) under all Credit Facilities after giving effect to such incurrence does not exceed an amount equal to the greater of (a) \$750.0 million less the aggregate amount of all principal repayments since the Issue Date under a Credit Facility that are made under clause (1) of the second paragraph of the covenant described under "Repurchase at the Option of Holders Asset Sales" and (b) 30.0% of ACNTA;

(2) the incurrence by the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries of Existing Indebtedness (other than Indebtedness described under clause (1), (3) or

(6) of this paragraph);

(3) the incurrence by the Company and the Guarantors of Indebtedness represented by (a) the old notes and the Subsidiary Guarantees, and (b) any new notes issued pursuant to the registration rights agreements in exchange for the old notes, and any Subsidiary Guarantees related thereto;

(4) the incurrence by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of Indebtedness represented by Capital Lease Obligations, mortgage financings, industrial revenue bonds, purchase money obligations or other Indebtedness or preferred stock, or synthetic lease obligations, in each case, incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or cost of design, development, construction, installation or improvement of property (real or personal and including Capital Stock), plant or equipment used in the business of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries (in each case, whether through the direct

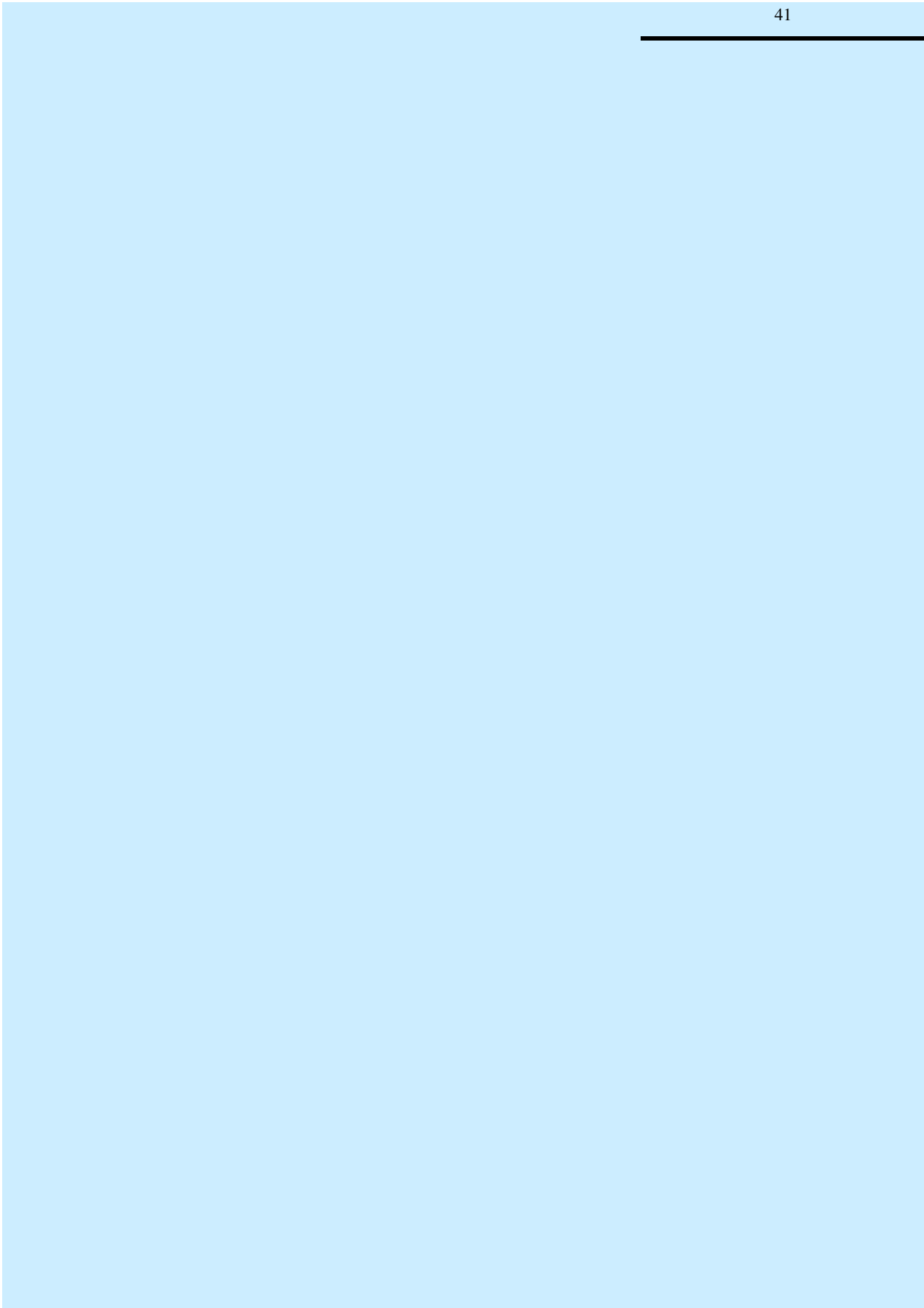


Table of Contents

purchase of such assets or the Equity Interests of any Person owning such assets), in an aggregate principal amount, taken together with Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness in respect thereof, not to exceed \$50.0 million at any time outstanding;

(5)

the incurrence by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness in exchange for, or the Net Cash Proceeds of which are used to refund, refinance or replace, Indebtedness (other than intercompany Indebtedness) that was permitted by the applicable Indenture to be incurred under the first paragraph of this covenant or clause (2), (3), (4) or (13) or this clause (5) of this paragraph;

(6)

the incurrence by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of intercompany Indebtedness between or among the Company and any of its Restricted Subsidiaries; provided, however, that:

(a)

(i) if the Company is the

obligor on  
such  
Indebtedness,  
such  
Indebtedness  
must be  
expressly  
subordinated  
to the  
prior  
payment  
in full in  
cash of all  
obligations  
with  
respect to  
the notes,  
and (ii) if  
a  
Guarantor  
is the  
obligor of  
such  
Indebtedness,  
such  
Indebtedness  
must be  
expressly  
subordinated  
to the  
prior  
payment  
in full in  
cash of all  
obligations  
of such  
Guarantor  
with  
respect to  
its  
Subsidiary  
Guarantee;  
and  
  
(b)  
(i) any  
subsequent  
issuance  
or transfer  
of Equity  
Interests  
that results  
in any  
such  
Indebtedness  
being held  
by a  
Person  
other than  
the  
Company  
or a

Restricted  
Subsidiary  
thereof  
and  
(ii) any  
sale or  
other  
transfer of  
any such  
Indebtedness  
to a  
Person  
that is not  
either the  
Company  
or a  
Restricted  
Subsidiary  
thereof,  
shall be  
deemed,  
in each  
case, to  
constitute  
an  
incurrence  
of such  
Indebtedness  
by the  
Company  
or such  
Restricted  
Subsidiary,  
as the case  
may be,  
that was  
not  
permitted  
by this  
clause;

(7)  
in-kind obligations  
relating to net oil  
and natural gas  
balancing positions  
arising in the  
ordinary course of  
business;

(8)  
the accrual of  
interest, accretion or  
amortization of  
original issue  
discount, the  
payment of interest  
on any Indebtedness  
in the form of  
additional  
Indebtedness with  
the same terms, and



the payment of dividends on Disqualified Stock, in the form of additional shares of the same class of Disqualified Stock;

(9) any obligations in respect of completion bonds, performance bonds, bid bonds, appeal bonds, surety bonds, bankers acceptances, letters of credit, insurance obligations or bonds and other similar bonds and obligations incurred by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary in the ordinary course of business and any Guarantees or letters of credit functioning as or supporting any of the foregoing bonds or obligations;

(10) any obligation (including deferred premiums) under Interest Rate Agreements, Currency Agreements and Commodity Agreements; provided, that such Interest Rate Agreements, Currency Agreements and Commodity Agreements are related to business transactions of the Company or its Restricted Subsidiaries and are entered into for bona fide hedging purposes of the Company or its Restricted Subsidiaries (as

determined in good faith by the Board of Directors or senior management of the Company);

(11) any obligation arising from agreements of the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary providing for indemnification, Guarantee, adjustment of purchase price, holdback, contingency payment obligation based on the performance of the acquired or disposed asset or similar obligations, in each case, incurred or assumed in connection with the acquisition or disposition of any business, asset or Capital Stock of a Restricted Subsidiary;

(12) any obligation arising from the honoring by a bank or other financial institution of a check, draft or similar instrument drawn against insufficient funds in the ordinary course of business, provided, however, that such Indebtedness is extinguished within five Business Days of incurrence;

Table of Contents

(13)  
the incurrence by  
the Company or any  
of its Restricted  
Subsidiaries of  
Permitted  
Acquisition  
Indebtedness;

(14)  
the incurrence by  
the Company or any  
of its Restricted  
Subsidiaries of  
Indebtedness arising  
from Guarantees of  
Indebtedness of  
joint ventures at any  
time outstanding not  
to exceed the greater  
of \$50.0 million and  
2.0% of ACNTA  
determined as of the  
date of incurrence of  
such Indebtedness  
after giving pro  
forma effect to such  
incurrence and the  
application of  
proceeds thereof;  
and

(15)  
the incurrence by  
the Company or any  
of its Restricted  
Subsidiaries of  
Indebtedness in  
addition to  
Indebtedness  
permitted by  
clauses (1) through  
(14) above or the  
first paragraph  
above in an  
aggregate principal  
amount (or accreted  
value, as applicable)  
at any time  
outstanding not to  
exceed the greater of  
(a) \$50.0 million  
and (b) 2.0% of the  
Company's  
ACNTA,  
determined as of the  
date of incurrence of  
such Indebtedness  
after giving effect to  
such incurrence and

the application of  
the proceeds  
therefrom.

For purposes of determining  
compliance with this "Indebtedness"  
covenant:

(1)  
in the event that an  
item of proposed  
Indebtedness meets  
the criteria of more  
than one of the  
categories of  
Permitted  
Indebtedness  
described in  
clauses (1) through  
(15) above, or is  
entitled to be  
incurred pursuant to  
the first paragraph  
of this covenant, the  
Company will be  
permitted to classify  
such item of  
Indebtedness (or any  
portion thereof) on  
the date of its  
incurrence and,  
subject to clause (2)  
below, may later  
reclassify such items  
of Indebtedness (or  
any portion thereof),  
in any manner that  
complies with this  
covenant, and only  
be required to  
include the amount  
and type of such  
Indebtedness in one  
of such clauses or  
may include the  
amount and type of  
such Indebtedness  
partially in one such  
clause and partially  
in one or more other  
such clauses;

(2)  
all Indebtedness  
outstanding on the  
date of the  
applicable Indenture  
under the Credit  
Facilities shall be  
deemed initially  
incurred on the Issue  
Date under

clause (1) of the second paragraph of this covenant and not the first paragraph or clause (2) of the second paragraph of this covenant;

(3)

Guarantees of, or obligations in respect of letters of credit relating to, Indebtedness which is otherwise included in the determination of a particular amount of Indebtedness shall not be included;

(4)

if obligations in respect of letters of credit are incurred pursuant to the Credit Facility and are being treated as incurred pursuant to clause (1) of the second paragraph above and the letters of credit relate to other Indebtedness, then such other Indebtedness shall not be included;

(5)

the amount of Indebtedness issued at a price that is less than the principal amount thereof will be equal to the amount of the liability in respect thereof determined in accordance with GAAP;

(6)

Indebtedness of any Person existing at the time such Person becomes a Restricted Subsidiary shall be deemed to have been incurred by the Company and the

Restricted  
Subsidiary at the  
time such Person  
becomes a  
Restricted  
Subsidiary; and

(7)  
the accrual of  
interest or  
dividends, the  
accretion or  
amortization of  
original issue  
discount, the  
payment of interest  
on any Indebtedness  
in the form of  
additional  
Indebtedness with  
the same terms, the  
reclassification of  
preferred equity as  
Indebtedness due to  
a change in  
accounting  
principles, the  
payment of  
dividends on  
Disqualified Stock  
or preferred equity  
in the form of  
additional shares of  
the same class of  
Disqualified Stock  
or preferred equity  
will not be deemed  
to be an incurrence  
of Indebtedness or  
an issuance of  
Disqualified Stock  
or preferred equity  
for purposes of this  
covenant; provided,  
in each such case  
(other than

Table of Contents

preferred stock that is not Disqualified Stock), that the amount of any such accrual, accretion or payment is included in Fixed Charges of the Company as accrued.

For purposes of determining compliance with any U.S. dollar-denominated restriction on the incurrence of Indebtedness, the U.S. dollar-equivalent principal amount of Indebtedness denominated in a foreign currency shall be calculated based on the relevant currency exchange rate in effect on the date such Indebtedness was incurred, in the case of term Indebtedness, or first committed, in the case of revolving credit Indebtedness; provided that if such Indebtedness is incurred to refinance other Indebtedness denominated in a foreign currency, and such refinancing would cause the applicable U.S. dollar-dominated restriction to be exceeded if calculated at the relevant currency exchange rate in effect on the date of such refinancing, such U.S. dollar-dominated restriction shall be deemed not to have been exceeded so long as the principal amount of such refinancing Indebtedness does not exceed the principal amount of such Indebtedness being refinanced. Notwithstanding any other provision of this covenant, the maximum amount of Indebtedness that the Company may incur pursuant to this covenant shall not be deemed to be exceeded solely as a result of fluctuations in the exchange rate of currencies. The principal amount of any Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness, if incurred in a different currency from the Indebtedness being refinanced, shall be calculated based on the currency exchange rate applicable to the currencies in which such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness is denominated that is in effect on the date of such refinancing.

*Liens*

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to create, incur, assume or suffer to exist

any Lien on any property or asset now owned or hereafter acquired, or any income or profits therefrom or assign or convey any right to receive income therefrom, except Permitted Liens, to secure (a) any Indebtedness of the Company unless prior to, or contemporaneously therewith, the notes are equally and ratably secured for so long as such other Indebtedness is so secured, or (b) any Indebtedness of any Guarantor, unless prior to, or contemporaneously therewith, the Subsidiary Guarantee of such Guarantor is equally and ratably secured for so long as such other Indebtedness is so secured; provided, however, that if such Indebtedness is expressly subordinated to the notes or a Subsidiary Guarantee, the Lien securing such Indebtedness will be subordinated and junior to the Lien securing the notes or such Subsidiary Guarantee, as the case may be, with the same relative priority as such Indebtedness has with respect to the notes or such Subsidiary Guarantee.

***Dividend and Other Payment  
Restrictions Affecting  
Subsidiaries***

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, directly or indirectly, create or permit to exist or become effective any consensual encumbrance or restriction on the ability of any Restricted Subsidiary to:

(a)  
pay dividends or make any other distributions on its Capital Stock to the Company or any of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries, or pay any Indebtedness owed to the Company or any of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries;

(b)  
make loans or advances to the Company or any of the Company's Restricted



Subsidiaries; or

(c)  
transfer any of its  
properties or assets  
to the Company or  
any of the  
Company's  
Restricted  
Subsidiaries.

However, the preceding restrictions  
will not apply to encumbrances or  
restrictions existing under or by reason  
of:

(1)  
agreements existing  
on the Issue Date,  
including the  
Existing Credit  
Facility as in effect  
on the Issue Date;

Table of Contents

(2)  
any instrument governing Indebtedness or Capital Stock of a Person acquired by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries as in effect at the time of such acquisition (except to the extent such Indebtedness was incurred in connection with or in contemplation of such acquisition), which encumbrance or restriction is not applicable to any Person, or the properties or assets of any Person, other than the Person, or the property or assets of the Person, so acquired, provided that, in the case of Indebtedness, such Indebtedness was permitted by the terms of the applicable Indenture to be incurred;

(3)  
any agreement for the sale or other disposition of Capital Stock or assets of a Restricted Subsidiary that restricts distributions by such Restricted Subsidiary pending such sale or other disposition;

(4)  
any amendment, restatement, modification, supplement, extension, renewal, refunding, replacement or refinancing of

Indebtedness referred to in clauses (1) or (2), provided that the encumbrances or restrictions contained in the agreements governing the foregoing are not materially more restrictive, taken as a whole, than those contained in the agreements governing such Indebtedness;

(5) cash or other deposits, or net worth requirements or similar requirements, imposed by suppliers, landlords or customers or required by insurance, security or bonding companies, or restrictions on cash or other deposits by parties under agreements entered into in the ordinary course of the Oil and Gas Business of the types described in the definition of Permitted Business Investments;

(6) any applicable law, rule, regulation, order, approval, license, permit or similar restriction;

(7) provisions limiting the disposition or distribution of assets or property or transfer of Capital Stock in joint venture agreements, asset sale agreements, sale-leaseback agreements, stock

sale agreements, limited liability company organizational documents, and other similar agreements entered into in the ordinary course of business, consistent with past practice or with the approval of the Company's Board of Directors, which limitation is applicable only to the assets, property or Capital Stock that are the subject of such agreements;

(8) any encumbrance or restriction contained in the terms of any Indebtedness permitted to be incurred under the applicable Indenture or any agreement pursuant to which such Indebtedness was incurred if either (x) the encumbrance or restriction applies only in the event of a payment default or a default with respect to a financial covenant in such Indebtedness or agreement or (y) the Company determines that any such encumbrance or restriction will not materially affect the Company's ability to make principal or interest payments on the notes and in either case such restrictions are not materially less favorable to Holders of notes than is customary in comparable financings, in each case as determined

in good faith by the  
Board of Directors  
of the Company;  
and

(9)  
with respect to  
clause (c) of the  
preceding paragraph  
only, any of the  
following  
encumbrances or  
restrictions:

(a)  
customary  
non-assignment  
or consent  
provisions  
in leases  
entered  
into in the  
ordinary  
course of  
business;

(b)  
purchase  
money  
obligations  
for  
property  
acquired  
in the  
ordinary  
course of  
business  
or  
otherwise  
permitted  
under the  
applicable  
Indenture  
that  
impose  
restrictions  
on the  
property  
so  
acquired;

(c)  
Permitted  
Liens or  
Liens  
securing  
Indebtedness  
otherwise  
permitted  
to be  
incurred  
pursuant

to the  
provisions  
of the  
covenant  
described  
above  
under the  
caption  
" Liens"

45

---

Table of Contents

that limit  
the right  
of the  
Company  
or any of  
its  
Restricted  
Subsidiaries  
to dispose  
of the  
assets  
subject to  
such Lien;

(d)  
customary  
restrictions  
contained  
in asset  
sale  
agreements  
limiting  
the  
transfer of  
such  
assets  
pending  
the closing  
of such  
sale;

(e)  
customary  
restrictions  
on the  
subletting,  
assignment  
or transfer  
of any  
property  
or asset  
that is  
subject to  
a lease,  
license,  
sub-license  
or similar  
contract,  
or the  
assignment  
or transfer  
of any  
such lease,  
license,  
sub-license  
or other  
contract;  
and

(f)

customary  
restrictions  
on the  
disposition  
or  
distribution  
of assets  
or  
property  
in  
agreements  
entered  
into in the  
ordinary  
course of  
the Oil  
and Gas  
Business  
of the  
types  
described  
in the  
definition  
of  
Permitted  
Business  
Investments.

***Merger, Consolidation or  
Sale of Assets***

The Company may not:  
(1) consolidate or merge with or into  
another Person (whether or not the  
Company is the surviving corporation);  
or (2) sell, assign, transfer, lease, convey  
or otherwise dispose of all or  
substantially all of the properties or  
assets of the Company and its Restricted  
Subsidiaries taken as whole, in one or  
more related transactions, to another  
Person, unless:

(1)  
either:

(a)  
the  
Company  
is the  
surviving  
corporation;  
or

(b)  
the Person  
formed by  
or  
surviving  
any such  
consolidation  
or merger  
(if other



than the  
Company)  
or to  
which  
such sale,  
assignment,  
transfer,  
lease,  
conveyance  
or other  
disposition  
shall have  
been made  
is a Person  
existing  
under the  
laws of  
the United  
States, any  
state  
thereof or  
the  
District of  
Columbia;

(2)  
the Person formed  
by or surviving any  
such consolidation  
or merger (if other  
than the Company)  
or the Person to  
which such sale,  
assignment, transfer,  
lease, conveyance or  
other disposition  
shall have been  
made assumes all  
the obligations of  
the Company under  
the notes, the  
applicable Indenture  
and the applicable  
registration rights  
agreement pursuant  
to a supplemental  
indenture reasonably  
satisfactory to the  
Trustee;

(3)  
immediately after  
such transaction no  
Default or Event of  
Default exists; and

(4)  
either (a) the  
Company or the  
Person formed by or  
surviving any such  
consolidation or

merger (if other than the Company) will, on the date of such transaction after giving pro forma effect thereto and any related financing transactions as if the same had occurred at the beginning of the applicable four-quarter period, be permitted to incur at least \$1.00 of additional Indebtedness pursuant to the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio test set forth in the first paragraph of the covenant described above under the caption " Certain Covenants Incurrence of Indebtedness" or (b) immediately after giving effect to such transaction on a pro forma basis and any related financing transactions as if the same had occurred at the beginning of the applicable four-quarter period, the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio of the Company is equal to or greater than the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio of the Company immediately before such transaction.

The surviving or transferee Person in any of the above transactions (if not the Company) will succeed to, and be substituted for the Company under the applicable Indenture and the notes and the Company (if not the surviving Person) will be fully released from its obligations under such Indenture and the notes, except in the case of a lease of all or substantially all of its assets.

For purposes of this covenant, the sale, assignment, transfer, lease,

conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of one or more Subsidiaries of the Company, which

Table of Contents

properties or assets, if held by the Company instead of such Subsidiaries, would constitute all or substantially all of the properties or assets of the Company on a consolidated basis, shall be deemed to be the transfer of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of the Company.

Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase "substantially all," there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, in certain circumstances there may be a degree of uncertainty as to whether a particular transaction would involve "all or substantially all" of the properties or assets of a Person.

Clause (4) of this "Merger, consolidation, or sale of assets" covenant will not apply to a sale, assignment, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of assets between or among the Company and any of its Restricted Subsidiaries that are Guarantors.

***Transactions with Affiliates***

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, make any payment to, or sell, lease, transfer or otherwise dispose of any of its properties or assets to, or purchase any property or assets from, or enter into or make or amend any transaction, contract, agreement, understanding, loan, advance or Guarantee with, or for the benefit of, any Affiliate (each, an "Affiliate Transaction") involving aggregate consideration to or from the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary in excess of \$1.0 million, unless:

- (1) such Affiliate Transaction is on terms that are no less favorable to the Company or the relevant Restricted Subsidiary than those that would have been obtained at the time of such transaction in arm's-length dealings by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary with a Person that is not

an Affiliate; and

(2) (a) the Company delivers to the trustee with respect to any Affiliate Transaction or series of related Affiliate Transactions involving aggregate consideration to or from the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary in excess of \$10.0 million, an officers' certificate certifying that such Affiliate Transaction complies with the requirements of clause (1) above; and

(b) with respect to any Affiliate Transaction or series of related Affiliate Transactions involving aggregate consideration to or from the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary in excess of \$25.0 million, a majority of the Disinterested Members of the Board of Directors (or, if there is only one Disinterested Member, such Disinterested Member) have determined that the criteria set forth in clause (1) are satisfied with respect to such Affiliate

Transaction(s) and have approved such Affiliate Transaction(s), as evidenced by a resolution delivered to the Trustee and certified by an officers' certificate as having been adopted by the Board of Directors.

The following items shall not be deemed to be Affiliate Transactions and, therefore, will not be subject to the provisions of the prior paragraph:

(1) any employment or severance agreement or other employee, consulting service, termination or director-compensation agreement, arrangement or plan, (or any amendment thereto with respect thereto), or indemnification agreements, entered into by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary with officers and employees of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary thereof and the payment of compensation to officers and employees of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary thereof (including amounts paid pursuant to employee benefit plans, employee stock option or similar plans), so long as such agreement or payment is in the ordinary course of business or has been

approved by a majority of the Disinterested Members of the Board of Directors (or, if there is only one Disinterested Member, such Disinterested Member);

Table of Contents

(2)  
transactions between  
or among the  
Company and/or its  
Restricted  
Subsidiaries;

(3)  
Restricted Payments  
that, in each case,  
are permitted by the  
provisions of the  
Indentures described  
above under the  
caption " Restricted  
Payments" or  
Permitted  
Investments  
described in  
clauses (14) or  
(15) of the definition  
thereof;

(4)  
loans or advances to  
employees, officers  
or directors in the  
ordinary course of  
business of the  
Company or any of  
its Restricted  
Subsidiaries, in each  
case only as  
permitted by  
Section 402 of the  
Sarbanes-Oxley Act  
of 2002, but in any  
event not to exceed  
\$2.0 million in the  
aggregate  
outstanding at any  
one time;

(5)  
any transactions  
undertaken pursuant  
to any contracts in  
existence on the  
Issue Date (as in  
effect on the Issue  
Date) and any  
renewals,  
replacements or  
modifications of  
such contracts  
(pursuant to new  
transactions or  
otherwise) on terms  
no less favorable to  
the holders of the



notes than those in effect on the Issue Date;

(6)

in the case of (i) contracts for (A) drilling or other oil-field services or supplies, (B) the sale, storage, gathering or transport of hydrocarbons or (C) the lease or rental of office or storage space or (ii) other operation-type contracts, any such contracts that are entered into in the ordinary course of business on terms substantially similar to those contained in similar contracts entered into by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary and third parties or, if neither the Company nor any Restricted Subsidiary has entered into a similar contract with a third party, that the terms are no less favorable than those available from third parties on an arm's-length basis, as determined by a majority of the Disinterested Members of the Board of Directors of the Company (or, if there is only one Disinterested Member, such Disinterested Member);

(7)

transactions with a Person (other than an Unrestricted Subsidiary) that is an Affiliate of the Company solely

because the Company owns, directly or through a Subsidiary, an Equity Interest in, or controls, such Person;

(8)

any sale or other issuance of Equity Interests (other than Disqualified Stock) of the Company to, or receipt of a capital contribution from, an Affiliate (or a Person that becomes an Affiliate) of the Company;

(9)

any Transaction between the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary on the one hand and any Person deemed to be an Affiliate solely because a director of such Person is also a director of the company or a Restricted Subsidiary, on the other hand; provided that such director abstains from voting as a director of the Company or the Restricted Subsidiary, as applicable, in connection with the approval of the transaction; and

(10)

Transactions with customers, clients, suppliers or purchasers or sellers of goods or services, in each case in the ordinary course of the business of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries and otherwise in

compliance with the applicable Indenture; provided that as determined by a majority of the Disinterested Members of the Board of Directors or the Company (or, if there is only one Disinterested Member, such Disinterested Member) or senior management of the Company, such Transactions are on terms that are no less favorable to the Company or the relevant Restricted Subsidiary than those that would have been obtained in a comparable Transaction by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary with an unrelated Person.

***Additional Subsidiary Guarantees***

If, after the Issue Date, any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company that is not already a Guarantor guarantees any Indebtedness of the Company or any Guarantor under a Credit Facility, then that

Table of Contents

Subsidiary will become a Guarantor by executing a supplemental indenture and delivering it to the Trustee within 30 days of the date on which it guaranteed such Indebtedness. Any such guarantee shall be subject to release as described under " Subsidiary Guarantees."

***Business Activities***

The Company will not, and will not permit any Restricted Subsidiary to, engage in any business other than the Oil and Gas Business, except to such extent as would not be material in the opinion of the Board of Directors (which opinion shall be reasonable and made in good faith) to the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries taken as a whole.

***Reports***

Whether or not required by the SEC, so long as any notes are outstanding, the Company will furnish to the Holders of notes, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and regulations:

(1) all quarterly and annual financial information that would be required to be contained in a filing with the SEC on Forms 10-Q and 10-K if the Company were required to file such Forms, including a section on "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and, with respect to the annual information only, a report on the annual financial statements by the Company's certified independent public accountants; and

(2)  
all current reports  
that would be  
required to be filed  
with the SEC on  
Form 8-K if the  
Company were  
required to file such  
reports.

If the Company has designated any of its Subsidiaries as Unrestricted Subsidiaries, then the quarterly and annual financial information required by the preceding paragraph shall include a reasonably detailed presentation, either on the face of the financial statements or in the footnotes thereto, and in "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," of the financial condition and results of operations of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries separate from the financial condition and results of operations of the Unrestricted Subsidiaries of the Company.

In addition, whether or not required by the SEC, the Company will file a copy of all of the information and reports referred to in clause (1) and (2) above with the SEC for public availability within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and regulations (unless the SEC will not accept such a filing). Each such filing will be deemed to satisfy the Company's obligation to furnish the filed information or report to the Holders.

In the event that any direct or indirect parent company of the Company becomes a guarantor of the Notes, the Indentures will permit the Company to satisfy its obligations in this covenant with respect to financial information relating to the Company by furnishing financial information relating to such parent company; provided that the same is accompanied by consolidating information that explains in reasonable detail the differences between the information relating to such parent, on the one hand, and the information relating to the Company and its Subsidiaries on a standalone basis, on the other hand.

In addition, the Company will agree that, for so long as any Notes

remain outstanding and are "restricted securities" under Rule 144 under the Securities Act, if at any time it is not required to file with the SEC the reports required by the preceding paragraphs, it will furnish to beneficial owners of Notes and to prospective investors, upon request, the information required to be delivered pursuant to Rule 144A(d)(4) under the Securities Act.

Table of Contents

**Covenant Termination**

From and after the occurrence of an Investment Grade Rating Event, the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries will no longer be subject to the provisions of the Indentures described in "Repurchase at the Option of Holders Asset Sales" or in "Certain Covenants" above under the following headings:

"Restricted Payments,"

"Incurrence of Indebtedness,"

"Dividend and Other Payment Restrictions Affecting Subsidiaries,"

Clause (4) of "Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets,"

"Transactions with Affiliates," and

"Business Activities"

(collectively, the "Eliminated Covenants"). As a result, after the date on which the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries are no longer subject to the Eliminated Covenants, the notes will be entitled to substantially reduced covenant protection.

After the foregoing covenants have been terminated, the Company may not designate any of its Subsidiaries as Unrestricted Subsidiaries pursuant to the second sentence of the definition of "Unrestricted Subsidiary."

**Events of Default and Remedies**

Each of the following is an Event of Default:

- (1) default for 30 days in the payment when due of interest on the notes;
- (2) default in payment when due of the principal of or premium, if any, on the notes;
- (3) failure by the Company to comply with the provisions described under the caption " Certain Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets";
- (4) failure by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to comply for 30 days after receipt of written notice from the Trustee or the Holders of 25% in principal amount of the notes with the provisions described under the captions " Repurchase at the Option of the Holders Change of Control" and " Asset Sales" and " Certain Covenants Restricted Payments," " Incurrence of Indebtedness," " Liens," " Dividend and Other Payment Restrictions Affecting Subsidiaries," " Transactions with Affiliates," " Additional Subsidiary Guarantees," and " Business Activities";



(5)  
failure by the  
Company for  
60 days (or 180 days  
with respect to the  
covenant described  
under " Certain  
Covenants Reports")  
after receipt of  
written notice from  
the Trustee or the  
Holders of 25% in  
principal amount of  
the notes to comply  
with any of its other  
agreements in the  
Indenture;

(6)  
default under any  
mortgage, indenture  
or instrument under  
which there may be  
issued or by which  
there may be  
secured or  
evidenced any  
Indebtedness for  
money borrowed by  
the Company or any  
of its Restricted  
Subsidiaries (or the  
payment of which is  
Guaranteed by the

Table of Contents

Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries), whether such Indebtedness or Guarantee now exists, or is created after the date of the applicable Indenture, if that default:

(a) is caused by a failure to pay principal of or premium, if any, or interest on such Indebtedness prior to the expiration of the grace period provided in such Indebtedness (a "Payment Default"); or

(b) results in the acceleration of such Indebtedness prior to its Stated Maturity, and, in each case, the principal amount of any such Indebtedness, together with the principal amount of any other such

Indebtedness under which there has been a Payment Default or the maturity of which has been so accelerated, aggregates \$25.0 million or more (the "cross-acceleration provision"); provided, however, that if any such Payment Default is cured or waived or any such acceleration rescinded, or such Indebtedness is repaid, within a period of 30 days from the continuation of such Payment Default beyond the applicable grace period or the occurrence of such acceleration, as the case may be, such Event of Default and any consequential acceleration of the Notes shall be automatically

rescinded,  
so long as  
such  
rescission  
does not  
conflict  
with any  
judgment  
or decree;

(7)  
failure by the  
Company or any of  
its Restricted  
Subsidiaries to pay  
final judgments  
aggregating in  
excess of  
\$25.0 million (net of  
any amounts  
covered by  
insurance or a  
binding indemnity  
agreement), which  
judgments are not  
paid, discharged or  
stayed for a period  
of 60 days (the  
"Judgment  
Provision");

(8)  
any Subsidiary  
Guarantee of a  
Guarantor shall be  
held in any judicial  
proceeding to be  
unenforceable or  
invalid or, except as  
permitted by the  
applicable  
Indenture, shall  
cease for any reason  
to be in full force  
and effect or any  
Guarantor, or any  
Person acting on  
behalf of any  
Guarantor, shall  
deny or disaffirm its  
obligations under its  
Subsidiary  
Guarantee (the  
"guarantee default  
provision"), in each  
case with respect to  
any Guarantor that  
is also a Significant  
Subsidiary or any  
group of Guarantors  
that, taken together,  
would constitute a

Significant  
Subsidiary; and

(9)  
certain events of  
bankruptcy or  
insolvency with  
respect to the  
Company or any  
Restricted  
Subsidiary that is  
also a Significant  
Subsidiary or any  
group of Restricted  
Subsidiaries that,  
taken together,  
would constitute a  
Significant  
Subsidiary (the  
"bankruptcy  
provision").

In the case of an Event of Default arising from certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency with respect to the Company, any Restricted Subsidiary that is a Significant Subsidiary or any group of Restricted Subsidiaries that, taken together, would constitute a Significant Subsidiary, all outstanding notes will become due and payable immediately without further action or notice. If any other Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee or the Holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the then outstanding notes may declare all the notes to be due and payable immediately. Under certain circumstances, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the then outstanding notes may rescind an acceleration with respect to the notes and its consequences.

Holders of the notes may not enforce the applicable Indenture or the notes except as provided in such Indenture. Subject to certain limitations, Holders of a majority in principal amount of the then outstanding notes may direct the Trustee in its exercise of any trust or power. The Trustee may withhold from Holders of the notes notice of any continuing Default or Event of Default (except a Default or Event of Default relating to the payment of principal, premium or interest) if it determines that withholding notice is in their interest.

The Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the notes then outstanding by notice to the Trustee may on behalf of the Holders of all of the notes waive any existing Default or Event of Default and its consequences under the applicable Indenture except a continuing Default or Event of Default in the payment of interest or premium on, or the principal of, the notes or a Default or Event

Table of Contents

of Default in respect of a provision that under " Amendment, Supplement and Waiver" below cannot be amended without the consent of each Holder affected.

The Company is required to deliver to the Trustee annually a statement regarding compliance with each Indenture. Upon becoming aware of any Default or Event of Default, the Company is required to deliver to the Trustee a statement specifying such Default or Event of Default.

**No Personal Liability of Directors, Officers, Employees and Stockholders**

No director, officer, employee, incorporator, member, partner or stockholder of the Company or any Guarantor, as such, shall have any liability for any obligations of the Company or the Guarantors under the notes, the Indentures, the Subsidiary Guarantees, the registration rights agreements or for any claim based on, in respect of, or by reason of, such obligations or their creation. Each Holder of notes by accepting a note waives and releases all such liability. The waiver and release are part of the consideration for issuance of the notes.

The waiver and release may not be effective to waive liabilities under the federal securities laws, and it is the view of the SEC that such a waiver is against public policy.

**Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance**

The Company may, at its option and at any time, elect to have all of its obligations discharged with respect to the outstanding notes and the applicable Indenture and all obligations of the Guarantors discharged with respect to their Subsidiary Guarantees ("Legal Defeasance") except for:

- (1) the rights of Holders of outstanding notes to receive payments in respect of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on such

notes when such payments are due from the trust referred to below;

(2)

the Company's obligations with respect to the notes concerning issuing temporary notes, registration of notes, mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen notes and the maintenance of an office or agency for payment and money for security payments held in trust;

(3)

the rights, powers, trusts, duties and immunities of the Trustee, and the Company's obligations in connection therewith; and

(4)

the Legal Defeasance provisions of such Indenture.

In addition, the Company may, at its option and at any time, elect to terminate its obligations under " Repurchase at the Option of Holders Change of Control" and " Asset Sales" and under the covenants described under " Certain Covenants" (other than the covenant described under " Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets"), the operation of the Cross-Acceleration Provision, the Judgment Provision, the Guarantee Default Provision and (with respect only to Significant Subsidiaries) the Bankruptcy Provision described under " Events of Default and Remedies" above and the limitations contained in clause (4) of the first paragraph under " Certain Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets" above (collectively, "Covenant Defeasance") and certain other covenants or obligations of the Company set forth in the applicable Indenture, and thereafter



any omission to comply with such obligations or provisions will not constitute a Default or Event of Default.

The Company may exercise its Legal Defeasance option notwithstanding its prior exercise of its Covenant Defeasance option. If the Company exercises its Legal Defeasance option, payment of the notes may not be accelerated because of any Event of Default. If the Company exercises its Covenant Defeasance option, payment of the notes may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default specified in clauses (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) or (with respect only to Significant Subsidiaries) (9) under "Events of Default and Remedies" above or because of the failure of the Company to comply with

Table of Contents

clause (4) of the first paragraph under " Certain Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets" above.

If the Company exercises its Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance option, each Guarantor will be released from its obligations with respect to its Subsidiary Guarantee.

In order to exercise either Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance:

(1)

the Company must irrevocably deposit with the Trustee, in trust, for the benefit of the Holders of the notes, cash in U.S. dollars, non-callable Government Securities, or a combination thereof, in such amounts as will be sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants, to pay the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the outstanding notes on the Stated Maturity or on the applicable redemption date, as the case may be, and the Company must specify whether the notes are being defeased to Stated Maturity or to a particular redemption date;

(2)

in the case of Legal Defeasance, the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel reasonably acceptable to the Trustee confirming that (a) the Company has received from, or

there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service a ruling or (b) since the Issue Date, there has been a change in the applicable federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, and based thereon such Opinion of Counsel shall confirm that, the Holders of the outstanding notes will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such Legal Defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such Legal Defeasance had not occurred;

(3)  
in the case of Covenant Defeasance, the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel reasonably acceptable to the Trustee confirming that the Holders of the outstanding notes will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such Covenant Defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such Covenant Defeasance had not occurred;

(4)  
no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing either:  
(a) on the date of such deposit (other than a Default or Event of Default resulting from the borrowing of funds to be applied to such deposit); or  
(b) insofar as Events of Default from bankruptcy or insolvency events are concerned, at any time in the period ending on the 91st day after the date of deposit;

(5)  
such Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under any material agreement or instrument (other than the Indenture) to which the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries is a party or by which the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries is bound;

(6)  
the Company must have delivered to the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel to the effect that after the 91st day following the deposit, the trust funds will not be subject to the effect of any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or similar laws affecting creditors'

rights generally;

(7)

the Company must deliver to the Trustee an officers' certificate stating that the deposit was not made by the Company with the intent of preferring the Holders of notes over the other creditors of the Company with the intent of defeating, hindering, delaying or defrauding creditors of the Company or others; and

(8)

the Company must deliver to the Trustee an officers' certificate and an Opinion of Counsel, stating that all conditions precedent relating to the Legal Defeasance or the Covenant Defeasance have been complied with.

Table of Contents

**Satisfaction and Discharge**

The Company may discharge its and the Guarantors' obligations under the Indentures while notes remain outstanding if (a) all outstanding notes have been delivered for cancellation, (b) all outstanding notes have become due and payable at their scheduled maturity or (c) all outstanding notes are scheduled for redemption, and the Company has deposited with the Trustee an amount sufficient to pay and discharge all outstanding notes, not previously delivered for cancellation, on the date of their scheduled maturity or the scheduled date of redemption.

**Amendment, Supplement and Waiver**

Except as provided below, the Indentures, the notes and Subsidiary Guarantees may be amended with the consent of the Holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the series of notes then outstanding (including consents obtained in connection with a purchase of, or tender offer or exchange offer for, notes), and any existing default or compliance with any provision of the Indenture governing such series, the notes or the Subsidiary Guarantees may be waived with the consent of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the then outstanding notes (including consents obtained in connection with a tender offer or exchange offer for notes).

Without the consent of each Holder affected, an amendment, supplement or waiver may not (with respect to any notes held by a non-consenting Holder):

(1)  
reduce the principal amount of notes whose Holders must consent to an amendment, supplement or waiver;

(2)  
reduce the principal of or change the fixed maturity of any note or alter the provisions with

respect to the redemption or repurchase of the notes (other than provisions relating to the covenants described above under the caption "Repurchase at the Option of Holders");

(3)  
reduce the rate of or change the time for payment of interest on any note;

(4)  
waive a Default or Event of Default in the payment of principal of or premium, if any, or interest on the notes or a Default or Event of Default in respect of a provision that cannot be amended without the consent of each Holder affected;

(5)  
make any note payable in a currency other than that stated in the notes;

(6)  
make any change in the provisions of such Indenture relating to waivers of past Defaults or the rights of Holders of notes to receive payments of principal of or premium, if any, or interest on the notes (except as permitted by clause (7) below);

(7)  
waive a redemption or repurchase payment with respect to any note (other than a

payment required by  
one of the covenants  
described above  
under the caption  
" Repurchase at the  
Option of Holders");

(8)  
modify any  
Subsidiary  
Guarantee in any  
manner adverse to  
Holders of the notes  
or release any  
Guarantor from its  
obligations under its  
Subsidiary  
Guarantee except in  
accordance with the  
terms of such  
Indenture;

(9)  
make any change in  
the ranking of the  
notes or the  
Subsidiary  
Guarantees in a  
manner adverse to  
the Holders of the  
notes or the  
Subsidiary  
Guarantees; or

(10)  
make any change in  
the preceding  
amendment,  
supplement and  
waiver provisions.



Table of Contents

Notwithstanding the preceding, without the consent of any Holder of notes, the Company, the Guarantors and the Trustee may amend or supplement the Indentures, the notes or the Subsidiary Guarantees:

(1)  
to cure any ambiguity, defect, inconsistency, omission or mistake;

(2)  
to provide for uncertificated notes in addition to or in place of certificated notes;

(3)  
to provide for the assumption of the Company's or a Guarantor's obligations to Holders of notes in the case of a merger or consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of the Company's or a Guarantor's properties or assets in compliance with the applicable Indenture;

(4)  
to add or release Guarantors in compliance with the applicable Indenture;

(5)  
to make any change that would provide any additional rights or benefits to the Holders of notes, add Events of Default or surrender any right or power conferred upon the Company or any Guarantor or that does not adversely affect in any material respect the

legal rights under the applicable Indenture of any such Holder; provided, however, that any change to such Indenture to conform it to this "Description of the New Notes" shall not be deemed to adversely affect such legal rights;

(6) to secure the notes, including pursuant to the requirements of the covenant described above under the caption " Certain Covenants Liens;"

(7) to comply with requirements of the SEC in order to effect or maintain the qualification of the applicable Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;

(8) to comply with requirements of any securities depository with respect to the notes; or

(9) to provide for the issuance of the new notes or additional notes of the same series.

**Concerning the Trustee**

If the Trustee becomes a creditor of the Company or any Guarantor, the Indentures will limit its right to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize on certain property received in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise. The Trustee will be permitted to engage in other transactions; however, if it acquires any conflicting interest after a Default has occurred and is continuing it must eliminate such conflict within 90 days, apply to the

SEC for permission to continue or resign.

The Holders of a majority in principal amount of the then outstanding series of notes will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for exercising any remedy available to the Trustee, subject to certain exceptions. If an Event of Default shall occur and be continuing, the Trustee will be required, in the exercise of its power, to use the degree of care of a prudent person in the conduct of his own affairs. Subject to such provisions, the Trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the applicable Indenture at the request of any Holder of notes, unless such Holder shall have offered to the Trustee security and indemnity satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense as provided in such Indenture.

#### **Governing Law**

The Indentures, the notes and the Subsidiary Guarantees are governed by, and will be construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

**Additional Information**

Anyone who receives this prospectus may obtain a copy of the applicable Indenture and registration rights agreement without charge by writing to Halcón Resources Corporation, 1000 Louisiana St., Suite 6700, Houston, Texas 77002, Attention: General Counsel.

**Certain Definitions**

Set forth below are certain defined terms used in the Indentures. Reference is made to the Indentures for a full disclosure of all such terms, as well as any other capitalized terms used herein for which no definition is provided.

"ACNTA" means (without duplication), as of the date of determination:

(1) the sum of:

(a) discounted future net revenue from proved crude oil and natural gas reserves of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries calculated in accordance with SEC guidelines before any state or federal income taxes, as estimated in a reserve report prepared as of the end of the Company's most recently completed fiscal year, which reserve report is prepared or reviewed by independent petroleum engineers, as increased by, as of the date of determination, the discounted future net revenue of:

(A) estimated proved crude oil and natural gas reserves of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries attributable to acquisitions consummated since the date of such year-end reserve report, and

(B) estimated proved crude oil and natural gas reserves of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries attributable to extensions, discoveries and other additions and upward determinations of estimates of proved crude oil and natural gas reserves (including previously estimated development costs incurred during the period and the accretion of discount since the prior year end) due to exploration, development or exploitation, production or other activities which reserves were not reflected in such year-end reserve report, in the case of the determination made under each of clauses (A) and (B) above, calculated in accordance with SEC guidelines (utilizing the prices utilized in such year-end reserve report) before any state or federal income taxes, and decreased by, as of the date of determination, the discounted future net revenue attributable to:

(C) estimated proved crude oil and natural gas reserves of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries reflected in such year-end reserve report produced or disposed of since the

date of such  
year-end reserve  
report (before any  
state or federal  
income taxes), and

(D) reductions  
in the estimated  
proved crude oil and  
natural gas reserves  
of the Company and  
its Restricted  
Subsidiaries  
reflected in such  
year-end reserve  
report since the date  
of such year-end  
reserve report  
attributable to  
downward  
determinations of  
estimates of proved  
crude oil and natural  
gas reserves due to  
exploration,  
development or  
exploitation,  
production or other  
activities conducted  
or otherwise  
occurring since the  
date of such  
year-end reserve  
report, in each case  
calculated in  
accordance with  
SEC guidelines  
(utilizing the prices  
utilized in such  
year-end reserve  
report) before any  
state or federal  
income taxes;

provided, however, that, in the case of  
each of the determinations made  
pursuant to clauses (A) through (D),  
such increases and decreases shall be as  
estimated by the Company's engineers;

(b) the capitalized costs  
that are attributable to crude  
oil and natural gas properties  
of the Company and its  
Restricted Subsidiaries to  
which no proved crude oil and  
natural gas reserves are

Table of Contents

attributed, based on the Company's books and records as of a date no earlier than the date of the Company's latest annual or quarterly financial statements;

(c) the Net Working Capital on a date no earlier than the date of the Company's latest annual or quarterly financial statements; and

(d) the greater of (I) the net book value on a date no earlier than the date of the Company's latest annual or quarterly financial statements and (II) the appraised value, as estimated by independent appraisers within the immediately preceding 12 months, of other tangible assets of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries (provided that the Company shall not be required to obtain such an appraisal of such assets if no such appraisal has been performed);

*minus*

(2) to the extent not otherwise taken into account in the immediately preceding clause (1), the sum of:

(a) minority interests;

(b) any net gas or other balancing liabilities of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries reflected in the Company's latest audited financial statements;

(c) the discounted future net revenue, calculated in accordance with SEC guidelines (utilizing the same prices utilized in the Company's year-end reserve report) before any state or federal income taxes, attributable to reserves subject to participation interests, royalty interests, overriding

royalty interests, net profits interests or other interests of third parties, pursuant to participation, partnership, vendor financing or other agreements then in effect, or which otherwise are required to be delivered to third parties;

(d) the discounted future net revenue, calculated in accordance with SEC guidelines (utilizing the same prices utilized in the Company's year-end reserve report) before any state or federal income taxes, attributable to reserves that are required to be delivered to third parties to fully satisfy the obligations of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries with respect to Volumetric Production Payments on the schedules specified with respect thereto; and

(e) the discounted future net revenue, calculated in accordance with SEC guidelines before any state or federal income taxes, attributable to reserves subject to Dollar-Denominated Production Payments that, based on the estimates of production included in determining the discounted future net revenue specified in the immediately preceding clause (a)(i) (utilizing the same prices utilized in the Company's year-end reserve report), would be necessary to satisfy fully the obligations of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries with respect to Dollar-Denominated Production Payments on the schedules specified with respect thereto.

If the Company changes its method of accounting from the full cost method to the successful efforts method or a similar method of accounting, ACNTA will continue to be calculated as if the Company were still using the full cost method of accounting.



"**Acquired Debt**" means, with respect to any specified Person:

(1) Indebtedness of any other Person existing at the time such other Person is merged with or into or became a Restricted Subsidiary of such specified Person, whether or not such Indebtedness is incurred in connection with, or in contemplation of, such other Person merging with or into, or becoming a Restricted Subsidiary of, such specified Person; and

(2) Indebtedness secured by a Lien encumbering any asset acquired by such specified Person.

"**Affiliate**" of any specified Person means any other Person directly or indirectly controlling or controlled by or under direct or indirect common control with such specified Person. For purposes of

Table of Contents

this definition, "control," as used with respect to any Person, shall mean the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of such Person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by agreement or otherwise. For purposes of this definition, the terms "controlling," "controlled by" and "under common control with" shall have correlative meanings.

"**Asset Sale**" means:

(1) the sale, lease, conveyance or other disposition (including, without limitation, by means of a sale and leaseback transaction) of any assets, including, without limitation, any sale of hydrocarbons or other mineral products as a result of the creation of Production Payments and Reserve Sales; provided that the sale, lease conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries taken as a whole will be governed by the provisions of the Indentures described above under the caption " Repurchase at the Option of Holders Change of Control," and/or the provisions described above under the caption " Certain Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets" and not by the provisions described above under the caption " Certain Covenants Asset Sales;" and

(2) the issuance of Equity Interests by any of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries or the sale of Equity Interests in any of its Subsidiaries (other than directors' qualifying shares or shares required by applicable law to be held by a Person other than the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary).

Notwithstanding the preceding, the following items shall not be deemed to be Asset Sales:

(1) any single transaction or series of related transactions that: (a) involves assets having a Fair Market Value of less than \$5.0 million; or (b) results in Net Proceeds to the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries of less than \$5.0 million;

(2) a transfer of assets between or among the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries;

(3) an issuance of Equity Interests by a Restricted Subsidiary to the Company or to another Restricted Subsidiary;

(4) a disposition of cash or Cash Equivalents, inventory, accounts receivable, surplus or obsolete equipment or other similar property or any other disposition of property in the ordinary course of business (excluding the disposition of oil and gas in place and other interests in real property unless made in connection with a Permitted Business Investment);

(5) a Permitted Investment or a Restricted Payment that is permitted by the covenant described above under the caption " Certain Covenants Restricted Payments;"

(6) a disposition of oil, natural gas or other hydrocarbons or other mineral products in the ordinary course of business of the oil and gas production operations of the Company and its Subsidiaries;

(7) any abandonment, relinquishment, farm-in, farm-out, lease and sub-lease of developed and/or undeveloped properties made or entered into in the ordinary course of business, but excluding any disposition as a result of the creation of a Production Payment and Reserve Sale;

(8) the provision of services, equipment and other assets for the operation and development of the Company's and its Restricted Subsidiaries' oil and natural gas wells, in the ordinary course of the Company's and its Restricted Subsidiaries' Oil and Gas Business, notwithstanding that such transactions may be recorded as asset sales in accordance with full cost accounting guidelines;

(9) the creation or perfection of a Lien (but not the sale or other disposition of any asset subject to such Lien);

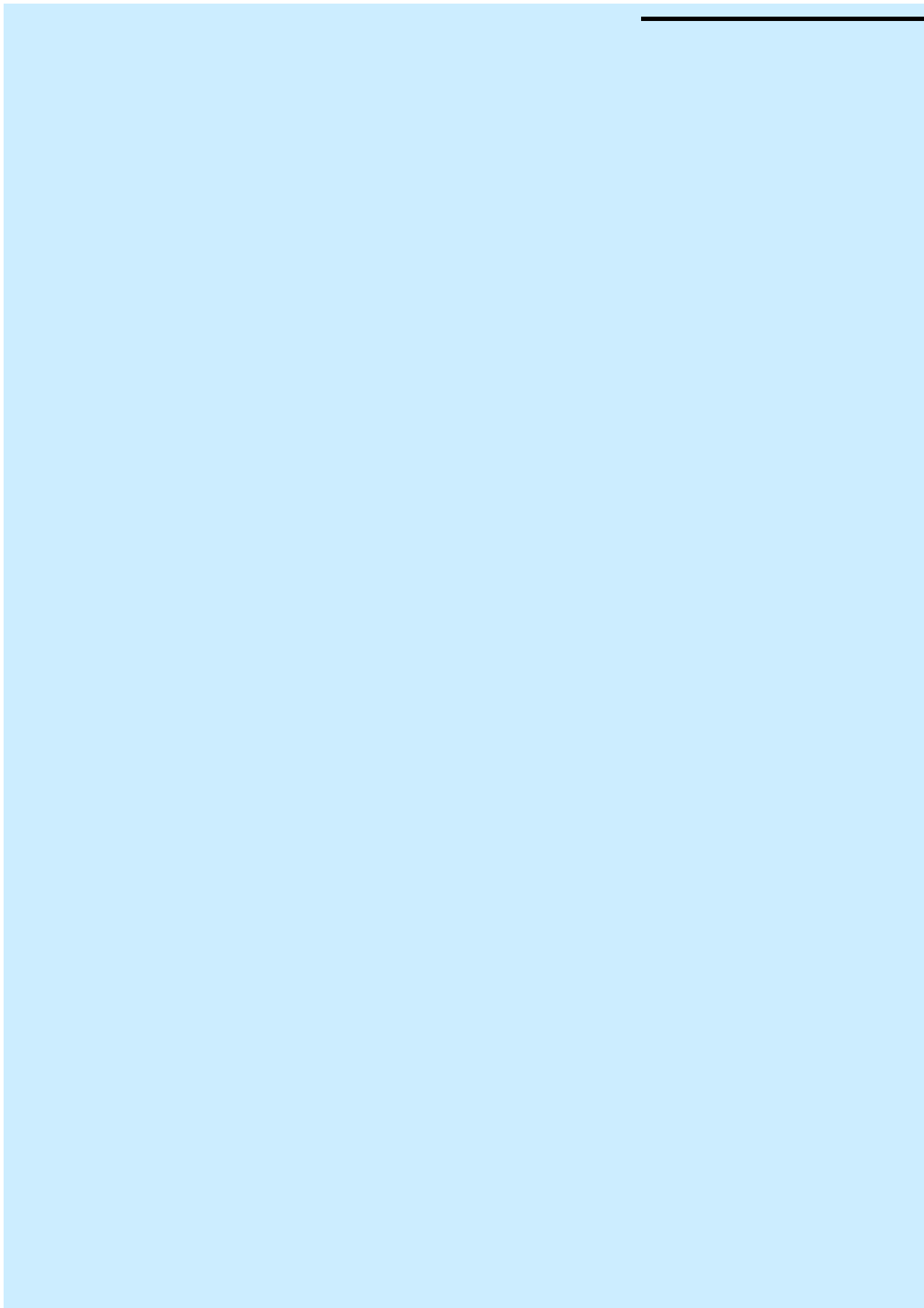


Table of Contents

(10) the trade or exchange ("Permitted Asset Exchange") by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of any crude oil or natural gas property or interest therein owned or held by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary for (a) any crude oil or natural gas property or interest therein owned or held by another Person or (b) the Capital Stock of another Person that becomes a Restricted Subsidiary as a result of such trade or exchange, in each case all or substantially all of whose assets consist of crude oil or natural gas properties, including in the case of either of clauses (a) or (b), any cash or cash equivalents necessary in order to achieve an exchange of equivalent value; provided, however, that the value of the property or Capital Stock received by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary in such trade or exchange (including any cash or cash equivalents) is at least equal to the Fair Market Value of the property (including any cash or cash equivalents) so traded or exchanged;

(11) the surrender or waiver of contract rights or the settlement, release or surrender of contract, tort or other claims of any kind;

(12) any assignment of an overriding royalty or net profits interest to an employee or consultant of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business in connection with the generation of prospects or the development of oil and natural gas projects; and

(13) the sale or other disposition (whether or not in the ordinary course of business) of oil and gas properties, provided at the time of such sale or other disposition such properties do not have associated with them any proved reserves

(14) any Production Payment or Reserve Sale, provided that any such Production Payment or Reserve Sales shall have been created, incurred, issued, assumed or guaranteed in connection with the acquisition or financing of, and within 90 days after the acquisition of, the property that is

subject thereto;

(15) the licensing or sublicensing of intellectual property or other general intangibles to the extent that such license does not prohibit the licensor from using the intellectual property and licenses, leases or subleases of other property; and

(16) any sale of Equity Interests in, or Indebtedness or other securities of, an Unrestricted Subsidiary.

**"Attributable Debt"** in respect of a sale and leaseback transaction means, at the time of determination, the present value of the obligation of the lessee for net rental payments during the remaining term of the lease included in such sale and leaseback transaction including any period for which such lease has been extended or may, at the option of the lessor, be extended. Such present value shall be calculated using a discount rate equal to the rate of interest implicit in such transaction, determined in accordance with GAAP. As used in the preceding sentence, the "net rental payments" under any lease for any such period shall mean the sum of rental and other payments required to be paid with respect to such period by the lessee thereunder, excluding any amounts required to be paid by such lessee on account of maintenance and repairs, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates or similar charges. In the case of any lease that is terminable by the lessee upon payment of penalty, such net rental payment shall also include the amount of such penalty, but no rent shall be considered as required to be paid under such lease subsequent to the first date upon which it may be so terminated.

**"Beneficial Owner"** has the meaning assigned to such term in Rule 13d-3 and Rule 13d-5 under the Exchange Act.

**"Board of Directors"** means:

(1) with respect to a corporation, the board of directors of the corporation or any committee thereof duly authorized to act on behalf of such board;

---

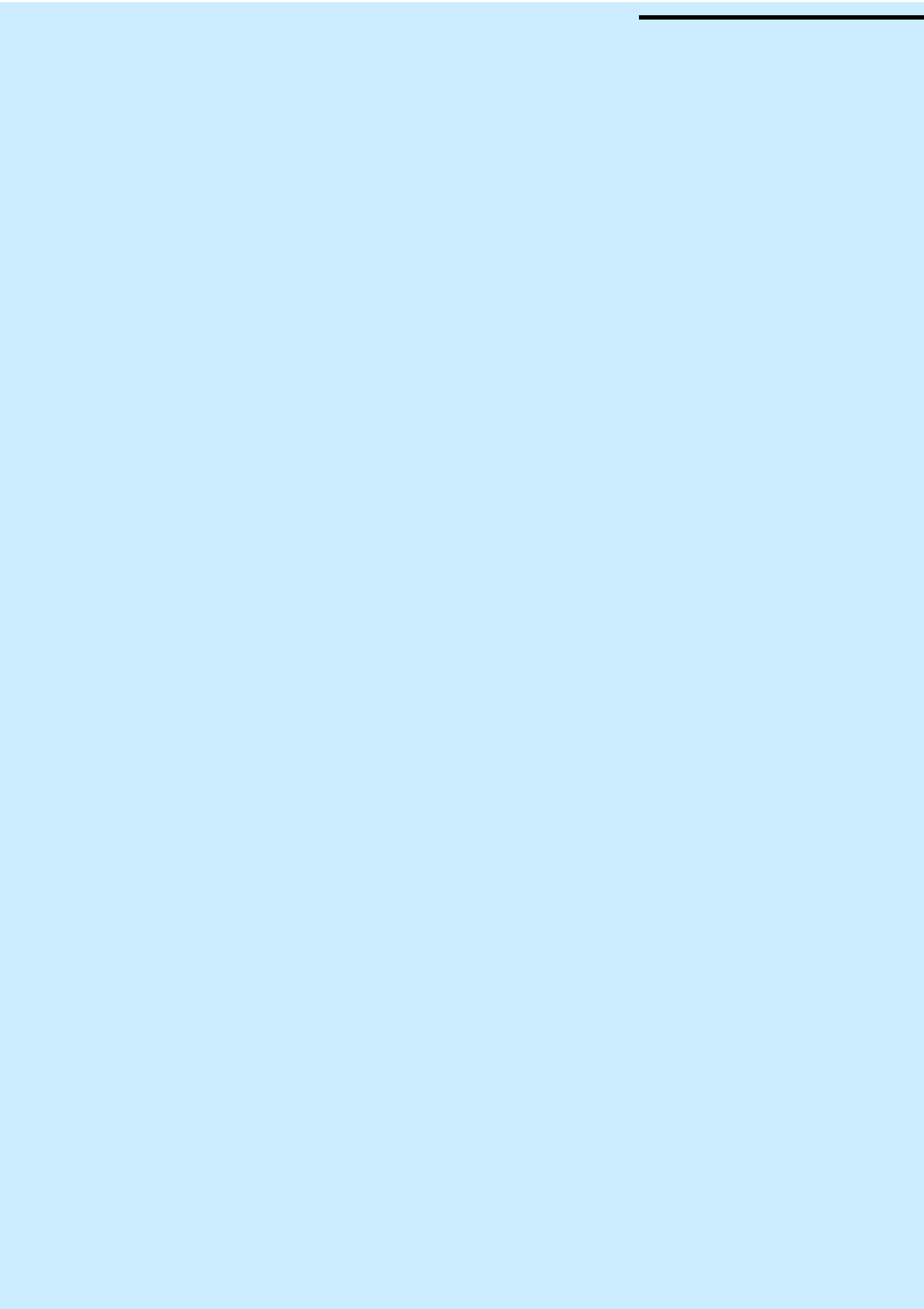


Table of Contents

(2) with respect to a partnership, the Board of Directors or other governing body of the general partner of the partnership;

(3) with respect to a limited liability company, the Board of Directors or other governing body, and in the absence of same, the manager or board of managers or the managing member or members or any controlling committee thereof; and

(4) with respect to any other Person, the board or committee of such Person serving a similar function.

**"Business Day"** means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or other day on which commercial banks in New York, New York are authorized or required by law to close.

**"Capital Lease Obligation"** means, at the time any determination thereof is to be made, the amount of the liability of a Person in respect of a capital lease that would at that time be required to be capitalized on a balance sheet of such Person in accordance with GAAP.

**"Capital Stock"** means:

(1) in the case of a corporation, corporate stock;

(2) in the case of an association or business entity, any and all shares, interests, participations, rights or other equivalents (however designated) of corporate stock;

(3) in the case of a partnership or limited liability company, partnership or membership interests (whether general or limited); and

(4) any other interest or participation (other than any debt security convertible into an equity interest) that confers on a Person the right to receive a share of the profits and losses of, or distributions of assets of, the issuing Person.

**"Cash Equivalents"** means:



(1) United States dollars;

(2) securities issued or directly and fully guaranteed or insured by the United States government or any agency or instrumentality thereof (provided that the full faith and credit of the United States is pledged in support thereof) having maturities of not more than one year from the date of acquisition;

(3) demand accounts, time deposit accounts, certificates of deposit and Eurodollar time deposits with maturities of six months or less from the date of acquisition, bankers' acceptances with maturities not exceeding six months and overnight bank deposits, in each case, with any domestic commercial bank having capital and surplus in excess of \$250.0 million and a Thomson BankWatch Rating of "B" or better;

(4) repurchase obligations with a term of not more than seven days for underlying securities of the types described in clauses (2) and (3) above entered into with any financial institution meeting the qualifications specified in clause (3) above;

(5) commercial paper having one of the two highest ratings obtainable from Moody's or S&P Ratings Services (or its successor) and in each case maturing within 270 days after the date of acquisition;

(6) deposits and certificates of deposit with any commercial bank not meeting the qualifications specified in clause (3) above, provided all such deposits do not exceed \$1.0 million in the aggregate at any one time;

Table of Contents

(7) securities issued and fully guaranteed by any state, commonwealth or territory of the United States of America, or by any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof, rated at least "A" by Moody's or S&P and having maturities of not more than 365 days from the date of acquisition;

(8) Indebtedness or preferred stock issued by Persons with a rating of "A" or higher from S&P or "A-2" from Moody's, with maturities of 365 days or less from the date or acquisition; and

(9) money market or other mutual funds substantially all of the assets of which constitute Cash Equivalents of the kinds described in clauses (1) through (8) of this definition.

**"Change of Control"** means the occurrence of any of the following:

(1) the sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole, which disposition is followed by a Rating Decline within 90 days after its consummation;

(2) the adoption by the Board of Directors of a plan of liquidation or dissolution of the Company;

(3) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any "person" (as such term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act), other than a Permitted Holder, becomes the Beneficial Owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the Voting Stock of the Company, measured by voting power rather than number of shares, which occurrence is followed by a Rating Decline within 90 days thereafter; or

(4) the first day on which a majority of the members of the Board of Directors of the Company are not Continuing Directors, which occurrence is followed by a Rating Decline within

90 days thereafter.

**"Commodity Agreement"** means any oil or natural gas hedging agreement and other agreement or arrangement entered into in the ordinary course of business and designed to protect the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary against fluctuations in oil or natural gas prices.

**"Consolidated Net Income"** means, with respect to any specified Person for any period, the aggregate of the net income of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period, on a consolidated basis, determined in accordance with GAAP; provided that there shall be excluded therefrom:

(1) the net income (or loss) of any Person that is not a Restricted Subsidiary or that is accounted for by the equity method of accounting, except to the extent of the amount of dividends or distributions paid in cash to the specified Person or a Restricted Subsidiary thereof;

(2) the net income of any Restricted Subsidiary to the extent that the declaration or payment of dividends or similar distributions by that Restricted Subsidiary of that net income is not at the date of determination permitted without any prior governmental approval (that has not been obtained) or, directly or indirectly, by operation of the terms of its charter or any agreement, instrument, judgment, decree, order, statute, rule or governmental regulation applicable to that Restricted Subsidiary or its stockholders;

(3) the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principles;

(4) any write-downs of non-current assets; provided, however, that any "ceiling limitation" writedowns under SEC guidelines shall be treated as capitalized costs, as if such write-downs had not occurred;

(5) any unrealized non-cash gains or losses or charges in respect of hedge or non-hedge derivatives (including those resulting from the application of ASC 815);



Table of Contents

(6) any gain (or loss), together with any related provision for taxes on such gain (or loss), realized in connection with: (a) any Asset Sale or (b) the disposition of any securities by such Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries or the extinguishment of any Indebtedness of such Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries;

(7) any extraordinary or non-recurring gain (or loss), together with any related provision for taxes on such extraordinary or non-recurring gain (or loss); and

(8) any non-cash compensation charge arising from any grant of stock, stock options or other equity based awards.

**"Continuing Directors"** means, as of any date of determination, any member of the Board of Directors of the Company who:

(1) was a member of such Board of Directors on the Issue Date; or

(2) was nominated for election, appointed or elected to such Board of Directors with the approval of a majority of the Continuing Directors who were members of such Board at the time of such nomination, appointment or election.

**"Credit Facilities"** means, with respect to the Company or any Guarantor, one or more debt facilities, indentures or commercial paper facilities (including, without limitation, the Existing Credit Facility), in each case with banks or other financial institutions, providing for revolving credit loans, term loans, capital market financings, private placements, receivables financings (including through the sale of receivables to such lenders or to special purpose entities formed to borrow from such lenders against such receivables) or letters of credit or letter of credit guarantees, in each case, as amended, restated, modified, supplemented, extended, renewed, refunded, replaced or refinanced in whole or in part from time to time.

**"Currency Agreements"** means, at any time as to the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries, any foreign currency exchange agreement, option or future contract or other similar agreement or arrangement entered into in the ordinary course of business and designed to protect against or manage the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries' exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.

**"Default"** means any event that is, or with the passage of time or the giving of notice or both would be, an Event of Default.

**"Disinterested Member"** means, with respect to any transaction, a member of the Company's Board of Directors who does not have any material direct or indirect financial interest (other than as an owner of Equity Interests in the Company or as an officer, manager or employee of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary) in or with respect to such transaction and is not an Affiliate, or an officer, director, member of a supervisory, executive or management board or employee of any Person (other than the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary), who has any direct or indirect financial interest in or with respect to such transaction

**"Disqualified Stock"** means any Capital Stock that, by its terms (or by the terms of any security into which it is convertible, or for which it is exchangeable, in each case at the option of the holder thereof), or upon the happening of any event, matures or is mandatorily redeemable, for any consideration other than Capital Stock pursuant to a sinking fund obligation or otherwise, or is redeemable for any consideration other than Capital Stock at the option of the holder thereof, in whole or in part, on or prior to the date that is 91 days after the date on which the notes mature. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, any Capital Stock that would constitute Disqualified Stock solely because the holders thereof have the right to require the Company to repurchase such Capital Stock upon the occurrence of a change of control or an asset sale shall not constitute Disqualified Stock if the terms of such Capital Stock provide that the Company

may not repurchase or redeem any

62

---

Table of Contents

such Capital Stock pursuant to such provisions unless such repurchase or redemption complies with the covenant described above under the caption " Certain Covenants Restricted Payments."

**"Dollar-Denominated Production Payments"** mean production payment obligations recorded as liabilities in accordance with GAAP, together with all undertakings and obligations in connection therewith.

**"EBITDA"** means, with respect to any Person for any period, without duplication, the Consolidated Net Income of such Person for such period plus:

(1) provision for taxes based on income or profits of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period, to the extent that such provision for taxes was deducted in computing such Consolidated Net Income; plus

(2) consolidated interest expense of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period, whether paid or accrued and whether or not capitalized (including, without limitation, amortization of original issue discount, non-cash interest payments (other than amortization of debt issuance costs), the interest component of any deferred payment obligations, the interest component of all payments associated with Capital Lease Obligations, imputed interest with aspect to Attributable Debt, commissions, discounts and other fees and charges incurred in respect of letter of credit or bankers' acceptance financings, and net payments, if any, pursuant to Interest Rate Agreements), to the extent that any such expense was deducted in computing such Consolidated Net Income; plus

(3) depreciation, depletion, amortization (including amortization of goodwill and other intangibles but excluding amortization of prepaid cash expenses that were paid in a prior period) and other non-cash expenses (excluding any such non-cash expense to the extent that it represents an accrual of or reserve for cash expenses in any



future period or amortization of a prepaid cash expense that was paid in a prior period other than non-cash charges resulting from the application of ASC 410) of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period to the extent that such depreciation, depletion, amortization and other non-cash expenses were deducted in computing such Consolidated Net Income; minus

(4) non-cash items increasing such Consolidated Net Income for such period, other than items that were accrued in the ordinary course of business, in each case, on a consolidated basis and determined in accordance with GAAP; minus

(5) (to the extent included in determining Consolidated Net Income) the sum of

(a) the amount of deferred revenues that are amortized during the period and are attributable to reserves that are subject to Volumetric Production Payments; and

(b) amounts recorded in accordance with GAAP as repayments of principal and interest pursuant to Dollar-Denominated Production Payments.

Notwithstanding the preceding, the provision for taxes based on the income or profits of, and the depreciation, depletion and amortization and other non-cash charges of, a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company shall be added to Consolidated Net Income to compute EBITDA of the Company only to the extent that a corresponding amount would be permitted at the date of determination to be dividended to the Company by such Restricted Subsidiary without prior approval (that has not been obtained), pursuant to the terms of its charter and all agreements, instruments, judgments, decrees, orders, statutes, rules and governmental regulations applicable to that Subsidiary or its stockholders.

**"Equity Interests"** mean Capital Stock and all warrants, options or other rights to acquire Capital Stock (but excluding any debt security that is

convertible into, or exchangeable for,  
Capital Stock).

63

---

Table of Contents

**"Equity Offering"** means:

(1) any underwritten public offering of common stock of the Company registered under the Securities Act (other than on Form S-8 or any successor thereto) and other than any issuance of securities under any benefit plan of the Company; and

(2) any unregistered offering of common stock of the Company, so long as, at the time of the consummation thereof, the Company has a class of common equity securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) or 12(g) under the Exchange Act.

**"Existing Credit Facility"** means the senior secured revolving credit facility of the Company under the Senior Revolving Credit Agreement, dated as of February 8, 2012 by and among the Company and the commercial lending institutions that are agents and lenders thereunder, as amended through the Issue Date.

**"Existing Indebtedness"** means Indebtedness outstanding on the Issue Date, other than under the Existing Credit Facility.

**"Fair Market Value"** means, with respect to any Asset Sale (or Permitted Asset Exchange) or Restricted Payment (or Investment or Permitted Investment), the price that would be negotiated in an arm's-length transaction between a willing seller and a willing and able buyer, neither of which is under any compulsion to complete the transaction, as such price is determined in good faith by an officer of the Company, as evidenced by an officers' certificate delivered to the Trustee.

**"Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio"** means, with respect to any specified Person for any period, the ratio of the EBITDA of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period to the Fixed Charges of such Person for such period. In the event that the specified Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries incurs, assumes, Guarantees, redeems or repays any Indebtedness (other than revolving credit borrowings unless the

commitments to lend associated with such revolving credit borrowings are permanently reduced or canceled) or issues or redeems preferred stock subsequent to the commencement of the period for which the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio is being calculated but prior to the date on which the event for which the calculation of the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio is made (the "Calculation Date"), then the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio shall be calculated giving pro forma effect to such incurrence, assumption, Guarantee, redemption or repayment of Indebtedness, or such issuance or redemption of preferred stock, as if the same had occurred at the beginning of the applicable four-quarter reference period.

In addition, for purposes of calculating the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio:

(1) acquisitions that have been made by the specified Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, including through mergers or consolidations and including any related financing transactions, during the four-quarter reference period or subsequent to such reference period and on or prior to the Calculation Date shall be deemed to have occurred on the first day of the four-quarter reference period;

(2) the EBITDA attributable to discontinued operations, as determined in accordance with GAAP, and operations or businesses disposed of prior to the Calculation Date, shall be excluded; and

(3) the Fixed Charges attributable to discontinued operations, as determined in accordance with GAAP, and operations or businesses disposed of prior to the Calculation Date, shall be excluded, but only to the extent that the obligations giving rise to such Fixed Charges will not be obligations of the specified Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries following the Calculation Date.

Table of Contents

**"Fixed Charges"** means, with respect to any Person for any period, the sum, without duplication, of:

(1) the consolidated interest expense of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period, whether paid or accrued and whether or not capitalized, including, without limitation, amortization of original issue discount, non-cash interest payments (other than amortization of debt issuance costs), the interest component of any deferred payment obligations, the interest component of all payments associated with Capital Lease Obligations, imputed interest with respect to Attributable Debt, commissions, discounts, and other fees and charges incurred in respect of letters of credit or bankers' acceptance financings, and net payments, if any, pursuant to Interest Rate Agreements; plus

(2) the consolidated interest of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries that was capitalized during such period; plus

(3) any interest expense on Indebtedness of another Person that is Guaranteed by such Person or one of its Restricted Subsidiaries or secured by a Lien on assets of such Person or one of its Restricted Subsidiaries, whether or not such Guarantee or Lien is called upon; plus

(4) all dividend payments, whether or not in cash, on any series of preferred stock of such Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, other than dividend payments on Equity Interests payable solely in Equity Interests of the Company (other than Disqualified Stock) or to the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company.

**"GAAP"** means accounting principles generally accepted in the United States set forth in the opinions and pronouncements of the Accounting Principles Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and statements, and pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board or in such other statements by such other entity as have been approved

by a significant segment of the accounting profession, which are in effect from time to time.

**"Guarantee"** means, without duplication, any obligation, contingent or otherwise, of any Person directly or indirectly guaranteeing any Indebtedness of any other Person and any other obligation, direct or indirect, contingent or otherwise, of such Person:

(1) to purchase or pay (or advance or supply funds for the purchase or payment of) such Indebtedness of such other Person (whether arising by virtue of partnership arrangements, or by agreements to keep-well, to purchase assets, goods, securities or services, to take-or-pay or to maintain financial statement conditions or otherwise), or

(2) entered into for the purpose of assuring in any other manner the obligee of such Indebtedness of the payment therefor to protect such obligee against loss in respect thereof (in whole or in part);

provided, however, that the term "Guarantee" shall not include endorsements for collection or deposit in the ordinary course of business. The term "Guarantee" used as a verb has a corresponding meaning.

**"Guarantors"** means each Subsidiary that executes the Indenture as an initial Subsidiary Guarantor, any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company that becomes a Subsidiary Guarantor in accordance with the provisions of the Indenture, and their respective successors and assigns.

**"Hedging Obligations"** means, with respect to any Person, the obligations of such Person under Currency Agreements, Interest Rate Agreements and Commodity Agreements.

**"Holder"** means a person in whose name a Note is registered on the Registrar's books.

**"Indebtedness"** means, with respect to any specified Person, without duplication,

(1) all obligations of such Person, whether or not contingent, in respect of:

- (a) the principal of and premium, if any, in respect of outstanding (A) Indebtedness of such Person for money borrowed and
- (B) Indebtedness evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments for the payment of which such Person is responsible or liable;

Table of Contents

(b) all Capital Lease Obligations of such Person and all Attributable Debt in respect of sale and leaseback transactions entered into by such Person;

(c) the deferred purchase price of property, which purchase price is due more than six months after the date of taking delivery of title to such property, including all obligations of such Person for the deferred purchase price of property under any title retention agreement, but excluding accrued expenses and trade accounts payable arising in the ordinary course of business; and

(d) the reimbursement obligation of any obligor for the principal amount of any letter of credit, banker's acceptance or similar transaction (excluding obligations with respect to letters of credit securing obligations (other than obligations described in clauses (a) through (c) above) entered into in the ordinary course of business of such Person to the extent such letters of credit are not drawn upon or, if and to the extent drawn upon, such drawing is reimbursed no later than the tenth Business Day following receipt by such Person of a demand for reimbursement following payment on the letter of credit);

(2) all net obligations in respect of Currency Agreements, Interest Rate Agreements and Commodity Agreements, except to the extent such net obligations are otherwise included in this definition;

(3) all liabilities of others of the kind described in the preceding clause (1) or (2) that such Person has Guaranteed or that are otherwise its legal liability;



(4) with respect to any Production Payment and Reserve Sale, any warranties or guaranties of production or payment by such Person with respect to such Production Payment and Reserve Sale but excluding other contractual obligations of such Person with respect to such Production Payment and Reserve Sale;

(5) Indebtedness (as otherwise defined in this definition) of another Person secured by a Lien on any asset of such Person, whether or not such Indebtedness is assumed by such Person, the amount of such obligations being deemed to be the lesser of:

(a) the full amount of such obligations so secured and

(b) the fair market value of such asset as determined in good faith by such specified Person;

(6) Disqualified Stock of such Person or a Restricted Subsidiary in an amount equal to the greater of the maximum mandatory redemption or repurchase price (not including, in either case, any redemption or repurchase premium) or the liquidation preference thereof;

(7) the aggregate preference in respect of amounts payable on the issued and outstanding shares of preferred stock of any of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries in the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up (excluding any such preference attributable to such shares of preferred stock that are owned by such Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries; provided, that if such Person is the Company, such exclusion shall be for such preference attributable to such shares of preferred stock that are owned by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries); and

(8) any and all deferrals, renewals, extensions, refinancings and refundings (whether direct or indirect) of, or amendments, modifications or supplements to, any liability of the kind described in any of the preceding clauses (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) or this clause (8), whether or not between

or among the same parties,

if and to the extent that any of the preceding items (other than in respect of letters of credit and Hedging Obligations) would appear as a liability upon a balance sheet of the specified Person prepared in accordance with GAAP.

Table of Contents

Notwithstanding the foregoing, "Indebtedness" shall not include:

- (a) accrued expenses, royalties and trade payables;
- (b) contingent obligations incurred in the ordinary course of business;
- (c) asset-retirement obligations or obligations in respect of reclamation and workers' compensation (including pensions and retiree medical care) that are not overdue by more than 90 days;
- (d) except as provided in clause (4) above, Production Payments and Reserve Sales; or
- (e) in-kind obligations relating to net oil or natural gas balancing positions arising in the ordinary course of business.

For purposes hereof, the maximum fixed repurchase price of any Disqualified Stock which does not have a fixed repurchase price shall be calculated in accordance with the terms of such Disqualified Stock as if such Disqualified Stock were purchased on any date on which Indebtedness shall be required to be determined pursuant to the Indenture, and if such price is based upon, or measured by, the fair market value of such Disqualified Stock, such fair market value to be determined in good faith by the Board of Directors of the issuer of such Disqualified Stock.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Indebtedness shall not include any indebtedness that has been defeased in accordance with GAAP or defeased pursuant to the deposit of cash, U.S. government obligations and Cash Equivalents (sufficient to satisfy all obligations relating thereto at maturity or redemption, as applicable) in a trust or account created or pledged for the sole benefit of the holders of such indebtedness, in accordance with the terms of the instruments governing such indebtedness.

**"Interest Rate Agreements"** means, with respect to the Company and

its Restricted Subsidiaries, interest rate agreements, interest rate cap agreements and interest rate collar agreements and other agreements or arrangements designed to protect such Person against fluctuations in interest rates, with respect to any Indebtedness that is permitted to be incurred under the Indenture.

**"Investment Grade Rating"** means a rating equal to or higher than:

- (1) Baa3 (or the equivalent) with a stable or better outlook by Moody's; and
- (2) BBB- (or the equivalent) with a stable or better outlook by S&P,

or, if either such entity ceases to make a rating on the notes publicly available for reasons outside of the Company's control, the equivalent investment grade credit rating from any other rating agency.

**"Investment Grade Rating Event"** means the first day on which the notes have an Investment Grade Rating from each of S&P and Moody's, and no Default has occurred and is then continuing under the Indenture.

**"Investments"** means, with respect to any Person, all investments by such Person in other Persons (including Affiliates) in the forms of direct or indirect loans (including Guarantees of Indebtedness or other obligations), advances or capital contributions (excluding commission, travel and similar advances to officers and employees made in the ordinary course of business), purchases or other acquisitions for consideration of Indebtedness, Equity Interests or other securities, together with all items that are or would be classified as investments on a balance sheet prepared in accordance with GAAP. If the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company sells or otherwise disposes of any Equity Interests of any direct or indirect Restricted Subsidiary of the Company such that, after giving effect to any such sale or disposition, such Person is no longer a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company, the Company shall be deemed to have made an Investment on the date of any such sale or disposition equal to the Fair

Market Value of the Equity Interests of  
such Restricted Subsidiary not sold or  
disposed of.

**"Issue Date"** means the first date  
on which the notes are issued,  
authenticated and delivered under the  
applicable Indenture.

67

---

Table of Contents

**"Joint Marketing Arrangement"**

means any joint venture, partnership, lease, joint marketing agreement, operating agreement or other arrangement (which may or may not include joint ownership of any Person) pursuant to which the Company or one of its Restricted Subsidiaries arrange for the marketing, lease or sale of products and services and share in the profits therefrom.

**"Lien"** means, with respect to any asset, any mortgage, lien, pledge, charge, security interest or encumbrance of any kind in respect of such asset, whether or not filed, recorded or otherwise perfected under applicable law, including any conditional sale or other title retention agreement, any lease in the nature thereof, any option or other agreement to sell or give a security interest in any assets and any filing of or agreement to give any financing statement under the Uniform Commercial Code (or equivalent statutes) of any jurisdiction.

**"Make Whole Premium"** means:

(a) with respect to a 2020 note at any time, the excess, if any, of (a) the present value at such time of (i) the redemption price of such note at July 15, 2016 plus (ii) any required interest payments due on such note through July 15, 2016 (except for currently accrued and unpaid interest), computed using a discount rate equal to the Treasury Rate plus 50 basis points, discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months), over (b) the principal amount of such 2020 note; and

(b) with respect to a 2021 note at any time, the excess, if any, of (a) the present value at such time of (i) the redemption price of such note at November 15, 2016 plus (ii) any required interest payments due on such note through November 15, 2016 (except for currently accrued and unpaid interest), computed using a discount rate equal to the Treasury Rate plus 50 basis points, discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve

30-day months), over (b) the principal amount of such 2021 note.

"**Moody's**" means Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and any successor to its rating agency business.

"**Net Cash Proceeds**," with respect to any issuance or sale of Capital Stock or the sale or incurrence of any Indebtedness, means the cash proceeds of such issuance or sale net of attorneys' fees, accountants' fees, underwriters' or placement agents' fees, listing fees, discounts or commissions and brokerage, consultant and other fees and charges actually incurred in connection with such issuance or sale and net of taxes paid or payable as a result of such issuance or sale.

"**Net Proceeds**" means the aggregate cash proceeds received by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries in respect of any Asset Sale (including, without limitation, any cash received upon the sale or other disposition of any non-cash consideration received in any Asset Sale), net of, without duplication:

- (1) the direct costs relating to such Asset Sale, including, without limitation, legal, title, engineering, environmental, accounting and investment banking fees, and sales commissions, and any relocation expenses incurred as a result thereof;
- (2) taxes paid or payable as a result thereof;
- (3) amounts required to be applied to the repayment of Indebtedness (other than under the Credit Facilities) secured by a Lien on the asset or assets that were the subject of such Asset Sale;
- (4) any reserve established in accordance with GAAP against liabilities associated with such Asset Sale or any amount placed in escrow for adjustment in respect of the purchase price of such Asset Sale, until such time as such reserve is reversed or such escrow arrangement is terminated, in which case Net Proceeds shall be increased by the amount of the reserve so reversed or the amount returned to the Company or its Restricted Subsidiaries from such escrow

arrangement, as the case may be; and

(5) any distributions and other payments required to be made to minority interest holders in any Restricted Subsidiaries as a result of such Asset Sale.



Table of Contents

**"Net Working Capital"** means:

- (1) all current assets of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries, minus
- (2) all current liabilities of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries, except current liabilities included in Indebtedness; in each case determined in accordance with GAAP.

**"Non-Recourse Debt"** means Indebtedness:

- (1) as to which neither the Company nor any of its Restricted Subsidiaries (a) provides credit support of any kind (including any undertaking, agreement or instrument that would constitute Indebtedness), (b) is directly or indirectly liable as a guarantor or otherwise, or (c) constitutes the lender; and
- (2) no default with respect to which (including any rights that the holders thereof may have to take enforcement action against an Unrestricted Subsidiary) would permit upon notice, lapse of time or both any holder of any other Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to declare a default on such other Indebtedness or cause the payment thereof to be accelerated or payable prior to its Stated Maturity.

**"Non-Recourse Purchase Money Indebtedness"** means Indebtedness (other than Capital Lease Obligations) of the Company or any Guarantor incurred in connection with the acquisition by the Company or such Guarantor of assets used in the Oil and Gas Business (including office buildings and other real property used by the Company or such Guarantor in conducting its operations) with respect to which:

- (1) the holders of such Indebtedness agree that they will look solely to the assets so acquired that secure such Indebtedness, and neither the Company nor any Restricted Subsidiary (a) is directly or indirectly liable for such Indebtedness or

(b) provides credit support, including any undertaking, Guarantee, agreement or instrument that would constitute Indebtedness (other than the grant of a Lien on such acquired assets); and

(2) no default or event of default with respect to such Indebtedness would cause, or permit (after notice or passage of time or otherwise), any holder of any other Indebtedness of the Company or a Guarantor to declare a default or event of default on such other Indebtedness or cause the payment, repurchase, redemption, defeasance or other acquisition or retirement for value thereof to be accelerated or payable prior to any scheduled principal payment, scheduled sinking fund payment or maturity.

**"Oil and Gas Business"** means

(1) the acquisition, exploration, exploitation, development, servicing, operation or disposition of interests in, or obtaining production from, oil, natural gas or other hydrocarbon properties;

(2) the gathering, marketing, treating, processing (but not refining), storage, selling or transporting of any production from such interests or properties; or

(3) any activity that is ancillary, necessary or appropriate to facilitate, or that is incidental to, the activities described in clauses (1) and (2) of this definition.

**"Oil and Gas Liens"** means:

(1) Liens on any specific property or any interest therein, construction thereon or improvement thereto to secure all or any part of the costs incurred for surveying, exploration, drilling, extraction, development, operation, production, construction, alteration, repair or improvement of, in, under or on such property and the plugging and abandonment of wells located thereon (it being understood that, in the case of oil and gas producing properties, or any interest therein, costs incurred for "development" will include costs incurred for all facilities relating to such properties or to projects, ventures or other arrangements of which such

properties form a part or that relate to  
such properties or interests);

69

---

Table of Contents

(2) Liens on an oil or gas producing property to secure obligations incurred or Guarantees of obligations incurred in connection with or necessarily incidental to commitments for the purchase or sale of, or the transportation or distribution of, the products derived from such property;

(3) Liens arising under partnership agreements, oil and gas leases, overriding royalty agreements, net profits agreements, production payment agreements, royalty trust agreements, incentive compensation programs on terms that are reasonably customary, in the Oil and Gas Business for geologists, geophysicists and other providers of technical services to the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary, farm-out agreements, farm-in agreements, division orders, contracts for the sale, purchase, exchange, transportation, gathering or processing of oil, gas or other hydrocarbons, unitizations and pooling designations, declarations, orders and agreements, development agreements, operating agreements, production sales contracts, area of mutual interest agreements, gas balancing or deferred production agreements, injection, repressuring and recycling agreements, salt water or other disposal agreements, seismic or geophysical permits or agreements, and other agreements that are customary in the Oil and Gas Business; provided, however, that in all instances such Liens are limited to the assets that are the subject of the relevant agreement, program, order or contract;

(4) Liens securing Production Payments and Reserve Sales; provided that such Liens are limited to the property that is subject to such Production Payments and Reserve Sales, and such Production Payments and Reserve Sales:

(a) were in existence on the Issue Date,

(b) were created in connection with the acquisition of property after the date of the Indenture and such Lien was incurred in connection with the financing

of, and within 90 days after the acquisition of the property subject thereto, or

(c) constitute Asset Sales made in compliance with the covenant entitled " Certain Covenants Repurchase at the Option of Holders Asset Sales;" and

(5) Liens on pipelines or pipeline facilities that arise by operation of law.

**"Permitted Acquisition Indebtedness"** means Indebtedness (including Disqualified Stock) of the Company or any of the Restricted Subsidiaries to the extent such Indebtedness was Indebtedness:

(1) of an acquired Person prior to the date on which such Person became a Restricted Subsidiary as a result of having been acquired and not incurred in contemplation of such acquisition; or

(2) of a Person that was merged, consolidated or amalgamated with or into the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary that was not incurred in contemplation of such merger, consolidation or amalgamation,

provided that on the date such Person became a Restricted Subsidiary or the date such Person was merged, consolidated and amalgamated with or into the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary, as applicable, after giving pro forma effect thereto,

(a) the Restricted Subsidiary or the Company, as applicable, would be permitted to incur at least \$1.00 of additional Indebtedness pursuant to the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio test described under " Certain Covenants Incurrence of Indebtedness," or

(b) the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio for the Company would be greater than the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio for the Company immediately prior to

such transaction.

70

---

Table of Contents

**"Permitted Business Investments"** means Investments made in the ordinary course of, and of a nature that is or shall have become customary in, the Oil and Gas Business, including through agreements, transactions, interests or arrangements that permit one to share risk or costs, comply with regulatory requirements regarding local ownership or satisfy other objectives customarily achieved through the conduct of the Oil and Gas Business jointly with third parties, including without limitation:

(1) ownership of oil, natural gas, other related hydrocarbon and mineral properties or any interest therein or gathering, transportation, processing, storage or related systems; and

(2) the entry into operating agreements, joint ventures, processing agreements, working interests, royalty interests, mineral leases, farm-in agreements, farm-out agreements, development agreements, production sharing agreements, area of mutual interest agreements, contracts for the sale, transportation or exchange of oil and natural gas and related hydrocarbons and minerals, unitization agreements, pooling arrangements, joint bidding agreements, service contracts, partnership agreements (whether general or limited), or other similar or customary agreements (including for limited liability companies), transactions, properties, interests or arrangements, and Investments and expenditures in connection therewith or pursuant thereto, in each case made or entered into in the ordinary course of the Oil and Gas Business, excluding, however, Investments in corporations.

**"Permitted Holder"** means HALRES or any manager, director, controlling equity holder or Subsidiary thereof.

**"Permitted Investments"** means:

(1) any Investment in the Company or in a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company;

(2) any Investment in Cash Equivalents;

(3) any Investment by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company in a Person if as a result of such Investment:

(a) such Person becomes a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company; or

(b) such Person is merged, consolidated or amalgamated with or into, or transfers or conveys substantially all of its assets to, or is liquidated into, the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company;

or any Investment held by such Person at the time of such transaction, provided such Investment was not made in contemplation of such transaction;

(4) any Investment made as a result of the receipt of non-cash consideration from an Asset Sale that was made pursuant to and in compliance with the covenant described above under the caption " Repurchase at the option of Holders Asset Sales;"

(5) any acquisition of assets solely in exchange for the issuance of Equity Interests (other than Disqualified Stock) of the Company;

(6) receivables owing to the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary created or acquired in the ordinary course of business and payable or dischargeable in accordance with customary trade terms; provided, however, that such trade terms may include such concessionary trade terms as the Company or any such Restricted Subsidiary deems reasonable under the circumstances;

(7) payroll, travel, relocation and similar advances to officers, directors and employees to cover matters that are expected at the time of such advances ultimately to be treated as expenses for accounting purposes and that are made in the ordinary course of business;



(8) loans or advances to employees made in the ordinary course of business of the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary made for bona fide business purposes;

71

---

Table of Contents

(9) Capital Stock, obligations or securities received in settlement of debts created in the ordinary course of business and owing to the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary or in satisfaction of judgments or pursuant to any plan of reorganization or similar arrangement upon the bankruptcy or insolvency of a debtor or received in connection with a work-out or recapitalization of the issuer or as a result of a foreclosure or other transfer of title or perfection or enforcement of any lien with respect to any secured Investment in default;

(10) Hedging Obligations, which transactions or obligations are incurred in compliance with " Certain Covenants Incurrence of Indebtedness;"

(11) Permitted Business Investments;

(12) Investments in accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, negotiable instruments held for collection and lease, utility and worker's compensation, performance and other similar deposits provided to third parties and endorsements for collection or deposit arising in the ordinary course of business;

(13) advances, deposits and prepayments for purchases of any assets, including any Equity Interests;

(14) Permitted Joint Venture Investments and Joint Marketing Arrangements entered into by the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries in an aggregate amount (measured on the date on which each such Investment was made and without giving effect to subsequent changes in value) that, when taken together with all other Investments pursuant to this clause, do not exceed \$25.0 million at any time outstanding;

(15) Investments arising from agreements of the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary providing for indemnification, adjustment of purchase price, earn-outs or similar obligations, in each case incurred or assumed in connection with the disposition or acquisition of any business, assets or a Restricted Subsidiary in accordance

with this Indenture; and

(16) other Investments in any Person having an aggregate Fair Market Value (measured on the date each such Investment was made and without giving effect to subsequent changes in value), when taken together with all other Investments made pursuant to this clause (16) since the Issue Date, not to exceed the greater of \$50.0 million and 2.0% of ACNTA determined at the time of such Investment.

In connection with any assets or property contributed or transferred to any Person as an Investment, such property and assets shall be equal to the Fair Market Value at the time of the Investment, without regard to subsequent changes in value.

With respect to any Investment, the Company may, in its sole discretion, allocate or re-allocate all or any portion of any Investment to one or more of the above clauses so that the entire Investment is a Permitted Investment.

**"Permitted Joint Venture Investment"** means an Investment by such Person in any other Person engaged in the Oil and Gas Business (a) over which such Person is responsible (either directly or through a services agreement) for day-to-day operations or otherwise has operational and managerial control of such other Person, or veto power over significant management decisions affecting such other Person, and (b) of which at least 30% of the outstanding Equity Interests of such other Person are at the time owned directly or indirectly by such Person.

**"Permitted Liens"** means:

(1) Liens on any property or assets of the Company and any Guarantor securing Indebtedness and other obligations under Credit Facilities that were permitted by the terms of the Indenture to be incurred;

Table of Contents

(2) Liens in favor of the Company or the Guarantors;

(3) Liens on any property or assets of a Person existing at the time such Person is merged with or into or consolidated with the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company, provided that such Liens were in existence prior to the contemplation of such merger or consolidation and do not extend to any property or assets other than those of the Person merged into or consolidated with the Company or the Restricted Subsidiary;

(4) Liens on any property or assets existing at the time of acquisition thereof by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company, provided that such Liens were not incurred in connection with the contemplation of such acquisition;

(5) Liens to secure the performance of statutory obligations, surety or appeal bonds, performance bonds or other obligations of a like nature incurred in the ordinary course of business;

(6) Liens existing on the Issue Date;

(7) Liens arising from Uniform Commercial Code financing statement filings regarding operating leases entered into by the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business;

(8) Liens securing Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness incurred to refinance Indebtedness that was previously so secured, provided that any such Lien is limited to all or part of the same property or assets (plus improvements, accessions, proceeds or dividends or distributions in respect thereof) that secured (or, under the written arrangements under which the original Lien arose, could secure) the Indebtedness being refinanced or is in respect of property that is the security for a Permitted Lien hereunder;

(9) Liens securing Hedging Obligations of the Company or any of

its Restricted Subsidiaries;

(10) Liens for the purpose of securing the payment of all or a part of the purchase price of, or Capital Lease Obligations, Attributable Debt, purchase money obligations or other payments incurred to finance the acquisition, lease, improvement or construction of or repairs or additions to, assets or property acquired or constructed in the ordinary course of business; provided that:

(a) the aggregate principal amount of Indebtedness secured by such Liens is otherwise permitted to be incurred under the Indenture and does not exceed the cost of the assets or property so acquired or constructed; and

(b) such Liens are created within 180 days of the later of the acquisition, lease, completion of improvements, construction, repairs or additions or commencement of full operation of the assets or property subject to such Lien and do not encumber any other assets or property of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary other than such assets or property and assets affixed or appurtenant thereto;

(11) any Lien incurred in the ordinary course of business incidental to the conduct of the business of the Company or the Restricted Subsidiaries or the ownership of their property (including (a) easements, rights of way and similar encumbrances, (b) rights or title of lessors under leases (other than Capital Lease Obligations), (c) rights of collecting banks having rights of setoff, revocation, refund or chargeback with respect to money or instruments of the Company or the Restricted Subsidiaries on deposit with or in the possession of such banks, (d) Liens imposed by law, including Liens under workers' compensation or similar legislation and mechanics', carriers', warehousemen's, materialmen's, suppliers' and vendors' Liens, (e) Liens incurred to secure performance of obligations with respect to statutory or regulatory requirements, performance or return-of-money bonds,

surety bonds or other obligations of a like nature and incurred in a manner consistent with industry practice and (f) Oil and Gas Liens, in each case which are not incurred in connection with the borrowing of money, the

Table of Contents

obtaining of advances or credit or the payment of the deferred purchase price of property (other than trade accounts payable arising in the ordinary course of business));

(12) Liens for taxes, assessments and governmental charges not yet due or the validity of which are being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings, promptly instituted and diligently conducted, and for which adequate reserves have been established to the extent required by GAAP as in effect at such time;

(13) Liens on the Capital Stock of any Unrestricted Subsidiary to the extent securing Indebtedness of Unrestricted Subsidiaries;

(14) any extension, renewal, refinancing or replacement, in whole or in part, of any Lien described in the foregoing clauses so long as no additional collateral is granted as security thereby;

(15) Liens created for the benefit of (or to secure) all of the notes (including additional notes of the same series) issued under the Indenture;

(16) Liens on property securing a defeasance trust; and

(17) in addition to the foregoing, Liens securing Indebtedness and other obligations in an aggregate amount at any time outstanding which does not exceed the greater of \$20.0 million and 1.0% of ACNTA as most recently determined at such time.

**"Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness"** means any Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries issued in exchange for, or the Net Cash Proceeds of which are used to extend, refinance, renew, replace, defease or refund other Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries (other than intercompany Indebtedness); provided that:

(1) the principal amount (or accreted value, if applicable) of such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness

does not exceed the principal amount of (or accreted value, if applicable), plus premium, if any, and accrued and unpaid interest on the Indebtedness so extended, refinanced, renewed, replaced, defeased or refunded (plus the amount of reasonable expenses incurred in connection therewith);

(2) (a) if the final maturity date of the Indebtedness being extended, refinanced, renewed, replaced, deferred or refunded is earlier than the final maturity date of the notes, the Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness has a final maturity date no earlier than the final maturity date of the Indebtedness being extended, refinanced, renewed, replaced, deferred or refunded; or (b) if the final maturity date of the Indebtedness being extended, refinanced, renewed, replaced, deferred or refunded is later than the final maturity date of the notes, the Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness has a final maturity date at least 91 days later than the final maturity date of the notes;

(3) the Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness has a Weighted Average Life to Maturity at the time such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness is incurred that is equal to or greater than the Weighted Average Life to Maturity of the Indebtedness being extended, refinanced, renewed, replaced, deferred or refunded;

(4) if the Indebtedness being extended, refinanced, renewed, replaced, defeased or refunded is subordinated in right of payment to the notes or a Subsidiary Guarantee, such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness is subordinated in right of payment to the notes or such Subsidiary Guarantee on terms at least as favorable, taken as a whole, to the Holders of notes as those contained in the documentation governing the Indebtedness being extended, refinanced, renewed, replaced, defeased or refunded;

(5) such Indebtedness is not incurred by a Restricted Subsidiary if the Company is the obligor on the Indebtedness being extended, refinanced, renewed, replaced, defeased or refunded; provided, however, that a Restricted Subsidiary that is also a Guarantor may Guarantee Permitted



Refinancing

74

---

Table of Contents

Indebtedness incurred by the Company, whether or not such Restricted Subsidiary was an obligor or guarantor of the Indebtedness being extended, refinanced, renewed, replaced, defeased or refunded; provided further, however, that if such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness is subordinated to the notes, such Guarantee shall be subordinated to such Restricted Subsidiary's Subsidiary Guarantee to at least the same extent; and

(6) if the Indebtedness being extended, refinanced, renewed, replaced, defeased, or refunded is Non-Recourse Purchase Money Indebtedness, such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness satisfies clauses (1) and (2) of the definition of "Non-Recourse Purchase Money Indebtedness."

**"Person"** means any individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, association, joint stock company, trust, unincorporated organization, government or any agency or political subdivision thereof or any other entity.

**"Production Payments"** means, collectively, Dollar-Denominated Production Payments and Volumetric Production Payments.

**"Production Payments and Reserve Sales"** means the grant or transfer by the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary to any Person of a royalty, overriding royalty, net profits interest or Production Payment in oil and natural gas properties, reserves or the right to receive all or a portion of the production or the proceeds from the sale of production attributable to such properties where, in the case of each of the foregoing, the holder of such interest has recourse solely to such production or proceeds of production, subject to the obligation of the grantor or transferor to operate and maintain, or cause the subject interests to be operated and maintained, in a reasonably prudent manner or other customary standard or subject to the obligation of the grantor or transferor to indemnify for environmental, title or other matters customary in the foregoing interests.

**"Rating Category"** means:

(1) with respect to S&P, any of the following categories: AAA, AA, A, BBB, BB, B, CCC, CC, C and D (or equivalent successor categories); and

(2) with respect to Moody's, any of the following categories: Aaa, Aa, A, Baa, Ba, B, Caa, Ca, C and D (or equivalent successor categories).

**"Rating Decline"** means a decrease in the rating of the notes by either Moody's or S&P by one or more gradations (including gradations within Rating Categories as well as between Rating Categories). In determining whether the rating of the notes has decreased by one or more gradations, gradations within Rating Categories, namely + or-for S&P, and 1, 2, and 3 for Moody's, will be taken into account; for example, in the case of S&P, a rating decline either from BB+ to BB or BB- to B+ will constitute a decrease of one gradation.

**"Restricted Subsidiary"** of a Person means any Subsidiary of the referenced Person that is not an Unrestricted Subsidiary.

**"S&P"** means Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., and any successor to its rating agency business.

**"Senior Debt"** means:

(1) all Indebtedness of the Company or any Guarantor outstanding under the Existing Credit Facility and all Hedging Obligations with respect thereto; and

(2) any other Indebtedness of the Company or any Guarantor permitted to be incurred by it under the terms of the Indenture, unless such Indebtedness is Subordinated Indebtedness.

**"Significant Subsidiary"** means any Subsidiary that would be a "significant subsidiary" as defined in Article 1, Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X, promulgated pursuant to the Securities Act, as such Regulation is in effect on the Issue Date.



Table of Contents

**"Stated Maturity"** means, with respect to any installment of interest or principal on any series of Indebtedness, the date on which such payment of interest or principal was scheduled to be paid in the original documentation governing such Indebtedness, and shall not include any contingent obligations to repay, redeem or repurchase any such interest or principal prior to the date originally scheduled for the payment thereof.

**"Subordinated Indebtedness"** means Indebtedness of the Company (or a Guarantor) that is expressly subordinated or junior in right of payment to the notes (or a Subsidiary Guarantee, as appropriate) pursuant to a written agreement to that effect.

**"Subsidiary"** means any subsidiary of the Company. A "subsidiary" of any Person means:

(1) a corporation a majority of whose Voting Stock is at the time, directly or indirectly owned by such Person, by one or more subsidiaries of such Person or by such Person and one or more subsidiaries of such Person; or

(2) a partnership, joint venture, limited liability company or similar entity, in which such Person or a subsidiary of such Person is, at the date of determination, in the case of a partnership, a general or limited partner of such partnership, and, in the case of each of the foregoing entities, is entitled to receive more than 50 percent of the assets of such entity upon its dissolution.

**"Subsidiary Guarantee"** means a Guarantee by a Subsidiary Guarantor of the Company's obligations with respect to the notes.

**"Treasury Rate"** means the yield to maturity at the time of computation of United States Treasury securities with a constant maturity (as compiled and published in the most recent Federal Reserve Statistical Release H.15(519) which has become publicly available at least two Business Days prior to the date fixed for redemption (or, if such Statistical Release is no

longer published, any publicly available source of similar market data)) most nearly equal to the period from the redemption date to July 15, 2016; provided, however, that if such period is not equal to the constant maturity of a United States Treasury security for which a weekly average yield is given, the Company shall obtain the Treasury Rate by linear interpolation (calculated to the nearest one-twelfth of a year) from the weekly average yields of United States Treasury securities for which such yields are given, except that if the period from the redemption date to July 15, 2016 is less than one year, the weekly average yield on actually traded United States Treasury securities adjusted to a constant maturity of one year shall be used. The Company will (a) calculate the Treasury Rate on the second Business Day preceding the applicable redemption date and (b) prior to such redemption date file with the Trustee an officers' certificate setting forth the Make Whole Premium and the Treasury Rate and showing the calculation of each in reasonable detail.

**"Unrestricted Subsidiary"** means any Subsidiary of the Company (and any Subsidiary thereof) that is designated by the Board of Directors as an Unrestricted Subsidiary pursuant to a Board Resolution, but only to the extent that such Subsidiary:

(1) has no Indebtedness other than Non-Recourse Debt;

(2) is not party to any agreement, contract, arrangement or understanding with the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary or the Company unless the terms of any such agreement, contract, arrangement or understanding are no less favorable to the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary than those that might be obtained at the time from Persons who are not Affiliates of the Company;

(3) is a Person with respect to which neither the Company nor any of its Restricted Subsidiaries has any obligation (a) to subscribe for additional Equity Interests or (b) to maintain or preserve such Person's financial condition or to cause such Person to achieve any specified levels of operating results; and

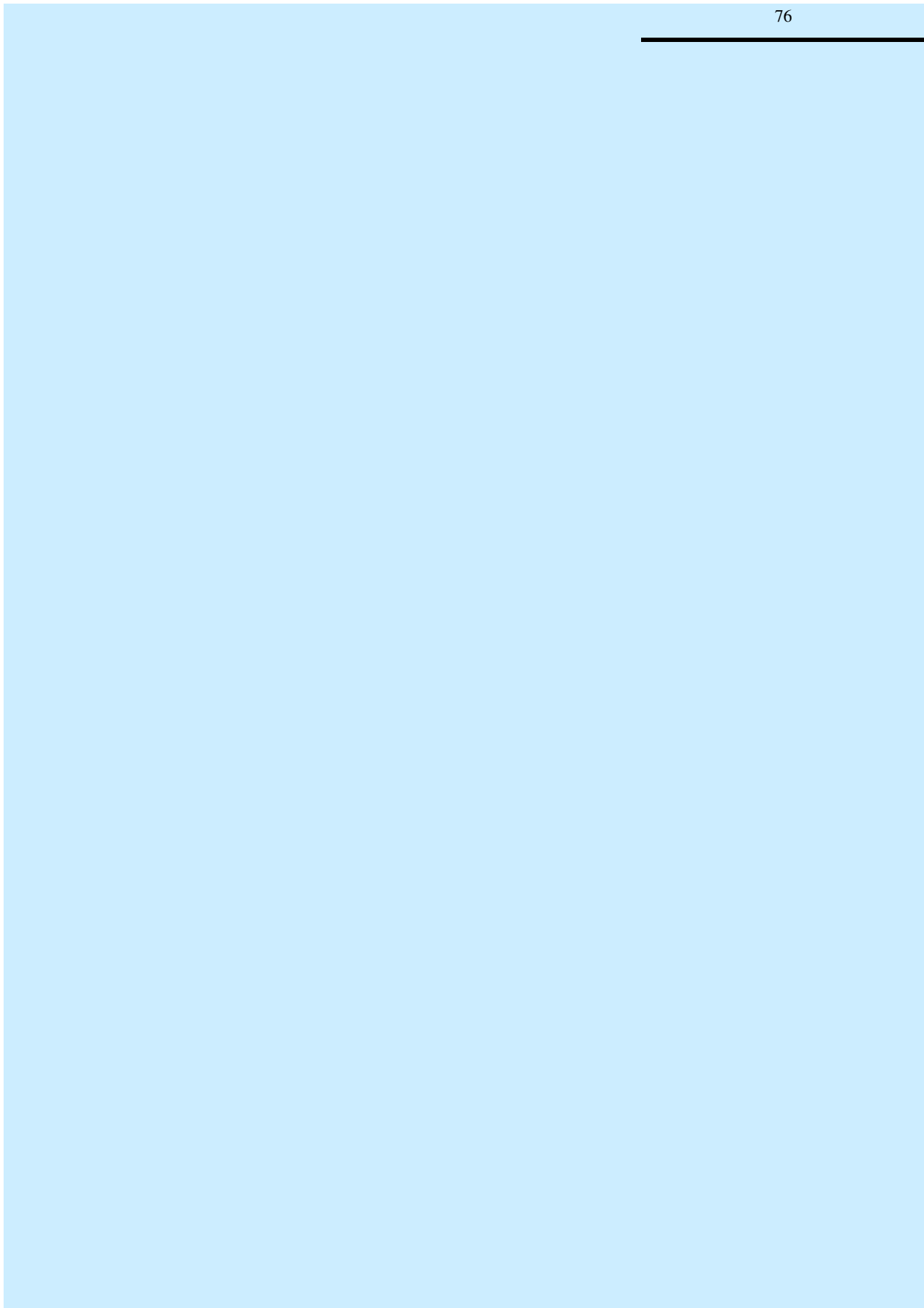


Table of Contents

(4) has not Guaranteed or otherwise directly or indirectly provided credit support for any Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries.

The Board of Directors may designate any Restricted Subsidiary to be an Unrestricted Subsidiary if that designation is in compliance with the next succeeding sentence and would not otherwise cause a Default. If a Restricted Subsidiary is designated as an Unrestricted Subsidiary, such designation shall be deemed an Investment in the Subsidiary so designated and all outstanding Investments owned by the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries in the Subsidiary so designated, shall be valued at their Fair Market Value at the time of such designation for purposes of determining compliance with the covenant described above under the caption " Certain Covenants Restricted Payments;" provided, however, that such covenant need not be complied with if the Subsidiary to be so designated has total assets of \$1,000 or less. That designation will only be permitted if such Restricted Payment would be so permitted at that time and if such Restricted Subsidiary otherwise meets the definition of an Unrestricted Subsidiary.

Any designation of a Subsidiary of the Company as an Unrestricted Subsidiary shall be evidenced to the Trustee by filing with the Trustee a copy of the Board Resolution giving effect to such designation certified in an officers' certificate that also certifies that such designation complied with the preceding conditions and was permitted by the covenant described above under the caption " Certain Covenants Restricted Payments" in which case such designation shall be effective as of the date specified in such resolution. If, at any time, any Unrestricted Subsidiary would fail to meet the preceding requirements as an Unrestricted Subsidiary, it shall thereafter cease to be an Unrestricted Subsidiary for purposes of the Indenture and any Indebtedness of such Subsidiary shall be deemed to be incurred by a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company as of such date and, if



such Indebtedness is not permitted to be incurred as of such date under the covenant described under the caption " Certain Covenants Incurrence of Indebtedness," the Company shall be in default of such covenant.

The Board of Directors of the Company may at any time designate any Unrestricted Subsidiary to be a Restricted Subsidiary; provided that such designation shall be deemed to be an incurrence of Indebtedness by a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company of any outstanding Indebtedness of such Unrestricted Subsidiary and such designation shall only be permitted if (1) such Indebtedness is permitted under the covenant described under the caption " Certain Covenants Incurrence of Indebtedness," calculated on a pro forma basis as if such designation had occurred at the beginning of the four-quarter reference period; and (2) no Default or Event of Default would be in existence following such designation.

**"Volumetric Production Payments"** mean production payment obligations recorded as deferred revenue in accordance with GAAP, together with all undertakings and obligations in connection therewith.

**"Voting Stock"** of any Person as of any date means the Capital Stock of such Person that is at the time entitled (without reference to the occurrence of any contingency) to vote in the election of the directors, managers or trustees of such Person.

**"Weighted Average Life to Maturity"** means, when applied to any Indebtedness at any date, the number of years obtained by dividing:

(1) the sum of the products obtained by multiplying (a) the amount of each then remaining installment, sinking fund, serial maturity or other required payments of principal, including payment at final maturity, in respect thereof, by (b) the number of years (calculated to the nearest one-twelfth) that will elapse between such date and the making of such payment; by

(2) the then outstanding principal amount of such Indebtedness.

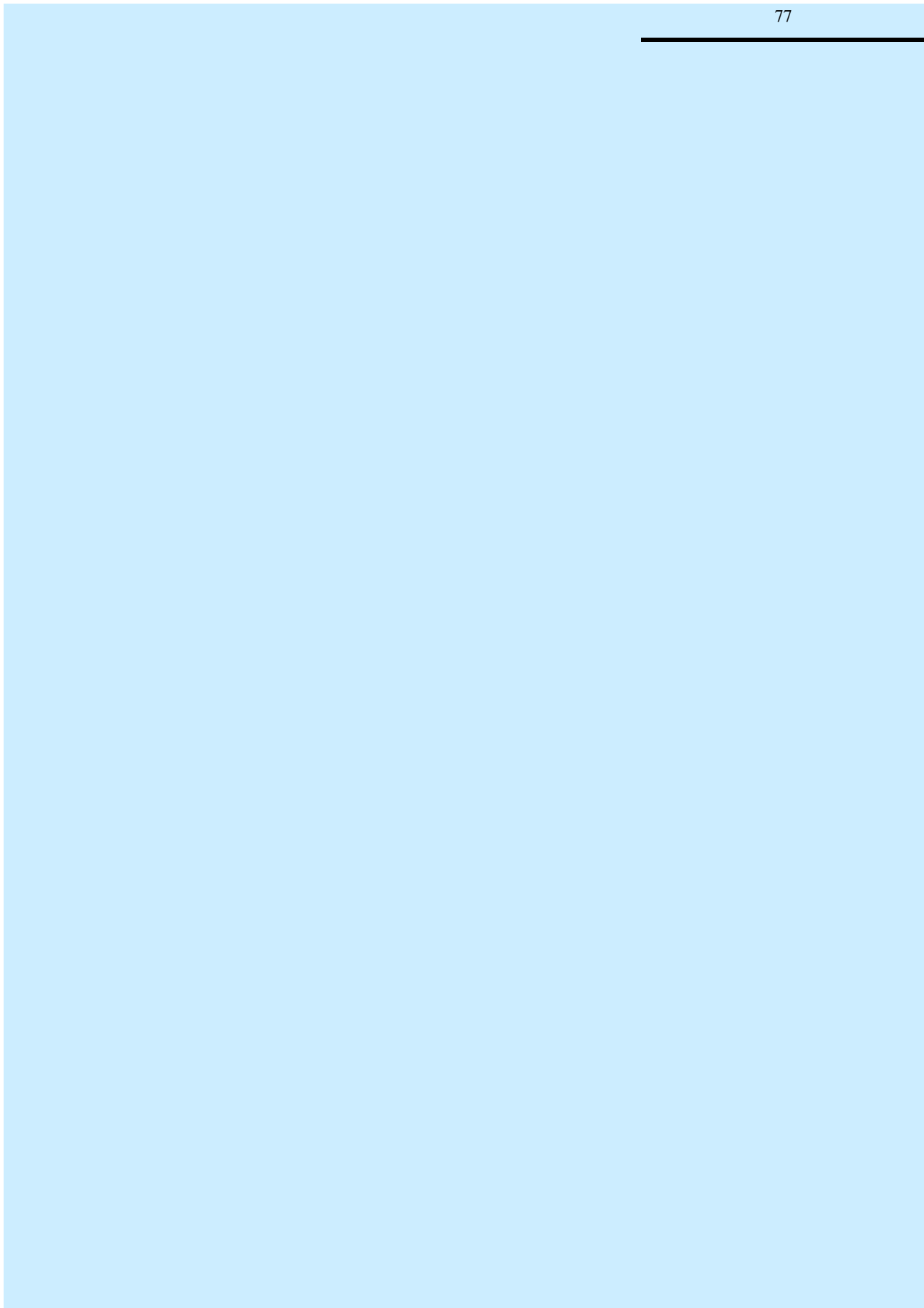


Table of Contents

**Book-Entry; Delivery and Form**

*The Global Notes*

Initially, the new notes will be represented by one or more registered notes in global form, without interest coupons (collectively, the "Global Notes"). The Global Notes will be deposited on the issue date with, or on behalf of, DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC, or will remain with the trustee as custodian for DTC.

Except as set forth below, the Global Notes may be transferred, in whole and not in part, solely to another nominee of DTC or to a successor of DTC or its nominee. Beneficial interests in the Global Notes may not be exchanged for notes in physical, certificated form ("Certificated Notes") except in the limited circumstances described below.

All interests in the Global Notes, including those held through Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg, may be subject to the procedures and requirements of DTC. Those interests held through Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg may also be subject to the procedures and requirements of such systems.

***Certain Book-Entry  
Procedures for the Global  
Notes***

The descriptions of the operations and procedures of DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg set forth below are provided solely as a matter of convenience. These operations and procedures are solely within the control of the respective settlement systems and are subject to change by them from time to time. We do not take any responsibility for these operations or procedures, and investors are urged to contact the relevant system or its participants directly to discuss these matters.

DTC has advised us that it is:

a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York;

a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law;

a member of the Federal Reserve System;

a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code, as amended; and

a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC was created to hold securities for its participants (collectively, the "Participants") and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between Participants through electronic book-entry changes to the accounts of its Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical transfer and delivery of certificates. DTC's Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Indirect access to DTC's system is also available to other entities such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies (collectively, the "Indirect Participants") that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Participant, either directly or indirectly. Investors who are not Participants may beneficially own securities held by or on behalf of DTC only through Participants or Indirect Participants.

We expect that pursuant to procedures established by DTC (1) upon deposit of each Global Note, DTC will credit the accounts of Participants with

an interest in the Global Note and (2) ownership of the notes will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to the interests of Participants) and the records of Participants and the Indirect Participants (with respect to the interests of persons other than Participants).

The laws of some jurisdictions may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form.

Accordingly, the ability to transfer interests in the notes represented by a Global Note to such persons may be limited. In addition, because DTC can act only

Table of Contents

on behalf of its Participants, who in turn act on behalf of persons who hold interests through Participants, the ability of a person having an interest in notes represented by a Global Note to pledge or transfer such interest to persons or entities that do not participate in DTC's system, or to otherwise take actions in respect of such interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical definitive security in respect of such interest.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of a Global Note, DTC or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the notes represented by the Global Notes for all purposes under the indentures. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a Global Note will not be entitled to have notes represented by such Global Note registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of Certificated Notes, and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the indentures for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instruction or approval to the respective trustees thereunder. Accordingly, each holder owning a beneficial interest in a Global Note must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if such holder is not a Participant or an Indirect Participant, on the procedures of the Participant through which such holder owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder of notes under the indentures or such Global Notes. We understand that under existing industry practice, in the event that we request any action of holders of notes, or a holder that is an owner of a beneficial interest in a Global Note desires to take any action that DTC, as the holder of such Global Note, is entitled to take, DTC would authorize the Participants to take such action and the Participants would authorize holders owning through such Participants to take such action or would otherwise act upon the instruction of such holders. Neither we nor the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of notes by DTC, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of DTC relating to such notes.

Payments with respect to the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, any notes represented by a Global Note registered in the name of DTC or its nominee on the applicable record date will be payable by the applicable trustee to or at the direction of DTC or its nominee in its capacity as the registered holder of the Global Notes representing such notes under the indentures. Under the terms of the indentures, we and the trustees may treat the persons in whose names the notes, including the Global Notes, are registered as the owners thereof for the purpose of receiving payment thereon and for any and all other purposes whatsoever. Accordingly, neither we nor the applicable trustee has or will have any responsibility or liability for the payment of such amounts to owners of beneficial interests in a Global Note (including principal, premium, if any, and interest). Payments by the Participants and the Indirect Participants to the owners of beneficial interests in a Global Note will be governed by standing instructions and customary industry practice and will be the responsibility of the Participants or the Indirect Participants and DTC.

Transfers between Participants in DTC will be effected in accordance with DTC's procedures, and will be settled in same-day funds. Transfers between participants in Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg will be effected in the ordinary way in accordance with their respective rules and operating procedures.

Cross-market transfers between the Participants in DTC, on the one hand, and Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg participants, on the other hand, will be effected through DTC in accordance with DTC's rules on behalf of Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg, as the case may be, by its respective depository; however, such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg, as the case may be, by the counterparts in such system in accordance with the rules and procedures and within the established deadlines (Brussels time) of such system. Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg, as the case may be, will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to its

respective depository to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving interests in the relevant Global Notes in DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement



Table of Contents

applicable to DTC. Euroclear participants and Clearstream, Luxembourg participants may not deliver instructions directly to the depositories for Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg.

Because of time zone differences, the securities account of a Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg participant purchasing an interest in a Global Note from a Participant in DTC will be credited, and any such crediting will be reported to the relevant Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg participant, during the securities settlement processing day (which must be a business day for Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg) immediately following the settlement date of DTC.

Cash received in Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg as a result of sales of interests in the Global Notes by or through a Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg participant to a Participant in DTC will be received with value on the settlement date of DTC but will be available in the relevant Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg cash account only as of the business day for Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg following DTC's settlement date.

Although DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg have agreed to the foregoing procedures to facilitate transfers of interests in the Global Notes among participants in DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg, they are under no obligation to perform or to continue to perform such procedures, and such procedures may be discontinued at any time. Neither we nor the applicable trustee will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC, Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg or their respective participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

*Certificated Notes*

If:

we notify the applicable trustee in

writing that DTC is no longer willing or able to act as a depositary for the Global Notes or DTC ceases to be registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act and a successor depositary is not appointed within 90 days of such notice or cessation;

or

an event of default has occurred and is continuing and the registrar has received a request from DTC or a beneficial owner in a Global Note to issue Certificated Notes,

then, upon surrender by DTC of the Global Notes, Certificated Notes will be issued to each person that DTC identifies as the beneficial owner of the notes represented by the Global Notes. Upon any such issuance, the applicable trustee is required to register such Certificated Notes in the name of such person or persons (or the nominee of any thereof) and cause the same to be delivered thereto.

Neither we nor the applicable trustee shall be liable for any delay by DTC or any Participant or Indirect Participant in identifying the beneficial owners of the related notes and each such person may conclusively rely on, and shall be protected in relying on, instructions from DTC for all purposes (including with respect to the registration and delivery, and the respective principal amounts, of the new notes to be issued).

#### **Registration Rights**

We entered into registration rights agreements with the initial purchasers with respect to the offerings of the old notes. Under the registration rights agreements, we agreed for the benefit of the holders of the old notes, that we

would, at our cost and subject to certain exceptions, consummate the exchange offers described in this prospectus. For details regarding the exchange offers, please read "The Exchange Offers."

Table of Contents

Pursuant to the registration rights agreements, we agreed to:

- (1) file a registration statement (the "Exchange Offer Registration Statement") with the SEC, and use the Company's reasonable best efforts to cause the Exchange Offer Registration Statement to be declared effective under the Securities Act, with respect to a registered offer (the "Registered Exchange Offer") to exchange each note for a new note of the Company (the "Exchange Notes") having terms substantially identical in all material respects to such note (except that the Exchange Note will not contain terms with respect to transfer restrictions);
- (2) promptly following the effectiveness of the Exchange Offer Registration Statement (the "Effectiveness Date"), offer the Exchange Notes in exchange for surrender of the notes; and
- (3) keep the Registered Exchange Offer open for not less than 20 business days (or longer if required by applicable law) after the date notice of the Registered

Exchange Offer is  
mailed to the  
Holders of the notes.

For each note tendered to us pursuant to the Registered Exchange Offer, the Company will issue to the Holder of such note an Exchange Note having a principal amount equal to that of the surrendered note. Interest on each Exchange Note will accrue from the last interest payment date on which interest was paid on the note surrendered in exchange thereof or, if no interest has been paid on such note, from the Issue Date.

Under existing SEC interpretations, the Exchange Notes will be freely transferable by Holders other than the Company's affiliates after the Registered Exchange Offer without further registration under the Securities Act if the Holder of the Exchange Notes represents that it is acquiring the Exchange Notes in the ordinary course of its business, that it has no arrangement or understanding with any Person to participate in the distribution of the Exchange Notes and that it is not an affiliate of the Company, as such terms are interpreted by the SEC; provided, however, that broker-dealers ("Participating Broker-Dealers") receiving Exchange Notes in the Registered Exchange Offer will have a prospectus delivery requirement with respect to resales of such Exchange Notes. The SEC has taken the position that Participating Broker-Dealers may fulfill their prospectus delivery requirements with respect to Exchange Notes (other than a resale of an unsold allotment from the original sale of the notes) with the prospectus contained in the Exchange Offer Registration Statement.

Under the registration rights agreement, the Company is required to allow Participating Broker-Dealers and other Persons, if any, with similar prospectus delivery requirements to use the prospectus contained in the Exchange Offer Registration Statement in connection with the resale of such Exchange Notes for 180 days following the effective date of such Exchange Offer Registration Statement (or such shorter period during which Participating Broker-Dealers are

required by law to deliver such prospectus).

A Holder of notes (other than certain specified holders) who wishes to exchange such notes for Exchange Notes in the Registered Exchange Offer will be required to represent, among other things, that any Exchange Notes to be received by it will be acquired in the ordinary course of its business and that at the time of the commencement of the Registered Exchange Offer it has no arrangement or understanding with any Person to participate in the distribution (within the meaning of the Securities Act) of the Exchange Notes and that it is not an "affiliate" of the Company, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act, or if it is an affiliate, that it will comply with the registration and prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act to the extent applicable.

In the event that:

(1) applicable interpretations of the staff of the SEC do not permit us to effect a Registered Exchange Offer; or

Table of Contents

(2)  
for any other reason  
the Registered  
Exchange Offer is  
not consummated  
within 365 days  
from the applicable  
Issue Date; or

(3)  
any of the initial  
purchasers notifies  
us following  
consummation of  
the Registered  
Exchange Offer that  
notes held by it are  
not eligible to be  
exchanged for  
Exchange Notes in  
the Registered  
Exchange Offer; or

(4)  
certain holders are  
prohibited by law or  
SEC policy from  
participating in the  
Registered  
Exchange Offer or  
may not resell the  
Exchange Notes  
acquired by them in  
the Registered  
Exchange Offer to  
the public without  
delivering a  
prospectus,

we will, subject to certain  
exceptions:

(a)  
promptly file a shelf  
registration  
statement (the  
"Shelf Registration  
Statement")  
covering resales of  
such notes or the  
Exchange Notes, as  
the case may be;

(b)  
(i) in the case of  
clause (1) or  
(2) above, use our  
reasonable best  
efforts to cause the

Shelf Registration Statement to be declared effective under the Securities Act on or prior to the 365th day after the Issue Date and (ii) in the case of clause (3) or (4) above, use the our reasonable best efforts to cause the Shelf Registration Statement to be declared effective under the Securities Act on or prior to the 180th day after the date on which the Shelf Registration Statement is required to be filed; and

(c) keep the Shelf Registration Statement effective until the earliest of (i) the time when the notes covered by the Shelf Registration Statement can be sold pursuant to Rule 144 without any limitations by non-affiliates of ours under clause (d) of Rule 144, (ii) two years from the effective date of the Shelf Registration Statement and (iii) the date on which all notes registered thereunder are disposed of in accordance therewith.

We will, in the event a Shelf Registration Statement is filed, among other things, provide to each Holder for whom such Shelf Registration Statement was filed copies of the prospectus which is a part of the Shelf Registration Statement, notify each such Holder when the Shelf Registration Statement has become effective and take certain



other actions as are required to permit unrestricted resales of the notes or the Exchange Notes, as the case may be. A Holder selling such notes or Exchange Notes pursuant to the Shelf Registration Statement generally would be required to be named as a selling security holder in the related prospectus and to deliver a prospectus to purchasers, will be subject to certain of the civil liability provisions under the Securities Act in connection with such sales and will be bound by the provisions of the registration rights agreement that are applicable to such Holder (including certain indemnification obligations).

We will pay additional cash interest on the applicable notes, subject to certain exceptions:

(1)  
if obligated to file a Shelf Registration Statement, a Shelf Registration Statement is not declared effective by the SEC on or prior to the required effective date specified above;

(2)  
if the Exchange Offer is not consummated on or before the 365<sup>th</sup> day after the applicable Issue Date; or

(3)  
after the Exchange Offer Registration Statement or the Shelf Registration Statement, as the case may be, is declared effective, such Registration Statement thereafter ceases to be effective or usable (subject to certain exceptions) (each such event referred to in the preceding clauses (1) through (3), a "Registration Default");

from and including the date on which any such Registration Default shall occur to but excluding the date on which all Registration Defaults have been cured.

Table of Contents

The rate of the additional interest will be 0.50% per year for the first 90-day period immediately following the occurrence of a Registration Default, and such rate will increase by an additional 0.50% per 90-day per year with respect to each subsequent 90-day period until all Registration Defaults have been cured, up to a maximum additional interest rate of 1.50% per year. The Company will pay such additional interest on regular interest payment dates. Such additional interest will be in addition to any other interest payable from time to time with respect to the applicable series of notes and the Exchange Notes. The Company will not be required to pay additional interest for more than one Registration Default at any given time. Following the cure of all Registration Defaults, the accrual of additional interest will cease.

All references in the Indentures and in this "Description of the New Notes," in any context, to any interest or other amount payable on or with respect to the notes shall be deemed to include any additional interest payable pursuant to the registration rights agreements.

If we effect the Registered Exchange Offer, we will be entitled to close the Registered Exchange Offer 30 days after the commencement thereof, provided that we have accepted all notes theretofore validly tendered in accordance with the terms of the Registered Exchange Offer.

**CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL  
INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES**

The following is a summary based on present law of the material United States federal income tax considerations relating to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the notes, but does not purport to be a complete analysis of all of the potential tax considerations relating thereto. This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), Treasury regulations, rulings and pronouncements of the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"), and judicial decisions, all as of the date hereof. These authorities may be changed, perhaps retroactively, and are subject to different interpretations, so the United States federal income tax consequences may be different from those described herein. This summary assumes that the old notes and the new notes are held as capital assets (generally, property held for investment) and holders are investors who purchased the old notes for cash upon their original issue at their initial offering price.

This summary does not address tax considerations arising under the laws of any foreign, state or local jurisdiction or the effect of any tax treaty. In addition, this discussion does not address tax considerations that are the result of a holder's particular circumstances or of special rules, such as those that apply to holders subject to the alternative minimum tax, banks and other financial institutions, tax-exempt organizations, insurance companies, dealers or traders in securities or commodities, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, United States Holders (as defined below) whose "functional currency" is not the U.S. dollar, certain former citizens or former long-term residents of the United States, foreign governments or international organizations, persons who will hold the notes as a position in a hedging transaction, "straddle," "conversion transaction" or other risk reduction or integrated transaction, or partnerships (including any entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) or other pass-through entities or investors in such

entities. If a partnership (including any entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) holds new notes, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding our new notes, you should consult your tax advisor. We have not sought any ruling from the IRS or opinion of counsel with respect to the statements made and conclusions reached in this summary, and there can be no assurance that the IRS will agree with and not challenge these statements and conclusions.

**THIS SUMMARY DOES NOT REPRESENT A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES TO YOU IN LIGHT OF YOUR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES AND DOES NOT ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF ANY STATE, LOCAL OR NON-UNITED STATES TAX LAWS. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE, AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED TO BE, LEGAL OR TAX ADVICE TO ANY PARTICULAR HOLDER OF NEW NOTES. YOU SHOULD SEEK ADVICE BASED ON YOUR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES FROM AN INDEPENDENT TAX ADVISOR WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICATION TO SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL TAX LAWS AS WELL AS WITH RESPECT TO ANY TAX CONSEQUENCES ARISING UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY STATE, LOCAL OR OTHER TAXING JURISDICTION OR UNDER ANY APPLICABLE TAX TREATY.**

#### **Exchange of the Notes**

The new notes do not differ materially in kind or extent from the old notes and, as a result, your exchange of old notes for new notes will not constitute a taxable disposition of the old notes for United States federal income tax purposes. As a result, you will not recognize taxable income, gain or loss on such exchange, your holding period for the new notes generally will

include the holding period for the old notes so exchanged, and your adjusted tax basis in the new notes generally will be the same as your adjusted tax basis in the old notes so exchanged.

Table of Contents

**United States Holders**

The following is a summary of the material United States federal income tax consequences that will apply to you if you are a United States Holder of the new notes. Certain consequences to non-United States holders of the new notes are described under "Non-United States Holders" below. As used in this discussion, "United States Holder" means a beneficial owner of new notes that for United States federal income tax purposes is:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States, including an alien individual who is a lawful permanent resident of the United States or who meets the "substantial presence" test under Section 7701(b) of the Code;

a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any political subdivision or state thereof, or the District of Columbia;

an estate whose income is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust (i) if its administration is subject to the primary supervision

of a court within the United States and one or more "United States persons" (within the meaning of the Code) have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (ii) that has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

*Payments of interest*

Interest on the new notes generally will be taxable to you as ordinary income at the time it is received or accrued in accordance with your regular method of accounting for United States federal income tax purposes.

*Disposition of the new notes*

Upon the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of the new notes, you generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between:

the amount of cash proceeds and the fair market value of any property received on such disposition (less any amount attributable to accrued and unpaid interest on the notes that you have not previously included in income, which will generally be taxable as ordinary income); and

your adjusted tax basis in the new notes.

Your adjusted tax basis in a new note generally will equal the cost of the new note to you. Any gain or loss that is recognized on the disposition of the new



notes generally will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if you have held the new notes for more than one year at the time of disposition. Long-term capital gains of individuals, estates and trusts currently are taxed at reduced rates. Your ability to deduct capital losses is subject to certain limitations.

*Payments upon early redemptions and other circumstances*

In certain circumstances (see "Description of the New Notes Registration Rights;" " Optional Redemption;" and " Repurchase at the Option of Holders Change of Control"), we may be entitled or obligated to redeem the new notes before their stated maturity date or obligated to pay a United States Holder additional amounts in excess of stated interest or principal on the new notes. We do not intend to treat the potential redemption or payment of any such amounts as part of or affecting the yield to maturity of any new notes. In the event such a contingency occurs, it would affect the amount and timing of the income (and possibly character) that a United States Holder must recognize. Our

Table of Contents

determination is not, however, binding on the IRS and if the IRS were to challenge this determination, a United States Holder might be required to accrue income on the new notes at a higher yield and to treat as ordinary income (rather than capital gain) any income realized on the taxable disposition of a note before the resolution of the contingencies.

*Legislation relating to net investment income*

For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, a 3.8% tax on the "net investment income" of certain United States individuals, and on the undistributed "net investment income" of certain estates and trusts. Among other items, "net investment income" generally includes interest and certain net gain from the disposition of property, less certain deductions. Income on the new notes generally would be included in net investment income for this purpose.

*Information reporting and backup withholding*

In general, information reporting is required as to certain payments of interest on the new notes and on the proceeds of a disposition of the new notes unless you are a corporation or other exempt person and, if requested, certify such status. In addition, you will be subject to backup withholding on payments made to you of principal and interest on your new note and to payments of proceeds of a sale or other disposition of your new note if you are not exempt, you fail to properly furnish a taxpayer identification number or if the IRS has notified you that you are subject to backup withholding.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amount withheld from a payment under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a credit against your United States federal income tax liability and may entitle you to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

**Non-United States Holders**

The following is a summary of the material United States federal income tax consequences that will apply to you if you are a non-United States Holder of new notes. As used in this tax discussion, "non-United States Holder" means any beneficial owner of the new notes that is an individual, corporation, estate or trust that is not a United States Holder. The rules governing the United States federal income taxation of a non-United States Holder are complex, and no attempt will be made herein to provide more than a summary of certain

of those rules. **NON-UNITED STATES HOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR TAX ADVISORS TO DETERMINE THE EFFECT OF UNITED STATES FEDERAL, STATE AND OTHER TAX LAWS, AS WELL AS FOREIGN TAX LAWS, INCLUDING ANY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

*Payments of interest*

Interest on the new notes will not be subject to United States federal income tax or withholding tax if the interest is not effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States and if you qualify for the "portfolio interest" exemption. You will qualify for the portfolio interest exemption if you:

do not own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of the combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote;

are not a controlled foreign corporation related to us, directly or indirectly, actually or constructively, through stock ownership;

are not a bank whose receipt of interest on the new notes is interest received pursuant to

a loan agreement  
entered into in the  
ordinary course of  
your trade or  
business; and

86

---

Table of Contents

appropriately certify  
as to your foreign  
status.

You may generally meet the certification requirement listed above by providing to us or our agent a properly completed IRS Form W-8BEN. If the portfolio interest exemption is not available to you, then payments of interest on the new notes will be subject to United States federal withholding tax at a rate of 30% unless you certify on IRS Form W-8BEN as to your eligibility for a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty.

Interest that is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by you in the United States) is not subject to withholding if you provide a properly completed IRS Form W-8ECL. However, you generally will be subject to United States federal income tax on such interest on a net income basis at graduated rates applicable to United States persons generally. In addition, if you are a foreign corporation you may incur a branch profits tax on such interest equal to 30% of your effectively connected earnings and profits for the taxable year, as adjusted for certain items, unless a lower rate applies to you under a United States income tax treaty with your country of residence. For this purpose, you must include interest, gain and income on your new notes in the earnings and profits subject to United States branch profits tax if these amounts are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

*Disposition of the notes*

You generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax on any gain realized on the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of the new notes (other than any amount allocable to accrued and unpaid interest, which generally will be taxable as interest and may be subject to the rules discussed above in

" Non-United States Holders Payments of interest) unless:

the gain is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by you in the United States), in which case you generally will be subject to United States federal income tax in the same manner as a United States person, and if you are a foreign corporation, you may incur a branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or a lower applicable treaty rate) of your effectively connected earnings and profits, which will include such gain; or

you are an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year in which such disposition occurs and certain other conditions are met, in which case you will be subject to United States federal income tax at a 30% rate (or lower applicable treaty rate) on the gain, which may be offset by United States source capital losses.

*Information reporting and backup withholding*

Payments to you of interest on the new notes (including amounts withheld from such payments, if any) generally will be required to be reported to the IRS and to you. United States backup withholding generally will not apply to payments to you of interest on the new notes if the statement described in " Non-United States Holders Payments of interest" is duly provided by you or you otherwise establish an exemption, provided that we do not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person.

Payment of the proceeds of a sale of the new notes effected by the U.S. office of a U.S. or foreign broker will be subject to information reporting requirements and backup withholding unless you properly certify under penalties of perjury as to your foreign status and certain other conditions are met or you otherwise establish an exemption. Information reporting requirements and backup withholding generally will not apply to any payment of the proceeds of the sale of the new notes effected outside the United States by a foreign office of a broker. However, unless such a broker has

Table of Contents

documentary evidence in its records that you are a non-United States Holder and certain other conditions are met, or you otherwise establish an exemption, information reporting will apply to a payment of the proceeds of the sale of the new notes effected outside the United States by such a broker if it is:

a United States person;

a foreign person which derives 50% or more of its gross income for certain periods from the conduct of a trade or business in the United States;

a controlled foreign corporation for United States federal income tax purposes; or

a foreign partnership that, at any time during its taxable year, has more than 50% of its income or capital interests owned by United

States persons or is engaged in the conduct of a U.S. trade or business.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amount withheld from a payment under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a credit against your United States federal income tax liability, if any, and may entitle you to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

*Foreign Account Tax Compliance*

Recently enacted legislation, so-called FATCA, generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on interest



income from debt instruments and the gross proceeds of a disposition of debt instruments paid to a "foreign financial institution" (as the beneficial owner or as an intermediary for the beneficial owner), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the U.S. government to collect and provide to the U.S. tax authorities substantial information regarding certain U.S. account holders of such institution (which would include certain account holders that are foreign entities with U.S. owners), is subject to and complies with the terms of an applicable intergovernmental agreement implementing FATCA (and/or with any rules implementing such agreement) or is otherwise deemed compliant under FATCA. The legislation also generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on interest income from debt instruments and the gross proceeds of a disposition of debt instruments paid to a non-financial foreign entity in certain cases (as the beneficial owner or as an intermediary for the beneficial owner) unless such entity provides the withholding agent with certain certification or information relating to U.S. ownership of the entity. Under certain circumstances, such foreign persons might be eligible for refunds or credits of such taxes. This withholding tax on U.S. source income, such as interest paid by a U.S. issuer, will not be imposed with respect to payments made prior to January 1, 2014, and the withholding tax on gross proceeds from a disposition of equity or debt instruments of U.S. issuers will not be imposed with respect to payments made prior to January 1, 2017. In addition, under a "grandfathering" rule, this withholding tax will not apply to payments (of interest or gross proceeds) on a debt instrument issued prior to January 1, 2014, such as the new notes issued in this offering (except to the extent that such instrument is modified after such date in a manner that results in such instrument being treated as a new debt instrument for federal income tax purposes). Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation in their particular circumstances.

**CERTAIN ERISA  
CONSIDERATIONS**

To the extent the new notes are held by an employee benefit plan subject to Title I of ERISA, or Section 4975 of the Code, the following are some considerations that should be taken into account. A fiduciary of an employee benefit plan subject to ERISA must determine that the holding of a new note is consistent with its fiduciary duties under ERISA. The fiduciary of an ERISA plan, as well as any other prospective investor subject to Section 4975 of the Code, must also determine that its holding of new notes does not result in a nonexempt prohibited transaction as defined in Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code.

Similar state and/or local laws may apply to plans and entities holding plan assets that are not subject to Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code.

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

Each broker-dealer that receives new notes for its own account pursuant to the exchange offers must acknowledge that it will deliver a prospectus in connection with any resale of such new notes. This prospectus, as it may be amended or supplemented from time to time, may be used by a broker-dealer in connection with resales of the new notes received in exchange for the old notes where such old notes were acquired as a result of market-making activities or other trading activities. We have agreed that, for a period of 180 days after the effective date of this registration statement, we will make this prospectus, as amended or supplemented, available to any broker-dealer for use in connection with any such resale. In addition, until \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ (90 days after the consummation of the exchange offers), all dealers effecting transactions in the new notes may be required to deliver a prospectus.

We will not receive any proceeds from any sale of the new notes by broker-dealers. New notes received by broker-dealers for their own account pursuant to the exchange offers may be sold from time to time in one or more transactions in the over-the-counter market, in negotiated transactions, through the writing of options on the new notes or a combination of such methods of resale, at market prices prevailing at the time of resale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or negotiated prices. Any such resale may be made directly to purchasers or to or through brokers or dealers who may receive compensation in the form of commissions or concessions from any such broker dealer or the purchasers of any such new notes. Any broker-dealer that resells new notes that were received by it for its own account pursuant to the exchange offer and any broker or dealer that participates in a distribution of such new notes may be deemed to be an "underwriter" within the meaning of the Securities Act and any profit on any such resale of new notes and any commission or concessions received by any such persons may be deemed to be

underwriting compensation under the Securities Act. The enclosed letter of transmittal states that, by acknowledging that it will deliver and by delivering a prospectus, a broker-dealer will not be deemed to admit that it is an "underwriter" within the meaning of the Securities Act.

For a period of 180 days after the consummation of the exchange offers, we will promptly send additional copies of this prospectus and any amendment or supplement to this prospectus to any broker-dealer that requests such documents as provided in the enclosed letter of transmittal. We have agreed to pay all expenses incident to the exchange offers (including the expenses of one counsel for the holders of the notes) other than commissions or concessions of any brokers or dealers and will indemnify the holders of the notes (including any broker-dealers) against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

#### **LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the new notes being offered hereby and certain other legal matters are being passed upon for us by Mayer Brown LLP, Houston, Texas.

#### **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference from Halcón Resources Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, and the effectiveness of Halcón Resources Corporation's internal control over financial reporting, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements of Halcón Resources Corporation as of December 31, 2011,

and for the two fiscal years in the period  
ended December 31, 2011, incorporated  
in this prospectus by

90

---

Table of Contents

reference to Halcón Resources Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, have been audited by UHY LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm. Such financial statements have been incorporated by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The statements of revenues and direct operating expenses of the Williston Basin Assets purchased by Halcón for each of the three fiscal years in the period ended December 31, 2011 have been audited by UHY LLP as set forth in their report therein and incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements have been incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The statement of revenues and direct operating expenses of the East Texas Assets purchased by Halcón for the period from February 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 has been audited by UHY LLP as set forth in their report therein and incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statement has been incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The audited financial statements of SBE Partners LP and the audited financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of GeoResources, Inc. incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the reports of Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accountants, upon the authority of said firm as experts in giving said reports.

The estimated reserve evaluations and related calculations of Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc., an independent reserve engineering firm, included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus have been included or

incorporated by reference in reliance on the authority of that firm as experts in reserve engineering.

The estimated reserve evaluations and related calculations of Forrest A. Garb & Associates, Inc., an independent reserve engineering firm, included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus have been included or incorporated by reference in reliance on the authority of that firm as experts in reserve engineering.

Table of Contents

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE  
INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's web page site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). You also may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the public reference room.

Reports and other information concerning us can also be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. Our common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "HK."

**INCORPORATION BY  
REFERENCE**

We "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus, which means that we disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information contained expressly in this prospectus, and the information we file later with the SEC will automatically supersede the information contained or incorporated by reference herein. Any information furnished to the SEC under Items 2.02 or 7.01 or the exhibits relating to furnished items are not incorporated into or made part of this prospectus. You should not assume that the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is current as of any date other than the date of the respective documents. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below:

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



and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 15, 2013, January 23, 2013, January 30, 2013, March 4, 2013 and March 8, 2013.

The audited financial statements for GeoResources and its subsidiaries and for SBE Partners, LP for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 are incorporated herein by reference to Exhibits 99.3 and 99.4, respectively, to our Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on September 11, 2012.

The unaudited interim financial statements for GeoResources and its subsidiaries for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 are incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.6 to our Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on September 11, 2012.

The statements of revenues and direct operating expenses for the East Texas Assets for the period from February 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 are incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 25, 2012. The statements of revenues and direct operating expenses for the East Texas Assets for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012 are incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on August 24, 2012.

The statements of revenues and direct operating expenses for the Williston Basin Assets for the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011 are incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on October 22, 2012. The statements of revenues and direct operating expenses for the Williston Basin Assets for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 are incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 11, 2012.

Any additional information that we file under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the delivery of this filing and that is deemed "filed" with the SEC, will automatically update and supersede this information and be automatically incorporated by reference herein. You may

Table of Contents

request a copy of all incorporated filings  
at no cost, by making written or  
telephone requests for such copies to:

Halcón Resources Corporation  
Attention: Investor Relations  
1000 Louisiana, Suite 6700  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Phone: (832) 538-0300  
investorrelations@halconresources.com

You should rely only on the  
information incorporated by reference or  
provided in this filing. If information in  
incorporated documents conflicts with  
information in this prospectus, you  
should rely on the most recent  
information. If information in an  
incorporated document conflicts with  
information in another incorporated  
document, you should rely on the most  
recent incorporated document. You  
should not assume that the information  
in this prospectus or any document  
incorporated by reference is accurate as  
of any date other than the date of those  
documents. We have not authorized  
anyone else to provide you with any  
information.

Table of Contents

**Offer to Exchange up to \$750,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 9.750% Senior Notes due 2020 for up to \$750,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 9.750% Senior Notes due 2020 which have been registered under the Securities Act of 1933; and**

**Offer to Exchange up to \$1,350,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 8.875% Senior Notes due 2021 for up to \$1,350,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 8.875% Senior Notes due 2021 which have been registered under the Securities Act of 1933**

**Prospectus**

**, 2013**

---

**PART II**

**INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED  
IN THE PROSPECTUS**

**Item 20. Indemnification of  
Directors and Officers.**

The following summaries are qualified in their entirety by reference to the complete text of any statutes referred to below and the organizational documents of each registrant guarantor.

**Indemnification of Directors and  
Officers of Halcón Resources  
Corporation**

Article Seventh of our certificate of incorporation, as amended, and Article VII of our bylaws, as amended, provides for indemnification of officers and directors of Halcón, as well as its employees if desired, to the extent authorized by the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL"). Pursuant to Section 145 of the DGCL, we generally have the power to indemnify our current and former directors, officers, employees and agents against expenses and liabilities that they incur in connection with any suit to which they are, or are threatened to be made, a party by reason of their serving in such positions so long as they acted in good faith and in a manner they reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, our best interests, and with respect to any criminal action, they had no reasonable cause to believe their conduct was unlawful. The statute expressly provides that the power to indemnify or advance expenses authorized thereby is not exclusive of any rights granted under any charter provision, bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors, or otherwise, both as to actions in such person's official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office. We also have the power to purchase and maintain insurance for such directors and officers.

We have also entered into individual indemnification agreements with our directors and executive officers. These agreements indemnify

those directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by law against inordinate risks of claims and actions against them arising out of their service to and activities on behalf of Halcón.

**Indemnification of Directors and Officers of Registrant Guarantors**

**Colorado**

Each of G3 Energy, LLC and G3 Operating, LLC is a Colorado limited liability company. Section 7-80-407 of the Colorado Limited Liability Company Act provides that a limited liability company shall reimburse a person who is or was a member or manager for payments made, and indemnify a person who is or was a person or manager for liabilities incurred by the person, in the ordinary course of business of the limited liability company or for the preservation of its business or property, if such payments were made or liabilities incurred without violation of the person's duties to the limited liability company. The operating agreement of G3 Energy, LLC provides that the company shall indemnify each member or any officers or directors of such member relating to any liability or damage incurred by reason of any acts or omissions of such person in connection with the business of the company and will reimburse such person for attorneys' fees in connection therewith to the extent the member, officer or director acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the interests of the company and the conduct of the member, officer or director did not constitute actual fraud, gross negligence or willful misconduct. In addition, the operating agreement of G3 Operating, LLC provides that each manager will be indemnified for any act performed by such manager within the scope of the authority conferred on the manager by the operating agreement, except for acts or omissions constituting fraud, gross negligence or an intentional breach of the operating agreement or applicable law.

Table of Contents

**Delaware**

Each of Halcón Resources Operating, Inc., Halcón Holdings, Inc., HRC Energy Resources (WV), Inc., HRC Energy Holdings (LA), Inc., Halcón Energy Properties, Inc., and Great Plains Pipeline Company is a Delaware corporation (collectively, the "Delaware Corporate Subsidiaries"). The indemnification provisions of the DGCL described in "Indemnification of Directors and Officers of Halcón Resources Corporation" above also relate to the directors and officers of the Delaware Corporate Subsidiaries.

Each of HRC Energy Louisiana, LLC, Halcón Geo Holdings, LLC, and Halcón Field Services, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company (each, a "Delaware LLC Subsidiary"). Section 18-108 of the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act ("DLLCA") provides that, subject to such standards and restrictions, if any, as are set forth in its limited liability company agreement, a limited liability company may, and shall have the power to, indemnify and hold harmless any member or manager or other person from and against any and all claims and demands whatsoever. The limited liability company agreement of each Delaware LLC Subsidiary contains indemnification provisions that generally provide that it will indemnify any person against any losses, damages, claims or liabilities to which they may become subject or which they may incur as a result of being or having been an organizer, member, manager, officer, employee or agent of such Delaware LLC Subsidiary, and may advance to them or reimburse them for expenses incurred in connection therewith.

Halcón Louisiana Operating, L.P. is a Delaware limited partnership. Section 17-108 of the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act (the "DRULPA") permits a limited partnership to indemnify and hold harmless any partner or other person from and against any and all claims and demands whatsoever, subject to any standards and restrictions, if any, as are set forth in its partnership agreement.

The agreement of limited partnership of Halcón Louisiana Operating, L.P. contains indemnification provisions that generally provide that it will indemnify each past or present general partner, manager, officer, and to the extent determined by the general partner from time to time, other agents and representatives against any actions, suits, or proceedings, and all other claims, demands, losses, damages, liabilities, judgments, awards, penalties, fines, settlements, costs and expenses arising out of the management of Halcón Louisiana Operating, L.P, and may advance to them or reimburse them for reasonable expenses incurred in connection therewith to the fullest extent now or hereafter permitted by the DRULPA.

#### **Louisiana**

HRC Energy Resources (Lafourche), Inc. is a Louisiana corporation. Section 83 of the Louisiana Business Corporation Law ("LBCL") provides in part that a corporation may indemnify any director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with any action, suit or proceeding to which he is or was a party or is threatened to be made a party (including any action by or in the right of the corporation), if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

The indemnification provisions of the LBCL are not exclusive; however, no corporation may indemnify any person for willful or intentional misconduct. A corporation has the power to obtain and maintain insurance, or to create a form of self-insurance on behalf of any person who is or was acting for the corporation, regardless of whether the corporation has the legal authority to indemnify the insured person against such liability.

The bylaws of HRC Energy Resources (Lafourche), Inc. provide that



it will indemnify its directors, and may indemnify its officers, employees and agents and may procure insurance on behalf of its officers, directors, employees and agents, to the fullest extent permitted by the LBCL.

II-2

---

Table of Contents

**North Dakota**

Western Star Drilling Company is a North Dakota corporation. Section 10-19.1-91 of the North Dakota Business Corporation Act (the "NDBCA") generally provides that a corporation will indemnify a director, officer or employee made a party to a proceeding by reason of such person's official capacity against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses, if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, received no improper personal benefit, and, with respect to any criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct was unlawful. The NDBCA further provides that reasonable expenses will be advanced upon written request to the corporation, if the person has a good faith belief that the criteria for indemnification as set forth in Section 10-19.1-91 has been satisfied and undertakes to repay all amounts if it is ultimately determined that such person was not entitled to indemnification. Under the NDBCA, the articles or bylaws of a corporation may prohibit indemnification or advancement of expenses or may impose conditions on indemnification or advancement of expenses in addition to those set forth in Section 10-19.1-91.

**Oklahoma**

HLP Gulf States, LLC is an Oklahoma limited liability company. Section 2017 of the Oklahoma Limited Liability Company Act ("OLLCA") provides that the articles of organization or operating agreement of a limited liability company may provide for the indemnification of members or managers of the company. Under the OLLCA, the articles of organization or operating agreement may also eliminate or limit the liability of a member or manager for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty, except in circumstances involving (i) a manager's breach of the duty of loyalty to the company or its members, (ii) acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or

knowing violations of the law, or  
(iii) any transaction from which the  
manager derived an improper personal  
benefit.

#### **Texas**

Each of Pontotoc Production  
Company, Inc., Halcón  
Operating Co., Inc. and AROC  
(Texas), Inc. is a Texas corporation.  
Each of Halcón Williston I, LLC,  
Halcón Williston II, LLC, Catena Oil &  
Gas, LLC, Southern Bay Operating,  
L.L.C., Southern Bay Energy, LLC and  
Southern Bay Louisiana, LLC is a Texas  
limited liability company. The  
provisions of Chapter 8 of the Texas  
Business Organizations Code ("TBOC")  
on indemnification are equally  
applicable to all Texas business  
organizations or enterprises.

Sections 8.101 and 8.102 of the  
TBOC provide that any governing  
person, former governing person or  
delegate of a Texas enterprise may be  
indemnified against judgments and  
reasonable expenses actually incurred  
by the person in connection with a  
proceeding, in which he was, is, or is  
threatened to be made a respondent in a  
proceeding if it is determined, in  
accordance with Section 8.103 of the  
TBOC, that: (i) he acted in good faith,  
(ii) he reasonably believed (a) in the  
case of conduct in the person's official  
capacity, that the person's conduct was  
in the enterprise's best interests or (b) in  
any other case, that the person's conduct  
was not opposed to the enterprise's best  
interests, and (iii) in the case of a  
criminal proceeding, he did not have a  
reasonable cause to believe that his  
conduct was unlawful. Section 8.103 of  
the TBOC provides that the  
determination as to whether  
indemnification should be paid must be  
made by disinterested members of the  
governing authority of the enterprise,  
special legal counsel selected by the  
governing authority, or the owners or  
members of the enterprise. If the person  
is wholly successful in the defense of  
the proceeding, on the merits or  
otherwise, or a court determines that the  
person is entitled to indemnification,  
such indemnification is mandatory in  
accordance with Section 8.051 of the  
TBOC. In connection with any  
proceeding in which the person is

(x) found liable because the person improperly received a personal benefit or (y) found liable to the enterprise, indemnification is limited to reasonable expenses actually incurred by the person in

II-3

---

Table of Contents

connection with the proceeding and will not include a judgment, penalty, fine, or an excise or similar tax. Indemnification may not be made in relation to a proceeding in which the person has been found liable for willful or intentional misconduct in the performance of the person's duty to the enterprise, breach of the person's duty of loyalty owed to the enterprise or an act or omission not committed in good faith that constitutes a breach of a duty owed by the person to the enterprise. To limit indemnification, liability must be established by an order and all appeals of the order must be exhausted or foreclosed by law.

For Texas limited liability companies, in addition to the provisions cited above, Section 101.402 of the TBOC provides a limited liability company with broad powers and authority to indemnify such persons and to purchase and maintain insurance for such purposes.

Reference is made to Item 22 for our undertakings with respect to indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

**Item 21. Exhibit and Financial Statement Schedules.**

(a) Exhibits. See the "Exhibit Index" following the signature pages hereto.

**Item 22. Undertakings.**

Each undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(a) (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) to include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) to reflect in the prospectus

any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration

statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrants annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities

II-4

---

Table of Contents

offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) To respond to requests for information that is incorporated by reference into the prospectus pursuant to Items 4, 10(b), 11, or 13 of this Form, within one business day of receipt of such request, and to send the incorporated documents by first class mail or other equally prompt means. This includes information contained in documents filed subsequent to the effective date of the registration statement through the date of responding to the request.

(d) To supply by means of a post-effective amendment all information concerning a transaction, and the company being acquired involved therein, that was not the subject of and included in this registration statement when it became effective.

(e) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant, we have been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.



Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on March 8, 2013.

**HALCÓN  
RESOURCES  
CORPORATION**

By: /s/ FLOYD  
C.  
WILSON

---

Floyd C.  
Wilson  
Chairman  
of the  
Board and  
Chief  
Executive  
Officer

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Floyd C. Wilson and Mark J. Mize, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-4, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his, her or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement on Form S-4 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on March 8, 2013.

Signature	Title
<hr/> /s/ FLOYD C. WILSON Floyd C. Wilson	Chairman of the Board, Director and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)
<hr/> /s/ MARK J. MIZE Mark J. Mize	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer)
<hr/> /s/ JOSEPH S. RINANDO, III Joseph S. Rinando, III	Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)
<hr/> /s/ TUCKER S. BRIDWELL Tucker S. Bridwell	Director

Table of Contents

Signature	Title
<u>/s/ JAMES W. CHRISTMAS</u>	Director
James W. Christmas	
<u>/s/ THOMAS R. FULLER</u>	Director
Thomas R. Fuller	
<u>/s/ KEVIN E. GODWIN</u>	Director
Kevin E. Godwin	
<u>/s/ DAVID S. HUNT</u>	Director
David S. Hunt	
<u>/s/ JAMES L. IRISH III</u>	Director
James L. Irish III	
<u>/s/ DAVID B. MILLER</u>	Director
David B. Miller	
<u>/s/ DANIEL A. RIOUX</u>	Director
Daniel A. Rioux	
<u>/s/ STEPHEN P. SMILEY</u>	Director
Stephen P. Smiley	
<u>/s/ MICHAEL A. VLASIC</u>	Director
Michael A. Vlastic	
<u>/s/ MARK A. WELSH IV</u>	Director
Mark A. Welsh IV	
II-7	

Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, each of the registrants has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on March 8, 2013.

**GREAT PLAINS  
PIPELINE  
COMPANY  
HALCÓN ENERGY  
PROPERTIES, INC.  
HALCÓN  
HOLDINGS, INC.  
HALCÓN  
OPERATING CO., INC.  
HALCÓN  
RESOURCES  
OPERATING, INC.  
HRC ENERGY  
HOLDINGS  
(LA), INC.  
HRC ENERGY  
RESOURCES  
(LAFOURCHE), INC.  
HRC ENERGY  
RESOURCES  
(WV), INC.  
PONTOTOC  
PRODUCTION  
COMPANY, INC.  
AROC  
(TEXAS), INC.**

By: /s/ FLOYD C.  
WILSON

---

Floyd C. Wilson  
*Chairman of the  
Board and Chief  
Executive  
Officer*

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Floyd C. Wilson and Mark J.

Mize, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-4, and to file the

same with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his, her or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement on Form S-4 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on March 8, 2013.

Signature	Title
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ FLOYD C. WILSON</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Floyd C. Wilson</p>	<p>Director, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ MARK J. MIZE</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark J. Mize</p>	<p>Director, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ JOSEPH S. RINANDO, III</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Joseph S. Rinando, III</p>	<p>Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)</p>

Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, each of the registrants has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on March 8, 2013.

**CATENA OIL &  
GAS LLC  
G3  
OPERATING, LLC  
G3 ENERGY, LLC  
HALCÓN GEO  
HOLDINGS, LLC  
SOUTHERN BAY  
ENERGY, LLC  
SOUTHERN BAY  
LOUISIANA, LLC  
SOUTHERN BAY  
OPERATING, L.L.C.**

By: /s/ FLOYD C.  
WILSON

---

Floyd C. Wilson  
*Chairman of the  
Board and Chief  
Executive  
Officer*

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Floyd C. Wilson and Mark J. Mize, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-4, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his, her or

their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement on Form S-4 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on March 8, 2013.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ FLOYD C. WILSON</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Floyd C. Wilson</p>	<p>Director, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ MARK J. MIZE</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark J. Mize</p>	<p>Director, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ JOSEPH S. RINANDO, III</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Joseph S. Rinando, III</p>	<p>Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)</p>
<p>II-9</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>	

Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, each of the registrants has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on March 8, 2013.

**HALCÓN WILLISTON  
I, LLC  
HALCÓN WILLISTON  
II, LLC**

By: HALCÓN ENERGY  
PROPERTIES, INC.  
its Sole Member

By: /s/ FLOYD C.  
WILSON

---

Floyd C. Wilson  
*Chairman of the  
Board and Chief  
Executive Officer*

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Floyd C. Wilson and Mark J. Mize, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-4, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his, her or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration



statement on Form S-4 has been signed  
 by the following persons in the  
 capacities indicated below on March 8,  
 2013.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ FLOYD C. WILSON</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Floyd C. Wilson</p>	<p>Director,                      Chairman of the                      Board and Chief                      Executive Officer                      (Principal                      Executive Officer)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ MARK J. MIZE</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark J. Mize</p>	<p>Director,                      Executive Vice                      President, Chief                      Financial Officer                      and Treasurer                      (Principal                      Financial Officer)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ JOSEPH S. RINANDO, III</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Joseph S. Rinando,                      III</p>	<p>Vice President,                      Chief Accounting                      Officer (Principal                      Accounting                      Officer)</p>
<p>II-10</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>	

Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on March 8, 2013.

**HALCÓN FIELD SERVICES, LLC**

By: /s/ FLOYD C. WILSON

---

Floyd C. Wilson  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Floyd C. Wilson and Mark J. Mize, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-4, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his, her or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement on Form S-4 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on March 8, 2013.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>
------------------	--------------

/s/ FLOYD C.  
WILSON  
Floyd C. Wilson

Director,  
Chairman of the  
Board and Chief  
Executive Officer  
(Principal  
Executive Officer)

/s/ MARK J.  
MIZE  
Mark J. Mize

Director,  
Executive Vice  
President, Chief  
Financial Officer  
and Treasurer  
(Principal  
Financial Officer)

/s/ JOSEPH S.  
RINANDO, III  
Joseph S. Rinando,  
III

Vice President,  
Chief Accounting  
Officer (Principal  
Accounting  
Officer)

II-11

---

Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on March 8, 2013.

**HALCÓN  
LOUISIANA  
OPERATING, L.P.**

By: HLP GULF  
STATES, LLC  
its General  
Partner

By: /s/ FLOYD C.  
WILSON

---

Floyd C. Wilson  
*Chief Executive  
Officer*

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Floyd C. Wilson and Mark J. Mize, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-4, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his, her or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement on Form S-4 has been signed

by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on March 8, 2013.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ FLOYD C. WILSON</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Floyd C. Wilson</p>	<p>Director, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ MARK J. MIZE</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark J. Mize</p>	<p>Director, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ JOSEPH S. RINANDO, III</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Joseph S. Rinando, III</p>	<p>Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)</p>
<p>II-12</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>	

Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on March 8, 2013.

**HLP GULF STATES, LLC**

By: /s/ FLOYD C. WILSON

---

Floyd C. Wilson  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Floyd C. Wilson and Mark J. Mize, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-4, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his, her or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement on Form S-4 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on March 8, 2013.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>
------------------	--------------

/s/ FLOYD C.  
WILSON  
Floyd C. Wilson

Director,  
Chairman of the  
Board and Chief  
Executive Officer  
(Principal  
Executive Officer)

/s/ MARK J.  
MIZE  
Mark J. Mize

Director,  
Executive Vice  
President, Chief  
Financial Officer  
and Treasurer  
(Principal  
Financial Officer)

/s/ JOSEPH S.  
RINANDO, III  
Joseph S. Rinando,  
III

Vice President,  
Chief Accounting  
Officer (Principal  
Accounting  
Officer)

II-13

---

Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on March 8, 2013.

**HRC ENERGY  
LOUISIANA, LLC**

By: HRC ENERGY  
RESOURCES  
(LAFOURCHE), INC.  
its Sole Member

By: /s/ FLOYD C.  
WILSON

---

Floyd C. Wilson  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Floyd C. Wilson and Mark J. Mize, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-4, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his, her or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement on Form S-4 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on March 8,



2013.

Signature	Title
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ FLOYD C. WILSON</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Floyd C. Wilson</p>	<p>Director, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ MARK J. MIZE</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark J. Mize</p>	<p>Director, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">/s/ JOSEPH S. RINANDO, III</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Joseph S. Rinando, III</p>	<p>Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)</p>
<p>II-14</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>	

Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on March 8, 2013.

**WESTERN STAR  
DRILLING  
COMPANY**

By: /s/ FLOYD C.  
WILSON

---

Floyd C. Wilson  
*Chairman of the  
Board and Chief  
Executive  
Officer*

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Floyd C. Wilson and Mark J. Mize, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-4, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his, her or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement on Form S-4 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on March 8, 2013.

**Signature**                      **Title**

/s/ FLOYD C.  
WILSON  
Floyd C. Wilson                      Director,  
Chairman of the  
Board and Chief  
Executive Officer  
(Principal  
Executive Officer)

/s/ MARK J.  
MIZE  
Mark J. Mize                      Director,  
Executive Vice  
President, Chief  
Financial Officer  
and Treasurer  
(Principal  
Financial Officer)

/s/ JOSEPH S.  
RINANDO, III  
Joseph S. Rinando,  
III                      Vice President,  
Chief Accounting  
Officer (Principal  
Accounting  
Officer)

/s/ STEPHEN W.  
HEROD  
Stephen W. Herod                      Director

II-15

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.1	Indenture, dated July 16, 2012, among Halcón Resources Corporation, the subsidiary guarantors named therein, and U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Halcón Resources Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed July 17, 2012)
4.2	First Supplemental Indenture, dated August 1, 2012, by and among Halcón Resources Corporation, the parties named therein as the subsidiary guarantors, and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, relating to the 9.750% senior notes due 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Halcón Resources Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed August 2, 2012)
4.3	Second Supplemental Indenture, dated August 1, 2012, by and among Halcón Resources Corporation, the parties named therein as the subsidiary guarantors, and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, relating to the 9.750% senior notes due 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Halcón Resources Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed August 2, 2012)
4.4	Indenture dated as of November 6, 2012, by and among Halcón Resources Corporation, the subsidiary guarantors named therein and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee,

relating to Halcón Resources Corporation's 8.875% senior notes due 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed November 7, 2012)

- 4.5 First Supplemental Indenture dated December 6, 2012, by and among Halcón Resources Corporation, the parties named therein as subsidiary guarantors and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, relating to the 8.875% senior notes due 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 11, 2012).
- 4.6 Third Supplemental Indenture dated December 6, 2012, by and among Halcón Resources Corporation, the parties named therein as the subsidiary guarantors and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, relating to the 9.750% senior notes due 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 11, 2012)
- 4.7 Registration Rights Agreement, dated July 16, 2012, between Halcón Resources Corporation and Barclays Capital Inc. on behalf of the initial purchasers named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Halcón Resources Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed July 17, 2012)
- 4.8 Registration Rights Agreement dated as of November 6, 2012, between Halcón Resources Corporation and Wells

Fargo Securities, LLC, on behalf of the initial purchaser named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed November 7, 2012)

4.9 Registration Rights Agreement dated as of January 14, 2013, between Halcón Resources Corporation and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, on behalf of the initial purchaser named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 15, 2013)

5.1\* Opinion of Mayer Brown LLP

5.2\* Opinion of Davis, Graham & Stubbs LLP

5.3\* Opinion of Crowley Fleck LLP

5.4\* Opinion of Thompson & Knight LLP

23.1\* Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP

---

Table of Contents

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
23.2*	Consent of UHY LLP
23.3*	Consent of Grant Thornton LLP
23.4*	Consent of Netherland Sewell & Associates, Inc.
23.5*	Consent of Forrest A. Garb & Associates, Inc.
23.6*	Consent of Mayer Brown LLP (included in its opinion filed herewith as Exhibit 5.1)
23.7*	Consent of Davis, Graham & Stubbs LLP (included in its opinion filed herewith as Exhibit 5.2)
23.8*	Consent of Crowley Fleck LLP (included in its opinion filed herewith as Exhibit 5.3)
23.9*	Consent of Thompson & Knight LLP (included in its opinion filed herewith as Exhibit 5.4)
24.1*	Power of Attorney (included in the signature page of this Registration Statement)
25.1*	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 of U.S. Bank National Association to act as trustee under the Indenture
99.1*	Form of Letter of Transmittal (with accompanying substitute Form W-9 and related Guidelines)
99.2*	Form of Notice of Guaranteed Delivery
99.3*	Form of Letter to The

Depository Trust Company  
Participants

99.4\* Form of Letter to Clients  
(with form of Instructions  
to The Depository Trust  
Company Participant)

---

\*  
Indicates exhibits filed  
herewith.

---



