

Gastar Exploration Inc.
Form 8-K
September 06, 2018

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): September 6, 2018

GASTAR EXPLORATION INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

DELAWARE	001-35211	38-3531640
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)
1331 LAMAR STREET, SUITE 650		
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77010		
(Address of principal executive offices)		

(713) 739-1800

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§ 230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§ 240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

SECTION 3 – SECURITIES AND TRADING MARKETS

Item 3.01. Notice of Delisting or Failure to Satisfy a Continued Listing Rule or Standard; Transfer of Listing.

On September 6, 2018, Gastar Exploration Inc. (the “Company”) received notification from the NYSE American LLC (the “NYSE American”) that the NYSE American has suspended trading of the Company’s common stock, 8.625% Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock (the “Series A preferred”) and 10.75% Series B Cumulative Preferred Stock (the “Series B preferred” together, with the Series A Preferred, the “preferred stock”) on the exchange due to the Company’s common stock’s abnormally low trading price (the “Notice”).

The Company anticipates that during the trading suspension its common stock and preferred stock issues will be quoted for trading on the OTCQB over-the counter market under different trading symbols on September 7, 2018, or shortly thereafter. The transition to the over-the-counter market will not affect the Company’s business operations or its previously announced process seeking proposals from third parties as it continues to evaluate strategic alternatives for the Company. The Company will remain subject to the public reporting requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) following the transfer of trading to the OTCQB.

As disclosed on August 29, 2018, the Company was informed by the NYSE American that the Company was not in compliance with the NYSE American’s continued listing standards because the Company’s common stock has been selling for a low price per share for a substantial period of time. In light of the trading suspension, the NYSE American stated that it intends to commence the delisting process and will apply to the SEC to delist the Company’s common stock and preferred stocks upon completion of all applicable procedures. The Company is reviewing whether it will appeal the delisting determination pending the outcome of its previously announced process seeking proposals from third parties for strategic alternatives for the Company.

A delisting of the Company’s common stock would constitute a “fundamental change” under the terms of the indenture (the “Indenture”) governing the Company’s Convertible Notes due 2022 (“Convertible Notes”), which would permit the noteholders to require the Company to repurchase all or part of such holder’s notes at a cash repurchase price equal to 101% of the principal amount of the Convertible Notes being repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest. The Convertible Notes would be required to be repurchased on a date specified by the Company (the “Fundamental Change Repurchase Date”) that is not less than 20 nor more than 35 calendar days after the date a fundamental change repurchase notice is sent (which is required to be sent within 20 calendar days of the fundamental change event). The failure to repurchase the Convertible Notes on the Fundamental Change Repurchase Date would constitute an event of default under the Indenture and result in the automatic acceleration of the maturity date of the Convertible Notes. Furthermore, upon the occurrence of an event of default under the Indenture, Ares Management LLC and its affiliates, as holders of a majority in principal amount of the Company’s term loan, or any transferee holder of a majority in principal amount of the Company’s term loan, would have the right to immediately accelerate the maturity of the term loan.

SECTION 7 – REGULATION FD

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosures.

The Company issued a press release on September 6, 2018 announcing that it had received the Deficiency Letter. A copy of the press release is furnished hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

In accordance with General Instruction B.2 of Form 8-K, the information presented herein under Item 7.01 and set forth in the attached press release included in Exhibit 99.1 to this report is deemed to be “furnished” solely pursuant to Item 7.01 of this report and shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of

1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the

liabilities of that section, nor shall such information or the exhibit be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended or the Exchange Act.

SECTION 9 – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

The following is a list of exhibits furnished as part of this Form 8-K:

Exhibit No.	Description of Document
99.1	<u>Press release issued September 6, 2018.</u>

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

GASTAR
Date: September 6, 2018 EXPLORATION INC.

/s/ Michael A.
By: Gerlich
Michael A. Gerlich
Senior Vice
President and Chief
Financial Officer