

Diamondback Energy, Inc.  
Form S-1  
February 14, 2012  
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 13, 2012

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**FORM S-1**

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

*UNDER*

*THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

**Diamondback Energy, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**1311**  
(Primary Standard Industrial Classification  
Code Number)

**45-4502447**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

Edgar Filing: Diamondback Energy, Inc. - Form S-1

500 West Texas

Suite 1225

Midland, Texas 79701

(432) 617-0511

(Address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

**Teresa Dick**

**Chief Financial Officer**

**Diamondback Energy, Inc.**

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**Suite 300**

**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73134**

**(405) 463-6900**

(Name, address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

*Copies to:*

**Seth R. Molay, P.C.**

**Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**

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**Dallas, TX 75201**

**(214) 969-4780**

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** As soon as practicable after this Registration Statement is declared effective.

If any securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), check the following box. "

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer	..	Accelerated filer	..
Non-accelerated filer	x (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company	..

### CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price <sup>(2)</sup>	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share <sup>(1)</sup>	\$50,000,000	\$5,730.00

(1) Includes shares of common stock that may be sold to cover the exercise of an over-allotment option granted to the underwriters.

(2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act.

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

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**Table of Contents**

**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

**SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED FEBRUARY 13, 2012.**

PROSPECTUS

**Shares**

**Diamondback Energy, Inc.**

**Common Stock**

We are offering \_\_\_\_\_ shares of our common stock. This is our initial public offering and no public market currently exists for our common stock. The selling stockholder identified in this prospectus is offering an additional \_\_\_\_\_ shares of our common stock. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling stockholder.

We anticipate that the initial public offering price of our common stock will be between \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per share. We intend to apply for listing of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol FANG.

The underwriters have an option to purchase an additional \_\_\_\_\_ shares of our common stock, of which \_\_\_\_\_ would be sold by us and \_\_\_\_\_ would be sold by the selling stockholder to cover any over-allotments.

**Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Please read Risk Factors beginning on page 12.**

	PER SHARE	TOTAL
Price to the public	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$	\$

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Proceeds to Diamondback Energy, Inc. (before expenses)	\$	\$
Proceeds to the selling stockholder (before expenses)	\$	\$
Delivery of the shares of common stock is expected to be made on or about		, 2012.

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

**The date of this prospectus is** , 2012.

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	12
<u>CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	34
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	35
<u>DIVIDEND POLICY</u>	35
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	36
<u>DILUTION</u>	37
<u>SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA</u>	38
<u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	41
<u>BUSINESS</u>	67
<u>MANAGEMENT</u>	89
<u>RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS</u>	106
<u>PRINCIPAL AND SELLING STOCKHOLDER</u>	109
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	110
<u>SHARES ELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE SALE</u>	113
<u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME AND ESTATE TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS</u>	115
<u>UNDERWRITING</u>	119
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	123
<u>EXPERTS</u>	123
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	123
<u>GLOSSARY OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS TERMS</u>	A-1
<u>RESERVE REPORT OF RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.</u>	B-1
<u>INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	F-1

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. We have not, and the selling stockholder and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We, the selling stockholder and the underwriters are only offering to sell, and only seeking offers to buy, our common stock in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted.

The information contained in this prospectus is accurate and complete only as of the date of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or of any sale of our common stock by us, the selling stockholder or the underwriters. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

This prospectus includes industry data and forecasts that we obtained from internal company surveys, publicly available information and industry publications and surveys. Our internal research and forecasts are based on management's understanding of industry conditions, and such information has not been verified by independent sources. Industry publications and surveys generally state that the information contained therein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable.

Unless the context otherwise requires, the information in this prospectus (other than in the historical financial statements) assumes that the underwriters will not exercise their over-allotment option.

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

*This summary contains basic information about us and the offering. Because it is a summary, it does not contain all the information that you should consider before investing in our common stock. You should read and carefully consider this entire prospectus before making an investment decision, especially the information presented under the heading **Risk Factors** and our combined financial statements and the accompanying notes included elsewhere in this prospectus, as well as the other documents to which we refer you. We have provided definitions for some of the oil and natural gas industry terms used in this prospectus in the **Glossary of Oil and Natural Gas Terms**.*

**DIAMONDBACK ENERGY, INC.**

**Overview**

We are an independent oil and natural gas company currently focused on the acquisition, development, exploration and exploitation of unconventional, onshore oil and natural gas reserves in the Permian Basin in West Texas. This basin, which is one of the major producing basins in the United States, is characterized by an extensive production history, a favorable operating environment, mature infrastructure, long reserve life, multiple producing horizons, enhanced recovery potential and a large number of operators.

We began operations in December 2007 with our acquisition of 4,174 net acres with production at the time of acquisition of approximately 800 net barrels of oil equivalent, or BOE, a day from 32 gross (16 net) wells in the Permian Basin. Subsequently, we acquired approximately 23,972 additional net acres, which brought our total net acreage position in the Permian Basin to 28,146 net acres at December 31, 2011. We are the operator of approximately 97% of our Permian Basin acreage. Since our initial acquisition in the Permian Basin through December 31, 2011, we have participated in the drilling of 142 gross (86 net) wells in the Permian Basin, of which we operate 132 gross (81 net) wells. Of the 142 gross wells drilled, 130 were completed as producing wells and 12 are in various stages of completion.

Our activities are primarily focused on the Clearfork, Spraberry, Wolfcamp, Cline, Strawn and Atoka formations, which we refer to collectively as the Wolfberry play. The Wolfberry play is characterized by high oil and liquids rich natural gas, multiple vertical and horizontal target horizons, extensive production history, long-lived reserves and high drilling success rates.

As of December 31, 2011, our estimated proved oil and natural gas reserves were 24,750 million BOE, or MBOE, based on a reserve report prepared by Ryder Scott Company L.P., or Ryder Scott, our independent reserve engineers. Of these reserves, approximately 23.9% are classified as proved developed producing, or PDP. Proved undeveloped, or PUD, reserves included in this estimate are from 293 gross well locations on 40-acre spacing. As of December 31, 2011, our proved reserves were approximately 68% oil, 19% natural gas liquids and 13% natural gas.

We intend to grow our reserves and production through development drilling, exploitation and exploration activities on our multi-year project inventory of 2,319 identified drilling locations and through acquisitions that meet our strategic and financial objectives, targeting oil-weighted reserves.

Based on our drilling results and the results of extensive industry activity in the Permian Basin, we believe that risk associated with our vertical drilling program has been effectively reduced. We intend to supplement our vertical development drilling activity with horizontal wells targeting various intervals in the Wolfberry play. Our horizontal drilling program is intended to further capture the upside potential that may exist on our properties and increase our well performance and recoveries as compared to drilling vertical wells alone.

**Table of Contents**

During 2011, we assembled a new executive team and, beginning with the fourth quarter of 2011, this team assumed management control of our operations and development activities in the Permian Basin. With an average of approximately 26 years of industry experience per person, this team has extensive experience in the Permian Basin as well as other resource plays in North America, including significant experience in drilling and completing horizontal wells. Under the direction of our new executive team, the average drilling time required to reach total depth, or TD, was shortened by 25% to 15 days during the fourth quarter of 2011 from 20 days during the second quarter of 2011, reducing average drilling costs (excluding completion costs) by 8.3% from \$1.2 million to \$1.1 million period-to-period, while also decreasing the time from spud to spud to 23 days from 25 days. Also, during the quarter ended December 31, 2011 production was 1,921 BOE per day, an increase of 21%, or 331 BOE per day, from 1,591 BOE per day for the quarter ended September 30, 2011. This increase was due primarily to improved strategies and procedures introduced by our new executive team relating to wellbore configuration, completion, execution, fluid recovery and well pumping practices that significantly reduced the level of required well remediation and the associated loss of production. We anticipate further increases in efficiencies as our new team executes on our development strategies across our acreage base.

The following table provides a summary of selected operating information of our properties as of December 31, 2011.

Basin	Net Acreage	Average Working Interest	Identified Drilling Locations		2012 Budget			Estimated Net Proved Reserves at December 31, 2011		Average Daily Production (BOE/d) <sup>(2)</sup>
			Gross	Net	Gross Wells <sup>(1)</sup>	Net Wells <sup>(1)</sup>	Capex (In millions)	MBOE	% Developed	
Permian	28,146	57.9%	2,319	1,342	68	44	\$ 97.7	24,750	23.9	1,921

(1) Includes 62 gross (41 net) wells for which we are the operator and six gross (three net) non-operated wells.

(2) During December 2011.

Our current exploration and development budget for our oil and natural gas properties for the year ending December 31, 2012 is approximately \$97.7 million. We plan to spend approximately \$89.0 million on drilling and completion of 59 gross operated vertical wells and three gross horizontal wells, \$7.1 million for the drilling and completion of six non-operated wells and \$1.6 million for the construction of infrastructure to support production, including investments in water disposal infrastructure and gathering line projects.

**Our Business Strategy**

Our business strategy is to increase stockholder value through the following:

**Grow production and reserves by developing our oil-rich resource base.** We intend to actively drill and develop our acreage base in an effort to maximize its value and resource potential. Through the conversion of our undeveloped reserves to developed reserves, we will seek to increase our production, reserves and cash flow while generating favorable returns on invested capital. As of December 31, 2011, we had 2,319 identified drilling locations on our acreage in the Permian Basin. The drilling of these locations will provide us with the critical subsurface data necessary to target potential horizontal horizons. As operator, our 2012 drilling plan currently contemplates drilling 59 gross (39 net) vertical wells and three gross (two net) horizontal wells in the Wolfberry play using two drilling rigs. We intend to add up to two additional rigs later in the year. Subject to market conditions and rig availability, we expect to operate up to six rigs in 2013, which we expect will allow us to significantly increase our drilling program in 2013.

**Focus on increasing hydrocarbon recovery through horizontal drilling and increased well density.** We believe that there are opportunities to target various intervals in the Wolfberry play with horizontal



**Table of Contents**

wells and we currently plan to drill and test three horizontal wells in 2012 to target these producing horizons. Our horizontal drilling program is designed to further capture the upside potential that may exist on our properties, and such program may significantly increase our well performance and recoveries per section as compared to drilling vertical wells alone. Horizontal drilling may also be economical in areas where vertical drilling is currently not economical or logistically viable. In addition, we believe increased well density opportunities may exist across our acreage base. We closely monitor industry trends with respect to higher well density, which increases the recovery factor per section and enhances returns since infrastructure is typically in place.

***Employ industry leading drilling and completion techniques.*** Our eight member executive team, which has an average of approximately 26 years of industry experience per person, intends to continue to seek ways to maximize hydrocarbon recovery by refining and enhancing our drilling and completion techniques. The time to reach TD for our vertical Wolfberry wells decreased from an average of 20 days during the second quarter of 2011 to an average of 15 days during the fourth quarter of 2011, resulting in a lower total well cost. This improved efficiency can provide a significant benefit in a continuous drilling program such as the one we contemplate for our extensive inventory of identified drilling locations. In addition, we believe that the experience of our new executive team in deviated and horizontal drilling and completions will help reduce the execution risk normally associated with these complex well paths. Additionally, our completion techniques are continually evolving as we evaluate hydraulic fracturing practices that may potentially increase recovery and reduce completion costs. Our executive team regularly evaluates our operating results against those of other operators in the area in an effort to benchmark our performance against the best performing operators and evaluate and adopt best practices.

***Enhance returns through our low cost development strategy of resource conversion, capital allocation and continued improvements in operational and cost efficiencies.*** In the current commodity price environment, our oil and liquids rich asset base provides attractive returns. Our acreage position in the Wolfberry play is generally in contiguous blocks which provides us with the opportunity to develop this acreage efficiently with a manufacturing strategy that takes advantage of economies of scale and uses centralized production and fluid handling facilities. We are the operator of approximately 97% of our acreage. This operational control allows us to more efficiently manage the pace of development activities and the gathering and marketing of our production and control operating costs and technical applications, including horizontal development.

***Strategically invest in vertical integration opportunities.*** Bison Drilling and Field Services LLC, or Bison, an entity in which we hold an approximate 27% equity interest, owns and operates four fit-for-purpose drilling rigs, four service units and two reverse units. Two of these rigs are currently drilling for us and we expect that we will continue to have access to Bison's drilling rigs and service units in the future as we accelerate our development activities. We also hold an equity interest in Muskie Holdings LLC, or Muskie, which holds rights in a lease covering land in Wisconsin that is prospective for mining oil and natural gas fracture grade sand. We anticipate that we will have access to this sand, which is used in the hydraulic fracturing process. Bison and Muskie are each controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor. We expect that our equity interests and contractual arrangements with these entities will enhance our ability to efficiently develop our resources. We intend to pursue additional vertical integration opportunities in the future.

***Pursue strategic acquisitions with exceptional resource potential.*** We have a proven history of acquiring leasehold positions that we believe have substantial oil-weighted resource potential and can meet our targeted returns on invested capital. Our executive team, with its extensive experience in the Permian Basin, has what we believe is a unique perspective on acquisition targets and a proven ability to evaluate resource potential. We intend to continue to pursue acquisitions that meet our strategic and financial targets.

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## **Table of Contents**

**Financial flexibility.** We seek to maintain a conservative financial position. As of September 30, 2011, on a pro forma basis after giving effect to this offering and the use of the net proceeds from this offering to repay borrowings under our revolving credit facility, we would have had approximately \$ million of available borrowing capacity under such facility. We expect that we will fund our capital development plans for 2012 from our operating cash flow, proceeds from this offering and borrowings under our revolving credit facility.

### **Our Strengths**

We believe that the following strengths will help us achieve our business goals:

**Oil rich resource base.** All of our leasehold acreage is located in one of the most prolific oil plays in North America, the Permian Basin in West Texas. As of January 27, 2012, the Baker Hughes Rig Count survey reported that there were 473 rigs drilling in the Permian Basin. The majority of our current properties are well positioned in the core of the Wolfberry play. We believe that our historical vertical development success may be complemented with horizontal drilling locations that could ultimately translate into an increased recovery factor on a per section basis. Our production for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was approximately 74% oil, 15% natural gas liquids and 11% natural gas. As of December 31, 2011, our estimated net proved reserves were comprised of approximately 68% oil. This oil exposure allows us to benefit from the more favorable oil prices as compared to lower prices for natural gas.

**Multi-year drilling inventory in one of North America's leading oil resource plays.** We have identified a multi-year inventory of drilling locations that we believe provides attractive growth and return opportunities. We have focused our efforts on building an oil-weighted inventory of reserves because we anticipate that such an inventory will provide superior returns. As of December 31, 2011, we had 2,319 identified drilling locations on our Permian Basin acreage. In 2012, we anticipate drilling 59 gross (39 net) vertical operated wells and three gross (two net) horizontal operated wells, which represent only 2.7% of our identified drilling locations at December 31, 2011. We also believe that there are multiple horizontal locations that could be drilled on our acreage. Our executive team has significant experience in evaluating, drilling and completing horizontal wells in the Permian Basin as well as other resource plays within North America. In addition, the liquids rich natural gas component of our inventory adds value with Btu content ranging from 1,243 MMBtu to 1,578 MBtu and our November 2011 natural gas liquids yield was 3.6 Bbls/MMcf. In addition, we have over 1,800 square miles of 3-D seismic data, covering essentially all of our acreage. This data facilitates the evaluation of our existing drilling inventory and provides insight into future development activity, including horizontal drilling opportunities and strategic leasehold acquisitions.

**Experienced, incentivized and proven management team.** Our new executive team has an average of approximately 26 years of industry experience per person, most of which is focused on resource play development. This team has a proven track record of executing on multi-rig development drilling programs and extensive experience in the Permian Basin. In addition, our executive team has significant experience with both drilling and completing horizontal wells and horizontal well reservoir and geologic expertise, which will be important as we expand our future development plans to include horizontal drilling. Our Chief Executive Officer has 26 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, most recently as Production Manager at Apache Corporation and Vice President at Laredo Petroleum Holdings, Inc. and a majority of his career prior to those positions with Burlington Resources in management roles increasing in responsibility.

**Favorable and stable operating environment.** We have focused our drilling and development operations in the Permian Basin, one of the oldest hydrocarbon basins in the United States, with a long and well-established production history and developed infrastructure. With over 400,000 wells drilled

## Table of Contents

in the Permian Basin since the 1940s, we believe that the geological and regulatory environment is more stable and predictable, and we are faced with less operational risks, in the Permian Basin as compared to other emerging hydrocarbon basins.

***High degree of operational control.*** We are the operator of approximately 97% of our Permian Basin acreage. This operating control allows us to better execute on our strategies of enhancing returns through operational and cost efficiencies and increasing ultimate hydrocarbon recovery by seeking to continually improve our drilling techniques, completion methodologies and reservoir evaluation processes. This operating control also enables us to obtain data needed for efficient exploration of horizontal prospects.

***Financial flexibility to fund expansion.*** Upon the completion of this offering, we will have a conservative balance sheet. We will seek to maintain financial flexibility to allow us to actively develop our drilling, exploitation and exploration activities in the Wolfberry play and maximize the present value of our oil-weighted resource potential.

### **Risk Factors**

Investing in our common stock involves risks that include the speculative nature of oil and natural gas exploration, competition, volatile oil and natural gas prices and other material factors. You should read carefully the section of this prospectus entitled *Risk Factors* beginning on page 12 for an explanation of these risks before investing in our common stock. In particular, the following considerations may offset our competitive strengths or have a negative effect on our strategy or operating activities, which could cause a decrease in the price of our common stock and a loss of all or part of your investment:

Our business is difficult to evaluate because of our limited operating history.

Difficulties managing the growth of our business may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Failure to develop our undeveloped acreage could adversely affect our future cash flow and income.

Our exploration and development operations require substantial capital that we may be unable to obtain, which could lead to a loss of properties and a decline in our reserves.

Our future success depends on our ability to find, develop or acquire additional oil and natural gas reserves.

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

Our estimated reserves are based on many assumptions that may turn out to be inaccurate. Any material inaccuracies in these reserve estimates or underlying assumptions will materially affect the quantities and present values of our reserves.

Our producing properties are located in the Permian Basin of West Texas, making us vulnerable to risks associated with operating in one major geographic area. In addition, we have a large amount of proved reserves attributable to a small number of producing horizons within this area.

We depend upon several significant purchasers for the sale of most of our oil and natural gas production. The loss of one or more of these purchasers could limit our access to suitable markets for the oil and natural gas we produce.

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

Any failure by us to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations, including those relating to hydraulic fracturing, could result in governmental authorities taking actions that adversely affect our operations and financial condition.

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## **Table of Contents**

Our operations are subject to operational hazards for which we may not be adequately insured.

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

Our largest stockholder controls a significant percentage of our common stock and its interests may conflict with yours.

For a discussion of other considerations that could negatively affect us, see *Risk Factors* and *Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements*.

### **Our Equity Sponsor**

We were formed by our equity sponsor, Wexford Capital LP, or Wexford, which is a Greenwich, Connecticut-based Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, registered investment advisor with over \$5.5 billion under management as of December 31, 2011. Wexford has made public and private equity investments in many different sectors with particular expertise in the energy and natural resources sector. Prior to the completion of this offering, Wexford will cause DB Holdings LLC, or DB Holdings, an entity controlled by Wexford, to contribute all of the outstanding equity interests in Windsor Permian LLC to us in exchange for \_\_\_\_\_ shares of our common stock. Upon such contribution, Wexford will beneficially own all of our outstanding common stock through DB Holdings. Upon completion of this offering, Wexford will beneficially own approximately \_\_\_\_\_ % of our common stock (approximately \_\_\_\_\_ % if the over-allotment option is exercised in full). As a result, Wexford will continue to be able to exercise control over all matters requiring stockholder approval, including the election of directors, changes to our organizational documents and significant corporate transactions. Prior to the closing of this offering, we will enter into an advisory services agreement with Wexford under which Wexford will provide us with financial and strategic advisory services related to our business. We have entered into certain other agreements with Wexford. For a description of the advisory services agreement and other agreements with Wexford and its affiliates, see *Related Party Transactions* beginning on page 106. Although our management believes that the terms of these related party agreements are reasonable, it is possible that we could have negotiated more favorable terms for such transactions with unrelated third parties. The existence of these related party agreements may give Wexford the ability to further influence and maintain control over many matters affecting us.

### **Our History**

Diamondback Energy, Inc. was incorporated on December 30, 2011 in Delaware as a holding company and will not conduct any material business operations prior to the transaction described below. All of our assets and operations described in this prospectus are currently owned and/or operated by Windsor Permian LLC, which is an entity controlled by our equity sponsor, Wexford. Prior to the closing of this offering, Wexford will cause all of the outstanding equity interests in Windsor Permian LLC to be contributed to us and Windsor Permian LLC will become our wholly-owned subsidiary. See *Our Equity Sponsor* above.

### **Our Offices**

Our principal executive offices are located at 500 West Texas, Suite 1225, Midland, Texas, and our telephone number at that address is (432) 617-0511. We also lease additional office space in Midland and in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Our website address is [www.diamondbackenergy.com](http://www.diamondbackenergy.com). Information contained on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus. Except as otherwise indicated or required by the context, all references in this prospectus to Diamondback, the Company, we, us or our relate to Diamondback Energy, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries after giving effect to the contribution to us of all of the outstanding equity interests in Windsor Permian LLC.

**Table of Contents**

**The Offering**

Common stock offered by us shares ( shares if the underwriters over-allotment option is exercised in full)

Common stock offered by the selling stockholder shares ( shares if the underwriters over-allotment option is exercised in full)

Common stock to be outstanding immediately after completion of this offering shares

Use of proceeds We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering to fund exploration and development activities and for other general corporate purposes. Pending application of the net proceeds for such purposes, we expect to repay outstanding borrowings under our revolving credit facility. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling stockholder. See *Use of Proceeds*.

Dividend policy We currently anticipate that we will retain all future earnings, if any, to finance the growth and development of our business. We do not intend to pay cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

NASDAQ Global Market symbol FANG  
Except as otherwise indicated, all information contained in this prospectus:

assumes the underwriters do not exercise their over-allotment option; and

excludes shares of common stock reserved for issuance under our equity incentive plan.

**Table of Contents****Summary Consolidated Financial Data**

The following table sets forth our summary historical consolidated financial data as of and for each of the periods indicated. The summary consolidated data as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 and for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 are derived from our historical audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. The summary consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2008 are derived from our audited consolidated balance sheet as of that date, which is not included in this prospectus. The summary consolidated data as of September 30, 2011 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 are derived from our historical unaudited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. The summary consolidated balance sheet data as of September 30, 2010 are derived from our unaudited consolidated balance sheet as of such date, which is not included in this prospectus. The unaudited pro forma financial data presented give effect to income taxes assuming we operated as a taxable corporation throughout the periods presented. Operating results for the periods ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 and the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 are not necessarily indicative of results that may be expected for the entire year 2011 or any future periods. You should review this information together with *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*, *Selected Historical Consolidated Financial Data* and our consolidated historical financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this prospectus.

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2010	2009	2008
<b>Statement of Operations Data:</b>					
Oil and natural gas revenues	\$ 33,009,540	\$ 18,412,122	\$ 26,441,927	\$ 12,716,011	\$ 18,238,692
Other income	1,490,910	529,477	811,247		
Expenses:					
Lease operating expense	7,403,582	2,605,756	4,588,559	2,366,623	3,375,419
Production taxes	1,628,824	938,493	1,346,879	663,068	1,008,991
Gathering and transportation	138,603	71,789	105,870	42,091	53,407
Oil and natural gas services	1,732,892	529,477	811,247		
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	11,121,485	3,890,272	8,145,143	3,215,891	10,199,581
Impairment of oil and gas properties					83,164,230
General and administrative	2,176,427	1,843,936	3,051,627	5,062,618	5,459,874
Asset retirement obligation accretion expense	45,278	28,857	37,856	27,934	23,569
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>24,247,091</b>	<b>9,908,580</b>	<b>18,087,181</b>	<b>11,378,225</b>	<b>103,285,071</b>
Income (loss) from operations	10,253,359	9,033,019	9,165,993	1,337,786	(85,046,379)
Other income (expense):					
Interest expense	(1,814,932)	(349,961)	(836,265)	(10,938)	
Interest income	9,169	21,294	34,474	35,075	625,086
Loss on derivative contracts	(35,403)	(146,722)	(147,983)	(4,068,005)	(9,528,220)
<b>Total other expense</b>	<b>(1,841,166)</b>	<b>(475,389)</b>	<b>(949,774)</b>	<b>(4,043,868)</b>	<b>(8,903,134)</b>
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>\$ 8,412,193</b>	<b>\$ 8,557,630</b>	<b>\$ 8,216,219</b>	<b>\$ (2,706,082)</b>	<b>\$ (93,949,513)</b>

**Table of Contents**

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2010	2009	2008
<b>Pro Forma C Corporation Data:</b> <sup>(1)(2)</sup>					
Historical net income (loss) before income taxes	\$ 8,412,193	\$ 8,557,630	\$ 8,216,219	\$ (2,706,082)	\$ (93,949,513)
Pro forma for income taxes, net of valuation allowance					
Pro forma net income (loss)	\$ 8,412,193	\$ 8,557,630	\$ 8,216,219	\$ (2,706,082)	\$ (93,949,513)
Pro forma income (loss) per common share basic and diluted	\$		\$		
Weighted average pro forma shares outstanding basic and diluted					
<b>Selected Cash Flow and Other Financial Data:</b>					
Net income (loss)	\$ 8,412,193	\$ 8,557,630	\$ 8,216,219	\$ (2,706,082)	\$ (93,949,513)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	11,623,974	3,890,272	8,145,143	3,215,891	10,199,581
Other non-cash items	552,051	260,078	344,461	4,108,464	92,716,019
Change in operating assets and liabilities	(6,547,952)	(7,564,221)	(11,529,999)	(1,916,707)	3,076,317
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 14,040,266	\$ 5,143,759	\$ 5,175,824	\$ 2,701,566	\$ 12,042,404
Net cash used in investing activities	\$ (50,489,868)	\$ (40,694,113)	\$ (53,134,641)	\$ (32,149,617)	\$ (84,196,562)
Net cash provided by financing activities	\$ 35,577,940	\$ 36,717,561	\$ 49,618,254	\$ 23,849,250	\$ 80,182,600
	<b>As of September 30,</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>As of December 31,</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Balance sheet data:</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,218,083	\$ 3,597,515	\$ 4,089,745	\$ 2,430,308	\$ 8,029,109
Other current assets	29,445,820	22,413,103	20,947,659	2,263,097	1,389,810
Oil and gas properties, net using full cost method of accounting	186,023,060	123,966,343	135,782,510	89,777,517	73,786,284
Well equipment to be used in development of oil and gas properties				5,413,310	8,503,178
Other property and equipment, net	4,774,839	8,540,392	11,059,220	105,564	161,103
Other assets	6,737,442	111,842	637,562	82,813	
Total assets	\$ 230,199,244	\$ 158,629,195	\$ 172,516,696	\$ 100,072,609	\$ 91,869,484
Current liabilities	\$ 32,690,918	\$ 43,200,639	\$ 20,010,276	\$ 13,972,080	\$ 18,011,452
Note payable credit facility-long term	80,000,000		44,766,687		
Derivative contracts	1,470,351	1,497,840	1,373,864	1,416,431	2,868,452
Asset retirement obligations	1,018,553	638,453	727,826	481,887	374,287
Members equity	115,019,422	113,292,263	105,638,043	84,202,211	70,615,293
Total liabilities and members equity	\$ 230,199,244	\$ 158,629,195	\$ 172,516,696	\$ 100,072,609	\$ 91,869,484



**Table of Contents**

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2010	2009	2008
<b>Other financial data:</b>					
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 21,688,477	\$ 12,973,442	\$ 17,383,466	\$ 4,616,686	\$ 8,966,087

- (1) Diamondback Energy, Inc. was incorporated on December 30, 2011 in Delaware as a holding company and will not conduct any material business operations prior to the transaction described below. The historical consolidated financial statements and other financial information included in this prospectus pertain to assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of Windsor Permian LLC, which is an entity controlled by our equity sponsor, Wexford. Windsor Permian LLC was treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. As a result, essentially all of our taxable earnings and losses were passed through to Wexford, and we did not pay federal income taxes at the entity level. Prior to the completion of this offering, Windsor Permian LLC will become our wholly-owned subsidiary and we will be taxed as a C corporation. For comparative purposes, we have included a pro forma for income taxes net of valuation allowance assuming we had been taxed as a C corporation in all periods presented in the accompanying table. If we were a taxable C corporation during the periods presented herein, we would have incurred net operating losses in each period presented. We would have been in a net deferred tax asset, or DTA, position as a result of such tax losses and would have recorded a valuation allowance to reduce each period's DTA balance to zero. A valuation allowance to reduce each period's DTA would have resulted in an equal and offsetting credit for the respective expenses or an equal and offsetting debit for the respective benefits for income taxes, with the resulting tax expenses for each of the above periods of zero. The unaudited pro forma data is presented for informational purposes only, and does not purport to project our results of operations for any future period or our financial position as of any future date.
- (2) Unaudited pro forma basic and diluted income (loss) per share will be presented for the latest fiscal year and interim period on the basis of the shares to be issued to DB Holdings in connection with its contribution to us of all of the outstanding equity interests in Windsor Permian LLC, upon determination of the number of those shares.
- (3) Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure. For a definition of Adjusted EBITDA and a reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to our net income (loss), see *Selected Historical Consolidated Financial Data* beginning on page 38 of this prospectus.

**Table of Contents****Summary Operating and Reserve Data**

The following table sets forth estimates of our net proved oil and natural gas reserves as of December 31, 2011. These reserves have been prepared by Ryder Scott, an independent petroleum engineering firm, in accordance with SEC rules and regulations. A copy of the reserve report as of December 31, 2011 is attached to this prospectus as Appendix B. You should also refer to *Risk Factors*, *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*, *Business Oil and Gas Data Proved Reserves*, *Business Oil and Gas Production Prices and Production Costs* *Production and Price History*, our audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and our unaudited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in this prospectus in evaluating the material presented below.

	<b>December 31, 2011</b>
<b>Estimated proved developed reserves:</b>	
Oil (Bbls)	3,805,289
Natural gas (Mcf)	5,186,941
Natural gas liquids (Bbls)	1,233,318
Total (BOE)	5,903,097
<b>Estimated proved undeveloped reserves:</b>	
Oil (Bbls)	12,911,578
Natural gas (Mcf)	14,431,926
Natural gas liquids (Bbls)	3,529,955
Total (BOE)	18,846,854
<b>Estimated Net Proved Reserves:</b>	
Oil (Bbls)	16,716,867
Natural gas (Mcf)	19,618,867
Natural gas liquids (Bbls)	4,763,273
Total (BOE) <sup>(1)</sup>	24,749,951
Percent proved developed producing	23.9%

- (1) Estimates of reserves as of December 31, 2011 were prepared using an average price equal to the unweighted arithmetic average of hydrocarbon prices received on a field-by-field basis on the first day of each month within the 12-month period ended December 31, 2011, in accordance with revised SEC guidelines applicable to reserves estimates as of the end of 2011. Reserve estimates do not include any value for probable or possible reserves that may exist, nor do they include any value for unproved undeveloped acreage. The reserve estimates represent our net revenue interest in our properties. Although we believe these estimates are reasonable, actual future production, cash flows, taxes, development expenditures, operating expenses and quantities of recoverable oil and natural gas reserves may vary substantially from these estimates.

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

*An investment in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the following risks and all of the other information contained in this prospectus before deciding to invest in our common stock. Our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected by any of these risks. The risks described below are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks not presently known to us or which we currently consider immaterial also may adversely affect us.*

**Risks Related to the Oil and Natural Gas Industry and Our Business**

*Our business is difficult to evaluate because we have a limited operating history.*

We were incorporated in Delaware on December 30, 2011. All of the oil and natural gas assets and operations described in this prospectus are currently owned and/or operated by Windsor Permian LLC, which is an entity controlled by our equity sponsor, Wexford. Immediately prior to the closing of this offering, Windsor Permian LLC will become our wholly-owned subsidiary. The oil and natural gas properties described in this prospectus have been acquired by Windsor Permian LLC since December 2007. As a result, there is only limited historical financial and operating information available on which to base your evaluation of our performance.

*We may have difficulty managing growth in our business, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.*

As a recently-formed company, growth in accordance with our business plan, if achieved, could place a significant strain on our financial, technical, operational and management resources. As we expand our activities and increase the number of projects we are evaluating or in which we participate, there will be additional demands on our financial, technical, operational and management resources. The failure to continue to upgrade our technical, administrative, operating and financial control systems or the occurrences of unexpected expansion difficulties, including the failure to recruit and retain experienced managers, geologists, engineers and other professionals in the oil and natural gas industry, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations and our ability to timely execute our business plan.

*Approximately 74% of our net leasehold acreage is undeveloped, and that acreage may not ultimately be developed or become commercially productive, which could have a material adverse effect on our oil and natural gas reserves and future production and, therefore, our future cash flow and income.*

Approximately 74% of our net leasehold acreage is undeveloped, or acreage on which wells have not been drilled or completed to a point that would permit the production of commercial quantities of oil and natural gas regardless of whether such acreage contains proved reserves. In addition, many of our oil and natural gas leases require us to drill wells that are commercially productive, and if we are unsuccessful in drilling such wells, we could lose our rights under such leases. Our future oil and natural gas reserves and production and, therefore, our future cash flow and income are highly dependent on successfully developing our undeveloped leasehold acreage.

*Our development and exploration operations require substantial capital and we may be unable to obtain needed capital or financing on satisfactory terms or at all, which could lead to a loss of properties and a decline in our oil and natural gas reserves.*

The oil and natural gas industry is capital intensive. We make and expect to continue to make substantial capital expenditures in our business and operations for the exploration for and development, production and acquisition of oil and natural gas reserves. In 2011, our total capital expenditures, including expenditures for leasehold interest and property acquisitions, drilling, seismic and infrastructure, were approximately \$81.7 million. Our 2012 capital budget for drilling, completion and infrastructure, including investments in water

## **Table of Contents**

disposal infrastructure and gathering line projects, is estimated to be approximately \$97.7 million. To date, we have financed capital expenditures primarily with funding from our equity sponsor, borrowings under our revolving credit facility and cash generated by operations.

In the near term, we intend to finance our capital expenditures with cash flow from operations, proceeds from this offering and borrowings under our revolving credit facility. Our cash flow from operations and access to capital are subject to a number of variables, including:

our proved reserves;

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

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

our ability to acquire, locate and produce new reserves.

There can be no assurance that our operations and other capital resources will provide cash in sufficient amounts to maintain planned or future levels of capital expenditures. Further, our actual capital expenditures in 2012 could exceed our capital expenditure budget. In the event our capital expenditure requirements at any time are greater than the amount of capital we have available, we could be required to seek additional sources of capital, which may include traditional reserve base borrowings, debt financing, joint venture partnerships, production payment financings, sales of assets, offerings of debt or equity securities or other means.

If we are unable to fund our capital requirements, we may be required to curtail our operations relating to the exploration and development of our prospects, which in turn could lead to a possible loss of properties and a decline in our oil and natural gas reserves, or may be otherwise unable to implement our development plan, complete acquisitions or otherwise take advantage of business opportunities or respond to competitive pressures, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our production, revenues and results of operations.

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

Our future success depends upon our ability to find, develop or acquire additional oil and natural gas reserves that are economically recoverable. Our proved reserves will generally decline as reserves are depleted, except to the extent that we conduct successful exploration or development activities or acquire properties containing proved reserves, or both. To increase reserves and production, we undertake development, exploration and other replacement activities or use third parties to accomplish these activities. We have made and expect to make in the future substantial capital expenditures in our business and operations for the development, production, exploration and acquisition of oil and natural gas reserves. We may not have sufficient resources to undertake our exploration, development and production activities or the acquisition of oil and natural gas reserves, our exploratory projects or other replacement activities may not result in significant additional reserves and we may not have success drilling productive wells at low finding and development costs. Furthermore, although our revenues may increase if prevailing oil and natural gas prices increase significantly, our finding costs for additional reserves could also increase.

### ***Our project areas, which are in various stages of development, may not yield oil or natural gas in commercially viable quantities.***

Our project areas are in various stages of development, ranging from project areas with current drilling or production activity to project areas that consist of recently acquired leasehold acreage or that have limited drilling or production history. From inception through December 31, 2011, we participated in drilling a total of 142 gross wells, of which 130 wells were completed as producing wells and 12 wells are in various stages of completion. If the wells in the process of being completed do not produce sufficient revenues to return a profit or if we drill dry holes in the future, our business may be materially affected.

**Table of Contents**

*Our identified drilling locations, which are part of our anticipated future drilling plans, are susceptible to uncertainties that could materially alter the occurrence or timing of their drilling.*

As of December 31, 2011, we had 2,319 identified drilling locations on our existing acreage. These drilling locations represent a significant part of our growth strategy. Our ability to drill and develop these locations depends on a number of uncertainties, including the availability of capital, construction of infrastructure, inclement weather, regulatory changes and approvals, oil and natural gas prices, costs and drilling results. Because of these uncertainties, we do not know if the potential drilling locations we have identified will ever be drilled or if we will be able to produce oil or natural gas from these or any other potential drilling locations. As such, our actual drilling activities may materially differ from those presently identified, which could adversely affect our business.

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

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

the domestic and foreign supply of oil and natural gas;

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

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

the price of foreign imports;

political and economic conditions in oil producing countries, including the Middle East, Africa and South America;

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

speculative trading in crude oil and natural gas derivative contracts;

the level of consumer product demand;

weather conditions and other natural disasters;

risks associated with operating drill rigs;

technological advances affecting energy consumption;

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domestic and foreign governmental regulations and taxes;

the continued threat of terrorism and the impact of military and other action, including U.S. military operations in the Middle East;

proximity and capacity of oil and natural gas pipelines and other transportation facilities;

the price and availability of alternative fuels; and

overall domestic and global economic conditions.

These factors and the volatility of the energy markets make it extremely difficult to predict future oil and natural gas price movements with any certainty. For example, during the past five years, the posted price for West Texas intermediate light sweet crude oil, which we refer to as West Texas Intermediate or WTI, has ranged from a low of \$30.28 per barrel, or Bbl, in December 2008 to a high of \$145.31 per Bbl in July 2008. The Henry Hub spot market price of natural gas has ranged from a low of \$1.83 per million British thermal units, or MMBtu, in September 2009 to a high of \$15.52 per MMBtu in January 2006. In the first nine months of 2011, prices have ranged from \$88.00 to \$110.00 per Bbl for oil and wellhead natural gas market prices have ranged

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**Table of Contents**

from \$3.90 to \$4.23 per Mcf. On December 31, 2011, the West Texas Intermediate posted price for crude oil was \$98.83 per Bbl and the Henry Hub spot market price of natural gas was \$3.025 per MMBtu. Any substantial decline in the price of oil and natural gas will likely have a material adverse effect on our operations, financial condition and level of expenditures for the development of our oil and natural gas reserves. In addition, lower oil and natural gas prices may reduce the amount of oil and natural gas that we can produce economically. This may result in our having to make substantial downward adjustments to our estimated proved reserves. If this occurs or if our production estimates change or our exploration or development results deteriorate, full cost accounting rules may require us to write down, as a non-cash charge to earnings, the carrying value of our oil and natural gas properties.

***We have entered into price swap derivatives and may in the future enter into forward sale contracts or additional price swap derivatives for a portion of our production, which may result in our making cash payments or prevent us from receiving the full benefit of increases in prices for oil and gas.***

We use price swap derivatives to reduce price volatility associated with certain of our oil sales. Under these swap contracts, we receive a fixed price per barrel of oil and pay a floating market price per barrel of oil to the counterparty based on New York Mercantile Exchange Light Sweet Crude Oil pricing. The fixed-price payment and the floating-price payment are offset, resulting in a net amount due to or from the counterparty. For the purpose of locking-in the value of a swap, we enter into counter-swaps from time to time. Under the counter-swap, we receive a floating price for the hedged commodity and pay a fixed price to the counterparty. The counter-swap is effective in locking-in the value of a swap since subsequent changes in the market value of the swap are entirely offset by subsequent changes in the market value of the counter-swap.

In December 2007, we placed a swap contract covering 1,680,000 Bbls of crude oil for the period from January 2008 to December 2012 at various fixed prices. In April 2008, we entered into a series of counter-swaps to lock-in the value of certain of these swaps settling 1,188,000 Bbls of crude oil swaps. In June 2009, we entered into an additional series of counter-swaps to lock-in the value of the remaining swaps settling 324,000 Bbls of crude oil swaps. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, all of our swap contracts were locked-in with counter swaps. In October 2011, we placed a swap contract covering 1,000 Bbls per day of crude oil for the period from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 at a price of \$78.50 per barrel in 2012 and \$80.55 per barrel in 2013. Such contracts and any future hedging arrangements may expose us to risk of financial loss in certain circumstances, including instances where production is less than expected or oil prices increase. In addition, these arrangements may limit the benefit to us of increases in the price of oil.

***Our hedging transactions expose us to counterparty credit risk.***

Our hedging transactions expose us to risk of financial loss if a counterparty fails to perform under a derivative contract. Disruptions in the financial markets could lead to sudden decreases in a counterparty's liquidity, which could make them unable to perform under the terms of the derivative contract and we may not be able to realize the benefit of the derivative contract.

***The inability of one or more of our customers to meet their obligations may adversely affect our financial results.***

In addition to credit risk related to receivables from commodity derivative contracts, our principal exposure to credit risk is through receivables from joint interest owners on properties we operate (approximately \$6.6 million at September 30, 2011) and receivables from purchasers of our oil and natural gas production (approximately \$13.9 million at September 30, 2011). Joint interest receivables arise from billing entities that own partial interests in the wells we operate. These entities participate in our wells primarily based on their ownership in leases on which we wish to drill. We are generally unable to control which co-owners participate in our wells.

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**Table of Contents**

We are also subject to credit risk due to the concentration of our oil and natural gas receivables with several significant customers. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and the year ended December 31, 2010, one purchaser, Windsor Midstream LLC, an entity controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor, accounted for approximately 77.1% and 81.7% of our revenue, respectively. No other purchasers accounted for more than ten percent of our revenue during those periods. For the year ended December 31, 2009, two purchasers accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Windsor Midstream LLC (68.3%) and DCP Midstream, LP (14.8%). For the year ended December 31, 2008, four purchasers accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Tepeco Partners, L.P. (38.6%), Plains Marketing L.P. (29.6%), DCP Midstream, L.P. (13.7%) and Targa Midstream Services Limited Partnership (10.9%). No other customer accounted for more than 10% of our revenue during these periods. This concentration of customers may impact our overall credit risk in that these entities may be similarly affected by changes in economic and other conditions. Current economic circumstances may further increase these risks. We do not require our customers to post collateral. The inability or failure of our significant customers or joint working interest owners to meet their obligations to us or their insolvency or liquidation may materially adversely affect our financial results.

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

We account for our oil and natural gas producing activities using the full cost method of accounting. Accordingly, all costs incurred in the acquisition, exploration and development of proved oil and natural gas properties, including the costs of abandoned properties, dry holes, geophysical costs and annual lease rentals are capitalized. We also capitalize direct operating costs for services performed with internally owned drilling and well servicing equipment. All general and administrative corporate costs unrelated to drilling activities are expensed as incurred. Sales or other dispositions of oil and natural gas properties are accounted for as adjustments to capitalized costs, with no gain or loss recorded unless the ratio of cost to proved reserves would significantly change. Income from services provided to working interest owners of properties in which we also own an interest, to the extent they exceed related costs incurred, are accounted for as reductions of capitalized costs of oil and natural gas properties. Depletion of evaluated oil and natural gas properties is computed on the units of production method based on proved reserves. The average depletion rate per barrel equivalent unit of production was \$26.45 and \$11.40 for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively, and \$17.78, \$11.21 and \$42.11 for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense for oil and natural gas properties for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 was \$11.0 million and \$3.3 million, respectively, and for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 was \$7.4 million, \$3.2 million and \$10.2 million, respectively.

The net capitalized costs of proved oil and natural gas properties are subject to a full cost ceiling limitation in which the costs are not allowed to exceed their related estimated future net revenues discounted at 10%. To the extent capitalized costs of evaluated oil and natural gas properties, net of accumulated depreciation, depletion, amortization and impairment exceed the discounted future net revenues of proved oil and natural gas reserves, the excess capitalized costs are charged to expense. Beginning December 31, 2009, we used the unweighted arithmetic average first day of the month price for oil and natural gas for the 12-month period preceding the calculation date in estimating discounted future net revenues. For the year ended December 31, 2008, we used the price in effect at the end of the year and had the option, under certain circumstances, to elect to use subsequent commodity prices if they increased after the end of the year.

As of December 31, 2008, based on the decline in oil and natural gas prices, our unamortized oil and natural gas costs exceeded the ceiling limit and, therefore, we recognized a ceiling test impairment of \$83.2 million as of December 31, 2008. No impairment on proved oil and natural gas properties was recorded for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 or for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010. We may experience additional ceiling test write downs in the future. See *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Application of Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates Method of accounting for oil and natural gas properties* for a more detailed description of our method of accounting.



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**Table of Contents**

*Our estimated reserves are based on many assumptions that may turn out to be inaccurate. Any material inaccuracies in these reserve estimates or underlying assumptions will materially affect the quantities and present value of our reserves.*

Oil and natural gas reserve engineering is not an exact science and requires subjective estimates of underground accumulations of oil and natural gas and assumptions concerning future oil and natural gas prices, production levels and operating and development costs. As a result, estimated quantities of proved reserves and projections of future production rates and the timing of development expenditures may be incorrect. Our estimates of proved reserves and related valuations are based on reports prepared by Ryder Scott as of December 31, 2011 and by Pinnacle as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, each an independent petroleum engineering firm. Ryder Scott and Pinnacle conducted a well-by-well review of all our properties for the periods covered by their respective reserve reports using information provided by us. Over time, we may make material changes to reserve estimates taking into account the results of actual drilling, testing and production. Also, certain assumptions regarding future oil and natural gas prices, production levels and operating and development costs may prove incorrect. Any significant variance from these assumptions to actual figures could greatly affect our estimates of reserves, the economically recoverable quantities of oil and natural gas attributable to any particular group of properties, the classifications of reserves based on risk of recovery and estimates of the future net cash flows. A substantial portion of our reserve estimates are made without the benefit of a lengthy production history, which are less reliable than estimates based on a lengthy production history. Numerous changes over time to the assumptions on which our reserve estimates are based, as described above, often result in the actual quantities of oil and natural gas we ultimately recover being different from our reserve estimates.

Estimates of reserves as of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 were prepared using an average price equal to the unweighted arithmetic average of hydrocarbon prices received on a field-by-field basis on the first day of each month within the 12-month periods ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, in accordance with the revised SEC guidelines applicable to reserves estimates for such periods. Reserve estimates do not include any value for probable or possible reserves that may exist, nor do they include any value for unproved undeveloped acreage. The reserve estimates represent our net revenue interest in our properties.

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

*The development of our proved undeveloped reserves may take longer and may require higher levels of capital expenditures than we currently anticipate.*

Approximately 76% of our total estimated proved reserves at December 31, 2011 were proved undeveloped reserves and may not be ultimately developed or produced. Recovery of proved undeveloped reserves requires significant capital expenditures and successful drilling operations. The reserve data included in the reserve engineer reports assumes that substantial capital expenditures are required to develop such reserves. We cannot be certain that the estimated costs of the development of these reserves are accurate, that development will occur as scheduled or that the results of such development will be as estimated. Delays in the development of our reserves or increases in costs to drill and develop such reserves will reduce future net revenues of our estimated proved undeveloped reserves and may result in some projects becoming uneconomic. In addition, delays in the development of reserves could cause us to have to reclassify our proved reserves as unproved reserves.

*Our producing properties are located in the Permian Basin of West Texas, making us vulnerable to risks associated with operating in one major geographic area. In addition, we have a large amount of proved reserves attributable to a small number of producing horizons within this area.*

All of our producing properties are geographically concentrated in the Permian Basin of West Texas. As a result of this concentration, we may be disproportionately exposed to the impact of regional supply and demand

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**Table of Contents**

factors, delays or interruptions of production from wells in this area caused by governmental regulation, processing or transportation capacity constraints, market limitations or interruption of the processing or transportation of crude oil, natural gas or natural gas liquids.

In addition to the geographic concentration of our producing properties described above, at December 31, 2011, all of our proved reserves were attributable to the Wolfberry play. This concentration of assets within a small number of producing horizons exposes us to additional risks, such as changes in field-wide rules and regulations that could cause us to permanently or temporarily shut-in all of our wells within a field.

***We depend upon several significant purchasers for the sale of most of our oil and natural gas production. The loss of one or more of these purchasers could, among other factors, limit our access to suitable markets for the oil and natural gas we produce.***

The availability of a ready market for any oil and/or natural gas we produce depends on numerous factors beyond the control of our management, including but not limited to the extent of domestic production and imports of oil, the proximity and capacity of gas pipelines, the availability of skilled labor, materials and equipment, the effect of state and federal regulation of oil and natural gas production and federal regulation of gas sold in interstate commerce. In addition, we depend upon several significant purchasers for the sale of most of our oil and natural gas production. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and the year ended December 31, 2010, one purchaser, Windsor Midstream LLC, an entity controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor, accounted for approximately 77.1% and 81.7% of our revenue, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2009, two purchasers accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Windsor Midstream LLC (68.3%) and DCP Midstream, LP (14.8%). For the year ended December 31, 2008, four purchasers accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Teppco Partners, L.P. (38.6%), Plains Marketing L.P. (29.6%), DCP Midstream, L.P. (13.7%) and Targa Midstream Services Limited Partnership (10.9%). No other customer accounted for more than 10% of our revenue during these periods. There can be no assurance that we will continue to have ready access to suitable markets for our future oil and natural gas production.

***Shortages of rigs, equipment, raw materials, supplies or personnel may restrict our operations.***

The oil and natural gas industry is cyclical, which can result in shortages of drilling rigs, equipment, raw materials (particularly sand and other proppants), supplies and personnel. When shortages occur, the costs and delivery times of rigs, equipment and supplies increase and demand for, and wage rates of, qualified drilling rig crews also rise with increases in the number of active rigs in service. In accordance with customary industry practice, we rely on independent third party service providers to provide most of the services necessary to drill new wells. Shortages of drilling rigs, equipment, raw materials (particularly sand and other proppants), supplies, personnel, trucking services, tubulars, fracking and completion services and production equipment could delay or restrict our exploration and development operations, which in turn could impair our financial condition and results of operations.

***Declining general economic, business or industry conditions may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, liquidity and financial condition.***

Concerns over global economic conditions, energy costs, geopolitical issues, inflation, the availability and cost of credit, the United States mortgage market and a declining real estate market in the United States have contributed to increased economic uncertainty and diminished expectations for the global economy. These factors, combined with volatile prices of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids, declining business and consumer confidence and increased unemployment, have precipitated an economic slowdown and a recession. Concerns about global economic growth have had a significant adverse impact on global financial markets and commodity prices. If the economic climate in the United States or abroad continues to deteriorate, demand for petroleum products could diminish, which could impact the price at which we can sell our oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids, affect the ability of our vendors, suppliers and customers to continue operations and ultimately adversely impact our results of operations, liquidity and financial condition.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***A terrorist attack or armed conflict could harm our business.***

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

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

Fuel conservation measures, alternative fuel requirements, increasing consumer demand for alternatives to oil and natural gas, technological advances in fuel economy and energy generation devices could reduce demand for oil and natural gas. The impact of the changing demand for oil and gas services and products may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

### ***The marketability of our production is dependent upon transportation and other facilities, certain of which we do not control. When these facilities are unavailable, our operations can be interrupted and our revenues reduced.***

The marketability of our oil and natural gas production depends in part upon the availability, proximity and capacity of transportation facilities owned by third parties. In general, we do not control these transportation facilities and our access to them may be limited or denied. A significant disruption in the availability of these transportation facilities or other production facilities could adversely impact our ability to deliver to market or produce our oil and natural gas and thereby cause a significant interruption in our operations. If, in the future, we are unable, for any sustained period, to implement acceptable delivery or transportation arrangements or encounter production related difficulties, we may be required to shut in or curtail production. Any such shut in or curtailment, or an inability to obtain favorable terms for delivery of the oil and natural gas produced, would adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

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

Our oil and natural gas operations are subject to various federal, state and local governmental regulations that may be changed from time to time in response to economic and political conditions. Matters subject to regulation include discharge permits for drilling operations, drilling bonds, reports concerning operations, the spacing of wells, unitization and pooling of properties and taxation. From time to time, regulatory agencies have imposed price controls and limitations on production by restricting the rate of flow of oil and natural gas wells below actual production capacity to conserve supplies of oil and gas. In addition, the production, handling, storage, transportation, remediation, emission and disposal of oil and gas, by-products thereof and other substances and materials produced or used in connection with oil and natural gas operations are subject to regulation under federal, state and local laws and regulations primarily relating to protection of human health and the environment. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may result in the assessment of sanctions, including administrative, civil or criminal penalties, permit revocations and injunctions limiting or prohibiting some or all of our operations. Moreover, these laws and regulations have continually imposed increasingly strict requirements for water and air pollution control and solid waste management. Significant expenditures may be required to comply with governmental laws and regulations applicable to us. We believe the trend of more expansive and stricter environmental legislation and regulations will continue. See *Business Regulation Environmental Matters and Regulation and Business Regulation Other Regulation of the Oil and Natural Gas Industry* for a description of the laws and regulations that affect us.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Federal and state legislative and regulatory initiatives relating to hydraulic fracturing could result in increased costs and additional operating restrictions or delays.***

Hydraulic fracturing is an important common practice that is used to stimulate production of hydrocarbons particularly natural gas, from tight formations, including shales. The process involves the injection of water, sand and chemicals under pressure into formations to fracture the surrounding rock and stimulate production. The federal Safe Drinking Water Act, or SDWA, regulates the underground injection of substances through the Underground Injection Control, or UIC, program. Hydraulic fracturing is generally exempt from regulation under the UIC program, and the hydraulic fracturing process is typically regulated by state oil and gas commissions. The EPA, however, has recently taken the position that hydraulic fracturing with fluids containing diesel fuel is subject to regulation under the UIC program, specifically as Class II UIC wells. At the same time, the EPA has commenced a study of the potential environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing activities, and a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives is also conducting an investigation of hydraulic fracturing practices. Moreover, the EPA announced on October 20, 2011 that it is also launching a study regarding wastewater resulting from hydraulic fracturing activities and currently plans to propose standards by 2014 that such wastewater must meet before being transported to a treatment plant. As part of these studies, both the EPA and the House committee have requested that certain companies provide them with information concerning the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process. These studies, depending on their results, could spur initiatives to regulate hydraulic fracturing under the SDWA or otherwise.

In March 2011, companion bills entitled the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act of 2009 were reintroduced in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. These bills, which are currently under consideration by Congress, would repeal the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the SDWA, which would have the effect of allowing the EPA to promulgate regulations requiring permits and implementing potential new requirements on hydraulic fracturing under the SDWA. This could, in turn, require state regulatory agencies in states with programs delegated under the SDWA to impose additional requirements on hydraulic fracturing operations. In addition, the bills would require persons using hydraulic fracturing, such as us, to disclose the chemical constituents, but not the proprietary formulas, of their fracturing fluids to a regulatory agency, which would make the information public via the internet. Additionally, fracturing companies would be required to disclose specific chemical contents of fluids, including proprietary chemical formulas, to state authorities or to a requesting physician or nurse if deemed necessary by the physician or nurse in connection with a medical emergency.

In addition, there are certain governmental reviews either underway or being proposed that focus on environmental aspects of hydraulic fracturing practices. The White House Council on Environmental Quality is coordinating an administration-wide review of hydraulic fracturing practices, and a committee of the United States House of Representatives has conducted an investigation of hydraulic fracturing practices. Furthermore, a number of federal agencies are analyzing, or have been requested to review, a variety of environmental issues associated with hydraulic fracturing. In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy is conducting an investigation of practices the EPA could recommend to better protect the environment from drilling using hydraulic fracturing completion methods. Also, the U.S. Department of the Interior has announced that it will consider regulations relating to the use of hydraulic fracturing techniques on public lands and disclosure of fracturing fluid constituents. Also, certain members of the Congress have called upon the U.S. Government Accountability Office to investigate how hydraulic fracturing might adversely affect water resources, the SEC to investigate the natural gas industry and any possible misleading of investors or the public regarding the economic feasibility of pursuing natural gas deposits in shales by means of hydraulic fracturing, and the U.S. Energy Information Administration to provide a better understanding of that agency's estimates regarding natural gas reserves, including reserves from shale formations, as well as uncertainties associated with those estimates. On August 11, 2011, the Shale Gas Subcommittee of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board released a report proposing recommendations to reduce the potential environmental impacts from shale gas production.

## **Table of Contents**

These ongoing or proposed studies, depending on their degree of pursuit and any meaningful results obtained, could spur initiatives to further regulate hydraulic fracturing under the SDWA or other regulatory authorities.

Some states have adopted or are considering adopting regulations that could restrict or prohibit hydraulic fracturing in certain circumstances and/or require the disclosure of the composition of hydraulic fracturing fluids. For example, in September 2011, the Ohio legislature began consideration of legislation that would impose a temporary moratorium on drilling involving hydraulic fracturing pending the delivery of the EPA study regarding the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water resources. In June 2010, the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission passed a rule requiring disclosure of hydraulic fracturing fluid content. In November 2010, the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board proposed regulations that would require reporting of the chemicals used in fracturing fluids. Effective January 15, 2011, Arkansas began requiring disclosure of the components, but not the precise chemical composition, of hydraulic fracturing fluids. On May 31, 2011, the Texas Legislature adopted new legislation requiring oil and gas operators to publicly disclose the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process. It was signed into law on June 17, 2011, effective as of September 1, 2011. The Texas Railroad Commission will adopt rules and regulations implementing this legislation in two phases by July 1, 2012 and 2013, respectively. The new law requires that the well operator disclose the list of chemical ingredients subject to the requirements of federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) for disclosure on an internet website and also file the list of chemicals with the Texas Railroad Commission with the well completion report. The total volume of water used to hydraulically fracture a well must also be disclosed to the public and filed with the Texas Railroad Commission. Effective August 26, 2011, Montana adopted hydraulic fracturing disclosure regulations under which well operators must provide information in drilling permit applications on the estimated volume and types of materials to be used in the proposed hydraulic fracturing activities. Upon completion of the well, well operators must provide the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation with the volume and type of chemicals used, including the additive type, chemical ingredient names, and Chemical Abstracts Number, subject to certain trade secret protections. In September 2011, the North Dakota Industrial Commission proposed new regulations for hydraulic fracturing activities that could require well operators, under certain circumstances, to disclose the hydraulic fluid composition, including the trade name, supplier, ingredients, Chemical Abstracts Number, and the maximum ingredient concentrations of all additives in the hydraulic fracturing fluid. We plan to use hydraulic fracturing extensively in connection with the development and production of certain of our oil and natural gas properties and any increased federal, state, local, foreign or international regulation of hydraulic fracturing could reduce the volumes of oil and gas that we can economically recover, which could materially and adversely affect our revenues and results of operations.

There has been increasing public controversy regarding hydraulic fracturing with regard to use of fracturing fluids, impacts on drinking water supplies, use of waters and the potential for impacts to surface water, groundwater and the environment generally. A number of lawsuits and enforcement actions have been initiated across the country implicating hydraulic fracturing practices. If new laws or regulations that significantly restrict hydraulic fracturing, such as the FRAC Act, are adopted, such laws could make it more difficult or costly for us to perform fracturing to stimulate production from tight formations as well as make it easier for third parties opposing the hydraulic fracturing process to initiate legal proceedings based on allegations that specific chemicals used in the fracturing process could adversely affect groundwater. In addition, if hydraulic fracturing is further regulated at the federal or state level, our fracturing activities could become subject to additional permitting and financial assurance requirements, more stringent construction specifications, increased monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping obligations, plugging and abandonment requirements and also to attendant permitting delays and potential increases in costs. Such legislative changes could cause us to incur substantial compliance costs, and compliance or the consequences of any failure to comply by us could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. At this time, it is not possible to estimate the impact on our business of newly enacted or potential federal or state legislation governing hydraulic fracturing.

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**Table of Contents**

***The recent adoption of derivatives legislation by the U.S. Congress could have an adverse effect on our ability to use derivative instruments to reduce the effect of commodity price, interest rate and other risks associated with our business.***

The recent adoption of derivatives legislation by the U.S. Congress could have an adverse effect on our ability to use derivative instruments to reduce the effect of commodity price, interest rate and other risks associated with our business. The U.S. Congress recently adopted the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (HR 4173), which, among other provisions, establishes federal oversight and regulation of the over-the-counter derivatives market and entities that participate in that market. The new legislation was signed into law by the President on July 21, 2010, and requires the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, or CFTC, and the SEC to promulgate rules and regulations implementing the new legislation within 360 days from the date of enactment. In its rulemaking under the new legislation, the CFTC has proposed regulations to set position limits for certain futures and option contracts in the major energy markets and for swaps that are their economic equivalents. Certain bona fide hedging transactions or positions would be exempt from these position limits. It is not possible at this time to predict when the CFTC will finalize these regulations. The financial reform legislation may also require us to comply with margin requirements and with certain clearing and trade-execution requirements in connection with our existing or future derivative activities, although the application of those provisions to us is uncertain at this time. The financial reform legislation may also require the counterparties to our derivative instruments to spin off some of their derivatives activities to separate entities, which may not be as creditworthy as the current counterparties. The new legislation and any new regulations could significantly increase the cost of derivative contracts (including through requirements to post collateral which could adversely affect our available liquidity), materially alter the terms of derivative contracts, reduce the availability of derivatives to protect against risks we encounter, reduce our ability to monetize or restructure our derivative contracts in existence at that time, and increase our exposure to less creditworthy counterparties. If we reduce or change the way we use derivative instruments as a result of the legislation and regulations, our results of operations may become more volatile and our cash flows may be less predictable, which could adversely affect our ability to plan for and fund capital expenditures. Finally, the legislation was intended, in part, to reduce the volatility of oil and natural gas prices, which some legislators attributed to speculative trading in derivatives and commodity instruments related to oil and natural gas. Our revenues could therefore be adversely affected if a consequence of the legislation and regulations is to lower commodity prices. Any of these consequences could have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

***Proposed changes to U.S. tax laws, if adopted, could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

The U.S. President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Proposal includes provisions that would, if enacted, make significant changes to U.S. tax laws. These changes include, but are not limited to, (i) eliminating the immediate deduction for intangible drilling and development costs, (ii) eliminating the deduction from income for domestic production activities relating to oil and natural gas exploration and development and (iii) implementing certain international tax reforms. These proposed changes in the U.S. tax laws, if adopted, could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

***The adoption of climate change legislation by Congress could result in increased operating costs and reduced demand for the oil and natural gas we produce.***

Many nations have agreed to limit emissions of greenhouse gases pursuant to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, also known as the Kyoto Protocol. Methane, a primary component of natural gas, and carbon dioxide, a byproduct of the burning of oil, natural gas, and refined petroleum products, are greenhouse gases, or GHGs, regulated by the Kyoto Protocol. Although the United States is not participating in the Kyoto Protocol at this time, several states or geographic regions have adopted legislation and regulations to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Additionally, on April 2, 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in *Massachusetts, et al. v. EPA*, that the EPA has the authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from

**Table of Contents**

automobiles as air pollutant under the federal Clean Air Act. Thereafter, in December 2009, the EPA determined that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other GHGs present an endangerment to public health and the environment because, according to the EPA, emissions of such gases contribute to warming of the earth's atmosphere and other climatic changes. These findings by the EPA allowed the agency to proceed with the adoption and implementation of regulations that would restrict emissions of GHGs under existing provisions of the federal Clean Air Act. Subsequently, the EPA adopted two sets of related rules, one of which purports to regulate emissions of GHGs from motor vehicles and the other of which regulates emissions of GHGs from certain large stationary sources of emissions such as power plants or industrial facilities. The EPA finalized the motor vehicle rule in April 2010 and it became effective January 2011, although it does not require immediate reductions in GHG emissions. The EPA adopted the stationary source rule in May 2010, and it also became effective January 2011, although it remains subject of several pending lawsuits filed by industry groups. Additionally, in September 2009, the EPA issued a final rule requiring the reporting of GHG emissions from specified large GHG emission sources in the U.S., including natural gas liquids fractionators and local natural gas/distribution companies, beginning in 2011 for emissions occurring in 2010. More recently, in November 2010, the EPA expanded its existing GHG reporting rule to include onshore and offshore oil and natural gas production and onshore processing, transmission, storage and distribution facilities, which may include certain of our facilities, beginning in 2012 for emissions occurring in 2011.

Furthermore, in July 2011, the EPA proposed several new emissions standards to reduce volatile organic compound, or VOC, emissions from several types of processes and equipment used in the oil and natural gas industry, including a 95 percent reduction in VOCs emitted during the construction or modification of hydraulically-fractured wells. Additionally, on August 23, 2011, the EPA published a proposed rule in the Federal Register that would establish new air emission controls for oil and natural gas production and natural gas processing operations. The EPA is currently receiving public comment and recently conducted public hearings regarding the proposed rules and must take final action on them by February 28, 2012. In addition, on October 20, 2011, the EPA announced a schedule to develop pre-treatment standards for wastewater discharges produced by natural gas extraction from underground coalbed and shale formations. The EPA stated that it will gather data, consult with stakeholders, including ongoing consultation with industry, and solicit public comment on a proposed rule for coalbed methane in 2013 and a proposed rule for shale gas in 2014.

In June 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act that, among other things, would have established a cap-and-trade system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and would have required an 80% reduction in GHG emissions from sources within the United States between 2012 and 2050. The ACES Act did not pass the Senate, however, and so was not enacted by the 111th Congress. The United States Congress is likely to again consider a climate change bill in the future. Moreover, almost half of the states have already taken legal measures to reduce emissions of GHGs, primarily through the planned development of GHG emission inventories and/or regional GHG cap-and-trade programs. Most of these cap and trade programs work by requiring major sources of emissions, such as electric power plants, or major producers of fuels, such as refineries and gas processing plants, to acquire and surrender emission allowances corresponding with their annual emissions of GHGs. The number of allowances available for purchase is reduced each year until the overall GHG emission reduction goal is achieved. As the number of GHG emission allowances declines each year, the cost or value of allowances is expected to escalate significantly.

Restrictions on emissions of methane or carbon dioxide that may be imposed in various states could adversely affect the oil and natural gas industry. Currently, while we are subject to certain federal GHG monitoring and reporting requirements, our operations are not adversely impacted by existing federal, state and local climate change initiatives and, at this time, it is not possible to accurately estimate how potential future laws or regulations addressing greenhouse gas emissions would impact our business.

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**Table of Contents**

***Any failure by us to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations may result in governmental authorities taking actions that could adversely impact our operations and financial condition.***

If we fail to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations, governmental authorities may take actions against us that could adversely affect our operations and financial condition, including the:

issuance of administrative, civil and criminal penalties;

denial, suspension or revocation of necessary permits, licenses or other authorizations;

imposition of injunctive obligations or limitations on our operations;

requirement for additional pollution controls; and

required performance of site investigatory, remedial or other corrective actions.

In addition, there has been public discussion that climate change may be associated with extreme weather conditions such as more intense hurricanes, thunderstorms, tornados and snow or ice storms, as well as rising sea levels. Another possible consequence of climate change is increased volatility in seasonal temperatures. Some studies indicate that climate change could cause some areas to experience temperatures substantially colder than their historical averages. Extreme weather conditions can interfere with our production and increase our costs and damage resulting from extreme weather may not be fully insured. However, at this time, we are unable to determine the extent to which climate change may lead to increased storm or weather hazards affecting our operations.

***A change in the jurisdictional characterization of some of our assets by federal, state or local regulatory agencies or a change in policy by those agencies may result in increased regulation of our assets, which may cause our revenues to decline and operating expenses to increase.***

Section 1(b) of the Natural Gas Act of 1938, or the NGA, exempts natural gas gathering facilities from regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC. We believe that the natural gas pipelines in our gathering systems meet the traditional tests FERC has used to establish whether a pipeline performs a gathering function and therefore is exempt from FERC's jurisdiction under the NGA. However, the distinction between FERC-regulated transmission services and federally unregulated gathering services is a fact-based determination. The classification of facilities as unregulated gathering is the subject of ongoing litigation, so the classification and regulation of our gathering facilities are subject to change based on future determinations by FERC, the courts or Congress, which could cause our revenues to decline and operating expenses to increase and may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations. In addition, FERC has adopted regulations that may subject certain of our otherwise non-FERC jurisdictional facilities to FERC annual reporting and daily scheduled flow and capacity posting requirements. Additional rules and legislation pertaining to those and other matters may be considered or adopted by FERC from time to time. Failure to comply with those regulations in the future could subject us to civil penalty liability, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

***We rely on a few key employees whose absence or loss could adversely affect our business.***

Many key responsibilities within our business have been assigned to a small number of employees. The loss of their services could adversely affect our business. In particular, the loss of the services of one or more members of our new executive team, including our Chief Executive Officer, Travis D. Stice, could disrupt our operations. We have employment agreements with these executives which contain restrictions on competition with us in the event they cease to be employed by us. However, as a practical matter, such employment agreements may not assure the retention of our employees. Further, we do not maintain key person life insurance policies on any of our employees. As a result, we are not insured against any losses resulting from the death of our key employees.



## **Table of Contents**

### ***A significant reduction by Wexford of its ownership interest in us could adversely affect us.***

Prior to this offering, Wexford beneficially owned 100% of our equity interests. Upon completion of this offering, Wexford will beneficially own approximately % of our common stock, or % if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full. See *Principal and Selling Stockholders*. Further, we anticipate that several individuals who will serve as our directors upon completion of this offering will be affiliates of Wexford. We believe that Wexford's substantial ownership interest in us provides Wexford with an economic incentive to assist us to be successful. Upon the expiration of the lock-up restrictions on transfers or sales of our securities by or on behalf of DB Holdings following the completion of this offering, Wexford will not be subject to any obligation to maintain its ownership interest in us and may elect at any time thereafter to sell all or a substantial portion of or otherwise reduce its ownership interest in us. If Wexford sells all or a substantial portion of its ownership interest in us, Wexford may have less incentive to assist in our success and its affiliate(s) that are expected to serve as members of our board of directors may resign. Such actions could adversely affect our ability to successfully implement our business strategies which could adversely affect our cash flows or results of operations.

### ***Drilling for and producing oil and natural gas are high-risk activities with many uncertainties that may result in a total loss of investment and adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.***

Our drilling activities are subject to many risks. For example, we cannot assure you that new wells drilled by us will be productive or that we will recover all or any portion of our investment in such wells. Drilling for oil and natural gas often involves unprofitable efforts, not only from dry wells but also from wells that are productive but do not produce sufficient oil or natural gas to return a profit at then realized prices after deducting drilling, operating and other costs. The seismic data and other technologies we use do not allow us to know conclusively prior to drilling a well that oil or natural gas is present or that it can be produced economically. The costs of exploration, exploitation and development activities are subject to numerous uncertainties beyond our control, and increases in those costs can adversely affect the economics of a project. Further, our drilling and producing operations may be curtailed, delayed, canceled or otherwise negatively impacted as a result of other factors, including:

unusual or unexpected geological formations;

loss of drilling fluid circulation;

title problems;

facility or equipment malfunctions;

unexpected operational events;

shortages or delivery delays of equipment and services;

compliance with environmental and other governmental requirements; and

adverse weather conditions.

Any of these risks can cause substantial losses, including personal injury or loss of life, damage to or destruction of property, natural resources and equipment, pollution, environmental contamination or loss of wells and other regulatory penalties.

***Our development and exploratory drilling efforts and our well operations may not be profitable or achieve our targeted returns.***

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Historically, we have acquired significant amounts of unproved property in order to further our development efforts and expect to continue to undertake acquisitions in the future. Development and exploratory drilling and production activities are subject to many risks, including the risk that no commercially productive reservoirs will be discovered. We acquire unproved properties and lease undeveloped acreage that we believe will enhance our

## **Table of Contents**

growth potential and increase our earnings over time. However, we cannot assure you that all prospects will be economically viable or that we will not abandon our investments. Additionally, there can be no assurance that unproved property acquired by us or undeveloped acreage leased by us will be profitably developed, that new wells drilled by us in prospects that we pursue will be productive or that we will recover all or any portion of our investment in such unproved property or wells.

### ***Operating hazards and uninsured risks may result in substantial losses and could prevent us from realizing profits.***

Our operations are subject to all of the hazards and operating risks associated with drilling for and production of oil and natural gas, including the risk of fire, explosions, blowouts, surface cratering, uncontrollable flows of natural gas, oil and formation water, pipe or pipeline failures, abnormally pressured formations, casing collapses and environmental hazards such as oil spills, gas leaks, ruptures or discharges of toxic gases. The occurrence of any of these events could result in substantial losses to us due to injury or loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property, natural resources and equipment, pollution or other environmental damage, clean-up responsibilities, regulatory investigation and penalties, suspension of operations and repairs to resume operations.

In accordance with what we believe to be customary industry practice, we historically have maintained insurance against some, but not all, of our business risks. Our insurance may not be adequate to cover any losses or liabilities we may suffer. Also, insurance may no longer be available to us or, if it is, its availability may be at premium levels that do not justify its purchase. The occurrence of a significant uninsured claim, a claim in excess of the insurance coverage limits maintained by us or a claim at a time when we are not able to obtain liability insurance could have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct normal business operations and on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flow. In addition, we may not be able to secure additional insurance or bonding that might be required by new governmental regulations. This may cause us to restrict our operations, which might severely impact our financial position. We may also be liable for environmental damage caused by previous owners of properties purchased by us, which liabilities may not be covered by insurance.

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

There is intense competition for acquisition opportunities in our industry. Competition for acquisitions may increase the cost of, or cause us to refrain from, completing acquisitions. Our ability to complete acquisitions is dependent upon, among other things, our ability to obtain debt and equity financing and, in some cases, regulatory approvals. Further, these acquisitions may be in geographic regions in which we do not currently operate, which could result in unforeseen operating difficulties and difficulties in coordinating geographically dispersed operations, personnel and facilities. In addition, if we enter into new geographic markets, we may be subject to additional and unfamiliar legal and regulatory requirements. Compliance with regulatory requirements may impose substantial additional obligations on us and our management, cause us to expend additional time and resources in compliance activities and increase our exposure to penalties or fines for non-compliance with such additional legal requirements. Completed acquisitions could require us to invest further in operational, financial and management information systems and to attract, retain, motivate and effectively manage additional employees. The inability to effectively manage the integration of acquisitions could reduce our focus on subsequent acquisitions and current operations, which, in turn, could negatively impact our earnings and growth. Our financial position and results of operations may fluctuate significantly from period to period, based on whether or not significant acquisitions are completed in particular periods.

## **Table of Contents**

***Properties we acquire may not produce as projected, and we may be unable to determine reserve potential, identify liabilities associated with the properties that we acquire or obtain protection from sellers against such liabilities.***

Acquiring oil and gas properties requires us to assess reservoir and infrastructure characteristics, including recoverable reserves, development and operating costs and potential environmental and other liabilities. Such assessments are inexact and inherently uncertain. In connection with the assessments, we perform a review of the subject properties, but such a review will not reveal all existing or potential problems. In the course of our due diligence, we may not inspect every well or pipeline. We cannot necessarily observe structural and environmental problems, such as pipe corrosion, when an inspection is made. We may not be able to obtain contractual indemnities from the seller for liabilities created prior to our purchase of the property. We may be required to assume the risk of the physical condition of the properties in addition to the risk that the properties may not perform in accordance with our expectations.

***Competition in the oil and natural gas industry is intense, which may adversely affect our ability to succeed.***

The oil and natural gas industry is intensely competitive, and we compete with other companies that have greater resources. Many of these companies not only explore for and produce oil and natural gas, but also carry on midstream and refining operations and market petroleum and other products on a regional, national or worldwide basis. These companies may be able to pay more for productive oil and natural gas properties and exploratory prospects or define, evaluate, bid for and purchase a greater number of properties and prospects than our financial or human resources permit. In addition, these companies may have a greater ability to continue exploration activities during periods of low oil and natural gas market prices. Our larger competitors may be able to absorb the burden of present and future federal, state, local and other laws and regulations more easily than we can, which would adversely affect our competitive position. Our ability to acquire additional properties and to discover reserves in the future will be dependent upon our ability to evaluate and select suitable properties and to consummate transactions in a highly competitive environment. In addition, because we have fewer financial and human resources than many companies in our industry, we may be at a disadvantage in bidding for exploratory prospects and producing oil and natural gas properties.

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

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

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

We will be required to comply with the provisions of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 as early as December 31, 2013. Section 404 requires that we document and test our internal control over financial reporting and issue management's assessment of our internal control over financial reporting. This section also requires that our independent registered public accounting firm opine on those internal controls upon becoming an accelerated filer or a large accelerated filer, as defined in the SEC rules. We are currently evaluating our existing controls against the standards adopted by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. During the course of our ongoing evaluation and integration of the internal control over financial reporting, we may identify areas requiring improvement, and we may have to design enhanced processes and controls to address issues identified through this review. For example, we anticipate the need to hire additional administrative and accounting personnel to conduct our financial reporting.

## **Table of Contents**

We believe that the out-of-pocket costs, the diversion of management's attention from running the day-to-day operations and operational changes caused by the need to comply with the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act could be significant. If the time and costs associated with such compliance exceed our current expectations, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

We cannot be certain at this time that we will be able to successfully complete the procedures, certification and attestation requirements of Section 404 or that we or our auditors will not identify material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting. If we fail to comply with the requirements of Section 404 or if we or our auditors identify and report such material weaknesses, the accuracy and timeliness of the filing of our annual and quarterly reports may be materially adversely affected and could cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which could have a negative effect on the trading price of our common stock. In addition, a material weakness in the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting could result in an increased chance of fraud and the loss of customers, reduce our ability to obtain financing and require additional expenditures to comply with these requirements, each of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***Our revolving credit facility contains restrictive covenants that may limit our ability to respond to changes in market conditions or pursue business opportunities.***

Our revolving credit facility contains restrictive covenants that limit our ability to, among other things:

incur additional indebtedness;

create additional liens;

sell assets;

merge or consolidate with another entity;

pay dividends or make other distributions;

engage in transactions with affiliates; and

enter into certain swap agreements.

In addition, our revolving credit facility requires us to maintain certain financial ratios and tests. The requirement that we comply with these provisions may materially adversely affect our ability to react to changes in market conditions, take advantage of business opportunities we believe to be desirable, obtain future financing, fund needed capital expenditures or withstand a continuing or future downturn in our business.

***If we are unable to comply with the restrictions and covenants in our revolving credit facility, there could be an event of default under the terms of our revolving credit facility, which could result in an acceleration of repayment.***

If we are unable to comply with the restrictions and covenants in our revolving credit facility, there could be an event of default under the terms of this facility. Our ability to comply with these restrictions and covenants, including meeting the financial ratios and tests under our revolving credit facility, may be affected by events beyond our control. As a result, we cannot assure that we will be able to comply with these restrictions and covenants or meet such financial ratios and tests. In the event of a default under our revolving credit facility, the lenders could terminate their commitments to lend or accelerate the loans and declare all amounts borrowed due and payable. If any of these events occur, our assets might not be sufficient to repay in full all of our outstanding indebtedness and we may be unable to find alternative financing. Even if we could obtain alternative financing, it might not be on terms that are favorable or acceptable to us. Additionally, we may not be able to amend our revolving credit facility or obtain needed waivers on satisfactory terms.



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**Table of Contents**

***Our borrowings under our revolving credit facility expose us to interest rate risk.***

Our earnings are exposed to interest rate risk associated with borrowings under our revolving credit facility, which bear interest at a rate elected by us that is based on the prime, LIBOR or federal funds rate plus margins ranging from 1.25% to 3.50% depending on the base rate used and the amount of the loan outstanding in relation to the borrowing base. As of September 30, 2011, the weighted average interest rate on outstanding borrowings under our revolving credit facility was 3.3%. If interest rates increase, so will our interest costs, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

***Loss of our information and computer systems could adversely affect our business.***

We are heavily dependent on our information systems and computer based programs, including our well operations information, seismic data, electronic data processing and accounting data. If any of such programs or systems were to fail or create erroneous information in our hardware or software network infrastructure, possible consequences include our loss of communication links, inability to find, produce, process and sell oil and natural gas and inability to automatically process commercial transactions or engage in similar automated or computerized business activities. Any such consequence could have a material adverse effect on our business.

**Risks Related to this Offering and Our Common Stock**

***Our largest stockholder controls a significant percentage of our common stock, and its interests may conflict with those of our other stockholders.***

Upon completion of this offering, Wexford will beneficially own approximately % of our common stock, or % if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full. See *Principal and Selling Stockholders*. As a result, Wexford will continue to be able to exercise significant influence, and in most cases control, over matters requiring stockholder approval, including the election of directors, changes to our organizational documents and significant corporate transactions. This concentration of ownership makes it unlikely that any other holder or group of holders of our common stock will be able to affect the way we are managed or the direction of our business. The interests of Wexford with respect to matters potentially or actually involving or affecting us, such as future acquisitions, financings and other corporate opportunities and attempts to acquire us, may conflict with the interests of our other stockholders. Wexford's continued concentrated ownership will make it impossible for another company to acquire us and for you to receive any related takeover premium for your shares unless Wexford approves the acquisition.

***Since we are a controlled company for purposes of The NASDAQ Global Market's corporate governance requirements, our stockholders will not have, and may never have, the protections that these corporate governance requirements are intended to provide.***

Since we are a controlled company for purposes of The NASDAQ Global Market's corporate governance requirements, we are not required to comply with the provisions requiring that a majority of our directors be independent, the compensation of our executives be determined by independent directors or nominees for election to our board of directors be selected by independent directors. If we choose to take advantage of any or all of these exemptions, our stockholders may not have the protections that these rules are intended to provide.

***The corporate opportunity provisions in our certificate of incorporation could enable Wexford, our equity sponsor or other affiliates of ours to benefit from corporate opportunities that might otherwise be available to us.***

Subject to the limitations of applicable law, our certificate of incorporation, among other things:

permits us to enter into transactions with entities in which one or more of our officers or directors are financially or otherwise interested;

permits any of our stockholders, officers or directors to conduct business that competes with us and to make investments in any kind of property in which we may make investments; and

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**Table of Contents**

provides that if any director or officer of one of our affiliates who is also one of our officers or directors becomes aware of a potential business opportunity, transaction or other matter (other than one expressly offered to that director or officer in writing solely in his or her capacity as our director or officer), that director or officer will have no duty to communicate or offer that opportunity to us, and will be permitted to communicate or offer that opportunity to such affiliates and that director or officer will not be deemed to have (i) acted in a manner inconsistent with his or her fiduciary or other duties to us regarding the opportunity or (ii) acted in bad faith or in a manner inconsistent with our best interests.

These provisions create the possibility that a corporate opportunity that would otherwise be available to us may be used for the benefit of one of our affiliates.

***We have engaged in transactions with our affiliates and expect to do so in the future. The terms of such transactions and the resolution of any conflicts that may arise may not always be in our or our stockholders' best interests.***

We have engaged in transactions and expect to continue to engage in transactions with affiliated companies. As described under the caption *Related Party Transactions* beginning on page 106 of this prospectus, these include, among others, drilling services provided to us by Bison Drilling and Field Services, LLC, real property leased by us from Fasken Midland, LLC and certain administrative services provided to us by Everest Operations Management LLC. The resolution of these conflicts may not always be in our or our stockholders' best interests.

***We will incur increased costs as a result of being a public company, which may significantly affect our financial condition.***

As a public company, we will incur significant legal, accounting and other expenses that we did not incur as a private company. We will incur costs associated with our public company reporting requirements. We also anticipate that we will incur costs associated with corporate governance requirements, including requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as well as rules implemented by the SEC and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. We expect these rules and regulations to increase our legal and financial compliance costs and to make some activities more time-consuming and costly. We also expect these rules and regulations may make it more difficult and more expensive for us to obtain director and officer liability insurance and we may be required to accept reduced policy limits and coverage or incur substantially higher costs to obtain the same or similar coverage. As a result, it may be more difficult for us to attract and retain qualified individuals to serve on our board of directors or as executive officers. We are currently evaluating these rules, and we cannot predict or estimate the amount of additional costs we may incur or the timing of such costs.

***There has been no public market for our common stock and if the price of our common stock fluctuates significantly, your investment could lose value.***

Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for our common stock. Although we intend to apply for listing of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market, we cannot assure you that an active public market will develop for our common stock or that our common stock will trade in the public market subsequent to this offering at or above the initial public offering price. If an active public market for our common stock does not develop, the trading price and liquidity of our common stock will be materially and adversely affected. If there is a thin trading market or float for our stock, the market price for our common stock may fluctuate significantly more than the stock market as a whole. Without a large float, our common stock is less liquid than the stock of companies with broader public ownership and, as a result, the trading prices of our common stock may be more volatile. In addition, in the absence of an active public trading market, investors may be unable to liquidate their investment in us. The initial offering price, which will be negotiated between us and the underwriters, may not be indicative of the trading price for our common stock after this offering. In addition, the



**Table of Contents**

stock market is subject to significant price and volume fluctuations, and the price of our common stock could fluctuate widely in response to several factors, including:

our quarterly or annual operating results;

changes in our earnings estimates;

investment recommendations by securities analysts following our business or our industry;

additions or departures of key personnel;

changes in the business, earnings estimates or market perceptions of our competitors;

our failure to achieve operating results consistent with securities analysts' projections;

changes in industry, general market or economic conditions; and

announcements of legislative or regulatory change.

The stock market has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations in recent years that have significantly affected the quoted prices of the securities of many companies, including companies in our industry. The changes often appear to occur without regard to specific operating performance. The price of our common stock could fluctuate based upon factors that have little or nothing to do with our company and these fluctuations could materially reduce our stock price.

***Future sales of our common stock, or the perception that such future sales may occur, may cause our stock price to decline.***

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market after this offering, or the perception that these sales may occur, could cause the market price of our common stock to decline. See *Shares Eligible for Future Sale*. In addition, the sale of these shares could impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of additional common or preferred stock. After this offering, we will have \_\_\_\_\_ shares of common stock outstanding, excluding stock options. All of the shares sold in this offering, except for any shares purchased by our affiliates, will be freely tradable.

DB Holdings and our directors and executive officers will be subject to agreements that limit their ability to sell our common stock held by them. These holders cannot sell or otherwise dispose of any shares of our common stock for a period of at least 180 days after the date of this prospectus, which period may be extended under limited circumstances, without the prior written approval of \_\_\_\_\_. However, these lock-up agreements are subject to certain specific exceptions. In the event that one or more of our stockholders sells a substantial amount of our common stock in the public market, or the market perceives that such sales may occur, the price of our stock could decline.

***If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or reports about our business, if they adversely change their recommendations regarding our stock or if our operating results do not meet their expectations, our stock price could decline.***

The trading market for our common stock will be influenced by the research and reports that industry or securities analysts publish about us or our business. If one or more of these analysts cease coverage of our company or fail to publish reports on us regularly, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which in turn could cause our stock price or trading volume to decline. Moreover, if one or more of the analysts who cover our company downgrades our stock or if our operating results do not meet their expectations, our stock price could decline.

*Purchasers in this offering will experience immediate dilution and will experience further dilution with the future exercise of stock options.*

The initial public offering price is substantially higher than the pro forma net tangible book value per share of our outstanding common stock. As a result, you will experience immediate and substantial dilution of

## **Table of Contents**

approximately \$      per share, representing the difference between our net tangible book value per share as of      after giving effect to this offering and an assumed initial public offering price of \$      (which is the midpoint of the range set forth on the cover of the prospectus). A \$1.00 increase (decrease) in the assumed initial public offering price of \$      per share (which is the midpoint of the range set forth on the cover page of this prospectus) would increase (decrease) our net tangible book value per share after giving effect to this offering by \$      , and increase (decrease) the dilution to new investors by \$      , assuming the number of shares offered by us, as set forth on the cover page of this prospectus, remains the same and after deducting the estimated underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offered expenses payable by us. See *Dilution* for a description of dilution.

***We may issue preferred stock whose terms could adversely affect the voting power or value of our common stock.***

Our certificate of incorporation authorizes us to issue, without the approval of our stockholders, one or more classes or series of preferred stock having such designations, preferences, limitations and relative rights, including preferences over our common stock respecting dividends and distributions, as our board of directors may determine. The terms of one or more classes or series of preferred stock could adversely impact the voting power or value of our common stock. For example, we might grant holders of preferred stock the right to elect some number of our directors in all events or on the happening of specified events or the right to veto specified transactions. Similarly, the repurchase or redemption rights or liquidation preferences we might assign to holders of preferred stock could affect the residual value of the common stock.

***Provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws and Delaware law make it more difficult to effect a change in control of the company, which could adversely affect the price of our common stock.***

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

provisions regulating the ability of our stockholders to nominate directors for election or to bring matters for action at annual meetings of our stockholders;

limitations on the ability of our stockholders to call a special meeting and act by written consent;

the ability of our board of directors to adopt, amend or repeal bylaws, and the requirement that the affirmative vote of holders representing at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of all outstanding shares of capital stock be obtained for stockholders to amend our bylaws;

the requirement that the affirmative vote of holders representing at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of all outstanding shares of capital stock be obtained to remove directors;

the requirement that the affirmative vote of holders representing at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of all outstanding shares of capital stock be obtained to amend our certificate of incorporation; and

the authorization given to our board of directors to issue and set the terms of preferred stock without the approval of our stockholders.

These provisions also could discourage proxy contests and make it more difficult for you and other stockholders to elect directors and take other corporate actions. As a result, these provisions could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us, even if doing so would benefit our stockholders, which may limit the price that investors are willing to pay in the future for shares of our common stock.



**Table of Contents**

*We do not intend to pay cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future, and therefore only appreciation of the price of our common stock will provide a return to our stockholders.*

We currently anticipate that we will retain all future earnings, if any, to finance the growth and development of our business. We do not intend to pay cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Any future determination as to the declaration and payment of cash dividends will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon our financial condition, results of operations, contractual restrictions capital requirements, business prospects and other factors deemed relevant by our board of directors. In addition, the terms of our credit facilities prohibit us from paying dividends and making other distributions. As a result, only appreciation of the price of our common stock, which may not occur, will provide a return to our stockholders.

**Table of Contents**

**CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus contains forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, which may include statements about our:

business strategy;

exploration and development drilling prospects, inventories, projects and programs;

oil and natural gas reserves;

identified drilling locations;

ability to obtain permits and governmental approvals;

technology;

financial strategy;

realized oil and natural gas prices;

production;

lease operating expenses, general and administrative costs and finding and development costs;

future operating results; and

plans, objectives, expectations and intentions.

All of these types of statements, other than statements of historical fact included in this prospectus, are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements may be found in the *Prospectus Summary*, *Risk Factors*, *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*, *Business* and other sections of this prospectus. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, could, should, expect, plan, project, intend, anticipate, believe, estimate, potential, pursue, target, seek, objective or continue, the negative of such terms or other comparable terminology.

The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus are largely based on our expectations, which reflect estimates and assumptions made by our management. These estimates and assumptions reflect our best judgment based on currently known market conditions and other factors. Although we believe such estimates and assumptions to be reasonable, they are inherently uncertain and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that are beyond our control. In addition, our management's assumptions about future events may prove to be inaccurate. Our management cautions all readers that the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus are not guarantees of future performance, and

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we cannot assure any reader that such statements will be realized or the forward-looking events and circumstances will occur. Actual results may differ materially from those anticipated or implied in the forward-looking statements due to the many factors including those described in the *Risk Factors* section and elsewhere in this prospectus. All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus. We do not intend to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. These cautionary statements qualify all forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf.

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Our net proceeds from the sale of \_\_\_\_\_ shares of common stock in this offering, assuming a public offering price of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per share (which is the midpoint of the range set forth on the cover of this prospectus), are estimated to be \$ \_\_\_\_\_ million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses. The net proceeds would be \$ \_\_\_\_\_ million if the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full. We intend to use proceeds from this offering to fund our exploration and development activities and for general corporate purposes, which may include leasehold interest and property acquisitions and working capital. Pending application of the net proceeds for such purposes, we intend to repay outstanding borrowings under our revolving credit facility with BNP Paribas.

All borrowings under our revolving credit facility will be due and payable on October 14, 2014. As of December 31, 2011, \$85.0 million was outstanding under our revolving credit facility and bore interest at a weighted average rate of 3.3% per annum. The amounts initially borrowed under our revolving credit facility were used to repay in full the outstanding indebtedness under our prior credit facility and for general corporate purposes. After giving effect to this offering and the application of the net proceeds therefrom to repay borrowings under our revolving credit facility, based on the assumed public offering price of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per share, we would have \$ \_\_\_\_\_ million available for future borrowing under our revolving credit facility.

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling stockholder, including any sale the selling stockholder may make upon exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option.

**DIVIDEND POLICY**

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our capital stock. We currently intend to retain all available funds and any future earnings for use in the operation and expansion of our business and do not anticipate declaring or paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Any future determination as to the declaration and payment of dividends will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on then-existing conditions, including our financial condition, results of operations, contractual restrictions, capital requirements, business prospects and other factors that our board of directors considers relevant. In addition, the terms of our revolving credit facility restrict the payment of dividends to the holders of our common stock and any other equity holders.



**Table of Contents****CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and capitalization as of September 30, 2011:

on an actual basis;

on a pro forma basis to give effect to the issuance of \_\_\_\_\_ shares of our common stock to an affiliate of Wexford in exchange for its contribution to us of all the outstanding equity interests in Windsor Permian LLC in the transaction by which Windsor Permian will become our wholly-owned subsidiary prior to the completion of this offering; and

on a pro forma basis described above as adjusted to give effect to the sale of shares of our common stock in this offering at an assumed initial public offering price of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per share (which is the midpoint of the range set forth on the cover of this prospectus), our receipt of an estimated \$ million of net proceeds from this offering after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses and the use of a portion of those proceeds to repay outstanding borrowings as described under the caption *Use of Proceeds*.

You should read the following table in conjunction with *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* and our consolidated financial statements and related notes appearing elsewhere in this prospectus.

	As of September 30, 2011		
	Actual <sup>(1)</sup>	Pro Forma (in thousands)	Pro Forma As Adjusted <sup>(2)</sup>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,218	\$	\$
Long term debt (including current maturities)	\$ 80,000	\$	\$
Member's equity	115,019		
Stockholder's equity:			
Common stock, par value \$0.01; 100 shares authorized and _____ shares issued and outstanding actual; _____ shares authorized and _____ shares issued and outstanding as adjusted for the offering			
Additional paid-in capital			
Accumulated deficit <sup>(3)</sup>			
Total stockholder's equity			
Total capitalization	\$ 195,019	\$	\$

- (1) Diamondback Energy, Inc. was incorporated on December 30, 2011 in Delaware as a holding company and will not conduct any material business operations prior to the completion of the offering. The data in this table has been derived from the historical consolidated financial statements and other financial information included in this prospectus which pertain to the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of Windsor Permian LLC. Immediately prior to the completion of this offering, Windsor Permian LLC will become our wholly-owned subsidiary.
- (2) A \$1.00 increase (decrease) in the assumed initial public offering price of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per share (which is the midpoint of the range set forth on the cover of this prospectus) would increase (decrease) each of cash and cash equivalents, additional paid-in-capital and total capitalization by \$ \_\_\_\_\_, assuming the number of shares offered by us, as set forth on the cover page of this prospectus, remains the same and after deducting the estimated underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

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- (3) Upon completion of this offering, we will recognize deferred tax liabilities and assets for temporary differences between the historical cost basis and tax basis of these assets and liabilities. Based on estimates of those temporary differences as of September 30, 2011, a net deferred tax liability of approximately \$23.6 million will be recognized with a corresponding charge to earnings.

**Table of Contents****DILUTION**

Our reported net tangible book value as of September 30, 2011 was \$       million, or \$       per share, based upon shares outstanding as of that date after giving pro forma effect to the contribution of all of the outstanding equity interests in Windsor Permian LLC to us. Net tangible book value per share is determined by dividing such number of outstanding shares of common stock into our net tangible book value, which is our total tangible assets less total liabilities. Assuming the sale by us of       shares of common stock offered in this offering at an estimated initial public offering price of \$       per share (which is the midpoint of the range set forth on the cover of this prospectus) and after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us, our net tangible book value as of September 30, 2011 would have been approximately \$       million, or \$       per share, after giving pro forma effect to the contribution of all of the outstanding equity interests in Windsor Permian LLC to us. This represents an immediate increase in net tangible book value of \$       per share to our existing stockholders and an immediate dilution of \$       per share to new investors purchasing shares at the initial public offering price.

The following table illustrates the per share dilution:

Assumed initial public offering price per share	\$
Pro forma net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2011	\$
Increase per share attributable to new investors	\$
As adjusted net tangible book value per share after the offering	\$
Dilution per share to new investors	\$

A \$1.00 increase (decrease) in the assumed initial public offering price of \$       per share (which is the midpoint of the range set forth in the cover of this prospectus) would increase (decrease) our net tangible book value after the offering by \$       , and increase (decrease) the dilution to new investors by \$       , assuming the number of shares offered by us, as set forth on the cover page of this prospectus, remains the same and after deducting the estimated underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

The following table sets forth, as of September 30, 2011, after giving pro forma effect to the contribution by DB Holdings to us of all of the outstanding equity interests in Windsor Permian LLC, the number of shares of common stock to be issued by us in the contribution to DB Holdings, which will be our existing stockholder immediately prior to this offering, and by the new investors at the assumed initial public offering price of \$       per share, together with the total consideration paid and average price per share paid by each of these groups, before deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses.

	Shares Purchased		Total Consideration		Average Price
	Number	Percent	Amount	Percent	Per Share
Existing stockholder		%	\$	%	\$
New investors		%		%	
Total		100.0%	\$	100.0%	\$

If the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full, the number of shares held by new investors will be increased to       , or approximately       % of the total number of shares of common stock.

The data in the table excludes       shares of common stock reserved for issuance under our equity incentive plan.

**Table of Contents****SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following selected historical consolidated financial data as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2010 are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. The selected consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2008 and the selected historical consolidated financial data for the period from inception on October 23, 2007 to December 31, 2007 are derived from our audited financial statements not included in this prospectus. The selected consolidated data as of September 30, 2011 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 are derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in the prospectus. The selected consolidated balance sheet data as of September 30, 2010 are derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statement not included in this prospectus. The unaudited pro forma data presented gives effect to income taxes assuming that the Company operated as a taxable corporation throughout the periods presented. Operating results for the periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 and December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 are not necessarily indicative of results that may be expected for the entire year 2011 or any future periods. You should review this information together with *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* and our historical consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this prospectus.

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Year Ended December 31,			Period from Inception (October 23, 2007) to December 31, 2007
	2011	2010	2010	2009	2008	
<b>Statement of Operations Data:</b>						
Oil and natural gas revenues	\$ 33,009,540	\$ 18,412,122	\$ 26,441,927	\$ 12,716,011	\$ 18,238,692	\$ 578,336
Other income	1,490,910	529,477	811,247			
Expenses:						
Lease operating expense	7,403,582	2,605,756	4,588,559	2,366,623	3,375,419	25,684
Production taxes	1,628,824	938,493	1,346,879	663,068	1,008,991	136,077
Gathering and transportation	138,603	71,789	105,870	42,091	53,407	2,637
Oil and natural gas services	1,732,892	529,477	811,247			
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	11,121,485	3,890,272	8,145,143	3,215,891	10,199,581	138,066
Impairment of oil and gas properties					83,164,230	
General and administrative	2,176,427	1,843,936	3,051,627	5,062,618	5,459,874	6,609
Asset retirement obligation accretion expense	45,278	28,857	37,856	27,934	23,569	514
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>24,247,091</b>	<b>9,908,580</b>	<b>18,087,181</b>	<b>11,378,225</b>	<b>103,285,071</b>	<b>309,587</b>
Income (loss) from operations	10,253,359	9,033,019	9,165,993	1,337,786	(85,046,379)	268,749
Other income (expense):						
Interest expense	(1,814,932)	(349,961)	(836,265)	(10,938)		
Interest income	9,169	21,294	34,474	35,075	625,086	23,581
Loss on derivative contracts	(35,403)	(146,722)	(147,983)	(4,068,005)	(9,528,220)	(4,791,587)
<b>Total other expense</b>	<b>(1,841,166)</b>	<b>(475,389)</b>	<b>(949,774)</b>	<b>(4,043,868)</b>	<b>(8,903,134)</b>	<b>(4,768,006)</b>
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>\$ 8,412,193</b>	<b>\$ 8,557,630</b>	<b>\$ 8,216,219</b>	<b>\$ (2,706,082)</b>	<b>\$ (93,949,513)</b>	<b>\$ (4,499,257)</b>
<b>Pro Forma C Corporation Data:</b> <sup>(1)(2)</sup>						
Historical net income (loss) before income taxes	\$ 8,412,193	\$ 8,557,630	\$ 8,216,219	\$ (2,706,082)	\$ (93,949,513)	\$ (4,499,257)
Pro forma for income taxes, net of valuation allowance						
<b>Pro forma net income (loss)</b>	<b>\$ 8,412,193</b>	<b>\$ 8,557,630</b>	<b>\$ 8,216,219</b>	<b>\$ (2,706,082)</b>	<b>\$ (93,949,513)</b>	<b>\$ (4,499,257)</b>

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Pro forma income (loss) per common share  
basic and diluted

\$

\$

Weighted average pro forma shares  
outstanding basic and diluted

**Table of Contents**

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Year Ended December 31,			Period from Inception (October 23, 2007) to December 31, 2007
	2011	2010	2010	2009	2008	
<b>Selected Cash Flow and Other Financial Data:</b>						
Net income (loss)	\$ 8,412,193	\$ 8,557,630	\$ 8,216,219	\$ (2,706,082)	\$ (93,949,513)	\$ (4,499,257)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	11,623,974	3,890,272	8,145,143	3,215,891	10,199,581	138,066
Other non-cash items	552,051	260,078	344,461	4,108,464	92,716,019	4,792,101
Change in operating assets and liabilities	(6,547,952)	(7,564,221)	(11,529,999)	(1,916,707)	3,076,317	(2,448,557)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	\$ 14,040,266	\$ 5,143,759	\$ 5,175,824	\$ 2,701,566	\$ 12,042,404	\$ (2,017,647)
Net cash used in investing activities	\$ (50,489,868)	\$ (40,694,113)	\$ (53,134,641)	\$ (32,149,617)	\$ (84,196,562)	\$ (86,863,149)
Net cash provided by financing activities	\$ 35,577,940	\$ 36,717,561	\$ 49,618,254	\$ 23,849,250	\$ 80,182,600	\$ 88,881,463
	<b>As of September 30,</b>	<b>As of September 30,</b>	<b>As of September 30,</b>	<b>As of December 31,</b>	<b>As of December 31,</b>	<b>As of December 31,</b>
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Balance sheet data:</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,218,083	\$ 3,597,515	\$ 4,089,745	\$ 2,430,308	\$ 8,029,109	\$ 667
Other current assets	29,445,820	22,413,103	20,947,659	2,263,097	1,389,810	2,489,231
Oil and gas properties, net using full cost method of accounting	186,023,060	123,966,343	135,782,510	89,777,517	73,786,284	83,375,502
Well equipment to be used in development of oil and gas properties				5,413,310	8,503,178	
Other property and equipment, net	4,774,839	8,540,392	11,059,220	105,564	161,103	
Other assets	6,737,442	111,842	637,562	82,813		
Total assets	\$ 230,199,244	\$ 158,629,195	\$ 172,516,696	\$ 100,072,609	\$ 91,869,484	\$ 85,865,400
Current liabilities	\$ 32,690,918	\$ 43,200,639	\$ 20,010,276	\$ 13,972,080	\$ 18,011,452	\$ 126,757
Note payable credit facility-long term	80,000,000		44,766,687			
Derivative contracts	1,470,351	1,497,840	1,373,864	1,416,431	2,868,452	1,141,587
Asset retirement obligations	1,018,553	638,453	727,826	481,887	374,287	214,850
Members equity	115,019,422	113,292,263	105,638,043	84,202,211	70,615,293	84,382,206
Total liabilities and members equity	\$ 230,199,244	\$ 158,629,195	\$ 172,516,696	\$ 100,072,609	\$ 91,869,484	\$ 85,865,400
	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>	<b>Period from Inception (October 23, 2007) to December 31, 2007</b>
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Other financial data:</b>						
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 21,688,477	\$ 12,973,442	\$ 17,383,466	\$ 4,616,686	\$ 8,966,087	\$ 430,910

(1) Diamondback Energy, Inc. was incorporated on December 30, 2011 in Delaware as a holding company and will not conduct any material business operations prior to the transaction described below. The historical consolidated financial statements and other financial information included in this prospectus pertain to assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of Windsor Permian LLC, which is an entity controlled by our equity sponsor, Wexford. Windsor Permian LLC was treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. As a result, essentially all

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of our taxable earnings and losses were passed through to Wexford, and we did not pay federal income taxes at the entity level. Prior to the completion of this offering, Windsor Permian LLC will become our wholly-owned subsidiary and we will be taxed as a C corporation. For comparative purposes, we have included a pro forma for income taxes net of valuation allowance assuming we had been taxed as a C corporation in all periods presented in the accompanying table. If we were a taxable C corporation during the periods

**Table of Contents**

presented herein, we would have incurred net operating losses in each period presented. We would have been in a net deferred tax asset, or DTA, position as a result of such tax losses and would have recorded a valuation allowance to reduce each period's DTA balance to zero. A valuation allowance to reduce each period's DTA would have resulted in an equal and offsetting credit for the respective expenses or an equal and offsetting debit for the respective benefits for income taxes, with the resulting tax expenses for each of the above periods of zero. The unaudited pro forma data is presented for informational purposes only, and does not purport to project our results of operations for any future period or our financial position as of any future date.

- (2) Unaudited pro forma basic and diluted income (loss) per share will be presented for the latest fiscal year and interim period on the basis of the shares to be issued to DB Holdings in connection with its contribution to us of all of the outstanding equity interests in Windsor Permian LLC to us, upon determination of the number of those shares.
- (3) Adjusted EBITDA is a supplemental non-GAAP financial measure that is used by management and external users of our financial statements, such as industry analysts, investors, lenders and rating agencies. We define Adjusted EBITDA as net income (loss) before loss on derivative contracts, interest expense, depreciation, depletion and amortization, impairment of oil and gas properties, non-cash equity based compensation and asset retirement obligation accretion expense. Adjusted EBITDA is not a measure of net income (loss) as determined by United States generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP. Management believes Adjusted EBITDA is useful because it allows it to more effectively evaluate our operating performance and compare the results of our operations from period to period without regard to our financing methods or capital structure. We exclude the items listed above from net income (loss) in arriving at Adjusted EBITDA because these amounts can vary substantially from company to company within our industry depending upon accounting methods and book values of assets, capital structures and the method by which the assets were acquired. Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered as an alternative to, or more meaningful than, net income (loss) as determined in accordance with GAAP or as an indicator of our operating performance or liquidity. Certain items excluded from Adjusted EBITDA are significant components in understanding and assessing a company's financial performance, such as a company's cost of capital and tax structure, as well as the historic costs of depreciable assets, none of which are components of Adjusted EBITDA. Our computations of Adjusted EBITDA may not be comparable to other similarly titled measure of other companies or to such measure in our credit facility.

The following tables present a reconciliation of the non-GAAP financial measure of Adjusted EBITDA to the GAAP financial measure of net income (loss).

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Year Ended December 31,			Period from Inception (October 23, 2007) to December 31, 2007
	2011	2010	2010	2009	2008	
<b>Reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to net income (loss):</b>						
Net income (loss)	\$ 8,412,193	\$ 8,557,630	\$ 8,216,219	\$ (2,706,082)	\$ (93,949,513)	\$ (4,499,257)
Loss on derivative contracts	35,403	146,722	147,983	4,068,005	9,528,220	4,791,587
Interest expense	1,814,932	349,961	836,265	10,938		
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	11,121,485	3,890,272	8,145,143	3,215,891	10,199,581	138,066
Impairment of oil and gas properties					83,164,230	
Equity-based compensation expense	259,186					
Asset retirement obligation accretion expense	45,278	28,857	37,856	27,934	23,569	514
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>\$ 21,688,477</b>	<b>\$ 12,973,442</b>	<b>\$ 17,383,466</b>	<b>\$ 4,616,686</b>	<b>\$ 8,966,087</b>	<b>\$ 430,910</b>



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**Table of Contents**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF  
FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

*The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the Selected Historical Consolidated Financial Data and the combined financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this prospectus. This discussion contains forward-looking statements reflecting our current expectations and estimates and assumptions concerning events and financial trends that may affect our future operating results or financial position. Actual results and the timing of events may differ materially from those contained in these forward-looking statements due to a number of factors, including those discussed in the sections entitled Risk Factors and Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements appearing elsewhere in this prospectus.*

**Overview**

We are an independent oil and natural gas company focused on the acquisition, development, exploration and exploitation of unconventional, long-life, onshore oil and natural gas reserves in the Permian Basin in West Texas. We intend to grow our reserves and production through development drilling, exploitation and exploration activities on our multi-year inventory of identified drilling locations and through acquisitions that meet our strategic and financial objectives, targeting oil-weighted reserves.

We intend to increase stockholder value by profitably growing reserves and production, primarily through drilling operations. We seek high quality exploration and development projects with potential for providing long-term drilling inventories that generate high returns. Substantially all of our revenues are generated through the sale of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas production. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, our production was approximately 74% oil, 15% natural gas liquids and 11% natural gas.

We began operations in December 2007 with our acquisition of certain strategic oil and gas properties located in the Permian Basin of West Texas from ExL Petroleum, LP, Ambrose Energy I, Ltd. and certain other sellers for approximately \$85.0 million. The acquisition was completed on December 20, 2007, effective as of November 1, 2007. Through this transaction, we acquired 4,174 net acres with production at the time of acquisition of approximately 800 net barrels of oil equivalent, or BOE, a day from 32 gross (16 net) wells. Subsequently, we acquired approximately 23,972 additional net acres, which brought our total net acreage position in the Permian Basin to approximately 28,146 net acres at December 31, 2011. Since our initial acquisition in the Permian Basin through December 31, 2011, 132 gross (81 net) wells have been drilled on our acreage in this area, primarily targeting the Wolfberry play. We are the operator of approximately 97% of our Permian Basin acreage.

We increased our initial leasehold position through the following acquisitions in the Wolfberry play for an aggregate net cost of \$41.2 million.

In 2008, we acquired 6,240 net acres at the Spanish Trail and Munn prospects in Midland County, Texas through eleven leases and one mineral deed, with 5,146 net acres attributable to one lease;

Commencing in 2008 and ending in 2010, we acquired leases at the Barron prospect in Midland County, Texas covering 225 net acres;

Commencing in 2008 and ending in 2011, we acquired leases at the Gist prospect in Ector County, Texas covering 1,404 net acres;

In 2008, 2009 and 2011, we acquired 35 leases at the UL prospect in Andrews and Upton Counties, Texas covering a total of 9,967 net acres;

Beginning in 2008, we acquired 17 leases at the Hurt/WHL prospect in Ector County, Texas covering 2,779 net acres;

## **Table of Contents**

In 2009, we acquired one lease at the Cumberland prospect located in Midland County, Texas covering 207 net acres;

In 2010, we acquired 35 leases at the North Howard prospect located in Howard County, Texas covering 1,406 net acres;

In 2010, we acquired 912 net acres at the Sabo prospect in Upton County, Texas; and

In 2010 and 2011, we acquired 150 leases at the Big Max prospect located in Andrews County, Texas covering 825 net acres. Diamondback Energy, Inc. was incorporated in Delaware on December 30, 2011 as a holding company and will not conduct any material business operations prior to the transaction described below. The financial statements and other financial information included in this prospectus pertain to assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of Windsor Permian LLC, which is an entity controlled by our equity sponsor, Wexford. Prior to the closing of this offering, Wexford will cause DB Holdings, an entity controlled by Wexford, to contribute all of the outstanding equity interests in Windsor Permian LLC to us in exchange for \_\_\_\_\_ shares of our common stock. Windsor Permian LLC will become our wholly-owned subsidiary.

Since we began operations, we have increased our drilling activity, evaluated potential acquisitions and added to our acreage portfolio. Because of our growth through acquisitions and development of our properties, our historical results of operations and period-to-period comparisons of these results and certain financial data may not be meaningful or indicative of future results.

Like all oil and natural gas exploration and production companies, we face the challenge of natural production declines. As initial reservoir pressures are depleted, oil and natural gas production from a given well naturally decreases. Thus, an oil and natural gas exploration and production company depletes part of its asset base with each unit of oil or natural gas it produces. We attempt to overcome this natural decline by drilling to find additional reserves and acquiring more reserves than we produce. Our future growth will depend on our ability to continue to add reserves in excess of production. We will maintain our focus on managing costs associated with drilling and the development and production of reserves. Our ability to add reserves through drilling is dependent on our capital resources and can be limited by many factors, including our ability to timely obtain drilling permits and regulatory approvals. We expect the permitting and approval process to become more difficult with increased activism from environmental and other groups which may extend the time it takes us to receive permits. Because of our relatively small size and concentrated property base, we can be disproportionately disadvantaged by delays in obtaining or failing to obtain drilling approvals compared to companies with larger or more dispersed property bases. As a result, we are less able to shift drilling activities to areas where permitting may be easier and we have fewer properties over which to spread the costs related to complying with these regulations and the costs or foregone opportunities resulting from delays.

### **Reserves and pricing**

In December 2008, the SEC released the final rule for Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting. Among other changes, the final rule requires us to report oil and natural gas reserves and calculate the full cost ceiling value using the unweighted arithmetic average first-day-of-the-month oil and natural gas prices during the 12-month period ending in the reporting period. The prior SEC rule required using prices at period end. The requirements of this standard became effective for the year ended December 31, 2009. These revisions and requirements affect the comparability between reporting periods prior to and after the year ended December 31, 2009 for reserve volume and value estimates, full cost pool write-down calculations and the calculations of depletion of oil and gas assets.

**Table of Contents**

In the table below, Ryder Scott estimated all of our proved reserves at December 31, 2011 and Pinnacle estimated all of our proved reserves at December 31, 2010 and 2009. The prices used to estimate proved reserves for all periods did not give effect to derivative transactions, were held constant throughout the life of the properties and have been adjusted for quality, transportation fees, geographical differentials, marketing bonuses or deductions and other factors affecting the price received at the wellhead.

	2011	2010	2009
<b>Estimated Net Proved Reserves:</b>			
Oil (Bbls)	16,716,867	18,819,050	29,230,940
Natural gas (Mcf)	19,618,867	21,662,720	27,481,820
Natural gas liquids (Bbls)	4,763,273	5,563,978	7,522,225
Total (BOE)	24,749,951	27,993,481	41,333,468

	2011	2010	2009
	Unweighted Arithmetic Average First-Day-of-the-Month Prices		
Oil (Bbls)	\$ 93.09	\$ 77.61	\$ 58.84
Natural gas (Mcf)	\$ 3.91	\$ 4.14	\$ 3.64
Natural gas liquids (Bbls)	\$ 56.33	\$ 40.74	\$ 29.37

Prices for oil and natural gas can fluctuate widely in response to relatively minor changes in the global and regional supply of and demand for oil and natural gas, market uncertainty, economic conditions and a variety of additional factors. Since the inception of our oil and natural gas activities, commodity prices have experienced significant fluctuations, and additional changes in commodity prices may significantly affect the economic viability of drilling projects, as well as the economic valuation and economic recovery of oil and gas reserves.

**Sources of our revenue**

Our revenues are derived from the sale of oil and natural gas production, as well as the sale of natural gas liquids that are extracted from our natural gas during processing. Our oil and natural gas revenues do not include the effects of derivatives. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, our revenues were derived 84% from oil sales, 9% from natural gas liquids sales, 3% from natural gas sales and 4% from oil and natural gas services. Our revenues may vary significantly from period to period as a result of changes in volumes of production sold or changes in commodity prices. Oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas prices have historically been volatile. For example, during the past five years, the West Texas Intermediate posted price for crude oil has ranged from a low of \$30.28 per Bbl in December 2008 to a high of \$145.31 per Bbl in July 2008. The Henry Hub spot market price of natural gas has ranged from a low of \$1.83 per MMBtu in September 2009 to a high of \$15.52 per MMBtu in January 2006. In the first nine months of 2011, West Texas Intermediate prices have ranged from \$88.00 to \$110.00 per Bbl for oil and wellhead natural gas market prices have ranged from \$3.90 to \$4.23 per Mcf. On December 31, 2011, the West Texas Intermediate posted price for crude oil was \$98.83 per Bbl and the Henry Hub spot market price of natural gas was \$3.025 per MMBtu.

To achieve more predictable cash flow and to reduce our exposure to adverse fluctuations in commodity prices, from time-to-time we enter into derivative arrangements for our crude oil and natural gas production. We utilize commodity derivatives to reduce our exposure to fluctuations in NYMEX WTI benchmark prices. While these derivative contracts stabilize our cash flows when market prices are below our contract prices, they also prevent us from realizing increases in our cash flow when market prices are higher than our contract prices. We will sustain realized and unrealized losses to the extent our derivatives contract prices are lower than market prices and, conversely, we will sustain realized and unrealized gains to the extent our derivatives contract prices are higher than market prices. Our derivatives contracts are not designated as accounting hedges and, as a result, gains or losses on derivatives contracts are recorded as other income (expense) in our statements of operations.

**Principal components of our cost structure**

*Lease operating and natural gas transportation and treating expenses.* These are daily costs incurred to bring oil and natural gas out of the ground and to the market, together with the daily costs incurred to maintain

## **Table of Contents**

our producing properties. Such costs also include maintenance, repairs and workover expenses related to our oil and natural gas properties.

*Production taxes.* Production taxes are paid on produced oil and natural gas based on a percentage of revenues from products sold at fixed rates established by federal, state or local taxing authorities. Where available, we benefit from tax credits and exemptions in our various taxing jurisdictions. We are also subject to ad valorem taxes in the counties where our production is located. Ad valorem taxes are generally based on the valuation of our oil and gas properties.

*General and administrative.* These are costs incurred for overhead, including payroll and benefits for our corporate staff, costs of maintaining our headquarters, costs of managing our production and development operations, franchise taxes, audit and other fees for professional services and legal compliance.

*Depreciation, depletion and amortization.* Under the full cost accounting method, we capitalize costs within a cost center and then systematically expense those costs on a units of production basis based on proved oil and natural gas reserve quantities. We calculate depletion on the following types of costs: (i) all capitalized costs, other than the cost of investments in unproved properties and major development projects for which proved reserves cannot yet be assigned, less accumulated amortization; (ii) the estimated future expenditures to be incurred in developing proved reserves; and (iii) the estimated dismantlement and abandonment costs, net of estimated salvage values. We calculate depreciation on the cost of fixed assets related to other fixed assets.

*Impairment expense.* This is the cost to reduce proved oil and gas properties to the calculated full cost ceiling value.

### **Other income (expense)**

*Interest income.* This represents the interest received on our cash and cash equivalents.

*Interest expense.* We finance a portion of our working capital requirements, capital expenditures and acquisitions with borrowings under our credit facility. We incur interest expense that is affected by both fluctuations in interest rates and our financing decisions. We reflect interest paid to our lender in interest expense. In addition, we include the amortization of deferred financing costs (including origination and amendment fees), commitment fees and annual agency fees in interest expense.

*Loss on derivative contracts.* We utilize commodity derivative financial instruments to reduce our exposure to fluctuations in the price of crude oil. This amount represents (i) the recognition of unrealized gains and losses associated with our open derivative contracts as commodity prices change and commodity derivative contracts expire or new ones are entered into, and (ii) our realized gains and losses on the settlement of these commodity derivative instruments.

*Income from equity investment.* This line item represents our proportionate share of the earnings and losses from our investment in the membership interests of Bison Drilling and Field Services LLC, an equity method investment.

*Income tax expense.* As of September 30, 2011, we were a limited liability company treated as a disregarded entity for federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, no provision for federal or state corporate income taxes has been provided for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 or prior fiscal years because taxable income is allocated directly to our equity holders. Prior to the completion of this offering, Windsor Permian LLC will become our wholly-owned subsidiary and we, as a C corporation, will be subject to federal and state entity-level taxation. We will establish a net deferred tax liability for differences between the tax and book basis of our assets and liabilities, and we will record a corresponding first day tax expense to net income from continuing operations. On a pro forma basis, at September 30, 2011 the amount of this charge would have been \$23.6 million.

**Table of Contents****Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth selected operating data for the periods indicated.

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2010	2009	2008
	(unaudited)				
<b>Operating Results:</b>					
Revenues					
Oil and natural gas revenues	\$ 33,009,540	\$ 18,412,122	\$ 26,441,927	\$ 12,716,011	\$ 18,238,692
Other income	1,490,910	529,477	811,247		
Operating expenses					
Lease operating expense	7,403,582	2,605,756	4,588,559	2,366,623	3,375,419
Production taxes	1,628,824	938,493	1,346,879	663,068	1,008,991
Gathering and transportation expense	138,603	71,789	105,870	42,091	53,407
Oil and natural gas services	1,732,892	529,477	811,247		
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	11,121,485	3,890,272	8,145,143	3,215,891	10,199,581
Impairment of oil and gas properties					83,164,230
General and administrative	2,176,427	1,843,936	3,051,627	5,062,618	5,459,874
Asset retirement obligation accretion expense	45,278	28,857	37,856	27,934	23,569
Total expenses	24,247,091	9,908,580	18,087,181	11,378,225	103,285,071
Income (loss) from operations	\$ 10,253,359	\$ 9,033,019	\$ 9,165,993	\$ 1,337,786	\$ (85,046,379)
Net interest income (expense)	(1,805,763)	(328,667)	(801,791)	24,137	625,086
Loss on derivative contracts	(35,403)	(146,722)	(147,983)	(4,068,005)	(9,528,220)
Net income (loss)	\$ 8,412,193	\$ 8,557,630	\$ 8,216,219	\$ (2,706,082)	\$ (93,949,513)
<b>Production Data:</b>					
Oil (Bbls)	307,179	196,219	280,721	168,741	138,563
Natural gas (Mcf)	274,432	233,404	323,847	253,321	240,238
Natural gas liquids (Bbls)	61,671	58,176	79,978	70,384	62,246
Combined volumes (BOE)	414,589	293,296	414,674	281,345	240,849
Daily combined volumes (BOE/d)	1,519	1,074	1,136	771	660
<b>Average Prices:</b>					
Oil (per Bbl)	\$ 93.15	\$ 75.94	\$ 76.51	\$ 58.01	\$ 94.71
Natural gas (per Mcf)	4.10	4.55	4.32	3.64	7.64
Natural gas liquids (per Bbls)	53.06	42.12	44.56	28.49	52.71
Combined (per BOE)	79.62	62.78	63.77	45.20	75.73
<b>Average Costs (per BOE):</b>					
Lease operating expense	\$ 17.86	\$ 8.88	\$ 11.07	\$ 8.41	\$ 14.01
Gathering and transportation expense	0.33	0.24	0.26	0.15	0.22
Production taxes	3.93	3.20	3.25	2.36	4.19
Production taxes as a % of sales	4.9%	5.1%	5.1%	5.2%	5.5%
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	26.83	13.26	19.64	11.43	42.35
General and administrative	5.25	6.29	7.36	17.99	22.67

**Table of Contents****Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010**

**Oil, Natural Gas Liquids and Natural Gas Revenues.** Our oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas revenues increased by approximately \$14.6 million, or 79%, to \$33.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 from \$18.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. Our revenues are a function of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas production volumes sold and average sales prices received for those volumes. Average daily production sold increased by 445 BOE during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 as compared to the same period in 2010. The total increase in revenue of approximately \$14.6 million is largely attributable to higher oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas production volumes and an increase in the prices of oil and natural gas liquids realized for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2010. Production increased by 110,960 Bbls of oil, 3,495 Bbls of natural gas liquids and 41,028 Mcf of natural gas for the first nine months of 2011 as compared to the first nine months of 2010. The net dollar effect of the increase in prices of approximately \$5.8 million (calculated as the change in year-to-year average prices times current year production volumes of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas) and the net dollar effect of the increase in production of approximately \$8.8 million (calculated as the increase in year-to-year volumes for oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas times the prior year average prices) are shown below.

	Change in prices	Production volumes at September 30, 2011 <sup>(1)</sup>	Total net dollar effect of change (in thousands)
Effect of changes in price:			
Oil	\$ 17.21	307,179	\$ 5,287
Natural gas liquids	\$ 10.94	61,671	\$ 675
Natural gas	\$ (0.45)	274,432	(123)
Total revenues due to change in price			\$ 5,839
	Change in production volumes <sup>(1)</sup>	Prices at September 30, 2010	Total net dollar effect of change (in thousands)
Effect of changes in volumes:			
Oil	110,960	\$ 75.94	\$ 8,426
Natural gas liquids	3,495	\$ 42.12	\$ 147
Natural gas	41,028	\$ 4.55	\$ 186
Total revenues due to change in volumes			\$ 8,759
Total change in revenues			\$ 14,598

(1) Production volumes are presented in Bbls for oil and natural gas liquids and in Mcf for natural gas.

**Lease Operating Expense.** Lease operating expense was \$7.4 million (\$17.86 per BOE) for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, an increase of \$4.8 million, or 185%, from \$2.6 million (\$8.88 per BOE) for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increase is due to increased drilling activity, which resulted in additional producing wells for the first nine months of 2011 as compared to the first nine months of 2010. On a per-BOE basis, the increase is due to cost increases in services and supplies (primarily as a result of higher demand for such services and supplies in the Permian Basin and higher commodity prices), the cost of repairing and replacing downhole equipment due to rod and tubing configurations and pumping practices that resulted in a higher rate of well failures during the 2011 period and the associated downtime and loss of production as these failures were remediated. Our new executive team has aggressively addressed the cause of these well failures and our well failure rate was reduced significantly in the fourth quarter of 2011 as compared to the third quarter of 2011. Our lease operating expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was also adversely impacted by the cost of processing and treating non-hydrocarbon gases from certain of our wells that came on line in 2011.

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**Table of Contents**

The \$200,000 per month processing cost was necessary to meet pipeline specifications. During the second quarter of 2012, we intend to complete both oil and water gathering systems that will transport this gas stream to a sour gas pipeline, thereby eliminating the monthly processing and treating expense, and reduce water trucking, respectively. We believe that our reduced well failure rate and the completion of the gathering systems will help reduce our lease operating expense on a per-BOE basis in future periods.

**Production Tax Expense.** Production taxes as a percentage of oil and natural gas sales were 4.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 as compared to 5.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. Production taxes are primarily based on the market value of our production at the wellhead and vary across the different counties in which we operate. Total production taxes increased \$0.7 million, or 77.8%, from \$0.9 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2010 to \$1.6 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 as a result of higher production and an increase in the market value of our production.

**Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization.** Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense increased \$7.2 million, or 184.6%, from \$3.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 to \$11.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The weighted average depletion rate was \$26.45 per BOE for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and \$11.40 per BOE for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The depletion rate increase was due primarily to an increase in costs and a decrease in proved reserves at September 30, 2011 for the reasons described in *Business Oil and Gas Data*.

**General and Administrative Expense.** General and administrative expense increased \$0.4 million from \$1.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 to \$2.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. A \$1.2 million increase primarily attributable to salary and equity based compensation expense for our new executive team was partially offset by the capitalization of \$0.4 million of such expense and a \$0.4 million increase in COPAS overhead payments due to increased drilling activity.

**Interest Expense.** Interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was \$1.8 million, as compared to \$0.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010, an increase of \$1.5 million. Our weighted average outstanding principal under our credit agreement was \$64.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 as compared to \$17.0 million for the 2010 period due to our increased drilling activity.

**Hedging Activities.** We have used price swap derivatives to reduce price volatility associated with certain of our oil sales. In these swaps, we received the fixed price per the contract and paid a floating market price to the counterparty based on New York Mercantile Exchange Light Sweet Crude Oil pricing. The fixed-price payment and the floating-price payment are offset, resulting in a net amount due to or from the counterparty. The counterparty to all of our derivative contracts as of September 30, 2011 is Hess Corporation, or Hess, which we believe is an acceptable credit risk.

All derivative financial instruments are recorded on our consolidated balance sheets at fair value. The fair value of swaps is generally determined using established index prices and other sources which are based upon, among other things, futures prices and time to maturity.

We enter into counter-swaps from time to time for the purpose of locking-in the value of a swap. Under the counter-swap, we receive a floating price for the hedged commodity and pay a fixed price to the counterparty. The counter-swap is effective in locking-in the value of a swap since subsequent changes in the market value of the swap are entirely offset by subsequent changes in the market value of the counter-swap.

In December 2007, we entered into a swap contract covering 1,680,000 Bbls of oil for the period from January 2008 through December 2012 at various fixed prices. In April 2008, we entered into a series of counter-swaps to lock-in the value of certain of these swaps settling 1,188,000 Bbls of oil swaps. In June 2009, we entered into an additional series of counter-swaps to lock-in the value of the remaining swaps settling 324,000 Bbls of oil swaps. We have not entered into any new swap contracts since the initial contract in December 2007. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, all swap contracts were locked-in with counter swaps.

**Table of Contents**

Set forth below are the summarized amounts, terms and fair values of the locked-in swaps from the April 2008 settlements as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010.

Description and Production Period	Volume (Bbls)	Original	Lock-in		September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
		Strike Price (per Bbl)	Price (per Bbl)		Fair Value Liability	Fair Value Liability
<b>Oil Swaps:</b>						
December 2010	22,000	\$ 82.80	\$ 99.45-103.20		\$	\$ 392,462
January August 2011	180,000	82.90	98.50 102.20			3,026,572
September December 2011	90,000	82.90	98.50 102.20		1,514,962	1,510,437
January December 2012	270,000	85.07	98.25 101.80		3,874,592	3,844,101

Set forth below are the summarized amounts, terms and fair values of the locked-in swaps from the June 2009 settlements as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010.

Description and Production Period	Volume (Bbls)	Original	Lock-in		September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
		Strike Price (per Bbl)	Price (per Bbl)		Fair Value Asset	Fair Value Asset
<b>Oil Swaps:</b>						
December 2010	8,000	82.80	75.00		\$	\$ 62,400
January August 2011	60,000	82.90	78.42			268,621
September December 2011	30,000	82.90	78.42		134,397	134,087
January December 2012	90,000	85.07	80.52		409,130	406,489

None of our derivatives have been designated as hedges. As such, all changes in fair value are immediately recognized in earnings. The following table summarizes the loss on derivative contracts included in our consolidated statements of operations as follows:

	Nine months ended September 30,	
	2011	2010
Loss on settlement of non-hedge derivative instruments	\$ 35,403	\$ 146,722

We are required to provide margin deposits whenever our unrealized losses with Hess exceed predetermined credit limits. We had a margin deposit held by Hess of \$3.4 million and \$6.5 million as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively, which earns interest that is remitted to us. As we have a master netting agreement with Hess, we have offset this margin deposit against its derivative positions.

On October 4, 2011, in an effort to lock in prices on the anticipated base level of production while at the same time providing downside protection for our borrowing base, we entered into swaps for calendar 2012 and 2013 of 1,000 barrels per day of West Texas Intermediate Light Sweet Crude Oil priced at \$78.50 and \$80.55, respectively.

**Year ended December 31, 2010 Compared to Year ended December 31, 2009**

**Oil, Natural Gas Liquids and Natural Gas Revenues.** Our oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas revenues increased by approximately \$13.7 million, or 108%, to \$26.4 million during the year ended December 31, 2010 from \$12.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2009. Our revenues are a function of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas production volumes sold and average sales prices received for those volumes. Average daily production sold increased by 365 BOE during the year ended December 31, 2010 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2009. The total increase in revenue of approximately \$13.7 million is largely attributable to higher oil, natural gas liquid and natural gas production volumes as well as an increase in oil, natural gas liquid and natural gas prices realized for the year ended December 31, 2010 as compared to year ended December 31, 2009.





**Table of Contents**

Production increased by 111,980 Bbls of oil, 9,594 Bbls of natural gas liquids and 70,526 Mcf of natural gas during 2010 as compared to 2009. The net dollar effect of the increase in prices of approximately \$6.7 million (calculated as the change in year-to-year average prices times current year production volumes for oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas) and the net dollar effect of the change in production of approximately \$7.0 million (calculated as the increase in year-to-year volumes for oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas times the prior year average prices) are shown below.

	Change in prices	Production volumes at December 31, 2010 <sup>(1)</sup>	Total net dollar effect of change (in thousands)
<b>Effect of changes in price:</b>			
Oil	\$ 18.50	280,721	\$ 5,193
Natural gas liquids	\$ 16.07	79,978	\$ 1,285
Natural gas	\$ 0.68	323,847	\$ 220
<b>Total revenues due to change in price</b>			<b>\$ 6,698</b>
	Change in production volumes <sup>(1)</sup>	Prices at December 31, 2009	Total net dollar effect of change (in thousands)
<b>Effect of changes in volumes:</b>			
Oil	111,980	\$ 58.01	\$ 6,496
Natural gas liquids	9,594	\$ 28.49	\$ 273
Natural gas	70,526	\$ 3.64	\$ 257
<b>Total revenues due to change in volumes</b>			<b>\$ 7,026</b>
<b>Total change in revenues</b>			<b>\$ 13,724</b>

(1) Production volumes are presented in Bbls for oil and natural gas liquids and in Mcf for natural gas.

**Lease Operating Expense.** Lease operating expense was \$4.6 million (\$11.07 per BOE) for the year ended December 31, 2010, an increase of \$2.2 million, or 92%, from \$2.4 million (\$8.41 per BOE) for the year ended December 31, 2009. The increase is due to increased drilling activity, which resulted in additional producing wells in 2010 as compared to 2009. On a per-BOE basis, the increase is due to cost increases in services and supplies, primarily as a result of the increased demand for such services and supplies in the Permian Basin, and increased commodity prices as well as additional well failure repairs coupled with downtime associated with the failures impacting production.

**Production Tax Expense.** Production taxes as a percentage of oil and natural gas sales were 5.1% for the year ended December 31, 2010 as compared to 5.2% for the year ended December 31, 2009. Production taxes are primarily based on the market value of our production at the wellhead and vary across the different counties in which we operate. Total production taxes increased \$0.6 million, or 86%, from \$0.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2009 to \$1.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2010 as a result of higher production and an increase in the market value of our production.

**Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization.** Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense increased \$4.9 million, or 153%, from \$3.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2009 to \$8.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. The weighted average depletion rate was \$11.21 per BOE in 2009 and \$17.78 per BOE in 2010. The higher depletion rate in 2010 was due primarily to downward reserve revisions due to undeveloped locations being scheduled for development beyond five years and thus being excluded from proved reserves.

On December 31, 2009, we adopted the new SEC rules related to disclosures of oil and natural gas reserves. As a result of these new SEC rules, we recorded additional proved reserves and utilized the additional proved reserves in our depletion computation for 2009. Our 2009 depletion expense rate was \$11.21 per BOE, which is lower in part due to these additional proved reserves.

**Table of Contents**

**General and Administrative Expense.** General and administrative expense decreased \$2.0 million, or 39%, from \$5.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2009 to \$3.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. This decrease was primarily due to a reduction in our labor force. As our capital expenditure programs result in increased production levels, we expect that general and administrative expense per unit of production will continue to decrease.

**Interest Expense.** Interest expense for 2010 was \$0.8 million as compared to an interest expense of \$0.01 million for 2009. During the year ended December 31, 2010, \$0.2 million of our interest was capitalized and our weighted average outstanding principal under our credit agreement was \$23.0 million, which was used primarily to fund our increased drilling program. During the year ended December 31, 2009, most of the interest was capitalized and our weighted average outstanding principal was \$6.7 million.

**Hedging Activities.** We have used price swap derivatives to reduce price volatility associated with certain of our oil sales. In these swaps, we received the fixed price per the contract and paid a floating market price to the counterparty based on New York Mercantile Exchange Light Sweet Crude Oil pricing. The fixed-price payment and the floating-price payment are offset, resulting in a net amount due to or from the counterparty. The counterparty to all of our derivative contracts is Hess, which we believe is an acceptable credit risk.

All derivative financial instruments are recorded on our consolidated balance sheets at fair value. The fair value of swaps is generally determined using established index prices and other sources which are based upon, among other things, futures prices and time to maturity.

We enter into counter-swaps from time to time for the purpose of locking-in the value of a swap. Under the counter-swap, we receive a floating price for the hedged commodity and pay a fixed price to the counterparty. The counter-swap is effective in locking-in the value of a swap since subsequent changes in the market value of the swap are entirely offset by subsequent changes in the market value of the counter-swap.

In December 2007, we entered into a swap contract covering 1,680,000 Bbls of oil for the period from January 2008 through December 2012 at various fixed prices. In April 2008, we entered into a series of counter-swaps to lock-in the value of certain of these swaps settling 1,188,000 Bbls of oil swaps. In June 2009, we entered into an additional series of counter-swaps to lock-in the value of the remaining swaps settling 324,000 Bbls of oil swaps. We have not entered into any new swap contracts since the initial contract in December 2007. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, all swap contracts were locked-in with counter swaps.

Set forth below are the summarized amounts, terms and fair values of the locked-in swaps from the April 2008 settlements as of December 31, 2010 and 2009.

Description and Production Period	Volume (Bbls)	Original Strike Price (per Bbl)	Lock-in Price (per Bbl)		December 31,	
					2010 Fair Value Liability	2009 Fair Value Liability
<b>Oil Swaps:</b>						
December 2009	22,000	\$ 83.75	\$ 102.25	105.90	\$	\$ 432,550
January - November 2010	242,000	82.80	99.45	103.20		4,312,111
December 2010	22,000	82.80	99.45	103.20	392,462	390,714
January - December 2011	270,000	82.90	98.50	102.20	4,537,009	4,485,047
January - December 2012	270,000	85.07	98.25	101.80	3,844,101	3,737,855

**Table of Contents**

Set forth below are the summarized amounts, terms and fair values of the locked-in swaps from the June 2009 settlements as of December 31, 2010 and 2009.

Description and Production Period	Volume (Bbls)	Original Strike Price (per Bbl)	Lock-in Price (per Bbl)	December 31,	
				2010 Fair Value Asset	2009 Fair Value Asset
<b>Oil Swaps:</b>					
December 2009	8,000	\$ 83.75	\$ 71.03	\$	\$ 101,757
January - November 2010	88,000	82.80	75.00		685,405
December 2010	8,000	82.80	75.00	62,400	62,108
January - December 2011	90,000	82.90	78.42	402,708	397,880
January - December 2012	90,000	85.07	80.52	406,489	394,696

None of our derivatives have been designated as hedges. As such, all changes in fair value are immediately recognized in earnings. The following summarizes the loss on derivative contracts included in the consolidated statements of operations as follows:

	Years ended December 31,	
	2010	2009
Unrealized loss on locked-in non-hedge derivative instruments	\$	\$ 1,297,979
Loss on settlement of non-hedge derivative instruments	147,983	2,770,026
<b>Loss on derivative contracts</b>	<b>\$ 147,983</b>	<b>\$ 4,068,005</b>

We are required to provide margin deposits whenever our unrealized losses with Hess exceed predetermined credit limits. We had a margin deposit held by Hess of \$6.5 million and \$10.3 million as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Interest earned on the deposit is remitted to us. As we have a master netting agreement with Hess, we have offset this margin deposit against derivative positions.

**Year ended December 31, 2009 Compared to Year ended December 31, 2008**

**Oil, Natural Gas Liquids and Natural Gas Revenues.** Our oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas revenue decreased by approximately \$5.5 million, or 30%, to \$12.7 million during the year ended December 31, 2009 from \$18.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2008. Our revenues are a function of oil, natural gas liquid and natural gas production volumes sold and average sales prices received for those volumes. Average daily production sold increased by 111 BOE during the year ended December 31, 2009 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2008. The total decrease in revenue of approximately \$5.5 million is largely attributable to lower commodity prices being realized for the year ended December 31, 2009 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2008, partially offset by an increase in oil, natural gas liquid and natural gas production volumes during the year ended December 31, 2009 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2008. Production increased by 30,178 Bbls of oil, 8,138 Bbls of natural gas liquids and 13,083 Mcf of natural gas during 2009 as compared to 2008. The net dollar effect of the decrease in prices of approximately \$8.9 million (calculated as the change in year-to-year average prices times current year production volumes for oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas) and offset in the net dollar effect of the change in production of approximately \$3.4 million (calculated as the increase in year-to-year volumes for oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas times the prior year average prices) are shown below.

	Change in prices	Production volumes at December 31, 2009 <sup>(1)</sup>	Total net dollar effect of change (in thousands)
Effect of changes in price:			
Oil	\$ (36.70)	168,741	\$ (6,193)
Natural gas liquids	\$ (24.22)	70,384	\$ (1,705)
Natural gas	\$ (4.00)	253,321	\$ (1,013)
<b>Total revenues due to change in price</b>			<b>\$ (8,911)</b>



**Table of Contents**

	Change in production volumes <sup>(1)</sup>	Prices at December 31, 2008	Total net dollar effect of change (in thousands)
Effect of changes in volumes:			
Oil	30,178	\$ 94.71	\$ 2,858
Natural gas liquids	8,138	\$ 52.71	\$ 429
Natural gas	13,083	\$ 7.64	\$ 100
Total revenues due to change in volumes			\$ 3,387
Total change in revenues			\$ (5,524)

(1) Production volumes are presented in Bbls for oil and natural gas liquids and in Mcf for natural gas.

**Lease Operating Expense.** Lease operating expense was \$2.4 million (\$8.41 per BOE) for the year ended December 31, 2009, a decrease of \$1.0 million, or 29%, from \$3.4 million (\$14.01 per BOE) for the year ended December 31, 2008. The decrease in lease operating expenses was due primarily to improved economies of scale in our cost structure due to increased volumes resulting from our successful drilling programs in 2008 and 2009 and cost reductions in services and supplies, primarily as a result of the lower commodity prices.

**Production Tax Expense.** Production taxes as a percentage of oil and natural gas sales were 5.2% for the year ended December 31, 2009 as compared to 5.5% for the year ended December 31, 2008. Production taxes are primarily based on the market value of our production at the wellhead and vary across the different counties in which we operate. Total production taxes decreased from \$1.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 to \$0.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2009 as a result of a decrease in the market value of our production during 2009, partially offset by higher production.

**Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization.** Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense decreased \$7.0 million from \$10.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 to \$3.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2009. The weighted average depletion rate was \$42.11 per BOE in 2008 and \$11.21 per BOE in 2009. The decrease was due to:

all proved undeveloped reserves in 2008 were noneconomic due to the commodity pricing utilized for the reserve estimate at year end and therefore not utilized in the calculation of depletion;

the reduction in capitalized costs in 2009 due to the ceiling write down discussed below; and

additional proved reserves in 2009 associated with new wells that were successfully drilled and completed in 2008 and 2009. On December 31, 2009, we adopted the new SEC rules related to disclosures of oil and natural gas reserves. As a result of these new SEC rules, we recorded additional proved reserves and utilized the additional proved reserves in our depletion computation for 2009. Our 2009 depletion expense rate was \$11.21 per BOE, which is lower in part due to these additional proved reserves.

**Impairment of Oil and Gas Properties.** We use the full cost method of accounting for oil and gas properties and are required to perform a ceiling test each quarter. The test determines a limit, or ceiling, on the book value of our oil and gas properties. Net capitalized costs are limited to the lower of unamortized cost net of deferred income taxes or the cost center ceiling. The cost center ceiling is defined as the sum of (a) estimated future net revenues, discounted at 10% per annum, from proved reserves, based on the 12-month unweighted average of the first-day-of-the-month price for the period of January through December 2009, and prior to 2009, unescalated year-end prices and costs, adjusted for any contract provisions, and excluding the estimated cash outflows associated with asset retirement obligations recorded on our balance sheet, (b) the cost of properties not being amortized, if any, and (c) the lower of cost or market value of unproved properties included in the cost being amortized, less income tax effects related to differences between the book and tax basis of the oil and natural gas properties. If the net book value reduced by the related net deferred income tax liability exceeds the ceiling, an



**Table of Contents**

impairment or noncash write-down is required. There was no impairment charge for the year ended December 31, 2009. As a result of the drop in commodity prices on December 31, 2008, we recognized a ceiling test impairment of \$83.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2008.

**General and Administrative Expense.** General and administrative expense decreased \$0.4 million, or 7%, from \$5.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 to \$5.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2009. This decrease was primarily due to a decrease in our workforce. As our capital expenditure programs result in increased production levels, we expect that general and administrative expense per unit of production will decrease.

**Interest Income.** Interest income for 2009 was \$35,075 as compared to interest income of \$625,086 for 2008. The decrease in interest income was due to the decrease in the margin deposit which decreased due to the settlement of our swap contracts.

**Hedging Activities.** We have used price swap derivatives to reduce price volatility associated with certain of our oil sales. In these swaps, we received the fixed price per the contract and paid a floating market price to the counterparty based on New York Mercantile Exchange Light Sweet Crude Oil pricing. The fixed-price payment and the floating-price payment are offset, resulting in a net amount due to or from the counterparty. The counterparty to all of our derivative contracts is Hess, who we believe is an acceptable credit risk.

All derivative financial instruments are recorded on our balance sheet at fair value. The fair value of swaps is generally determined using established index prices and other sources which are based upon, among other things, futures prices and time to maturity.

We enter into counter-swaps from time to time for the purpose of locking-in the value of a swap. Under the counter-swap, we receive a floating price for the hedged commodity and pay a fixed price to the counterparty. The counter-swap is effective in locking-in the value of a swap since subsequent changes in the market value of the swap are entirely offset by subsequent changes in the market value of the counter-swap.

In December 2007, we entered into a swap contract covering 1,680,000 Bbls of oil for the period from January 2008 through December 2012 at various fixed prices. In April 2008, we entered into a series of counter-swaps to lock-in the value of certain of these swaps settling 1,188,000 Bbls of oil swaps. In June 2009, we entered into an additional series of counter-swaps to lock-in the value of the remaining swaps settling 324,000 Bbls of oil swaps.

As of December 31, 2009 all derivatives were locked-in counter swaps. Set forth below are the summarized amounts, terms and fair values of outstanding instruments held at December 31, 2008.

Description and Production Period	Volume (Bbls)	Original Strike Price (per Bbl)	December 31, 2008 Fair Value Asset
<b>Oil Swaps:</b>			
December 2008	5,000	\$ 87.75	\$ 190,650
January December 2009	96,000	83.75	3,055,468
January December 2010	96,000	82.80	1,874,108
January December 2011	90,000	82.90	1,271,804
January December 2012	90,000	85.07	1,224,693



**Table of Contents**

Set forth below are the summarized amounts, terms and fair values of the locked-in swaps from the April 2008 settlements as of December 31, 2009 and 2008.

Description and Production Period	Volume (Bbls)	Original Strike Price (per Bbl)	Lock-in Price (per Bbl)	December 31,	
				2009 Fair Value Liability	2008 Fair Value Liability
<b>Oil Swaps:</b>					
December 2008	15,000	\$ 87.75	\$ 106.80-110.55	\$	\$ 287,049
January - November 2009	242,000	83.75	102.25-105.90		4,675,906
December 2009	22,000	83.75	102.25 105.90	432,550	431,054
January - December 2010	264,000	82.80	99.45 103.20	4,702,825	4,587,478
January - December 2011	270,000	82.90	98.50 102.20	4,485,047	4,347,390
January - December 2012	270,000	85.07	98.25 101.80	3,737,855	3,706,298

Set forth below are the summarized amounts, terms and fair values of the locked-in swaps from the June 2009 settlements as of December 31, 2009.

Description and Production Period	Volume (Bbls)	Original Strike Price (per Bbl)	Lock-in Price (per Bbl)	December 31, 2009	
				Fair Value Asset	
<b>Oil Swaps:</b>					
December 2009	8,000	\$ 83.75	\$ 71.03	\$	\$ 101,757
January - December 2010	96,000	82.80	75.00		747,513
January - December 2011	90,000	82.90	78.42		397,880
January - December 2012	90,000	85.07	80.52		394,696

None of our derivatives have been designated as hedges. As such, all changes in fair value are immediately recognized in earnings. The following summarizes the loss on derivative contracts included in our consolidated statements of operations for the years presented:

	For the Years Ended December 31,	
	2009	2008
Unrealized (gain) loss on open non-hedge derivative instruments	\$	\$ (12,407,139)
Unrealized loss on locked-in non-hedge derivative instruments	1,297,979	18,034,004
Loss on settlement of non-hedge derivative instruments	2,770,026	3,901,355
Loss on derivative contracts	\$ 4,068,005	\$ 9,528,220

We are required to provide margin deposits whenever unrealized losses with Hess exceed predetermined credit limits. We had a margin deposit held by Hess of \$10.3 million and \$7.6 million as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Interest earned on the deposit is remitted to us. As we have a master netting agreement with Hess, we have offset this margin deposit against derivative positions.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Our primary sources of liquidity to date have been capital contributions from our equity holder, borrowings under our credit facility and cash flows from operations. Our primary use of capital has been for the acquisition, development and exploration of oil and natural gas properties. We regularly monitor potential capital sources, including equity and debt financings, in an effort to meet our planned capital expenditures and liquidity requirements. Our future success in growing proved reserves and production will be highly dependent on our ability to access outside sources of capital.



**Table of Contents****Liquidity and cash flow**

Our cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 are presented below:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2010	2009	2008
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 14,040,266	\$ 5,143,759	\$ 5,175,824	\$ 2,701,566	\$ 12,042,404
Net cash used in investing activities	(50,489,868)	(40,694,113)	(53,134,641)	(32,149,617)	(84,196,562)
Net cash provided by financing activities	35,577,940	36,717,561	49,618,254	23,849,250	80,182,600
Net change in cash	\$ (871,662)	\$ 1,167,207	\$ 1,659,437	\$ (5,598,801)	\$ 8,028,442

**Operating Activities**

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$14.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 as compared to \$5.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increase in operating cash flows is due to an overall increase in production revenues, partially offset by increased expenses, as discussed above in *Results of Operations*. The increase in production is largely a result of our increased drilling activities throughout 2011.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$5.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2010 as compared to \$2.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2009. The increase in operating cash flows is due to an overall increase in production revenues, partially offset by increased expenses, as discussed above in *Results of Operations*. The increase in production volumes is largely a result of our increased drilling program in 2010. The increase in operating activities was partially offset by changes in our working capital components in 2010 which consisted primarily of the purchase of inventory of tubular goods for our drilling program and increased accounts receivables due to the increase in our drilling activities in 2010.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$2.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2009 as compared to \$12.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2008. The decrease in operating cash flows in 2009 is due an overall decrease in production revenues, partially offset by decreased expenses, as discussed above in *Results of Operations*. This was partially offset by changes in our working capital components. During 2009, we reduced drilling operations, which resulted in decreases in our accounts payable.

Our operating cash flow is sensitive to many variables, the most significant of which is the volatility of prices for the oil and natural gas we produce. Prices for these commodities are determined primarily by prevailing market conditions. Regional and worldwide economic activity, weather and other substantially variable factors influence market conditions for these products. These factors are beyond our control and are difficult to predict.

**Investing Activities**

The purchase and development of oil and natural gas properties accounted for the majority of our cash outlays for investing activities. We used cash for investing activities of \$50.5 million and \$40.7 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. We used cash for investing activities of \$53.1 million, \$32.1 million and \$84.2 million during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

**Table of Contents**

During the first nine months of 2011, we spent \$47.8 million on capital expenditures in conjunction with our drilling program in which we participated in the drilling of 39 gross (22 net) wells. We spent an additional \$1.9 million on leasehold costs, \$4.1 million for the purchase of raw land for the future development of a sand mine to support our hydraulic fracturing activities and \$2.9 million for the purchase of drilling rigs and other equipment. These amounts were partially offset by proceeds of \$6.0 million from our equity investment, \$0.05 million from the sale of property and equipment and \$0.06 million from the settlement of non-hedge derivative investments.

During the first nine months of 2010, we spent \$27.7 million on capital expenditures in conjunction with our drilling program in which we participated in the drilling of 28 gross (18 net) wells. We spent an additional \$4.0 million for the purchase and development of leasehold and \$9.0 million for the purchase of drilling rigs, well servicing equipment and other equipment.

During 2010, we spent \$39.0 on capital expenditures in conjunction with our drilling program in which we participated in the drilling of 40 gross (25 net) wells. We spent an additional \$3.5 million for the purchase and development of leasehold interests, \$11.7 million for the purchase of drilling rigs, well servicing equipment and other equipment and \$0.2 million for the settlement of non-hedge derivative instruments and margin deposits. These amounts were partially offset by the \$1.3 million we received from the sale of approximately 11,000 acres of non producing acreage in the Permian Basin.

During 2009, we spent \$24.0 million on capital expenditures in conjunction with our drilling program in which we participated in the drilling of 12 gross (nine net) wells. We spent an additional \$2.7 million for the purchase and development of leasehold interests in the Permian Basin and \$5.5 million for the net amount of the settlement of non-hedge derivative instruments and margin deposits.

During 2008, we spent \$40.4 million on capital expenditures in conjunction with our drilling program in which we participated in the drilling of 36 gross (20 net) wells. We spent an additional \$35.8 million for the purchase and development of leasehold interests in the Permian Basin, \$0.2 million for other property and equipment and \$7.8 million for the settlement of non-hedge derivative instruments and margin deposits.

Our investment activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 and the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 are summarized in the following table:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2010	2009	2008
Drilling and completion of wells	\$ (47,774,914)	\$ (27,660,305)	\$ (38,979,629)	\$ (23,955,667)	\$ (40,411,722)
Leasehold acquisitions	(1,880,910)	(3,988,076)	(3,493,464)	(2,667,068)	(35,781,405)
Other fixed assets	(6,950,000)	(8,992,894)	(11,741,073)	(8,856)	(202,080)
Proceeds from assets disposals	54,909	12,475	1,270,075	2,000	
Hedging activity	61,084	(65,313)	(190,550)	(5,520,026)	(7,801,355)
Equity investment	5,999,963				
Net cash used in investing activities	\$ (50,489,868)	\$ (40,694,113)	\$ (53,134,641)	\$ (32,149,617)	\$ (84,196,562)

**Financing Activities**

Net cash provided by financing activities for the first nine months of 2011 was \$35.6 million as compared to \$36.7 million for the same period in 2010. During the first nine months of 2011 and 2010, we borrowed \$35.2 million and \$40.3 million, respectively, under our revolving credit facility. During the 2010 period, the borrowings were partially offset by principal payments of \$24.0 million under our prior credit facility with the

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**Table of Contents**

Bank of Oklahoma, N.A. During the first nine months of 2011 and 2010, we received capital contributions from entities controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor, of \$0.7 million and \$20.5 million, respectively. These proceeds were used primarily to fund our drilling costs and purchase property and equipment.

Net cash provided by financing activities for 2010 was \$49.6 million as compared to \$23.8 million for 2009. The net cash provided by financing activities in 2010 is primarily attributable to borrowings of \$61.1 million under our revolving credit facility, partially offset by principal payments of \$24.0 million under our prior credit facility with the Bank of Oklahoma, N.A. During 2010, we received capital contributions from entities controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor, of \$18.8 million which were partially offset by distributions to Wexford of \$5.6 million. We paid \$0.7 million in debt issuance costs in 2010. We used the net proceeds from our financing activities during 2010 to fund our drilling costs, the purchase of property and equipment, the purchase of tubular goods inventory and the acquisition and development of leasehold.

Net cash provided by financing activities for 2009 was \$23.8 million as compared to \$80.2 million for 2008. The net cash provided by financing activities in 2009 is attributable to borrowings of \$7.7 million under our revolving credit facility and \$16.9 million of capital contributions from entities controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor, which amounts were partially offset by distributions to Wexford of \$0.6 million. We paid \$0.1 million for debt issuance costs and costs relating to the preparation for the initial public offering. We used the net proceeds from our financing activities to fund our drilling program, the purchase of property and equipment, the acquisition and development of leasehold and the settlement of our non-hedge derivative instruments.

Net cash provided by financing activities for 2008 was \$80.2 million. The net cash provided by financing activities in 2008 is primarily attributable to capital contributions received from entities controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor, of \$88.9 million which were partially offset by distributions to Wexford of \$8.7 million. We used the net proceeds from our financing activities to fund our drilling program, acquisition and development of leasehold and the settlement of our non-hedge derivative instruments.

***Credit Facility-BNP Paribas***

On October 15, 2010, we entered into a secured loan agreement with BNP Paribas, or BNP, as administrative agent for the several lenders, providing for a \$100.0 million revolving credit facility, subject to scheduled semi-annual and other elective collateral borrowing base redeterminations based on our oil and natural gas reserves. The outstanding borrowings bear interest at a rate elected by us that is currently based on the prime, LIBOR or federal funds rate plus margins ranging from 1.25% to 3.50% depending on the base rate used and the amount of the loan outstanding in relation to the borrowing base.

Principal is payable voluntarily or is required to be paid (a) if the loan amount exceeds the borrowing base, whether due to a borrowing base redetermination or otherwise, and (b) at the maturity date of October 14, 2014. We are obligated to pay a quarterly commitment fee equal to 0.5% per year of the unused portion of the borrowing base. The loan is secured by substantially all of our assets. The borrowing base is re-determined semi-annually with effective dates of April 1st and October 1st. In addition, we may request up to three additional redeterminations of the borrowing base between scheduled redeterminations. The borrowing base was \$45.0 million at December 31, 2010. The borrowing base increased throughout 2011 through various redeterminations and at September 30, 2011 the borrowing base was \$80.0 million. The borrowing base was increased to \$85.0 million in October 2011. In December 2011, the borrowing base was increased to \$100.0 million through October 15, 2012, at which time the borrowing base will revert to \$85.0 million, subject to the periodic and elective borrowing base redeterminations described above.

As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we had outstanding borrowings of \$80.0 million and \$44.8 million, respectively. Borrowings under the credit facility bore interest at a weighted average rate of 3.3% and 3.5% as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively.

**Table of Contents**

The BNP agreement contains various affirmative and restrictive covenants. These covenants, among other things, prohibit additional indebtedness, additional liens, sales of assets, mergers and consolidations, dividends and distributions, transactions with affiliates and entering into certain swap agreements and require the maintenance of various financial ratios described below.

<b>Financial Covenant</b>	<b>Required Ratio</b>
Ratio of EBITDAX to interest expense, as defined in the credit agreement	Not less than 2.5 to 1.0
Ratio of total debt to EBITDAX	Not greater than 3.5 to 1.0
Ratio of current assets to liabilities	Not less than 1.0 to 1.0

As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we were in compliance with all financial covenants under the revolving credit facility. The lenders may accelerate all of the indebtedness under our revolving bank credit facility upon the occurrence of any event of default unless we cure any such default within any applicable cure period. For payments of interest under our revolving credit facility, we generally have a three business day grace period, and a 30-day cure period for most covenant defaults, except for defaults of certain covenants, including the financial covenants and negative covenants under our revolving credit facility.

***Credit Facility-Bank of Oklahoma, N.A.***

On September 17, 2009, we entered into a revolving credit facility with the Bank of Oklahoma, N.A., or BOK. The BOK revolving credit facility had a maximum principal amount of \$50.0 million, subject to a collateral borrowing base calculation which was based on the underlying reserve value of the oil and natural gas properties securing the credit facility and outstanding letters of credit. The BOK revolving credit facility was repaid in full in October 2010 with borrowings under the BNP revolving credit facility and then terminated.

Borrowings under the BOK credit facility bore interest at our election of either BOK's listed national prime rate plus an interest rate spread ranging from 1.0% to 2.5% (based on borrowing levels) payable monthly or at LIBOR rates plus an interest rate spread ranging from 2.5% to 4.0% (based on borrowing levels) payable at the end of the applicable interest period. The credit facility agreement allowed BOK to charge a 0.25% commitment fee on the unused available borrowing.

The BOK credit facility was collateralized by oil and natural gas properties and contained certain financial and non-financial covenants, which included: providing quarterly financial statements and annual audited financial statements; providing semi-annual reserve engineering reports; restrictions on distributions to members; restrictions on incurring additional debt; restrictions on financial derivative contracts; maintaining a funded debt to earnings before hedge gains or losses, asset gains or losses, depreciation, depletion, amortization and interest expense of no greater than 3.0 to 1.0.

***Capital Requirements and Sources of Liquidity***

We currently anticipate our 2012 capital budget for drilling and infrastructure will be approximately \$97.7 million. We intend to allocate these expenditures as follows:

\$89.0 million for the drilling and completion of operated wells;

\$7.1 million for our participation in the drilling and completion of non-operated wells; and

\$1.6 million for the construction of infrastructure to support production, including investments in water disposal infrastructure and gathering line projects.

However, the amount and timing of these capital expenditures is largely discretionary and within our control. We could choose to defer a portion of these planned 2012 capital expenditures depending on a variety of factors, including but not limited to the success of our drilling activities, prevailing and anticipated prices for oil



**Table of Contents**

and natural gas, the availability of necessary equipment, infrastructure and capital, the receipt and timing of required regulatory permits and approvals, seasonal conditions, drilling and acquisition costs and the level of participation by other interest owners.

Based upon current oil and natural gas price expectations for 2012, we believe that our cash flow from operations, proceeds of this offering and borrowings under our revolving credit facility will be sufficient to fund our operations for at least the next twelve months. However, future cash flows are subject to a number of variables, including the level of oil and natural gas production and prices, and significant additional capital expenditures will be required to more fully develop our properties. There can be no assurance that operations and other capital resources will provide cash in sufficient amounts to maintain planned or future levels of capital expenditures. Further, our capital expenditure budget for 2012 does not allocate funds to any leasehold interest and property acquisitions. In the event we make one or more acquisitions and the amount of capital required is greater than the amount we have available for acquisitions at that time, we could be required to reduce the expected level of capital expenditures and/or seek additional capital. If we seek additional capital for that or other reasons, we may do so through traditional reserve base borrowings, joint venture partnerships, production payment financings, asset sales, offerings of debt and equity securities or other means. We cannot assure you that needed capital will be available on acceptable terms or at all. If we are unable to obtain funds when needed or on acceptable terms, we may not be able to complete acquisitions that may be favorable to us or finance the capital expenditures necessary to replace our reserves.

**Contractual and Commercial Commitments**

The following table summarizes our contractual obligations and commercial commitments as of September 30, 2011:

	Payments Due By Year				Total
	Less Than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years (in thousands)	More Than 5 Years	
Long term debt <sup>(1)</sup>	\$	\$ 80,000	\$	\$	\$ 80,000
Derivative contracts		1,470			1,470
Asset retirement obligation <sup>(2)</sup>				1,019	1,019
Operating leases	46	671	596		1,313
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 46</b>	<b>\$ 82,141</b>	<b>\$ 596</b>	<b>\$ 1,019</b>	<b>\$ 83,802</b>

- (1) Consists of the outstanding principal amount at September 30, 2011 under our revolving credit facility. This table does not include future commitment fees, interest expense or other fees payable under this floating rate facility as we cannot predict the timing of future borrowings and repayments or interest rates to be charged. All borrowings under our revolving credit facility are due on October 14, 2014.
- (2) Amounts represent our estimates of future asset retirement obligations. Because these costs typically extend many years into the future, estimating these future costs requires management to make estimates and judgments that are subject to future revisions based upon numerous factors, including the rate of inflation, changing technology and the political and regulatory environment. Please read Note 4 to our audited financial statements.

**Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

The discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Below, we have provided expanded discussion of our more significant accounting policies, estimates and judgments. We believe these accounting policies reflect our more significant estimates and assumptions used in preparation of our financial statements. See Note 2 of the notes to our consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this prospectus for a discussion of additional accounting policies and estimates made by management.



## **Table of Contents**

### ***Use of Estimates***

Certain amounts included in or affecting our consolidated financial statements and related disclosures must be estimated by our management, requiring certain assumptions to be made with respect to values or conditions that cannot be known with certainty at the time the consolidated financial statements are prepared. These estimates and assumptions affect the amounts we report for assets and liabilities and our disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

We evaluate these estimates on an ongoing basis, using historical experience, consultation with experts and other methods we consider reasonable in the particular circumstances. Nevertheless, actual results may differ significantly from our estimates. Any effects on our business, financial position or results of operations resulting from revisions to these estimates are recorded in the period in which the facts that give rise to the revision become known. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include estimates of proved reserve quantities and related estimates of the present value of future net revenues, the carrying value of oil and gas properties and asset retirement obligations.

### ***Method of accounting for oil and natural gas properties***

We account for our oil and natural gas producing activities using the full cost method of accounting. Accordingly, all costs incurred in the acquisition, exploration and development of proved oil and natural gas properties, including the costs of abandoned properties, dry holes, geophysical costs and annual lease rentals are capitalized. We also capitalize direct operating costs for services performed with internally owned drilling and well servicing equipment. General and administrative costs capitalized to the full cost pool represent management's estimate of costs incurred directly related to exploration and development activities such as geological and other administrative costs associated with overseeing the exploration and development activities. All general and administrative corporate costs unrelated to drilling activities are expensed as incurred. Sales or other dispositions of oil and natural gas properties are accounted for as adjustments to capitalized costs, with no gain or loss recorded unless the ratio of cost to proved reserves would significantly change. Income from services provided to working interest owners of properties in which we also own an interest, to the extent they exceed related costs incurred, are accounted for as reductions of capitalized costs of oil and natural gas properties. Depletion of evaluated oil and natural gas properties is computed on the units of production method based on proved reserves.

Costs associated with unevaluated properties are excluded from the full cost pool until we have made a determination as to the existence of proved reserves. We assess all items classified as unevaluated property on a quarterly basis for possible impairment. We assess properties on an individual basis or as a group if properties are individually insignificant. The assessment includes consideration of the following factors, among others: intent to drill; remaining lease term; geological and geophysical evaluations; drilling results and activity; the assignment of proved reserves; and the economic viability of development if proved reserves are assigned. During any period in which these factors indicate an impairment, the cumulative drilling costs incurred to date for such property and all or a portion of the associated leasehold costs are transferred to the full cost pool and are then subject to amortization. The inclusion of our unevaluated costs into the amortization base is expected to be completed within three years.

### ***Oil and natural gas reserve quantities and standardized measure of future net revenue***

Our independent engineers and technical staff prepare our estimates of oil and natural gas reserves and associated future net revenues. The SEC has defined proved reserves as the estimated quantities of oil and gas which geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions. The process of estimating oil and gas reserves is complex, requiring significant decisions in the evaluation of available geological, geophysical, engineering and economic data. The data for a given property may also change substantially over time as a result

## **Table of Contents**

of numerous factors, including additional development activity, evolving production history and a continual reassessment of the viability of production under changing economic conditions. As a result, material revisions to existing reserve estimates occur from time to time. Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure that reserve estimates reported represent the most accurate assessments possible, the subjective decisions and variances in available data for various properties increase the likelihood of significant changes in these estimates. If such changes are material, they could significantly affect future amortization of capitalized costs and result in impairment of assets that may be material.

There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of proved oil and natural gas reserves. Oil and natural gas reserve engineering is a subjective process of estimating underground accumulations of oil and natural gas that cannot be precisely measured and the accuracy of any reserve estimate is a function of the quality of available data and of engineering and geological interpretation and judgment. Results of drilling, testing and production subsequent to the date of the estimate may justify revision of such estimate. Accordingly, reserve estimates are often different from the quantities of oil and natural gas that are ultimately recovered.

### ***Revenue recognition***

Oil and natural gas revenues are recorded when title passes to the purchaser, net of royalty interests, discounts and allowances, as applicable. We account for oil and natural gas production imbalances using the sales method, whereby a liability is recorded when our volumes exceed our estimated remaining recoverable reserves. No receivables are recorded for those wells where we have taken less than our ownership share of production. We did not have any gas imbalances as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 or as of September 30, 2011. Revenues from oil and natural gas services are recognized as services are provided.

### ***Impairment***

The net capitalized costs of proved oil and natural gas properties are subject to a full cost ceiling limitation in which the costs are not allowed to exceed their related estimated future net revenues discounted at 10%. To the extent capitalized costs of evaluated oil and natural gas properties, net of accumulated depreciation, depletion, amortization, impairment and deferred income taxes exceed the discounted future net revenues of proved oil and natural gas reserves, less any related income tax effects, the excess capitalized costs are charged to expense. In calculating future net revenues, effective December 31, 2009, prices are calculated as the average oil and gas prices during the preceding 12-month period prior to the end of the current reporting period, determined as the unweighted arithmetic average first-day-of-the-month prices for the prior 12-month period and costs used are those as of the end of the appropriate quarterly period. Prior to December 31, 2009, prices were calculated as prices on the last day of the appropriate period.

### ***Asset retirement obligations***

ASC Topic 410 requires companies to record a liability relating to the retirement and removal of assets used in their businesses. ASC Topic 410 requires that the fair value of a liability for an asset's retirement obligation be recorded in the period in which it is incurred if a reasonable estimate of fair value can be made and that the corresponding cost be capitalized as part of the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. For oil and gas properties, this is the period in which the well is drilled or acquired. The asset retirement obligation represents the estimated amount we will incur to plug, abandon and remediate the properties at the end of their productive lives, in accordance with applicable state laws. The liability is accreted to its present value each period and the capitalized cost is depreciated on the unit-of-production method.

We determine the asset retirement obligation by calculating the present value of estimated cash flows related to the liability. Estimating the future asset retirement obligation requires management to make estimates and judgments regarding timing, existence of a liability, as well as what constitutes adequate restoration. Inherent in the fair value calculation are numerous assumptions and judgments including the ultimate costs, inflation

**Table of Contents**

factors, credit adjusted discount rates, timing of settlement and changes in the legal, regulatory, environmental and political environments. To the extent future revisions to these assumptions impact the fair value of the existing asset retirement obligation liability, a corresponding adjustment is made to the related asset.

**Derivatives**

From time to time, we have used energy derivatives for the purpose of mitigating the risk resulting from fluctuations in the market price of crude oil. We recognize all of our derivative instruments as either assets or liabilities at fair value. The accounting for changes in the fair value (i.e., gains or losses) of a derivative instrument depends on whether it has been designated and qualifies as part of a hedging relationship and further on the type of hedging relationship. We enter into counter-swaps from time to time for the purpose of locking-in the value of a swap. Under the counter-swap, we receive a floating price for the hedged commodity and pay a fixed price to the counterparty. The counter-swap is effective in locking-in the value of a swap since subsequent changes in the market value of the swap are entirely offset by subsequent changes in the market value of the counter-swap. For those derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as hedging instruments, we designate the hedging instrument, based on the exposure being hedged, as either a fair value hedge or a cash flow hedge. Changes in the fair value of instruments designated as a fair value hedge offset changes in the fair value of the hedge item and changes in the fair value of instruments designated as cash flow hedges are shown in accumulated other comprehensive income until the hedged item is recognized in earnings. For derivative instruments not designated as hedging instruments, the unrealized gain or loss on the change in fair value of these instruments are recognized in earnings during the period of change. None of our derivatives were designated as hedging instruments during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 or the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

**Equity-Based Compensation**

During the nine months ended September 30, 2011, we granted to our executive officers options to acquire membership interests in our Company. Such options vest in four equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the date of grant and are exercisable for five years from the date of grant. Generally, in the event more than 50% of the combined voting power of our Company is not owned by Wexford or its affiliates and there is a material change in the terms of the option holder's employment, the options will vest immediately. Summarized below are the grant dates with the total exercise prices and total fair values of the underlying options:

Month	Membership Interests Granted	Exercise Price	Fair Value at Date of Grant
April 2011	1.00%	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 1,452,851
August 2011	1.20%	6,000,000	1,383,976
September 2011	1.25%	5,900,000	1,532,612
	3.45%	\$ 15,500,000	\$ 4,369,439

At September 30, 2011, for outstanding options, the intrinsic value was \$112,500 and the weighted-average remaining contractual terms were 4.8 years. Also, at September 30, 2011, no options were exercisable.

We account for such options issued using a fair-value-based method calculated on the grant-date of the award. The resulting cost is recognized on a straight-line basis over the vesting period of the entire option.

The fair value of the options issued was estimated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. One of the inputs to this model is the estimate of the fair value of the underlying membership interest on the date of grant. The other inputs include an estimate of the expected volatility of the membership interest, an option's expected term, the risk-free interest rate over the option's expected term, the option's exercise price and our expectations regarding dividends.

**Table of Contents**

We do not have a history of market prices for our membership interests because such interests are not publicly traded. We utilized the observable data for a group of peer companies that grant options to assist in developing our volatility assumption. The expected volatility was determined using the historical volatility for a peer group of companies. The expected term for options issued was determined based on the contractual terms of the awards. The weighted-average risk-free interest rate was based on the daily U.S. treasury yield curve rate whose term was consistent with the expected life of the options. We do not anticipate paying cash dividends; therefore, the expected dividend yield was assumed to be zero.

A summary of the significant assumptions used to estimate the fair value of the options to acquire membership interests during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 is as follows:

	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011</b>
Expected term	5 years
Risk-free interest rate	0.96%
Expected volatility	45.50%
Expected dividend yield	0.00%

As of September 30, 2011, we assumed no annual forfeiture rate because of our lack of turnover and lack of history for this type of award. We will continue to evaluate the appropriateness of the forfeiture rate based on actual forfeiture experience, analysis of employee turnover behavior and other factors. Changes in the estimated forfeiture rate can have a significant effect on reported equity-based compensation expense, because the cumulative effect of adjusting the rate for all expense amortization is recognized in the period the forfeiture estimate is changed.

We perform annual valuations to estimate our enterprise value. Our valuations consider a number of objective and subjective factors that we believe market participants would consider, including: (a) our business, financial condition, and results of operations, including related industry trends affecting our operations; (b) our forecasted operating performance and projected future cash flows; (c) the liquid or illiquid nature of our membership interest; (d) liquidation preferences, redemption rights and other rights and privileges of our membership interest; (e) market multiples of our most comparable public peers; and (f) market conditions affecting our industry.

We used the income approach to estimate our enterprise value. The income approach involves applying an appropriate risk-adjusted discount rate to projected cash flows based on forecasted revenue and costs. The valuations were based primarily on our independent engineering oil and gas reserve reports which are generally a cash flow model of the Company. There were no significant events during the year that caused us to adjust these values at the various grant dates.

There is inherent uncertainty in our forecasts and projections and, if we had made different assumptions and estimates than those described previously, the amount of our equity-based compensation expense could have been materially different.

Equity-based compensation expense recorded for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was \$259,186. The unrecognized equity-based compensation expense as of September 30, 2011 was \$4,110,253 related to these awards which is expected to be recognized over a weight-average period of 4.8 years. No equity-based compensation expense was recorded for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 as we had not historically issued equity-based compensation awards.

**Recent accounting pronouncements*****Fair Value***

In May 2011, the FASB issued authoritative guidance which provides a consistent definition of fair value and common requirements for measurement of and disclosure about fair value between GAAP and International

## **Table of Contents**

Financial Reporting Standards. This new guidance changes some fair value measurement principles and disclosure requirements, but does not require additional fair value measurements and is not intended to establish valuation standards or affect valuation practices outside of financial reporting. The update is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011 and we are in the process of evaluating the impact, if any, the adoption of this update will have on our financial statements.

### ***Comprehensive Income***

In June 2011, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05, *Comprehensive Income: Presentation of Comprehensive Income*, which provides amendments to FASB ASC Topic 220, *Comprehensive Income*. The purpose of the amendments in this update is to provide a more consistent method of presenting non-owner transactions that affect an entity's equity. The amendments eliminate the option to report other comprehensive income and its components in the statement of changes in stockholders' equity and require an entity to present the total of comprehensive income, the components of net income and the components of other comprehensive income either in a single continuous statement or in two separate but consecutive statements. In December 2011, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2011-12 which defers the requirement in Accounting Standards Update 2011-05 that companies present reclassification adjustments for each component of accumulated other comprehensive income in both net income and other comprehensive income on the face of the financial statements. Both amendments are effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011 and should be applied retrospectively. The adoption of this guidance will not have a significant impact on our financial position, results of operations or cash flow.

### **Internal Controls and Procedures**

We are not currently required to comply with the SEC's rules implementing Section 404 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002, and are therefore not required to make a formal assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting for that purpose. Upon becoming a public company, we will be required to comply with the SEC's rules implementing Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which will require our management to certify financial and other information in our quarterly and annual reports and provide an annual management report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. We will not be required to make our first assessment of our internal control over financial reporting under Section 404 until the year following our first annual report required to be filed with the SEC.

### **Inflation**

Inflation in the United States has been relatively low in recent years and did not have a material impact on our results of operations for the years ended 2008, 2009 and 2010 or the nine months ended September 30, 2011. Although the impact of inflation has been insignificant in recent years, it is still a factor in the United States economy and we tend to experience inflationary pressure on the cost of oilfield services and equipment as increasing oil and gas prices increase drilling activity in our areas of operations.

### **Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risks**

#### ***Commodity Price Risk***

Our major market risk exposure is in the pricing applicable to our oil and natural gas production. Realized pricing is primarily driven by the prevailing worldwide price for crude oil and spot market prices applicable to our natural gas production. Pricing for oil and natural gas production has been volatile and unpredictable for several years, and we expect this volatility to continue in the future. The prices we receive for production depend on many factors outside of our control.

We use price swap derivatives to reduce price volatility associated with certain of our oil sales. Under these swap contracts, we receive a fixed price per barrel of oil and pay a floating market price per barrel of oil to the

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## **Table of Contents**

counterparty based on New York Mercantile Exchange Light Sweet Crude Oil pricing. The fixed-price payment and the floating-price payment are offset, resulting in a net amount due to or from the counterparty. For the purpose of locking-in the value of a swap, we enter into counter-swaps from time to time. Under the counter-swap, we receive a floating price for the hedged commodity and pay a fixed price to the counterparty. The counter-swap is effective in locking-in the value of a swap since subsequent changes in the market value of the swap are entirely offset by subsequent changes in the market value of the counter-swap.

In December 2007, we placed a swap contract covering 1,680,000 Bbls of crude oil for the period from January 2008 to December 2012 at various fixed prices. In April 2008, we entered into a series of counter-swaps to lock-in the value of certain of these swaps settling 1,188,000 Bbls of crude oil swaps. In June 2009, we entered into an additional series of counter-swaps to lock-in the value of the remaining swaps settling 324,000 Bbls of crude oil swaps. In October 2011 we placed a swap contract covering 730,000 Bbls of crude oil for the period from January 2012 to December 2013 at a fixed price of \$78.50 for 2012 and \$88.50 for 2013. As of September 30, 2011, all of our swap contracts were locked-in with counter swaps. Such contracts and any future hedging arrangements may expose us to risk of financial loss in certain circumstances, including instances where production is less than expected or oil prices increase. In addition, these arrangements may limit the benefit to us of increases in the price of oil.

At September 30, 2011, we had a net liability derivative position of \$1.5 million related to our price swap derivatives.

### *Counterparty and Customer Credit Risk*

Our principal exposures to credit risk are through receivables resulting from joint interest receivables (approximately \$17.9 million at September 30, 2011) and receivables from the sale of our oil and natural gas production (approximately \$4.5 million at September 30, 2011).

We are subject to credit risk due to the concentration of our oil and natural gas receivables with several significant customers. We do not require our customers to post collateral, and the inability of our significant customers to meet their obligations to us or their insolvency or liquidation may adversely affect our financial results. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and the year ended December 31, 2010, one purchaser, Windsor Midstream LLC, an entity controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor, accounted for approximately 77.1% and 81.7% of our revenue, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2009, two purchasers accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Windsor Midstream LLC (68.3%) and DCP Midstream, LP (14.8%). For the year ended December 31, 2008, four purchasers accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Teppco Partners, L.P. (38.6%), Plains Marketing L.P. (29.6%), DCP Midstream, L.P. (13.7%) and Targa Midstream Services Limited Partnership (10.9%). No other customer accounted for more than 10% of our revenue during these periods.

Joint operations receivables arise from billings to entities that own partial interests in the wells we operate. These entities participate in our wells primarily based on their ownership in leases on which we intend to drill. We have little ability to control whether these entities will participate in our wells. At September 30, 2011, we had one customer that represented approximately 60% of our total joint operations receivables. At December 31, 2010, we had one customer that represented approximately 62% of our total joint operations receivables. Prior to 2010, we did not operate the wells and, therefore, did not have joint operations receivables.

### *Interest Rate Risk*

We are subject to market risk exposure related to changes in interest rates on our indebtedness under our revolving credit facility with BNP. The terms of our revolving credit facility with BNP provide for interest on borrowings at a floating rate equal to prime, LIBOR or federal funds rate plus margins ranging from 1.25% to 3.50% depending on the base rate used and the amount of the loan outstanding in relation to the borrowing base.

**Table of Contents**

Borrowings under the credit facility bore interest at a weighted average rate of 3.3% as of September 30, 2011. An increase or decrease of 1% in the interest rate would have a corresponding decrease or increase in our net income (loss) of approximately \$800,000 annually, based on the \$80.0 million outstanding in the aggregate under our revolving credit facility with BNP as of September 30, 2011, and assuming no interest is capitalized. Pending use of the net proceeds from this offering to fund our exploration and development activities and for general corporate purposes, we intend to repay outstanding borrowings under our revolving credit facility with BNP.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

We currently have no off-balance sheet arrangements. Please read Note 9 to our December 31, 2010 consolidated financial statements and Note 11 to our September 30, 2011 consolidated interim financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for a discussion of our commitments and contingencies, some of which are not recognized in the balance sheets under GAAP.

**Table of Contents**

**BUSINESS**

**General**

**Overview**

We are an independent oil and natural gas company currently focused on the acquisition, development, exploration and exploitation of unconventional, onshore oil and natural gas reserves in the Permian Basin in West Texas. This basin, which is one of the major producing basins in the United States, is characterized by an extensive production history, a favorable operating environment, mature infrastructure, long reserve life, multiple producing horizons, enhanced recovery potential and a large number of operators.

We began operations in December 2007 with our acquisition of 4,174 net acres with production at the time of acquisition of approximately 800 net barrels of oil equivalent, or BOE, a day from 32 gross (16 net) wells in the Permian Basin. Subsequently, we acquired approximately 23,972 additional net acres, which brought our total net acreage position in the Permian Basin to 28,146 net acres at December 31, 2011. We are the operator of approximately 97% of our Permian Basin acreage. Since our initial acquisition in the Permian Basin through December 31, 2011, we have participated in the drilling of 142 gross (86 net) wells in the Permian Basin, of which we operate 132 gross (81 net) wells. Of the 142 gross wells drilled, 130 were completed as producing wells and 12 are in various stages of completion.

We built our leasehold position through the following acquisitions and development activities in the Wolfberry play:

In 2008, we acquired 6,247 net acres at the Spanish Trail and Munn prospects in Midland County, Texas through eleven leases and one mineral deed, with 5,146 net acres attributable to one lease;

Commencing in 2008 and ending in 2010, we acquired leases at the Barron prospect in Midland County, Texas covering 225 net acres;

Commencing in 2008 and ending in 2011, we acquired leases at the Gist prospect in Ector County, Texas covering 1,404 net acres;

In 2008, 2009 and 2011, we acquired 35 leases at the UL prospect in Andrews and Upton Counties, Texas covering a total of 9,967 net acres;

Beginning in 2008, we acquired 17 leases at the Hurt/WHL prospect in Ector County, Texas covering 2,779 net acres;

In 2009, we acquired one lease at the Cumberland prospect located in Midland County, Texas covering 207 net acres;

In 2010, we acquired 35 leases at the North Howard prospect located in Howard County, Texas covering 1,406 net acres;

In 2010, we acquired 912 net acres at the Sabo prospect in Upton County, Texas; and

In 2010 and 2011, we acquired 150 leases at the Big Max prospect located in Andrews County, Texas covering 825 net acres. Our activities are primarily focused on the Clearfork, Spraberry, Wolfcamp, Cline, Strawn and Atoka formations, which we refer to collectively as the Wolfberry play. The Wolfberry play is characterized by high oil and liquids rich natural gas, multiple vertical and horizontal target horizons, extensive production history, long-lived reserves and high drilling success rates.



## Edgar Filing: Diamondback Energy, Inc. - Form S-1

As of December 31, 2011, our estimated proved oil and natural gas reserves were 24,750 MBOE based on a reserve report prepared by Ryder Scott Company L.P., or Ryder Scott, our independent reserve engineers. Of these

**Table of Contents**

reserves, approximately 23.9% are classified as proved developed producing, or PDP. Proved undeveloped, or PUD, reserves included in this estimate are from 293 gross well locations on 40-acre spacing. As of December 31, 2011, our proved reserves were approximately 68% oil, 19% natural gas liquids and 13% natural gas.

We intend to grow our reserves and production through development drilling, exploitation and exploration activities on our multi-year project inventory of 2,319 identified drilling locations and through acquisitions that meet our strategic and financial objectives, targeting oil-weighted reserves.

Based on our drilling results and the results of extensive industry activity in the Permian Basin, we believe that risk associated with our vertical drilling program has been effectively reduced. We intend to supplement our vertical development drilling activity with horizontal wells targeting various intervals in the Wolfberry play. Our horizontal drilling program is intended to further capture the upside potential that may exist on our properties and increase our well performance and recoveries as compared to drilling vertical wells alone.

During 2011, we assembled a new executive team and, beginning with the fourth quarter of 2011, this team assumed management control of our operations and development activities in the Permian Basin. With an average of approximately 26 years of industry experience per person, this team has extensive experience in the Permian Basin as well as other resource plays in North America, including significant experience in drilling and completing horizontal wells. Under the direction of our new executive team, the average drilling time required to reach total depth, or TD, was shortened by 25% to 15 days during the fourth quarter of 2011 from 20 days during the second quarter of 2011, reducing average drilling costs (excluding completion costs) by 8.3% from \$1.2 million to \$1.1 million period-to-period, while also decreasing the time from spud to spud to 23 days from 25 days. Also, during the quarter ended December 31, 2011 production was 1,921 BOE per day, an increase of 21%, or 331 BOE per day, from 1,591 BOE per day for the quarter ended September 30, 2011. This increase was due primarily to improved strategies and procedures introduced by our new executive team relating to wellbore configuration, completion, execution, fluid recovery and well pumping practices that significantly reduced the level of required well remediation and the associated loss of production. We anticipate further increases in efficiencies as our new team executes on our development strategies across our acreage base.

The following table provides a summary of selected operating information of our properties as of December 31, 2011.

Basin	Net Acreage	Average Working Interest	Identified Drilling Locations		Gross Wells <sup>(1)</sup>	2012 Budget		Estimated Net Proved Reserves at December 31, 2011		Average Daily Production (BOE/d) <sup>(2)</sup>
			Gross	Net		Net Wells <sup>(1)</sup>	Capex (In millions)	MBOE	% Developed	
Permian	28,146	57.9%	2,319	1,342	68	44	\$ 97.7	24,750	23.9	1,921

(1) Includes 62 gross (41 net) wells for which we are the operator and six gross (three net) non-operated wells.

(2) During December 2011.

Our current exploration and development budget for our oil and natural gas properties for the year ending December 31, 2012 is approximately \$97.7 million. We plan to spend approximately \$89.0 million on drilling and completion of 59 gross operated vertical wells and three gross horizontal wells, \$7.1 million for the drilling and completion of six non-operated wells and \$1.6 million for the construction of infrastructure to support production, including investments in water disposal infrastructure and gathering line projects.

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## **Table of Contents**

### **Our Business Strategy**

Our business strategy is to increase stockholder value through the following:

***Grow production and reserves by developing our oil-rich resource base.*** We intend to actively drill and develop our acreage base in an effort to maximize its value and resource potential. Through the conversion of our undeveloped reserves to developed reserves, we will seek to increase our production, reserves and cash flow while generating favorable returns on invested capital. As of December 31, 2011, we had 2,319 identified drilling locations on our acreage in the Permian Basin. The drilling of these locations will provide us with the critical subsurface data necessary to target potential horizontal horizons. As operator, our 2012 drilling plan currently contemplates drilling 59 gross (39 net) vertical wells and three gross (two net) horizontal wells in the Wolfberry play using two drilling rigs. We intend to add up to two additional rigs later in the year. Subject to market conditions and rig availability, we expect to operate up to six rigs in 2013, which we expect will allow us to significantly increase our drilling program in 2013.

***Focus on increasing hydrocarbon recovery through horizontal drilling and increased well density.*** We believe that there are opportunities to target various intervals in the Wolfberry play with horizontal wells and we currently plan to drill and test three horizontal wells in 2012 to target these producing horizons. Our horizontal drilling program is designed to further capture the upside potential that may exist on our properties, and such program may significantly increase our well performance and recoveries per section as compared to drilling vertical wells alone. Horizontal drilling may also be economical in areas where vertical drilling is currently not economical or logistically viable. In addition, we believe increased well density opportunities may exist across our acreage base. We closely monitor industry trends with respect to higher well density, which increases the recovery factor per section and enhances returns since infrastructure is typically in place.

***Employ industry leading drilling and completion techniques.*** Our eight member executive team, which has an average of approximately 26 years of industry experience per person, intends to continue to seek ways to maximize hydrocarbon recovery by refining and enhancing our drilling and completion techniques. The time to reach TD for our vertical Wolfberry wells decreased from an average of 20 days during the second quarter of 2011 to an average of 15 days during the fourth quarter of 2011, resulting in a lower total well cost. This improved efficiency can provide a significant benefit in a continuous drilling program such as the one we contemplate for our extensive inventory of identified drilling locations. In addition, we believe that the experience of our new executive team in deviated and horizontal drilling and completions will help reduce the execution risk normally associated with these complex well paths. Additionally, our completion techniques are continually evolving as we evaluate hydraulic fracturing practices that may potentially increase recovery and reduce completion costs. Our executive team regularly evaluates our operating results against those of other operators in the area in an effort to benchmark our performance against the best performing operators and evaluate and adopt best practices.

***Enhance returns through our low cost development strategy of resource conversion, capital allocation and continued improvements in operational and cost efficiencies.*** In the current commodity price environment, our oil and liquids rich asset base provides attractive returns. Our acreage position in the Wolfberry play is generally in contiguous blocks which provides us with the opportunity to develop this acreage efficiently with a manufacturing strategy that takes advantage of economies of scale and uses centralized production and fluid handling facilities. We are the operator of approximately 97% of our acreage. This operational control allows us to more efficiently manage the pace of development activities and the gathering and marketing of our production and control operating costs and technical applications, including horizontal development.

***Strategically invest in vertical integration opportunities.*** Bison Drilling and Field Services LLC, or Bison, an entity in which we hold an approximate 27% equity interest, owns and operates four fit-for-purpose drilling rigs, four service units and two reverse units. Two of these rigs are currently

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## **Table of Contents**

drilling for us and we expect that we will continue to have access to Bison's drilling rigs and service units in the future as we accelerate our development activities. We also hold an equity interest in Muskie Holdings LLC, or Muskie, which holds rights in a lease covering land in Wisconsin that is prospective for mining oil and natural gas fracture grade sand. We anticipate that we will have access to this sand, which is used in the hydraulic fracturing process. Bison and Muskie are each controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor. We expect that our equity interests and contractual arrangements with these entities will enhance our ability to efficiently develop our resources. We intend to pursue additional vertical integration opportunities in the future.

***Pursue strategic acquisitions with exceptional resource potential.*** We have a proven history of acquiring leasehold positions that we believe have substantial oil-weighted resource potential and can meet our targeted returns on invested capital. Our executive team, with its extensive experience in the Permian Basin, has what we believe is a unique perspective on acquisition targets and a proven ability to evaluate resource potential. We intend to continue to pursue acquisitions that meet our strategic and financial targets.

***Financial flexibility.*** We seek to maintain a conservative financial position. As of September 30, 2011, on a pro forma basis after giving effect to this offering and the use of the net proceeds from this offering to repay borrowing under our revolving credit facility, we would have had approximately \$ million of available borrowing capacity under such facility. We expect that we will fund our capital development plans for 2012 from our operating cash flow and borrowings under our revolving credit facility. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to repay borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility pending their use to fund our capital expenditures.

### **Our Strengths**

We believe that the following strengths will help us achieve our business goals:

***Oil rich resource base.*** All of our leasehold acreage is located in one of the most prolific oil plays in North America, the Permian Basin in West Texas. As of January 27, 2012, the Baker Hughes Rig Count survey reported that there were 473 rigs drilling in the Permian Basin. The majority of our current properties are well positioned in the core of the Wolfberry play. We believe that our historical vertical development success may be complemented with horizontal drilling locations that could ultimately translate into an increased recovery factor on a per section basis. Our production for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was approximately 74% oil, 15% natural gas liquids and 11% natural gas. As of December 31, 2011, our estimated net proved reserves were comprised of approximately 68% oil. This oil exposure allows us to benefit from the more favorable oil prices as compared to lower prices for natural gas.

***Multi-year drilling inventory in one of North America's leading oil resource plays.*** We have identified a multi-year inventory of drilling locations that we believe provides attractive growth and return opportunities. We have focused our efforts on building an oil-weighted inventory of reserves because we anticipate that such an inventory will provide superior returns. As of December 31, 2011, we had 2,319 identified drilling locations on our Permian Basin acreage. In 2012, we anticipate drilling 59 gross (39 net) vertical operated wells and three gross (two net) horizontal operated wells, which represent only 2.7% of our identified drilling locations at December 31, 2011. We also believe that there are multiple horizontal locations that could be drilled on our acreage. Our executive team has significant experience in evaluating, drilling and completing horizontal wells in the Permian Basin as well as other resource plays within North America. In addition, the liquids rich natural gas component of our inventory adds value with Btu content ranging from 1,243 MMBtu to 1,578 MBtu and our November 2011 natural gas liquids yield was 3.6 Bbls/MMcf. In addition, we have over 1,800 square miles of 3-D seismic data, covering essentially all of our acreage. This data facilitates the evaluation of our existing drilling inventory and provides insight into future development activity, including horizontal drilling opportunities and strategic leasehold acquisitions.

## Table of Contents

**Experienced, incentivized and proven management team.** Our new executive team has an average of approximately 26 years of industry experience per person, most of which is focused on resource play development. This team has a proven track record of executing on multi-rig development drilling programs and extensive experience in the Permian Basin. In addition, our executive team has significant experience with both drilling and completing horizontal wells and horizontal well reservoir and geologic expertise, which will be important as we expand our future development plans to include horizontal drilling. Our Chief Executive Officer has 26 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, most recently as Production Manager at Apache Corporation and Vice President at Laredo Petroleum Holdings, Inc. and a majority of his career prior to those positions with Burlington Resources in management roles increasing in responsibility.

**Favorable and stable operating environment.** We have focused our drilling and development operations in the Permian Basin, one of the oldest hydrocarbon basins in the United States, with a long and well-established production history and developed infrastructure. With over 400,000 wells drilled in the Permian Basin since the 1940s, we believe that the geological and regulatory environment is more stable and predictable, and we are faced with less operational risks, in the Permian Basin as compared to other emerging hydrocarbon basins.

**High degree of operational control.** We are the operator of approximately 97% of our Permian Basin acreage. This operating control allows us to better execute on our strategies of enhancing returns through operational and cost efficiencies and increasing ultimate hydrocarbon recovery by seeking to continually improve our drilling techniques, completion methodologies and reservoir evaluation processes. This operating control also enables us to obtain data needed for efficient exploration of horizontal prospects.

**Financial flexibility to fund expansion.** Upon the completion of this offering, we will have a conservative balance sheet. We will seek to maintain financial flexibility to allow us to actively develop our drilling, exploitation and exploration activities in the Wolfberry play and maximize the present value of our oil-weighted resource potential.

## **Our Properties**

### **Review of Exploration, Exploitation and Development Activities**

The following table summarizes information regarding our exploration, exploitation and development activities in the Permian Basin:

Basin	Net Acreage	Average Working Interest	Identified Drilling Locations		Gross Wells <sup>(1)</sup>	2012 Budget		Estimated Net Proved Reserves at December 31, 2011		Average Daily Production (BOE/d) <sup>(2)</sup>
			Gross	Net		Net Wells <sup>(1)</sup>	Capex (In millions)	MBOE	% Developed	
Permian	28,146	57.9%	2,319	1,342	68	44	\$ 97.7	24,750	23.9	1,921

(1) Includes 62 gross (41 net) wells for which we are the operator and six gross (three net) non-operated wells.

(2) During December 2011.

#### **Permian Basin**

##### *Location and Land*

We acquired approximately 4,174 net acres in West Texas (near Midland) in the Permian Basin on December 20, 2007, with an effective date of November 1, 2007, from ExL Petroleum, LP, Ambrose Energy I, Ltd. and certain other sellers. Subsequently, we acquired approximately 23,972 additional net acres, which brought our total net acreage position in the Permian Basin to approximately 28,146 net acres at December 31, 2011. Since our initial acquisition in the Permian Basin through December 31, 2011, we have participated in the



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## **Table of Contents**

drilling of 142 gross (86 net) wells on our leasehold in this area, primarily targeting the Wolfberry play. We are the operator of approximately 97% of our Permian Basin acreage. The Permian Basin area covers a significant portion of western Texas and eastern New Mexico and is considered one of the major producing basins in the United States. The terrain in the Permian Basin is semi-arid mesquite-mixed grassland steppe.

### *Area History*

Our proved reserves are located in the Permian Basin of West Texas, in particular in the Clearfork, Spraberry, Wolfcamp, Cline, Strawn and Atoka formations. The Spraberry play was initiated with production from several new field discoveries in the late 1940s and early 1950s. It was eventually recognized that a regional productive trend was present, as fields were extended and coalesced over a broad area in the central Midland Basin. Development in the Spraberry play was sporadic over the next several decades due to typically low productive rate wells, with economics being dependent on oil prices and drilling costs.

The Wolfcamp formation is a long-established reservoir in West Texas, first found in the 1950s as wells aiming for deeper targets occasionally intersected slump blocks or debris flows with good reservoir properties. Exploration with 2-D seismic located additional fields, but it was not until the use of 3-D seismic in the 1990s that the greater extent of the Wolfcamp formation was revealed. The additional potential of the shales within this formation as reservoir rather than just source rocks was not recognized until very recently.

During the late 1990s, Atlantic Richfield Company, or Arco, began a drilling program targeting the base of the Spraberry formation at 10,000 feet, with an additional 200 to 300 feet drilled to produce from the upper portion of the Wolfcamp formation. Henry Petroleum, a private firm, owned interests in the Pegasus field in Midland and Upton counties. While drilling in the same area as the Arco project, Henry Petroleum decided to drill completely through the Wolfcamp section. Henry Petroleum mapped the trend and began acquiring acreage and drilling wells using multiple slick-water fracturing treatments across the entire Wolfcamp interval. In 2005, former members of Henry Petroleum's Wolfcamp team formed their own private company, ExL Petroleum, and began replicating Henry Petroleum's program. After ExL had drilled 32 productive Wolfcamp/Spraberry wells through late 2007, they monetized approximately 15% of their acreage position, which led to the acquisition that enabled us to begin our participation in this play. Recent advancements in enhanced recovery techniques and horizontal drilling continue to make this play attractive to the oil and gas industry. By mid-2010, approximately half of the rigs active in the Permian Basin were drilling wells in the Wolfberry play. As of December 31, 2011, we held interests in 174 gross producing wells.

### *Geology*

The Permian Basin formed as an area of rapid Mississippian-Pennsylvanian subsidence in the foreland of the Ouachita fold belt. It is one of the largest sedimentary basins in the U.S., and has oil and gas production from several reservoirs from Permian through Ordovician in age. The term

Wolfberry was coined initially to indicate commingled production from the Permian Spraberry, Dean and Wolfcamp formations. In this prospectus, we refer to the Clearfork, Spraberry, Wolfcamp, Cline, Strawn and Atoka formations collectively as the Wolfberry play. The Wolfberry play of the Midland Basin lies in the area where the historically productive Spraberry trend geographically overlaps the productive area of the emerging Wolfcamp play. The Spraberry was deposited as turbidites in a deep water submarine fan environment, while the Wolfcamp reservoirs consist of debris-flow and grain-flow sediments, which were also deposited in a submarine fan setting. The best carbonate reservoirs within the Wolfcamp are generally found in proximity to the Central Basin Platform, while the shale reservoirs within the Wolfcamp thicken basinward away from the Central Basin Platform. Both the Spraberry and Wolfcamp contain organic-rich mudstones and shales which, when buried to sufficient depth for maturation, became the source of the hydrocarbons found in the reservoirs.

The Wolfberry play can be generally characterized as a combination of low-permeability clastic, carbonate and shale reservoirs which are hydrocarbon-charged and are economic due to the overall thickness of the section

## **Table of Contents**

(more than 3,000 feet) and application of enhanced stimulation (fracking) techniques. The Wolfberry is an unconventional basin-centered oil resource play, in the sense that there is no regional downdip oil/water contact.

Several shale intervals within the Wolfcamp formation are currently being evaluated for horizontal development potential, with initial drilling expected in 2012. The shales exhibit micro-darcy permeabilities, which result in relatively small drainage areas and recovery factors. Because of this, the horizontal exploitation of these reservoirs will supplement, and not replace, the vertical development program.

There are also productive carbonate and shale intervals within the shallower Permian Clearfork formation. Two shale intervals within the Clearfork formation are currently being evaluated for potential horizontal development. Below the Wolfcamp formation lie the Pennsylvanian Strawn and Atoka formations. Although difficult to predict, there are conventional pay intervals that develop locally within these formations which, when present, can add significant reserves.

Debris flows within the Spraberry and Wolfcamp carbonates have been observed on 3-D seismic surveys. Initial tests have confirmed the presence of enhanced reservoir. Additionally, structural closures have been mapped and are being evaluated for drilling to test deeper targets. Our extensive geophysical database, which includes over 1,800 square miles of 3-D seismic data, will be used to highgrade future locations.

Ryder Scott, an independent petroleum engineering firm, has estimated that at December 31, 2011, proved reserves net to our interest in these assets were approximately 24,750 MBOE, of which 23.9% were classified as proved developed producing, or PDP. Proved undeveloped, or PUD, reserves included in this estimate were from 293 gross well locations on 40-acre spacing. The proved reserves are generally characterized as long-lived, with predictable production profiles.

### *Production Status*

In December 2011, net production from our Permian Basin acreage was 59,551 BOE, or an average of 1,921 BOE per day, of which 77% was oil, 12% was natural gas liquids and 11% was natural gas. From January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, our average daily net production from our Permian Basin acreage was 1,634 BOE per day, of which 74% was from oil, 14% was from natural gas liquids and 12% was from natural gas.

### *Facilities*

Our land oil and gas processing facilities are typical of those found in the Permian Basin. Our facilities located at well locations include storage tank batteries, oil/gas/water separation equipment and pumping units.

### *Recent and Future Activity*

During 2011, 54 gross (31 net) wells were drilled in our Permian Basin acreage for an aggregate estimated cost of \$81.8 million. As of December 31, 2011, we had 2,319 gross identified drilling locations. We currently expect an estimated 65 gross (42 net) vertical wells and three gross (two net) horizontal wells to be drilled on our acreage in 2012. The wells are expected to be drilled to approximately 11,200 feet at an estimated average completed gross well cost of approximately \$1.9 million to \$2.4 million per vertical well and \$6.0 million to \$7.0 million per horizontal well.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Oil and Gas Data**

#### ***Proved Reserves***

##### *SEC Rule-Making Activity*

In December 2008, the SEC released its final rule for Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting. These rules require disclosure of oil and gas proved reserves by significant geographic area, using the arithmetic 12-month average beginning-of-the-month price for the year, as opposed to year-end prices as had previously been required unless contractual arrangements designate the price to be used. Other significant amendments included the following:

Disclosure of unproved reserves: probable and possible reserves may be disclosed separately on a voluntary basis.

Proved undeveloped reserve guidelines: reserves may be classified as proved undeveloped if there is a high degree of confidence that the quantities will be recovered and they are scheduled to be drilled within the next five years, unless the specific circumstances justify a longer time.

Reserves estimation using new technologies: reserves may be estimated through the use of reliable technology in addition to flow tests and production history.

Reserves personnel and estimation process: additional disclosure is required regarding the qualifications of the chief technical person who oversees the reserves estimation process. We are also required to provide a general discussion of our internal controls used to assure the objectivity of the reserves estimate.

Non-traditional resources: the definition of oil and gas producing activities has expanded and focuses on the marketable product rather than the method of extraction.

We adopted the rules effective December 31, 2009, as required by the SEC.

#### *Evaluation and Review of Reserves*

Reserve estimates were prepared by Ryder Scott as of December 31, 2011 and by Pinnacle as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, in each case with respect to our assets in the Permian Basin.

Each of Ryder Scott and Pinnacle is an independent petroleum engineering firm. The technical persons responsible for preparing our proved reserve estimates meet the requirements with regards to qualifications, independence, objectivity and confidentiality set forth in the Standards Pertaining to the Estimating and Auditing of Oil and Gas Reserves Information promulgated by the Society of Petroleum Engineers. Neither independent third-party engineering firm owns an interest in any of our properties or is employed by us on a contingent basis.

We maintain an internal staff of petroleum engineers and geoscience professionals who worked closely with our independent reserve engineers to ensure the integrity, accuracy and timeliness of the data used to calculate our proved reserves relating to our assets in the Permian Basin. Our internal technical team members met with our independent reserve engineers periodically during the period covered by the reserve report to discuss the assumptions and methods used in the proved reserve estimation process. We provide historical information to the independent reserve engineers for our properties such as ownership interest, oil and gas production, well test data, commodity prices and operating and development costs. Our Vice President Reservoir Engineering is primarily responsible for overseeing the preparation of all of our reserve estimates. Our Vice President Reservoir Engineering is a petroleum engineer with over 30 years of reservoir and operations experience and our geoscience staff has an average of approximately 26 years of industry experience per person. Our technical staff uses historical information for our properties such as ownership interest, oil and gas production, well test data, commodity prices and operating and development costs.



**Table of Contents**

The preparation of our proved reserve estimates are completed in accordance with our internal control procedures. These procedures, which are intended to ensure reliability of reserve estimations, include the following:

review and verification of historical production data, which data is based on actual production as reported by us;

preparation of reserve estimates by our Vice President Reservoir Engineering or under his direct supervision;

review by our Vice President Reservoir Engineering of all of our reported proved reserves at the close of each quarter, including the review of all significant reserve changes and all new proved undeveloped reserves additions;

direct reporting responsibilities by our Vice President Reservoir Engineering to our Chief Executive Officer; and

verification of property ownership by our land department.

The following table presents our estimated net proved oil and natural gas reserves and the present value of our reserves as of December 31, 2011, based on the reserve report prepared by Ryder Scott, and as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, based on the reserve reports prepared by Pinnacle, each an independent petroleum engineering firm, and such reserve reports have been prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. All our proved reserves included in the reserve reports are located in North America. Ryder Scott and Pinnacle prepared all our reserve estimates as of the periods covered by their respective reports. A copy of the reserve report as of December 31, 2011 prepared by Ryder Scott is attached to this prospectus as Appendix B. Our estimates of net proved reserves have not been filed with or included in reports to any federal authority or agency other than the SEC in connection with this offering.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
<b>Estimated proved developed reserves:</b>			
Oil (Bbls)	3,805,289	3,307,550	1,954,060
Natural gas (Mcf)	5,186,941	4,255,300	2,453,750
Natural gas liquids (Bbls)	1,233,318	1,105,216	591,532
Total (BOE)	5,903,097	5,121,983	2,954,550
<b>Estimated proved undeveloped reserves:</b>			
Oil (Bbls)	12,911,578	15,511,500	27,276,880
Natural gas (Mcf)	14,431,926	17,407,420	25,028,070
Natural gas liquids (Bbls)	3,529,955	4,458,762	6,930,693
Total (BOE)	18,846,854	22,871,499	38,378,918
<b>Estimated Net Proved Reserves:</b>			
Oil (Bbls)	16,716,867	18,819,050	29,230,940
Natural gas (Mcf)	19,618,867	21,662,720	27,481,820
Natural gas liquids (Bbls)	4,763,273	5,563,978	7,522,225
Total (BOE) <sup>(1)</sup>	24,749,951	27,993,481	41,333,468
Percent proved developed producing	23.9%	18.3%	7.1%

- (1) Estimates of reserves as of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 were prepared using an average price equal to the unweighted arithmetic average of hydrocarbon prices received on a field-by-field basis on the first day of each month within the 12-month periods ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, in accordance with revised SEC guidelines applicable to reserves estimates as of the end of such periods. Reserve estimates do not include any value for probable or possible reserves that may exist, nor do they include any value for undeveloped acreage. The reserve estimates represent our net revenue interest in our properties. Although we believe these estimates are reasonable, actual future production, cash flows, taxes, development expenditures, operating expenses and quantities of recoverable oil

and natural gas reserves may vary substantially from these estimates.

## **Table of Contents**

The foregoing reserves are all located within the continental United States. Reserve engineering is a subjective process of estimating volumes of economically recoverable oil and natural gas that cannot be measured in an exact manner. The accuracy of any reserve estimate is a function of the quality of available data and of engineering and geological interpretation. As a result, the estimates of different engineers often vary. In addition, the results of drilling, testing and production may justify revisions of such estimates. Accordingly, reserve estimates often differ from the quantities of oil and natural gas that are ultimately recovered. Estimates of economically recoverable oil and natural gas and of future net revenues are based on a number of variables and assumptions, all of which may vary from actual results, including geologic interpretation, prices and future production rates and costs. See *Risk Factors* contained elsewhere in this prospectus. We have not filed any estimates of total, proved net oil or natural gas reserves with any federal authority or agency other than the SEC.

Additional information regarding our proved reserves can be found in *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*, *Results of Operations* and *Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates* and notes to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus and in the reserve report as of December 31, 2011 included as Appendix B in this prospectus.

### ***Proved Undeveloped Reserves (PUDs)***

As of December 31, 2011, our proved undeveloped reserves totaled 12,912 MBbls of oil, 14,432 MMcf of natural gas and 3,530 MBbls of natural gas liquids, for a total of 18,847 MBOE. PUDs will be converted from undeveloped to developed as the applicable wells begin production.

Changes in PUDs that occurred during 2011 were primarily due to:

Additions of 6,204 MBOE attributable to acquisitions and extensions;

Conversion of approximately 2,223 MBOE attributable to PUDs into proved developed reserves;

Negative revisions of approximately 432 MBOE in PUDs due to revisions related to offset well performance;

Exclusion of 1,447 MBOE attributable to PUD locations that were not scheduled to be drilled within the next five years; and

Movement of 6,116 MBOE from PUD to probable reserves due to changes in booking methodology used by our new independent petroleum engineers and well performance in one prospect area.

Costs incurred relating to the development of PUDs were approximately \$52.8 million during 2011. Estimated future development costs relating to the development of PUDs are projected to be approximately \$62.8 million in 2012, \$87.4 million in 2013, \$94.9 million in 2014, \$70.3 million in 2015 and \$58.4 million in 2016.

All PUD drilling locations are scheduled to be drilled prior to the end of 2016.

As of December 31, 2011, 2% of our total proved reserves were classified as proved developed non-producing.

**Table of Contents****Oil and Gas Production Prices and Production Costs****Production and Price History**

The following table sets forth information regarding net production of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids, and certain price and cost information for each of the periods indicated:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2010	2009	2008
<b>Production Data:</b>					
Oil (Bbls)	307,179	196,219	280,721	168,741	138,563
Natural gas (Mcf)	274,432	233,404	323,847	253,321	240,238
Natural gas liquids (Bbls)	61,671	58,176	79,978	70,384	62,246
Combined volumes (BOE)	414,589	293,296	414,674	281,345	240,849
Daily combined volumes (BOE/d)	1,519	1,074	1,136	771	660
<b>Average Prices:</b>					
Oil (per Bbl)	\$ 93.15	\$ 75.94	\$ 76.51	\$ 58.01	\$ 94.71
Natural gas (per Mcf)	4.10	4.55	4.32	3.64	7.64
Natural gas liquids (per Bbls)	53.06	42.12	44.56	28.49	52.71
Combined (per BOE)	79.62	62.78	63.77	45.20	75.73
<b>Average Costs (per BOE):</b>					
Lease operating expense	\$ 17.86	\$ 8.88	\$ 11.07	\$ 8.41	\$ 14.01
Gathering and transportation expense	0.33	0.24	0.26	0.15	0.22
Production taxes	3.93	3.20	3.25	2.36	4.19
Production taxes as a % of sales	4.9%	5.1%	5.1%	5.2%	5.5%
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	26.83	13.26	19.64	11.43	42.35
General and administrative	5.25	6.29	7.36	17.99	22.67

**Productive Wells**

As of December 31, 2011, we owned an average 57.9% working interest in 174 gross (98 net) productive wells. Productive wells consist of producing wells and wells capable of production, including natural gas wells awaiting pipeline connections to commence deliveries and oil wells awaiting connection to production facilities. Gross wells are the total number of producing wells in which we have an interest, and net wells are the sum of our fractional working interests owned in gross wells.

**Developed and Undeveloped Acreage**

The following table sets forth information as of December 31, 2011 relating to our leasehold acreage:

Basin	Developed Acreage <sup>(1)</sup>		Undeveloped Acreage <sup>(2)</sup>		Total Acreage	
	Gross <sup>(3)</sup>	Net <sup>(4)</sup>	Gross <sup>(3)</sup>	Net <sup>(4)</sup>	Gross <sup>(3)</sup>	Net <sup>(4)</sup>
Permian	12,880	7,197	35,707	20,949	48,588	28,146

- (1) Developed acres are acres spaced or assigned to productive wells and does not include undrilled acreage held by production under the terms of the lease.
- (2) Undeveloped acres are acres on which wells have not been drilled or completed to a point that would permit the production of commercial quantities of oil or natural gas, regardless of whether such acreage contains proved reserves.
- (3) A gross acre is an acre in which a working interest is owned. The number of gross acres is the total number of acres in which a working interest is owned.
- (4)

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A net acre is deemed to exist when the sum of the fractional ownership working interests in gross acres equals one. The number of net acres is the sum of the fractional working interests owned in gross acres expressed as whole numbers and fractions thereof.

**Table of Contents**

Many of the leases comprising the undeveloped acreage set forth in the table above will expire at the end of their respective primary terms unless production from the leasehold acreage has been established prior to such date, in which event the lease will remain in effect until the cessation of production. The following table sets forth the gross and net undeveloped acreage that will expire over the next three years unless production is established within the spacing units covering the acreage or the lease is renewed or extended under continuous drilling provisions prior to the primary term expiration dates.

Basin	Remaining 2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Permian	6,546	5,646	400	222	2,327	1,960				

**Drilling Results**

The following table sets forth information with respect to the number of wells completed during the periods indicated. The information should not be considered indicative of future performance, nor should it be assumed that there is necessarily any correlation between the number of productive wells drilled, quantities of reserves found or economic value. Productive wells are those that produce commercial quantities of hydrocarbons, whether or not they produce a reasonable rate of return.

	Year ended December 31,					
	2011		2010		2009	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
<b>Development:</b>						
Productive	39	23	41	27	11	8
Dry						
<b>Exploratory:</b>						
Productive	7	4				
Dry						
<b>Total:</b>						
Productive	46	27	41	27	11	8
Dry						

As of December 31, 2011, we had 12 gross (6.4 net) wells in the process of drilling, completing or dewatering or shut in awaiting infrastructure that are not reflected in the above table. Since our initial acquisition in the Permian Basin through December 31, 2011, we have participated in the drilling of 142 gross (86 net) wells in the Permian Basin, of which we operate 132 gross (81 net) wells. Of the 142 gross wells drilled, 130 were completed as producing wells and 12 are in various stages of completion.

**Operations****General**

We are the operator of approximately 97% of our Permian Basin acreage. As operator, we design and manage the development of a well and supervise operation and maintenance activities on a day-to-day basis. Independent contractors engaged by us provide all the equipment and personnel associated with these activities. We employ petroleum engineers, geologists and land professionals who work to improve production rates, increase reserves and lower the cost of operating our oil and natural gas properties.



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## **Table of Contents**

### ***Marketing and Customers***

We market the majority of the oil and natural gas production from properties we operate for both our account and the account of the other working interest owners in these properties. We sell our natural gas production to purchasers at market prices. In March 2009, we entered into an agreement with Windsor Midstream LLC, or Midstream, an entity controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor. During 2010 and 2011, Midstream purchased a significant portion of our oil volumes. For a description of this agreement, see *Related Party Transactions Marketing Services*. We sell all of our natural gas under contracts with terms of greater than twelve months and all of our oil under contracts with terms of twelve months or less.

We normally sell production to a relatively small number of customers, as is customary in the exploration, development and production business. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and the year ended December 31, 2010, one purchaser, Midstream, accounted for approximately 77.1% and 81.7% of our revenue, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2009, two purchasers accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Windsor Midstream LLC (68.3%) and DCP Midstream, LP (14.8%). For the year ended December 31, 2008, four purchasers accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Teppco Partners, L.P. (38.6%), Plains Marketing L.P. (29.6%), DCP Midstream, L.P. (13.7%) and Targa Midstream Services Limited Partnership (10.9%). No other customer accounted for more than 10% of our revenue during these periods. If a major customer decided to stop purchasing oil and natural gas from us, revenue could decline and our operating results and financial condition could be harmed. However, based on the current demand for oil and natural gas, and the availability of other purchasers, we believe that the loss of any one or all of our major purchasers would not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations, as crude oil and natural gas are fungible products with well-established markets and numerous purchasers.

### ***Competition***

The oil and natural gas industry is intensely competitive, and we compete with other companies that have greater resources. Many of these companies not only explore for and produce oil and natural gas, but also carry on midstream and refining operations and market petroleum and other products on a regional, national or worldwide basis. These companies may be able to pay more for productive oil and natural gas properties and exploratory prospects or to define, evaluate, bid for and purchase a greater number of properties and prospects than our financial or human resources permit. In addition, these companies may have a greater ability to continue exploration activities during periods of low oil and natural gas market prices. Our larger or more integrated competitors may be able to absorb the burden of existing, and any changes to, federal, state and local laws and regulations more easily than we can, which would adversely affect our competitive position. Our ability to acquire additional properties and to discover reserves in the future will be dependent upon our ability to evaluate and select suitable properties and to consummate transactions in a highly competitive environment. In addition, because we have fewer financial and human resources than many companies in our industry, we may be at a disadvantage in bidding for exploratory prospects and producing oil and natural gas properties.

### ***Title to Properties***

As is customary in the oil and gas industry, we initially conduct only a cursory review of the title to our properties. At such time as we determine to conduct drilling operations on those properties, we conduct a thorough title examination and perform curative work with respect to significant defects prior to commencement of drilling operations. To the extent title opinions or other investigations reflect title defects on those properties, we are typically responsible for curing any title defects at our expense. We generally will not commence drilling operations on a property until we have cured any material title defects on such property. We have obtained title opinions on substantially all of our producing properties and believe that we have satisfactory title to our producing properties in accordance with standards generally accepted in the oil and gas industry. Prior to completing an acquisition of producing oil and natural gas leases, we perform title reviews on the most significant leases and, depending on the materiality of properties, we may obtain a title opinion, obtain an updated title review or opinion or review previously obtained title opinions. Our oil and natural gas properties are subject to customary royalty and other interests, liens for current taxes and other burdens which we believe do not materially interfere with the use of or affect our carrying value of the properties.

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**Table of Contents**

**Regulation**

***Environmental Matters and Regulation***

Our oil and natural gas exploration, development and production operations are subject to stringent laws and regulations governing the discharge of materials into the environment or otherwise relating to environmental protection. Numerous governmental agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, issue regulations which often require difficult and costly compliance measures that carry substantial administrative, civil and criminal penalties and may result in injunctive obligations for non-compliance. These laws and regulations may require the acquisition of a permit before drilling commences, restrict the types, quantities and concentrations of various substances that can be released into the environment in connection with drilling and production activities, limit or prohibit construction or drilling activities on certain lands lying within wilderness, wetlands, ecologically sensitive and other protected areas, require action to prevent or remediate pollution from current or former operations, such as plugging abandoned wells or closing pits, result in the suspension or revocation of necessary permits, licenses and authorizations, require that additional pollution controls be installed and impose substantial liabilities for pollution resulting from our operations or relate to our owned or operated facilities. The strict and joint and several liability nature of such laws and regulations could impose liability upon us regardless of fault. Changes in environmental laws and regulations occur frequently, and any changes that result in more stringent and costly pollution control or waste handling, storage, transport, disposal or cleanup requirements could materially adversely affect our operations and financial position, as well as the oil and natural gas industry in general. Our management believes that we are in substantial compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations and we have not experienced any material adverse effect from compliance with these environmental requirements. This trend, however, may not continue in the future.

***Waste Handling.*** The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended, or RCRA, and comparable state statutes and regulations promulgated thereunder, affect oil and natural gas exploration, development and production activities by imposing requirements regarding the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, disposal and cleanup of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. With federal approval, the individual states administer some or all of the provisions of RCRA, sometimes in conjunction with their own, more stringent requirements. Although most wastes associated with the exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas are exempt from regulation as hazardous wastes under RCRA, such wastes may constitute solid wastes that are subject to the less stringent requirements of non-hazardous waste provisions. However, there can be no assurance that the EPA or state or local governments will not adopt more stringent requirements for the handling of non-hazardous wastes or categorize some non-hazardous wastes as hazardous for future regulation. Indeed, legislation has been proposed from time to time in Congress to re-categorize certain oil and natural gas exploration, development and production wastes as hazardous wastes. Any such changes in the laws and regulations could have a material adverse effect on our capital expenditures and operating expenses.

Administrative, civil and criminal penalties can be imposed for failure to comply with waste handling requirements. We believe that we are in substantial compliance with applicable requirements related to waste handling, and that we hold all necessary and up-to-date permits, registrations and other authorizations to the extent that our operations require them under such laws and regulations. Although we do not believe the current costs of managing our wastes, as presently classified, to be significant, any legislative or regulatory reclassification of oil and natural gas exploration and production wastes could increase our costs to manage and dispose of such wastes.

***Remediation of Hazardous Substances.*** The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, as amended, also known as CERCLA or the Superfund law, and analogous state laws, generally imposes strict and joint and several liability, without regard to fault or legality of the original conduct, on classes of persons who are considered to be responsible for the release of a hazardous substance into the environment. These persons include the current owner or operator of a contaminated facility, a former owner or operator of the facility at the time of contamination, and those persons that disposed or arranged for the disposal of the hazardous substance at the facility. Under CERCLA and comparable state statutes, persons deemed responsible

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**Table of Contents**

parties may be subject to strict and joint and several liability for the costs of removing or remediating previously disposed wastes (including wastes disposed of or released by prior owners or operators) or property contamination (including groundwater contamination), for damages to natural resources and for the costs of certain health studies. In addition, it is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury and property damage allegedly caused by the hazardous substances released into the environment. In the course of our operations, we use materials that, if released, would be subject to CERCLA and comparable state statutes. Therefore, governmental agencies or third parties may seek to hold us responsible under CERCLA and comparable state statutes for all or part of the costs to clean up sites at which such hazardous substances have been released.

**Water Discharges.** The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, as amended, also known as the Clean Water Act, the Oil Pollution Act and analogous state laws and regulations promulgated thereunder impose restrictions and strict controls regarding the unauthorized discharge of pollutants, including produced waters and other gas and oil wastes, into navigable waters of the United States, as well as state waters. The discharge of pollutants into regulated waters is prohibited, except in accordance with the terms of a permit issued by the EPA or the state. The Clean Water Act and regulations implemented thereunder also prohibit the discharge of dredge and fill material into regulated waters, including jurisdictional wetlands, unless authorized by an appropriately issued permit. Spill prevention, control and countermeasure plan requirements under federal law require appropriate containment berms and similar structures to help prevent the contamination of navigable waters in the event of a petroleum hydrocarbon tank spill, rupture or leak. These laws and regulations also prohibit certain activity in wetlands unless authorized by a permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The EPA has also adopted regulations requiring certain oil and natural gas exploration and production facilities to obtain individual permits or coverage under general permits for storm water discharges. Costs may be associated with the treatment of wastewater or developing and implementing storm water pollution prevention plans, as well as for monitoring and sampling the storm water runoff from certain of our facilities. Some states also maintain groundwater protection programs that require permits for discharges or operations that may impact groundwater conditions.

The Oil Pollution Act, or OPA, is the primary federal law for oil spill liability. The OPA contains numerous requirements relating to the prevention of and response to petroleum releases into waters of the United States, including the requirement that operators of offshore facilities and certain onshore facilities near or crossing waterways must develop and maintain facility response contingency plans and maintain certain significant levels of financial assurance to cover potential environmental cleanup and restoration costs. The OPA subjects owners of facilities to strict, joint and several liability for all containment and cleanup costs and certain other damages arising from a release, including, but not limited to, the costs of responding to a release of oil to surface waters.

Noncompliance with the Clean Water Act or OPA may result in substantial administrative, civil and criminal penalties, as well as injunctive obligations. We believe we are in material compliance with the requirements of each of these laws.

**Air Emissions.** The federal Clean Air Act, as amended, and comparable state laws and regulations, regulate emissions of various air pollutants through the issuance of permits and the imposition of other requirements. The EPA has developed, and continues to develop, stringent regulations governing emissions of air pollutants at specified sources. New facilities may be required to obtain permits before work can begin, and existing facilities may be required to obtain additional permits and incur capital costs in order to remain in compliance. These laws and regulations may increase the costs of compliance for some facilities we own or operate, and federal and state regulatory agencies can impose administrative, civil and criminal penalties for non-compliance with air permits or other requirements of the federal Clean Air Act and associated state laws and regulations. We believe that we are in substantial compliance with all applicable air emissions regulations and that we hold all necessary and valid construction and operating permits for our operations. Obtaining or renewing permits has the potential to delay the development of oil and natural gas projects. Our operations may also soon be affected by rapidly emerging regulation of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, which are emitted in the course of oil and natural gas exploration and production.

**Table of Contents**

**Climate Change.** Many nations have agreed to limit emissions of greenhouse gases pursuant to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, also known as the Kyoto Protocol. Methane, a primary component of natural gas, and carbon dioxide, a byproduct of the burning of oil, natural gas and refined petroleum products, are greenhouse gases, or GHGs, regulated by the Kyoto Protocol. Although the United States is not participating in the Kyoto Protocol at this time, several states or geographic regions have adopted legislation and regulations to reduce emissions of GHGs. Additionally, on April 2, 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in *Massachusetts, et al. v. EPA*, that the EPA has the authority to regulate the emission of carbon dioxide from automobiles as an air pollutant under the federal Clean Air Act. Thereafter, in December 2009, the EPA determined that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other GHGs present an endangerment to public health and the environment because, according to the EPA, emissions of such gases contribute to warming of the earth's atmosphere and other climatic changes. These findings by the EPA allowed the agency to proceed with the adoption and implementation of regulations that would restrict emissions of GHGs under existing provisions of the federal Clean Air Act. Subsequently, the EPA adopted two sets of related rules, one of which purports to regulate emissions of GHGs from motor vehicles and the other of which regulates emissions of GHGs from certain large stationary sources of emissions such as power plants or industrial facilities. The EPA finalized the motor vehicle rule in April 2010 and it became effective January 2011, although it does not require immediate reductions in GHG emissions. The EPA adopted the stationary source rule in May 2010, and it also became effective January 2011, although it remains subject of several pending lawsuits filed by industry groups. Additionally, in September 2009, the EPA issued a final rule requiring the reporting of GHG emissions from specified large GHG emission sources in the U.S., including natural gas liquids fractionators and local natural gas/distribution companies, beginning in 2011 for emissions occurring in 2010. More recently, in November 2010, the EPA expanded its existing GHG reporting rule to include onshore and offshore oil and natural gas production and onshore processing, transmission, storage and distribution facilities, which may include certain of our facilities, beginning in 2012 for emissions occurring in 2011.

Furthermore, in July 2011, the EPA proposed several new emissions standards to reduce volatile organic compound, or VOC, emissions from several types of processes and equipment used in the oil and natural gas industry, including a 95 percent reduction in VOCs emitted during the construction or modification of hydraulically-fractured wells. Additionally, on August 23, 2011, the EPA published a proposed rule in the Federal Register that would establish new air emission controls for oil and natural gas production and natural gas processing operations. The EPA is currently receiving public comment and recently conducted public hearings regarding the proposed rules and must take final action on them by February 28, 2012. In addition, on October 20, 2011, the EPA announced a schedule to develop pre-treatment standards for wastewater discharges produced by natural gas extraction from underground coalbed and shale formations. The EPA stated that it will gather data, consult with stakeholders, including ongoing consultation with industry, and solicit public comment on a proposed rule for coalbed methane in 2013 and a proposed rule for shale gas in 2014.

In June 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act that, among other things, would have established a cap-and-trade system to regulate GHG emissions and would have required an 80% reduction in GHG emissions from sources within the United States between 2012 and 2050. The ACES Act did not pass the Senate, however, and so was not enacted by the 111th Congress. The United States Congress is likely to consider a climate change bill again in the future. Moreover, almost half of the states have already taken legal measures to reduce emissions of GHGs, primarily through the planned development of GHG emission inventories and/or regional GHG cap-and-trade programs. Most of these cap and trade programs work by requiring major sources of emissions, such as electric power plants or major producers of fuels, such as refineries and gas processing plants, to acquire and surrender emission allowances that correspond to their annual emissions of GHGs. The number of allowances available for purchase is reduced each year until the overall GHG emission reduction goal is achieved. As the number of GHG emission allowances declines each year, the cost or value of such allowances is expected to escalate significantly.

Restrictions on emissions of methane or carbon dioxide that may be imposed in various states could adversely affect the oil and natural gas industry. Currently, while we are subject to certain federal GHG

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**Table of Contents**

monitoring and reporting requirements, our operations are not adversely impacted by existing federal, state and local climate change initiatives and, at this time, it is not possible to accurately estimate how potential future laws or regulations addressing GHG emissions would impact our business.

***Regulation of Hydraulic Fracturing***

Hydraulic fracturing is an important common practice that is used to stimulate production of hydrocarbons, particularly natural gas, from tight formations, including shales. The process involves the injection of water, sand and chemicals under pressure into formations to fracture the surrounding rock and stimulate production. The Safe Drinking Water Act, or SDWA, regulates the underground injection of substances through the Underground Injection Control, or UIC, program. Hydraulic fracturing generally is exempt from regulation under the UIC program, and the hydraulic fracturing process is typically regulated by state oil and gas commissions. The EPA, however, has recently taken the position that hydraulic fracturing with fluids containing diesel fuel is subject to regulation under the UIC program, specifically as Class II UIC wells. At the same time, the EPA has commenced a study of the potential environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing activities, and a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives is also conducting an investigation of hydraulic fracturing practices. Moreover, the EPA announced on October 20, 2011 that it is also launching a study regarding wastewater resulting from hydraulic fracturing activities and currently plans to propose standards by 2014 that such wastewater must meet before being transported to a treatment plant. As part of these studies, both the EPA and the House committee have requested that certain companies provide them with information concerning the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process. These studies, depending on their results, could spur initiatives to regulate hydraulic fracturing under the SDWA or otherwise.

In March 2011, companion bills entitled the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act of 2009 were reintroduced in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. These bills, which are currently under consideration by Congress, would repeal the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the SDWA, which would have the effect of allowing the EPA to promulgate regulations requiring permits and implementing potential new requirements on hydraulic fracturing under the SDWA. This development could, in turn, require state regulatory agencies in states with programs delegated under the SDWA to impose additional requirements on hydraulic fracturing operations. In addition, the bills would require persons using hydraulic fracturing, such as us, to disclose the chemical constituents, but not the proprietary formulas, of their fracturing fluids to a regulatory agency, which would make the information public via the internet. Additionally, fracturing companies would be required to disclose specific chemical contents of fluids, including proprietary chemical formulas, to state authorities or to a requesting physician or nurse if deemed necessary by the physician or nurse in connection with a medical emergency.

In addition, there are certain governmental reviews either underway or being proposed that focus on environmental aspects of hydraulic fracturing practices. The White House Council on Environmental Quality is coordinating an administration-wide review of hydraulic fracturing practices, and a committee of the United States House of Representatives has conducted an investigation of hydraulic fracturing practices. Furthermore, a number of federal agencies are analyzing, or have been requested to review, a variety of environmental issues associated with hydraulic fracturing. In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy is conducting an investigation of practices the EPA could recommend to better protect the environment from drilling using hydraulic fracturing completion methods. Also, the U.S. Department of the Interior has announced that it will consider regulations relating to the use of hydraulic fracturing techniques on public lands and disclosure of fracturing fluid constituents. Also, certain members of the Congress have called upon the U.S. Government Accountability Office to investigate how hydraulic fracturing might adversely affect water resources, the SEC to investigate the natural gas industry and any possible misleading of investors or the public regarding the economic feasibility of pursuing natural gas deposits in shales by means of hydraulic fracturing, and the U.S. Energy Information Administration to provide a better understanding of that agency's estimates regarding natural gas reserves, including reserves from shale formations, as well as uncertainties associated with those estimates. On August 11, 2011, the Shale Gas Subcommittee of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board released a report proposing recommendations to reduce the potential environmental impacts from shale gas production.

## **Table of Contents**

These ongoing or proposed studies, depending on their degree of pursuit and any meaningful results obtained, could spur initiatives to further regulate hydraulic fracturing under the SDWA or other regulatory authorities.

Some states have adopted, or are considering adopting, regulations that could restrict or prohibit hydraulic fracturing in certain circumstances and/or require the disclosure of the composition of hydraulic fracturing fluids. For example, in September 2011, the Ohio legislature began consideration of legislation that would impose a temporary moratorium on drilling involving hydraulic fracturing pending the delivery of the EPA study regarding the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water resources. In June 2010, the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission passed a rule requiring disclosure of hydraulic fracturing fluid content. In November 2010, the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board proposed regulations that would require reporting of the chemicals used in fracturing fluids. Effective January 15, 2011, Arkansas began requiring disclosure of the components, but not the precise chemical composition, of hydraulic fracturing fluids. On May 31, 2011, the Texas Legislature adopted new legislation requiring oil and gas operators to publicly disclose the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process. It was signed into law on June 17, 2011, effective as of September 1, 2011. The Texas Railroad Commission will adopt rules and regulations implementing this legislation in two phases by July 1, 2012 and 2013, respectively. The new Texas law requires that a well operator disclose the list of chemical ingredients subject to the requirements of OSHA for disclosure on an internet website and also file the list of chemicals with the Texas Railroad Commission with the well completion report. The total volume of water used to hydraulically fracture a well must also be disclosed to the public and filed with the Texas Railroad Commission. Effective August 26, 2011, Montana adopted hydraulic fracturing disclosure regulations under which well operators must provide information in drilling permit applications on the estimated volume and types of materials to be used in the proposed hydraulic fracturing activities. Upon completion of the well, well operators must provide the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation with the volume and type of chemicals used, including the additive type, chemical ingredient names, and Chemical Abstracts Number, subject to certain trade secret protections. In September 2011, the North Dakota Industrial Commission proposed new regulations for hydraulic fracturing activities that could require well operators, under certain circumstances, to disclose the hydraulic fluid composition, including the trade name, supplier, ingredients, Chemical Abstracts Number, and the maximum ingredient concentrations of all additives in the hydraulic fracturing fluid. We plan to use hydraulic fracturing extensively in connection with the development and production of certain of our oil and natural gas properties and any increased federal, state, local, foreign or international regulation of hydraulic fracturing could reduce the volumes of oil and gas that we can economically recover, which could materially and adversely affect our revenues and results of operations.

There has been increasing public controversy regarding hydraulic fracturing with regard to use of fracturing fluids, impacts on drinking water supplies, use of waters and the potential for impacts to surface water, groundwater and the environment generally. A number of lawsuits and enforcement actions have been initiated across the country implicating hydraulic fracturing practices. If new laws or regulations that significantly restrict hydraulic fracturing, such as the FRAC Act, are adopted, such laws could make it more difficult or costly for us to perform fracturing to stimulate production from tight formations as well as make it easier for third parties opposing the hydraulic fracturing process to initiate legal proceedings based on allegations that specific chemicals used in the fracturing process could adversely affect groundwater. In addition, if hydraulic fracturing is further regulated at the federal or state level, our fracturing activities could become subject to additional permitting and financial assurance requirements, more stringent construction specifications, increased monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping obligations, plugging and abandonment requirements and also to attendant permitting delays and potential increases in costs. Such legislative changes could cause us to incur substantial compliance costs, and compliance or the consequences of any failure to comply by us could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. At this time, it is not possible to estimate the impact on our business of newly enacted or potential federal or state legislation governing hydraulic fracturing.

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**Table of Contents**

***Other Regulation of the Oil and Natural Gas Industry***

The oil and natural gas industry is extensively regulated by numerous federal, state and local authorities. Legislation affecting the oil and natural gas industry is under constant review for amendment or expansion, frequently increasing the regulatory burden. Also, numerous departments and agencies, both federal and state, are authorized by statute to issue rules and regulations that are binding on the oil and natural gas industry and its individual members, some of which carry substantial penalties for failure to comply. Although the regulatory burden on the oil and natural gas industry increases our cost of doing business and, consequently, affects our profitability, these burdens generally do not affect us any differently or to any greater or lesser extent than they affect other companies in the industry with similar types, quantities and locations of production.

The availability, terms and cost of transportation significantly affect sales of oil and natural gas. The interstate transportation and sale for resale of oil and natural gas is subject to federal regulation, including regulation of the terms, conditions and rates for interstate transportation, storage and various other matters, primarily by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC. Federal and state regulations govern the price and terms for access to oil and natural gas pipeline transportation. FERC's regulations for interstate oil and natural gas transmission in some circumstances may also affect the intrastate transportation of oil and natural gas.

Although oil and natural gas prices are currently unregulated, Congress historically has been active in the area of oil and natural gas regulation. We cannot predict whether new legislation to regulate oil and natural gas might be proposed, what proposals, if any, might actually be enacted by Congress or the various state legislatures, and what effect, if any, the proposals might have on our operations. Sales of condensate and oil and natural gas liquids are not currently regulated and are made at market prices.

***Drilling and Production.*** Our operations are subject to various types of regulation at the federal, state and local level. These types of regulation include requiring permits for the drilling of wells, drilling bonds and reports concerning operations. The state, and some counties and municipalities, in which we operate also regulate one or more of the following:

the location of wells;

the method of drilling and casing wells;

the timing of construction or drilling activities, including seasonal wildlife closures;

the rates of production or allowables ;

the surface use and restoration of properties upon which wells are drilled;

the plugging and abandoning of wells; and

notice to, and consultation with, surface owners and other third parties.

State laws regulate the size and shape of drilling and spacing units or proration units governing the pooling of oil and natural gas properties. Some states allow forced pooling or integration of tracts to facilitate exploration while other states rely on voluntary pooling of lands and leases. In some instances, forced pooling or unitization may be implemented by third parties and may reduce our interest in the unitized properties. In addition, state conservation laws establish maximum rates of production from oil and natural gas wells, generally prohibit the venting or flaring of natural gas and impose requirements regarding the ratable production. These laws and regulations may limit the amount of oil and natural gas we can produce from our wells or limit the number of wells or the locations at which we can drill. Moreover, each state generally imposes a production or severance tax with respect to the production and sale of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids within its jurisdiction. States do not regulate wellhead prices or engage in other similar direct regulation, but there can be no assurance that they will not do so in the future. The effect of such future regulations may be to limit the amounts of oil and natural gas that may be produced from our wells, negatively

affect the economics of production from these wells or to limit the number of locations we can drill.



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## **Table of Contents**

Federal, state and local regulations provide detailed requirements for the abandonment of wells, closure or decommissioning of production facilities and pipelines and for site restoration in areas where we operate. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and many other state and local authorities also have regulations for plugging and abandonment, decommissioning and site restoration. Although the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not require bonds or other financial assurances, some state agencies and municipalities do have such requirements.

***Natural Gas Sales and Transportation.*** Historically, federal legislation and regulatory controls have affected the price of the natural gas we produce and the manner in which we market our production. FERC has jurisdiction over the transportation and sale for resale of natural gas in interstate commerce by natural gas companies under the Natural Gas Act of 1938 and the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978. Since 1978, various federal laws have been enacted which have resulted in the complete removal of all price and non-price controls for sales of domestic natural gas sold in first sales, which include all of our sales of our own production. Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, FERC has substantial enforcement authority to prohibit the manipulation of natural gas markets and enforce its rules and orders, including the ability to assess substantial civil penalties.

FERC also regulates interstate natural gas transportation rates and service conditions and establishes the terms under which we may use interstate natural gas pipeline capacity, which affects the marketing of natural gas that we produce, as well as the revenues we receive for sales of our natural gas and release of our natural gas pipeline capacity. Commencing in 1985, FERC promulgated a series of orders, regulations and rule makings that significantly fostered competition in the business of transporting and marketing gas. Today, interstate pipeline companies are required to provide nondiscriminatory transportation services to producers, marketers and other shippers, regardless of whether such shippers are affiliated with an interstate pipeline company. FERC's initiatives have led to the development of a competitive, open access market for natural gas purchases and sales that permits all purchasers of natural gas to buy gas directly from third-party sellers other than pipelines. However, the natural gas industry historically has been very heavily regulated; therefore, we cannot guarantee that the less stringent regulatory approach currently pursued by FERC and Congress will continue indefinitely into the future nor can we determine what effect, if any, future regulatory changes might have on our natural gas related activities.

Under FERC's current regulatory regime, transmission services must be provided on an open-access, non-discriminatory basis at cost-based rates or at market-based rates if the transportation market at issue is sufficiently competitive. Gathering service, which occurs upstream of jurisdictional transmission services, is regulated by the states onshore and in state waters. Although its policy is still in flux, FERC has in the past reclassified certain jurisdictional transmission facilities as non-jurisdictional gathering facilities, which has the tendency to increase our costs of transporting gas to point-of-sale locations.

***Oil Sales and Transportation.*** Sales of crude oil, condensate and natural gas liquids are not currently regulated and are made at negotiated prices. Nevertheless, Congress could reenact price controls in the future.

Our crude oil sales are affected by the availability, terms and cost of transportation. The transportation of oil in common carrier pipelines is also subject to rate regulation. FERC regulates interstate oil pipeline transportation rates under the Interstate Commerce Act and intrastate oil pipeline transportation rates are subject to regulation by state regulatory commissions. The basis for intrastate oil pipeline regulation, and the degree of regulatory oversight and scrutiny given to intrastate oil pipeline rates, varies from state to state. Insofar as effective interstate and intrastate rates are equally applicable to all comparable shippers, we believe that the regulation of oil transportation rates will not affect our operations in any materially different way than such regulation will affect the operations of our competitors.

Further, interstate and intrastate common carrier oil pipelines must provide service on a non-discriminatory basis. Under this open access standard, common carriers must offer service to all shippers requesting service on the same terms and under the same rates. When oil pipelines operate at full capacity, access is governed by prorationing provisions set forth in the pipelines' published tariffs. Accordingly, we believe that access to oil pipeline transportation services generally will be available to us to the same extent as to our competitors.

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## **Table of Contents**

**State Regulation.** Texas regulates the drilling for, and the production, gathering and sale of, oil and natural gas, including imposing severance taxes and requirements for obtaining drilling permits. Texas currently imposes a 4.6% severance tax on oil production and a 7.5% severance tax on natural gas production. States also regulate the method of developing new fields, the spacing and operation of wells and the prevention of waste of natural gas resources. States may regulate rates of production and may establish maximum daily production allowables from natural gas wells based on market demand or resource conservation, or both. States do not regulate wellhead prices or engage in other similar direct economic regulation, but there can be no assurance that they will not do so in the future. The effect of these regulations may be to limit the amount of natural gas that may be produced from our wells and to limit the number of wells or locations we can drill.

The petroleum industry is also subject to compliance with various other federal, state and local regulations and laws. Some of those laws relate to resource conservation and equal employment opportunity. We do not believe that compliance with these laws will have a material adverse effect on us.

### **Operational Hazards and Insurance**

The oil business involves a variety of operating risks, including the risk of fire, explosions, blow outs, pipe failures and, in some cases, abnormally high pressure formations which could lead to environmental hazards such as oil spills, natural gas leaks and the discharge of toxic gases. If any of these should occur, we could incur legal defense costs and could be required to pay amounts due to injury, loss of life, damage or destruction to property, natural resources and equipment, pollution or environmental damage, regulatory investigation and penalties and suspension of operations.

In accordance with what we believe to be industry practice, we maintain insurance against some, but not all, of the operating risks to which our business is exposed. We currently have insurance policies for property (including leased oil and gas properties), general liability, operational control of certain wells, pollution, commercial auto, umbrella liability, inland marine, workers compensation and other coverage. The limits for certain of our policies are as follows:

oil and gas lease property: \$21,888,656 with a deductible ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 based on property value;

general liability: \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate with a \$25,000 deductible;

pollution: \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate with a \$50,000 deductible;

umbrella liability: \$5,000,000 per occurrence with \$5,000,000 aggregate coverage; and

inland marine: limit varies on a per rig basis from \$3,586,000 to \$7,155,000 with a \$250,000 deductible per accident.

As noted above, most of our insurance coverage includes deductibles that must be met prior to recovery. Additionally, our insurance is subject to exclusion and limitations, and there is no assurance that such coverage will fully or adequately protect us against liability from all potential consequences, damages and losses. Any of these operational hazards could cause a significant disruption to our business. A loss not fully covered by insurance could have a material adverse affect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

We reevaluate the purchase of insurance, policy terms and limits annually. Future insurance coverage for our industry could increase in cost and may include higher deductibles or retentions. In addition, some forms of insurance may become unavailable in the future or unavailable on terms that we believe are economically acceptable. No assurance can be given that we will be able to maintain insurance in the future at rates that we consider reasonable and we may elect to maintain minimal or no insurance coverage. We may not be able to secure additional insurance or bonding that might be required by new governmental regulations. This may cause us to restrict our operations, which might severely impact our financial position. The occurrence of a significant event, not fully insured against, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.



## **Table of Contents**

Generally, we also require our third party vendors to sign master service agreements in which they agree to indemnify us for injuries and deaths of the service provider's employees as well as contractors and subcontractors hired by the service provider.

### **Employees**

We have approximately 50 full time employees, including three geologists, three engineers and three land professionals, all of whom are salaried administrative or supervisory employees. Of these 50 full time employees, 31 work in our office in Midland, Texas. None of our employees are represented by labor unions or covered by any collective bargaining agreements. We also hire independent contractors and consultants involved in land, technical, regulatory and other disciplines to assist our full time employees.

### **Facilities**

Our corporate headquarters is located in Midland, Texas. We also lease additional office space in Midland and in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We believe that our facilities are adequate for our current operations.

### **Legal Proceedings**

Due to the nature of our business, we are, from time to time, involved in routine litigation or subject to disputes or claims related to our business activities, including workers' compensation claims and employment related disputes. In the opinion of our management, none of the pending litigation, disputes or claims against us, if decided adversely, will have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, cash flows or results of operations.

**Table of Contents****MANAGEMENT****Executive Officers and Directors**

Set forth below is the name, age, position and a brief account of the business experience of each of our executive officers and directors as of January 1, 2012.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position</b>
Travis D. Stice	50	Chief Executive Officer
Teresa L. Dick	42	Chief Financial Officer, Senior Vice President
Russell Pantermuehl	52	Vice President Reservoir Engineering
Paul Molnar	55	Vice President Geoscience
Michael Hollis	36	Vice President Drilling
William Franklin	57	Vice President Land
Jeff White	55	Vice President Operations
Randall J. Holder	58	Vice President, General Counsel
Steven E. West	52	Director

*Travis D. Stice Chief Executive Officer* Mr. Stice has served as our Chief Executive Officer since January 2012. Prior to his current position with us, he served as our President and Chief Operating Officer from April 2011 to January 2012. From November 2010 to April 2011, Mr. Stice served as a Production Manager of Apache Corporation, an oil and gas exploration company. Mr. Stice served as a Vice President of Laredo Petroleum Holdings, Inc, an oil and gas exploration company, from September 2008 to September 2010. From April 2006 until August 2008, Mr. Stice served as a Development Manager of ConocoPhillips/Burlington Resources Mid-Continent Business Unit, an oil and gas exploration company. Prior to that, Mr. Stice held a series of positions at Burlington Resources, an oil and gas exploration company, most recently as a General Manager, Engineering, Operations and Business Reporting of its Mid Continent Division from January 2001 until Burlington Resources acquisition by ConocoPhillips in March 2006. Mr. Stice has over 26 years of industry experience in production operations, reservoir engineering, production engineering and unconventional oil and gas exploration and over 18 years of management experience. Mr. Stice graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering. Mr. Stice is a registered engineer in the State of Texas, and is a 25-year member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

*Teresa L. Dick Chief Financial Officer, Senior Vice President* Ms. Dick has served as our Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President since November 2009. Prior to her current position with us, Ms. Dick served as our Corporate Controller from November 2007 until November 2009. From June 2006 to November 2007, Ms. Dick held a key management position as the Controller/Tax Director at Highland Partners, a publicly-traded midstream energy master limited partnership. Ms. Dick has over 19 years of accounting experience, including over eight years of public company experience in both audit and tax areas. Ms. Dick received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting from the University of Northern Colorado. Ms. Dick is a certified public accountant and a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies.

*Russell Pantermuehl Vice President Reservoir Engineering* Mr. Pantermuehl joined us in August 2011 as Vice President Reservoir Engineering. Mr. Pantermuehl served as a reservoir engineering supervisor for Concho Resources Inc., an oil and gas exploration company, from March 2010 to August 2011. Mr. Pantermuehl worked for ConocoPhillips Company as a reservoir engineering advisor from January 2005 to March 2010. Mr. Pantermuehl also worked as an independent consultant in the oil and gas industry from March 2000 to December 2004. Mr. Pantermuehl received a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering from Texas A&M University.

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**Table of Contents**

*Paul Molnar Vice President Geoscience* Mr. Molnar joined us in August 2011 as Vice President Geoscience. Mr. Molnar served as a Senior District Geologist for Samson Investment Company, an oil and gas exploration company, from March 2011 to August 2011. Mr. Molnar worked as an asset supervisor and geosciences supervisor for ConocoPhillips Company from April 2006 to February 2011. Mr. Molnar also worked as a geologic advisor for Burlington Resources, an oil and gas exploration company, from December 1996 to March 2006. Mr. Molnar has over 31 years of industry experience. Mr. Molnar received a Master of Science degree in Geology from The State University of New York at Buffalo, New York.

*Michael Hollis Vice President Drilling* Mr. Hollis joined us in September 2011 as Vice President Drilling. Prior to his current position, Mr. Hollis served in various roles, most recently as drilling manager at Chesapeake Energy Corporation, an oil and gas exploration company, from June 2006 to September 2011. Mr. Hollis worked for ConocoPhillips Company as a senior drilling engineer from January 2004 to June 2006 and as a process engineer from 2001 to 2003. Mr. Hollis also worked as a production engineer for Burlington Resources from 1998 to 2001 as well as from June 2003 to January 2004. Mr. Hollis received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Louisiana State University.

*William Franklin Vice President Land* Mr. Franklin joined us in August 2011 as Vice President Land. Prior to his current position, Mr. Franklin worked for ConocoPhillips Company in various land management roles from May 1983 until July 2011. Mr. Franklin received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Oklahoma City University.

*Jeff White Vice President Operations* Mr. White joined us in September 2011 as Vice President Operations. Prior to his current position, Mr. White worked for Laredo Petroleum Holdings, Inc. as a completion manager from May 2010 to September 2011. Mr. White also worked as a staff engineer for ConocoPhillips from February 2007 to May 2009. In addition, he worked in various engineering and management positions with Anadarko Petroleum from June 1988 to June 2005. Mr. White received a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering from Texas Tech University. He also received a Bachelor of Science degree in Fishery Biology from New Mexico State University.

*Randall J. Holder Vice President, General Counsel* Mr. Holder joined us in November 2011 as General Counsel and Vice President responsible for legal and human resources. Mr. Holder served as General Counsel and Vice President for Great White Energy Services LLC, an oilfield services company, from November 2008 to November 2011. Mr. Holder served as Executive Vice President and General Counsel for R.L. Hudson and Company, a supplier of molded rubber and plastic components, from February 2007 to October 2008. Mr. Holder was in private practice of law and a member of Holder Betz LLC from February 2005 to February 2007. Mr. Holder served as Vice President and Assistant General Counsel for Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group, a vehicle rental company, from January 2003 to February 2005 and, before that, as Vice President and General Counsel for Thrifty Rent-A-Car System, Inc., a vehicle rental company, from September 1996 to December 2002. He also served as Vice President and General Counsel for Pentastar Transportation Group, Inc. from November 1992 to September 1996, which was wholly-owned by Chrysler Corporation. Mr. Holder started his legal career with Tenneco Oil Company where he served as a Division Attorney providing legal services to the company's mid-continent division for ten years. Mr. Holder received a Juris Doctorate degree from Oklahoma City University.

*Steven E. West Director* Mr. West has served as a director of our company since December 2011. Mr. West served as our Chief Executive Officer from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011. Since January 2011, Mr. West has been a partner at Wexford, focusing on Wexford's private equity energy investments. From August 2006 until December 2010, Mr. West served as senior portfolio advisor at Wexford. From August 2003 until August 2006, Mr. West was the chief financial officer of Sunterra Corporation, a former Wexford portfolio company. From December 1993 until July 2003, Mr. West held senior financial positions at Coast Asset Management and IndyMac Bank. Prior to that, Mr. West worked at First Nationwide Bank, Lehman Brothers and Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co., the predecessor of KPMG LLP. Mr. West holds a Bachelor of Science degree in

## **Table of Contents**

Accounting from California State University, Chico. We believe Mr. West's strong background in finance, accounting and private equity energy investments, as well as his executive management skills developed as part of his career with Wexford, its portfolio companies and other financial institutions qualify him to serve on our board of directors.

### **Our Board of Directors and Committees**

Upon completion of this offering, our board of directors will consist of \_\_\_\_\_ directors, at least three of whom will satisfy the independence requirements of current SEC rules and The NASDAQ Global Market listing standards. Our certificate of incorporation provides that the terms of office of the directors are one year from the time of their election until the next annual meeting of stockholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Our certificate of incorporation provides that the authorized number of directors will generally be not less than five nor more than thirteen, and the exact number of directors will be fixed from time to time exclusively by the board of directors pursuant to a resolution adopted by a majority of the whole board. In addition, our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws provide that, in general, vacancies on the board may be filled by a majority of directors in office, although less than a quorum.

Our board of directors will establish an audit committee in connection with this offering whose functions include the following:

assist the board of directors in its oversight responsibilities regarding the integrity of our financial statements, our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, the independent accountant's qualifications and independence and our accounting and financial reporting processes of and the audits of our financial statements;

prepare the report required by the SEC for inclusion in our annual proxy or information statement;

appoint, retain, compensate, evaluate and terminate our independent accountants;

approve audit and non-audit services to be performed by the independent accountants;

review and approve related party transactions; and

perform such other functions as the board of directors may from time to time assign to the audit committee.

The specific functions and responsibilities of the audit committee will be set forth in the audit committee charter. Upon completion of this offering, our audit committee will include at least one director who satisfies the independence requirements of current SEC rules and The NASDAQ Global Market listing standards. Within one year after completion of the offering, we expect that our audit committee will be composed of three members that will satisfy the independence requirements of current SEC rules and The NASDAQ Global Market listing standards. We also expect that one of the members of the audit committee will qualify as an audit committee financial expert as defined under these rules and listing standards, and the other members of our audit committee will satisfy the financial literacy standards for audit committee members under these rules and listing standards.

Pursuant to our bylaws, our board of directors may, from time to time, establish other committees to facilitate the management of our business and operations. Because we are considered to be controlled by Wexford under The NASDAQ Global Market rules, we are eligible for exemptions from provisions of these rules requiring a majority of independent directors, nominating and corporate governance and compensation committees composed entirely of independent directors and written charters addressing specified matters. We may elect to take advantage of these exemptions. In the event that we cease to be a controlled company within the meaning of these rules, we will be required to comply with these provisions after the specified transition periods.





## **Table of Contents**

Although we will be eligible for an exemption from the compensation committee requirements under The NASDAQ Global Market rules, we intend to establish a compensation committee composed of at least two independent directors in connection with this offering. See *Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis Compensation Policy*.

### **Director Compensation**

To date, none of our directors has received compensation for services rendered as a board member. Members of our board of directors who are also officers or employees of our company will not receive compensation for their services as directors. It is anticipated that after the completion of this offering, we will pay our non-employee directors a monthly retainer of \$            and a per meeting attendance fee of \$            and reimburse all ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in the conduct of our business.

In connection with this offering, we intend to implement an equity incentive plan. Under the plan, certain non-employee directors will be granted restricted stock units, which will vest in three equal annual installments beginning on the date of grant.

### **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

We do not currently have a compensation committee. None of our executive officers serves, or has served during the past year, as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any other company that has one or more executive officers serving as a member of our board of directors or compensation committee.

### **Executive Compensation**

#### ***Compensation Discussion and Analysis***

##### *Compensation Practices*

Historically, our equity sponsor, Wexford, determined our overall compensation philosophy and set the compensation of our named executive officers, after taking into consideration recommendations of our then serving chief executive officer. In the case of our named executives with employment agreements, the compensation of such individuals is determined in accordance with their respective employment agreements.

Prior to the completion of this offering, our board of directors intends to establish a compensation committee comprised of at least two independent, non-employee directors and adopt a written charter for the compensation committee setting forth the compensation committee's purpose and responsibilities. The principal responsibilities of the compensation committee will be to review and approve corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of our executive officers, evaluate their performance in light of these goals and, subject to the terms of the employment agreements with our named executive officers, determine and approve our executive officers' compensation based on such evaluation and establish policies, including with respect to the following:

the determination of the elements of executive compensation and allocation among different types of executive compensation;

the determination as to when awards are granted, including awards of equity-based compensation such as restricted stock units, restricted stock and/or options;

stock ownership guidelines and any policies regarding hedging the economic risk of such ownership; and

the review of the risks and rewards associated with our compensation policies and programs.

The compensation committee will seek to provide a total compensation package designed to drive performance and reward contributions in support of our business strategies and to attract, motivate and retain



## Table of Contents

high quality talent with the skills and competencies required by us. It is possible that the compensation committee will examine the compensation practices of our peer companies and may also review compensation data from the oil and natural gas industry generally to the extent the competition for executive talent is broader than a group of selected peer companies, but any decisions regarding possible benchmarking will be made following the completion of this offering. In addition, the compensation committee may review and, in certain cases, participate in, various relevant compensation surveys and consult with compensation consultants with respect to determining any changes in the compensation for our named executive officers, subject to the terms of their respective employment agreements. We expect that our Chief Executive Officer will provide periodic recommendations to the compensation committee regarding such determinations. We expect that the compensation committee will design our compensation policies and programs to encourage and reward prudent business judgment and appropriate risk taking over the long term.

### *Compensation Policy*

Our general compensation policy is guided by several key principles:

designing competitive total compensation programs to enhance our ability to attract and retain knowledgeable and experienced senior management level employees;

motivating employees to deliver outstanding financial performance and meet or exceed general and specific business, operational and individual objectives;

setting compensation and incentive levels relevant to the market in which the employee provides service; and

providing a meaningful portion of the total compensation to our named executive officers in equity, thus assuring an alignment of interests between our senior management level employees and our stockholders.

Upon completion of this offering, our compensation committee will determine, subject to the terms of the employment agreements with our named executive officers, the mix of compensation, both among short-term and long-term compensation and cash and non-cash compensation, to establish structures that it believes are appropriate for each of our named executive officers. In making compensation decisions with respect to each element of compensation, the compensation committee is expected to consider numerous factors, including:

the individual's particular background and circumstances, including training and prior relevant work experience;

the individual's role with us and the compensation paid to similar persons at comparable companies;

the demand for individuals with the individual's specific expertise and experience at the time of hire;

achievement of individual and company performance goals and other expectations relating to the position;

comparison to other executives within our company having similar levels of expertise and experience and the uniqueness of the individual's industry skills; and

aligning the compensation of our executives with the performance of our company on both a short-term and long-term basis.

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Although we expect the compensation committee to follow these policies, it is possible that the compensation committee could develop a compensation philosophy different than that discussed here.

### *Historic Elements of Compensation*

Historically the principal elements of compensation for our named executive officers have been:

base salary;

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**Table of Contents**

bonus awards;

equity awards contained in their employment agreements; and

health insurance, life and disability insurance and 401(k) plan benefits available to all of our other employees.

We believe that our company does not utilize compensation policies and programs that create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse impact on our company. Historically, certain management, administrative and treasury functions were provided to us by Everest, an entity controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor. For purposes of presenting the consolidated financial statements, included elsewhere in this prospectus, allocations were made to determine the cost of general and administrative activities performed attributable to us. The allocations were made based upon underlying salary costs of employees performing Company related functions, payroll, revenue or headcount relative to other companies managed by Everest, or specifically identified invoices processed, depending on the nature of the cost. Currently, we employ all our named executive officers directly.

*Components of Compensation Following the Completion of the Offering*

We believe a material amount of executive compensation should be tied to our performance, and a significant portion of the total prospective compensation of each named executive officer should be tied to measurable financial and operational objectives. These objectives may include absolute performance or performance relative to a peer group. During periods when performance meets or exceeds established objectives, our named executive officers should be paid at or above targeted levels, respectively. When our performance does not meet key objectives, incentive award payments, if any, should be less than such targeted levels.

Following the completion of this offering, we anticipate that the compensation committee will seek to balance awards based on short-term annual results with awards intended to compensate our executives based on our long-term viability and success. Consequently, in addition to annual bonuses, in the future we may provide long-term incentives to our executives in the form of equity based awards to continue to align the interests of our named executive officers with those of our equity holders. These awards would be in addition to the equity awards contained in their employment agreements. In connection with this offering, our board of directors will adopt a long-term incentive plan, which we believe will further incentivize the executive officers to perform their duties in a way that will enhance our long-term success.

As discussed above, following the completion of this offering and subject to the terms of the employment agreements with our named executive officers, our compensation committee will determine the mix of compensation, both among short-term and long-term compensation and cash and non-cash compensation, to establish structures that it believes are appropriate for each of our named executive officers. We believe that the mix of base salary, performance-based incentive compensation, bonus awards, existing equity awards under their employment agreements, awards under the long-term incentive plan and the other benefits that are or will be available to our named executive officers will accomplish our overall compensation objectives. We believe that these elements of compensation create competitive compensation opportunities to align and drive employee performance in support of our business strategies and to attract, motivate and retain high quality talent with the skills and competencies required by us.

*Base Salary*

Our named executive officers' base salaries are determined in accordance with their respective employment agreements. We have not retained compensation consultants to advise us on compensation matters. Subject to applicable employment agreements, the compensation committee may increase base salaries to align such salaries with market levels for comparable positions in other companies in our industry if we identify significant market changes. Additionally, the compensation committee may adjust base salaries as warranted throughout the

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## **Table of Contents**

year for promotions or other changes in the scope or breadth of an executive's role or responsibilities. The compensation committee may also evaluate our named executive officers' salaries together with other components of their compensation to ensure that the executive's total compensation is in line with our overall compensation philosophy. Upon completion of this offering, our named executive officers will, initially, continue to be compensated at their current annual rates, as specified in the Summary Compensation Table below.

### *Discretionary Annual Performance Bonus*

In accordance with our named executive officers' employment agreements, the board of directors will have the authority to award annual cash bonuses to our named executive officers that have achieved their respective performance goals determined by the board of directors for the applicable year. Pursuant to the terms of their respective employment agreements, the amount of the annual cash bonus that each of our named executive officers (with the exception of Mr. Stice) is eligible to receive is equal to 50% of such officer's annual base salary. Mr. Stice is entitled to receive an annual bonus ranging from \$200,000 to \$400,000 upon the achievement of performance goals to be determined by the board of directors. For 2011, our named executive officers received the annual cash bonuses set forth in the table under the caption *Summary of Compensation of Our Named Executive Officers* included beginning on page 96 of this prospectus.

### *Long Term Equity Incentive Compensation*

We will seek to promote an ownership culture among our executive officers in an effort to enhance our long-term performance. We believe the use of stock and stock-based awards offers the best approach to achieving our compensation goals. Each of our named executive officers has been awarded an option to purchase shares of our common stock in accordance with the terms of his or her employment agreement. See *Employment Agreements* below. To date, we have not adopted stock ownership guidelines for our executives. In connection with this offering, we intend to implement an equity incentive plan. The purpose of this plan will be to continue to enable us, and our affiliates, to attract and retain the services of the types of employees, consultants and directors who will contribute to our long term success and to provide incentives that will be linked directly to increases in share value that will inure to the benefit of our stockholders. The plan will provide a means by which eligible recipients of awards may be given an opportunity to benefit from increases in value of our common stock through the granting of equity awards. The terms of our equity incentive plan are described in more detail following the Summary Compensation Table.

### *Other Compensation and Perquisites*

Consistent with our compensation philosophy, we anticipate that our compensation committee will continue to provide benefits to our executives that are substantially the same as those currently being offered to our other employees, including health insurance, life and disability insurance and a 401(k) plan. The benefits and perquisites that may be available to our executive officers in addition to those available to our other employees include a car allowance and club dues.

### *Tax Implications of Executive Compensation Policy*

Under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, a public company generally may not deduct compensation in excess of \$1.0 million per year per person paid to its principal executive officer, principal financial officer and the three other most highly compensated executive officers whose compensation is disclosed in its proxy statement as a result of their total compensation, subject to certain exceptions. Qualifying performance-based compensation will not be subject to the deduction limit if certain requirements are met. Although our long-term and incentive compensation plans and agreements have provisions that are intended to satisfy the performance-based compensation exception to the Section 162(m) deduction limit, regulations under Section 162(m) also provide a transition reliance period in the case of a corporation that is not publicly held and

**Table of Contents**

becomes publicly held in connection with an initial public offering. During the reliance period, the deduction limit of Section 162(m) does not apply to any compensation paid pursuant to a plan or agreement that existed during the period that the corporation was not publicly held, provided the prospectus accompanying the initial public offering discloses information concerning the plans or agreements in accordance with applicable securities laws. The reliance period ends on the earliest of (1) the expiration of the plan or agreement; (2) the material modification of the plan or agreement; (3) the issuance of all employer stock or compensation reserved under the plan; or (4) the first meeting of stockholders at which directors are elected that occurs after the close of the third calendar year following the calendar year in which the initial public offering occurs.

We anticipate that our compensation committee will structure our long-term and incentive compensation programs to preserve the tax deductibility of compensation paid to our executive officers. However, our compensation committee will have the authority to award performance-based compensation that is not deductible and we cannot guarantee that it will only award deductible compensation to our executive officers. In addition, notwithstanding our compensation committee's efforts, ambiguities and uncertainties regarding the application and interpretation of Section 162(m) make it impossible to provide assurance that any performance based compensation will, in fact, satisfy the requirements for deductibility under Section 162(m). Time vested restricted stock awards will not be treated as performance based compensation and, as a result, the deductibility of such awards could be limited. Also, base salaries and other non-performance based compensation as defined in Section 162(m) in excess of \$1.0 million paid to these executive officers in any year would not qualify for deductibility under Section 162(m).

**Summary of Compensation for Our Named Executive Officers**

The following table shows the compensation of all individuals serving as our principal executive officer and principal financial officer during 2011 and of our three other most highly compensated executive officers serving as of December 31, 2011, whose total compensation exceeded \$100,000 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011.

	Year	Salary	Bonus <sup>(1)</sup>	Option Awards	All Other Compensation <sup>(2)</sup>	Total
Steven E. West <sup>(3)</sup> Former Chief Executive Officer	2011	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Travis D. Stice <sup>(4)</sup> Current Chief Executive Officer; Former President and Chief Operating Officer	2011	\$ 115,879	\$	\$	\$ 5,874	\$
Teresa L. Dick Chief Financial Officer, Senior Vice President	2011	\$ 98,517	\$	\$	\$ 3,558	\$
Jeff White Vice President Operations	2011	\$ 55,846	\$	\$	\$ 309	\$
Paul Molnar Vice President Geoscience	2011	\$ 83,346	\$	\$	\$ 412	\$
Michael Hollis Vice President Drilling	2011	\$ 70,622	\$	\$	\$ 879	\$

(1) Annual incentive bonuses for 2011 have not yet been established. However, the following signing or retention bonuses were paid in 2011: Ms. Dick received a \$46,820 retention bonus, Mr. White received an \$85,000 signing bonus, Mr. Molnar received a \$25,000 signing bonus and Mr. Hollis received a \$30,000 signing bonus.

(2) Amounts for Mr. Stice include our 401(k) plan contributions of \$1,832, car allowance of \$3,665 and life insurance premium payments of \$377. Amounts for Ms. Dick include our 401(k) plan contributions of \$2,735 and life insurance premium payments of \$823. Amounts for Mr. White include life insurance premium payments of \$309. Amounts for Mr. Molnar include life insurance premium payments of \$412. Amounts for Mr. Hollis include our 401(k) plan contributions of \$562 and life insurance premium payments of \$317.

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**Table of Contents**

- (3) Mr. West resigned as our chief executive officer in December 2011. Mr. West did not receive any compensation from us in 2011.
- (4) Mr. Stice became our President and Chief Operating Officer in April 2011. On January 1, 2012, Mr. Stice resigned as President and Chief Operating Officer and became our Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Stice's annual base salary remains at \$300,000.

**Employment Agreements**

The following summarizes the material terms of the employment agreements we have with our named executive officers.

*Travis D. Stice.* Effective April 2011, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Stice, our Chief Executive Officer. The employment agreement has a three-year term and provides for an annual base salary of \$300,000. Mr. Stice is also entitled to receive an annual bonus ranging from \$200,000 to \$400,000 depending upon his achievement of certain performance goals as determined by our board of directors. Mr. Stice is entitled to participate in such life and medical insurance plans and other similar plans that we establish from time to time for our executive employees, and is paid a \$900 monthly vehicle allowance. Pursuant to the terms of his employment agreement, Mr. Stice has an option to acquire a 1.0% membership interest in our subsidiary Windsor Permian LLC for an aggregate exercise price of \$3.6 million, subject to adjustment in the event of certain asset sales. Such option vests in four equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the effective date of Mr. Stice's employment agreement and will be exercisable for five years from the effective date of his employment agreement or until his earlier termination. Upon the contribution of the Windsor Permian LLC membership interests to us in connection with the closing of this offering, an option to acquire shares of our common stock will be substituted for the original option to acquire membership interests in Windsor Permian LLC. The substituted option will be for such number of shares and with such exercise price as shall preserve the economic value of the original option in compliance with applicable tax requirements. The vesting schedule and exercise rights will remain the same. Mr. Stice has agreed to certain restrictive covenants in his employment agreement, including, without limitation, his agreement not to compete with us, not to interfere with any of our employees, suppliers or regulators and not to solicit our customers or employees, in each case during Mr. Stice's affiliation with us and for a period of six months thereafter. Mr. Stice's continued employment with us is at-will, meaning that either we or Mr. Stice may terminate the employment relationship at any time and for any reason, with or without notice. However, if we terminate Mr. Stice's employment without cause, we will be obligated to continue paying Mr. Stice's annual base salary until the expiration of the term of his employment agreement and pay a prorated portion of Mr. Stice's minimum annual bonus for the period prior to termination, subject to Mr. Stice's compliance with the restrictive covenants discussed above and his execution of a full general release in our favor. If Mr. Stice's employment is terminated due to death or disability, our sole obligation, subject to Mr. Stice's compliance with the restrictive covenants discussed above, will be to pay any earned but unpaid base salary and a prorated portion of Mr. Stice's minimum annual bonus for the period prior to termination. In the event Mr. Stice's employment is terminated for cause, our obligations will terminate with respect to the payment of any base salary or bonuses and the option described above effective as of the termination date. For purposes of Mr. Stice's employment agreement, cause is generally defined as Mr. Stice's (a) willful and knowing refusal or failure to perform his duties in any material respect, (b) willful misconduct or gross negligence in performing his duties, (c) material breach of his employment agreement or any other agreement with us, (d) conviction of, or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, a criminal act that constitutes a felony or involves fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude, (e) indictment for a felony involving embezzlement, theft or fraud, (f) filing of a voluntary, or consent to an involuntary, bankruptcy petition or (g) failure to comply with directives of our board of directors. In addition, in the event that more than 50% of the combined voting power of our then outstanding stock is controlled by one or more parties that is not Wexford or an affiliate of Wexford, the options described above will vest immediately. The benefits Mr. Stice is entitled to receive upon certain terminations, resignations and changes of control are summarized below in *Potential Payments Upon Termination, Resignation or Change of Control*.



**Table of Contents**

*Teresa L. Dick.* Effective September 2011, we entered into an employment agreement with Ms. Dick, our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. The employment agreement has a one-year term and provides for an annual base salary of \$250,000. Subject to Ms. Dick's achievement of certain performance goals as determined by our board of directors for each fiscal year, Ms. Dick is entitled to an annual bonus of 50% of her annual base salary. Ms. Dick is also entitled to participate in any life and medical insurance plans and other similar plans that we establish from time to time for our executive employees. Pursuant to the terms of her employment agreement, Ms. Dick has an option to acquire a 0.25% membership interest in our subsidiary Windsor Permian LLC for an aggregate exercise price of \$900,000, subject to adjustment in the event of certain asset sales. Such option vests in four equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the effective date of Ms. Dick's employment agreement and will be exercisable for five years from the effective date of such employment agreement or until her earlier termination (except for termination upon death, disability or by us without cause). Upon the contribution of the Windsor Permian LLC membership interests to us in connection with the closing of this offering, an option to acquire shares of our common stock will be substituted for the original option to acquire membership interests in Windsor Permian LLC. The substituted option will be for such number of shares and with such exercise price as shall preserve the economic value of the original option in compliance with applicable tax requirements. The vesting schedule and exercise rights will remain the same. Ms. Dick has agreed to certain restrictive covenants in her employment agreement, including, without limitation, her agreement not to compete with us, not to interfere with any of our employees, suppliers or regulators and not to solicit our customers or employees, in each case during Ms. Dick's affiliation with us and for a period of six months thereafter. Ms. Dick's continued employment with us is at-will, meaning that either we or Ms. Dick may terminate the employment relationship at any time and for any reason, with or without notice. However, if (i) we terminate Ms. Dick's employment without cause, (ii) Ms. Dick resigns for good reason, meaning such resignation follows a material uncured breach by us of the employment agreement or a material diminution in Ms. Dick's position, duties or authority, or (iii) Ms. Dick's employment is terminated due to death or disability, then we will be obligated to continue paying Ms. Dick's base annual salary until the expiration of the term of her employment agreement and, in the case of termination without cause or upon death or disability, to honor our obligations with respect to the option described above; provided, in each case, that Ms. Dick continues to comply with the restrictive covenants described above and (except in the case of clause (iii) above) executes a full general release in our favor. In the event Ms. Dick's employment is terminated for cause, our obligations will terminate with respect to the payment of any base salary or bonuses and the option described above effective as of the termination date. For purposes of Ms. Dick's employment agreement, cause is generally defined as Ms. Dick's (a) willful and knowing refusal or failure to perform her duties in any material respect, (b) willful misconduct or gross negligence in performing her duties, (c) material breach of her employment agreement or any other agreement with us, (d) conviction of, or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, a criminal act that constitutes a felony or involves fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude, (e) indictment for a felony involving embezzlement, theft or fraud, (f) filing of a voluntary, or consent to an involuntary, bankruptcy petition, (g) dishonesty in connection with her responsibilities as an employee or (h) failure to comply with directives of our board of directors. In addition, (x) in the event that more than 50% of the combined voting power of our then outstanding stock is controlled by one or more parties that is not Wexford, an affiliate of Wexford or an underwriter temporarily holding securities pursuant to an offering of securities and there is a material change in Ms. Dick's position, duties or authority or (y) upon termination without cause or due to death or disability, the options described above will vest immediately. The benefits Ms. Dick is entitled to receive upon certain terminations, resignations and changes of control are summarized below in *Potential Payments Upon Termination, Resignation or Change of Control*.

*Jeff White.* Effective September 2011, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. White, our Vice President Operations. The employment agreement has a three-year term and provides for an annual base salary of \$220,000. Subject to Mr. White's achievement of certain performance goals as determined by our board of directors for each fiscal year, Mr. White is entitled to an annual bonus of 50% of his annual base salary. Upon entering into the employment agreement, Mr. White received an \$85,000 signing bonus and, if this offering is completed within one year of Mr. White's hiring, he will be entitled to receive shares of our common stock with a value equal to \$170,000. If we do not complete this offering within one year of his hiring, Mr. White will

**Table of Contents**

receive a \$170,000 cash bonus. Mr. White is also entitled to participate in any life and medical insurance plans and other similar plans that we establish from time to time for our executive employees. Pursuant to the terms of his employment agreement, Mr. White has an option to acquire a 0.5% membership interest in our subsidiary Windsor Permian LLC for an aggregate exercise price of \$2.5 million, subject to adjustment in the event of certain asset sales. Such option vests in four equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the effective date of Mr. White's employment agreement and will be exercisable for five years from the effective date of his employment agreement or until his earlier termination (except for termination upon death, disability or by us without cause). Upon the contribution of the Windsor Permian LLC membership interests to us in connection with the closing of this offering, an option to acquire shares of our common stock will be substituted for the original option to acquire membership interests in Windsor Permian LLC. The substituted option will be for such number of shares and with such exercise price as shall preserve the economic value of the original option in compliance with applicable tax requirements. The vesting schedule and exercise rights will remain the same. Mr. White has agreed to certain restrictive covenants in his employment agreement, including, without limitation, his agreement not to compete with us, not to interfere with any of our employees, suppliers or regulators and not to solicit our customers or employees, in each case during Mr. White's affiliation with us and for a period of six months thereafter. Mr. White's continued employment with us is at-will, meaning that either we or Mr. White may terminate the employment relationship at any time and for any reason, with or without notice. However, if (i) we terminate Mr. White's employment without cause, (ii) Mr. White resigns for good reason, meaning such resignation follows a material uncured breach by us of the employment agreement or a material diminution in Mr. White's position, duties or authority, or (iii) Mr. White's employment is terminated due to death or disability, then we will be obligated to continue paying Mr. White's base annual salary until the expiration of the term of his employment agreement and, in the case of termination without cause or upon death or disability, to honor our obligations with respect to the option described above; provided, in each case, that Mr. White continues to comply with the restrictive covenants described above and (except in the case of clause (iii) above) executes a full general release in our favor. In the event Mr. White's employment is terminated for cause, our obligations will terminate with respect to the payment of any base salary or bonuses and the option described above effective as of the termination date. For purposes of Mr. White's employment agreement, cause is generally defined as Mr. White's (a) willful and knowing refusal or failure to perform his duties in any material respect, (b) willful misconduct or gross negligence in performing his duties, (c) material breach of his employment agreement or any other agreement with us, (d) conviction of, or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, a criminal act that constitutes a felony or involves fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude, (e) indictment for a felony involving embezzlement, theft or fraud, (f) filing of a voluntary, or consent to an involuntary, bankruptcy petition, (g) dishonesty in connection with his responsibilities as an employee or (h) failure to comply with directives of our board of directors. In addition, (x) in the event that more than 50% of the combined voting power of our then outstanding stock is controlled by one or more parties that is not Wexford, an affiliate of Wexford or an underwriter temporarily holding securities pursuant to an offering of securities and there is either a material change in Mr. White's position, duties or authority or Mr. White is required to move outside a 50 mile radius of Midland, Texas or (y) upon termination without cause or due to death or disability, the options described above will vest immediately. The benefits Mr. White is entitled to receive upon certain terminations, resignations and changes of control are summarized below in *Potential Payments Upon Termination, Resignation or Change of Control*.

*Paul Molnar*. Effective August 2011, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Molnar, our Vice President Geoscience. The employment agreement has a three-year term and provides for an annual base salary of \$220,000. Subject to Mr. Molnar's achievement of certain performance goals as determined by our board of directors for each fiscal year, Mr. Molnar is entitled to an annual bonus of 50% of his annual base salary. Upon entering into the employment agreement, Mr. Molnar received a \$25,000 signing bonus. Mr. Molnar is also entitled to participate in any life and medical insurance plans and other similar plans that we establish from time to time for our executive employees. Pursuant to the terms of his employment agreement, Mr. Molnar has an option to acquire a 0.5% membership interest in our subsidiary Windsor Permian LLC for an aggregate exercise price of \$2.5 million, subject to adjustment in the event of certain asset sales. Such option vests in four equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the effective date of Mr. Molnar's employment

**Table of Contents**

agreement and will be exercisable for five years from the effective date of his employment agreement or until his earlier termination (except for termination upon death, disability or by us without cause). Upon the contribution of the Windsor Permian LLC membership interests to us in connection with the closing of this offering, an option to acquire shares of our common stock will be substituted for the original option to acquire membership interests in Windsor Permian LLC. The substituted option will be for such number of shares and with such exercise price as shall preserve the economic value of the original option in compliance with applicable tax requirements. The vesting schedule and exercise rights will remain the same. Mr. Molnar has agreed to certain restrictive covenants in his employment agreement, including, without limitation, his agreement not to compete with us, not to interfere with any of our employees, suppliers or regulators and not to solicit our customers or employees, in each case during Mr. Molnar's affiliation with us and for a period of six months thereafter. Mr. Molnar's continued employment with us is at-will, meaning that either we or Mr. Molnar may terminate the employment relationship at any time and for any reason, with or without notice. However, if (i) we terminate Mr. Molnar's employment without cause, (ii) Mr. Molnar resigns for good reason, meaning such resignation follows a material uncured breach by us of the employment agreement or a material diminution in Mr. Molnar's position, duties or authority, or (iii) Mr. Molnar's employment is terminated due to death or disability, then we will be obligated to continue paying Mr. Molnar's base annual salary until the expiration of the term of his employment agreement and, in the case of termination without cause or upon death or disability, to honor our obligations with respect to the option described above; provided, in each case, that Mr. Molnar continues to comply with the restrictive covenants described above and (except in the case of clause (iii) above) executes a full general release in our favor. In the event Mr. Molnar's employment is terminated for cause, our obligations will terminate with respect to the payment of any base salary or bonuses and the option described above effective as of the termination date. For purposes of Mr. Molnar's employment agreement, cause is generally defined as Mr. Molnar's (a) willful and knowing refusal or failure to perform his duties in any material respect, (b) willful misconduct or gross negligence in performing his duties, (c) material breach of his employment agreement or any other agreement with us, (d) conviction of, or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, a criminal act that constitutes a felony or involves fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude, (e) indictment for a felony involving embezzlement, theft or fraud, (f) filing of a voluntary, or consent to an involuntary, bankruptcy petition, (g) dishonesty in connection with his responsibilities as an employee or (h) failure to comply with directives of our board of directors. In addition, (x) in the event that more than 50% of the combined voting power of our then outstanding stock is controlled by one or more parties that is not Wexford, an affiliate of Wexford or an underwriter temporarily holding securities pursuant to an offering of securities and there is either a material change in Mr. Molnar's position, duties or authority or Mr. Molnar is required to move outside a 50 mile radius of Midland, Texas or (y) upon termination without cause or due to death or disability, the options described above will vest immediately. The benefits Mr. Molnar is entitled to receive upon certain terminations, resignations and changes of control are summarized below in *Potential Payments Upon Termination, Resignation or Change of Control*.

*Michael Hollis*. Effective September 2011, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Hollis, our Vice President Drilling. The employment agreement has a three-year term and provides for an annual base salary of \$230,000. Subject to Mr. Hollis' achievement of certain performance goals as determined by our board of directors for each fiscal year, Mr. Hollis is entitled to an annual bonus of 50% of his annual base salary. Upon entering into the employment agreement, Mr. Hollis received a \$30,000 signing bonus. Mr. Hollis is also entitled to participate in any life and medical insurance plans and other similar plans that we establish from time to time for our executive employees. Pursuant to the terms of his employment agreement, Mr. Hollis has an option to acquire a 0.5% membership interest in our subsidiary Windsor Permian LLC for an aggregate exercise price of \$2.5 million, subject to adjustment in the event of certain asset sales. Such option vests in four equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the effective date of Mr. Hollis' employment agreement and will be exercisable for five years from the effective date of his employment agreement or until his earlier termination (except for termination upon death, disability or by us without cause). Upon the contribution of the Windsor Permian LLC membership interests to us in connection with the closing of this offering, an option to acquire shares of our common stock will be substituted for the original option to acquire membership interests in Windsor Permian LLC. The substituted option will be for such number of shares and with such exercise price as shall preserve the economic value of the original option in compliance with applicable tax requirements. The

**Table of Contents**

vesting schedule and exercise rights will remain the same. Mr. Hollis has agreed to certain restrictive covenants in his employment agreement, including, without limitation, his agreement not to compete with us, not to interfere with any of our employees, suppliers or regulators and not to solicit our customers or employees, in each case during Mr. Hollis' affiliation with us and for a period of six months thereafter. Mr. Hollis' continued employment with us is at-will, meaning that either we or Mr. Hollis may terminate the employment relationship at any time and for any reason, with or without notice. However, if (i) we terminate Mr. Hollis' employment without cause, (ii) Mr. Hollis resigns for good reason, meaning such resignation follows a material uncured breach by us of the employment agreement or a material diminution in Mr. Hollis' position, duties or authority, or (iii) Mr. Hollis' employment is terminated due to death or disability, then we will be obligated to continue paying Mr. Hollis' base annual salary until the expiration of the term of his employment agreement and, in the case of termination without cause or upon death or disability, to honor our obligations with respect to the option described above; provided, in each case, that Mr. Hollis continues to comply with the restrictive covenants described above and (except in the case of clause (iii) above) executes a full general release in our favor. In the event Mr. Hollis' employment is terminated for cause, our obligations will terminate with respect to the payment of any base salary or bonuses and the option described above. For purposes of Mr. Hollis' employment agreement, cause is generally defined as Mr. Hollis (a) willful and knowing refusal or failure to perform his duties in any material respect, (b) willful misconduct or gross negligence in performing his duties, (c) material breach of his employment agreement or any other agreement with us, (d) conviction of, or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, a criminal act that constitutes a felony or involves fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude, (e) indictment for a felony involving embezzlement, theft or fraud, (f) filing of a voluntary, or consent to an involuntary, bankruptcy petition, (g) dishonesty in connection with his responsibilities as an employee or (h) failure to comply with directives of our board of directors. In addition, (x) in the event that more than 50% of the combined voting power of our then outstanding stock is controlled by one or more parties that is not Wexford, an affiliate of Wexford or an underwriter temporarily holding securities pursuant to an offering of securities and there is either a material change in Mr. Hollis' position, duties or authority or Mr. Hollis is required to move outside a 50 mile radius of Midland, Texas or (y) upon termination without cause or due to death or disability, the options described above will vest immediately. The benefits Mr. Hollis is entitled to receive upon certain terminations, resignations and changes of control are summarized below in *Potential Payments Upon Termination, Resignation or Change of Control*.

**Equity Incentive Plan**

Prior to the completion of this offering, we did not have any stock option or other equity incentive plan except for the equity awards granted in the employment agreements with our named executive officers and, except for such awards, there are no stock options, restricted stock units or other equity awards outstanding for any of our named executive officers. Prior to this offering, we intend to implement our equity incentive plan.

Eligible award recipients are employees, consultants and directors of our company and its affiliates. Incentive stock options may be granted only to our employees. Awards other than incentive stock options may be granted to employees, consultants and directors. The shares that may be issued pursuant to awards consist of our authorized but unissued common stock, and the maximum aggregate amount of such common stock which may be issued upon exercise of all awards under the plan, including incentive stock options, may not exceed \_\_\_\_\_ shares, subject to adjustment to reflect certain corporate transactions or changes in our capital structure. To the extent that an award is intended to qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, then the maximum number of shares of common stock issuable in the form of each type of award under our equity incentive plan to any one participant during a calendar year shall not exceed \_\_\_\_\_ shares. Additionally, no participant shall receive in excess of the aggregate amount of \_\_\_\_\_ shares pursuant to all awards issued under our equity incentive plan during any calendar year.

We anticipate granting options and restricted stock units to employees and certain non-employee directors under the plan upon completion of this offering in the amount to be determined by the compensation committee.

## **Table of Contents**

**Share Reserve.** The aggregate number of shares of common stock initially authorized for issuance under the plan is \_\_\_\_\_ shares. However, (i) shares covered by an award that expires or otherwise terminates without having been exercised in full and (ii) shares that are forfeited to, or repurchased by, us pursuant to a forfeiture or repurchase provision under the plan may return to the plan and be available for issuance in connection with a future award.

**Administration.** Our board of directors (or our compensation committee or any other committee of the board of directors as may be appointed by our board of directors from time to time) administers the plan. Among other responsibilities, the plan administrator selects participants from among the eligible individuals, determines the number of shares that will be subject to each award and determines the terms and conditions of each award, including methods of payment, vesting schedules and limitations and restrictions on awards. The plan administrator may amend, suspend, or terminate the plan at any time. Amendments will not be effective without stockholder approval if stockholder approval is required by applicable law or stock exchange requirements. Unless terminated earlier, our equity incentive plan will terminate in \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

**Stock Options.** Incentive and nonstatutory stock options are granted pursuant to incentive and nonstatutory stock option agreements. Employees, directors and consultants may be granted nonstatutory stock options, but only employees may be granted incentive stock options. The plan administrator determines the exercise price of a stock option, provided that the exercise price of a stock option generally cannot be less than 100% (and in the case of an incentive stock option granted to a more than 10% stockholder, 110%) of the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant, except when assuming or substituting options in limited situations such as an acquisition. Generally, options granted under the plan vest ratably over a five-year period and have a term of ten years (five years in the case of an incentive stock option granted to a more than 10% stockholder), unless specified otherwise by the plan administrator in the option agreement.

Acceptable consideration for the purchase of common stock issued upon the exercise of a stock option will be determined by the plan administrator and may include (i) cash or check, (ii) a broker-assisted cashless exercise, (iii) the tender of common stock previously owned by the optionee, (iv) stock withholding and (v) other legal consideration approved by the plan administrator, such as exercise with a full recourse promissory note (not applicable for directors and executive officers).

Unless the plan administrator provides otherwise (solely with respect to inter vivos transfers to certain family members and estate planning vehicles), nonstatutory options generally are not transferable except by will or the laws of descent and distribution. An optionee may designate a beneficiary, however, who may exercise the option following the optionee's death. Incentive stock options are not transferable except by will or the laws of descent and distribution.

**Restricted Awards.** Restricted awards are awards of either actual shares of common stock (e.g., restricted stock awards), or of hypothetical share units (e.g., restricted stock units) having a value equal to the fair market value of an identical number of shares of common stock, that will be settled in the form of shares of common stock upon vesting or other specified payment date, and which may provide that such restricted awards may not be sold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of for such period as the plan administrator determines. The purchase price and vesting schedule, if applicable, of restricted awards are determined by the plan administrator. A restricted stock unit is similar to a restricted stock award except that participants holding restricted stock units do not have any stockholder rights until the stock unit is settled with shares. Stock units represent an unfunded and unsecured obligation for us and a holder of a stock unit has no rights other than those of a general creditor.

**Performance Awards.** Performance awards entitle the recipient to vest in or acquire shares of common stock, or hypothetical share units having a value equal to the fair market value of an identical number of shares of common stock that will be settled in the form of shares of common stock upon the attainment of specified performance goals. Performance awards may be granted independent of or in connection with the granting of any other award under the plan. Performance goals will be established by the plan administrator based on one or more

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**Table of Contents**

business criteria that apply to the plan participant, a business unit, or our company and our affiliates. Performance goals will be objective and will be intended to meet the requirements of Section 162(m) of the Code. Performance goals must be determined prior to the time 25% of the service period has elapsed but not later than 90 days after the beginning of the service period. No payout will be made on a performance award granted to a named executive officer unless all applicable performance goals and service requirements are achieved. Performance awards may not be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged or otherwise encumbered and terminate upon the termination of the participant's service to us or our affiliates.

***Stock Appreciation Rights.*** Stock appreciation rights may be granted independent of or in tandem with the granting of any option under the plan. Stock appreciation rights are granted pursuant to stock appreciation rights agreements. The exercise price of a stock appreciation right granted independent of an option is determined by the plan administrator, but as a general rule will be no less than 100% of the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. The exercise price of a stock appreciation right granted in tandem with an option is the same as the exercise price of the related option. Upon the exercise of a stock appreciation right, we will pay the participant an amount equal to the product of (i) the excess of the per share fair market value of our common stock on the date of exercise over the strike price, multiplied by (ii) the number of shares of common stock with respect to which the stock appreciation right is exercised. Payment will be made in cash, delivery of stock, or a combination of cash and stock as deemed appropriate by the plan administrator.

***Adjustments in capitalization.*** In the event that there is a specified type of change in our common stock without the receipt of consideration by us, such as pursuant to a merger, consolidation, reorganization, recapitalization, reincorporation, stock dividend, dividend in property other than cash, stock split, liquidating dividend, combination of shares, exchange of shares, change in corporate structure or other transaction, appropriate adjustments will be made to the various limits under, and the share terms of, the plan including (i) the number and class of shares reserved under the plan, (ii) the maximum number of stock options and stock appreciation rights that can be granted to any one person in a calendar year and (iii) the number and class of shares and exercise price, strike price, or purchase price, if applicable, of all outstanding stock awards.

***Corporate Transactions.*** In the event of a change in control transaction (other than a transaction resulting in Wexford or an entity controlled by, or under common control with Wexford maintaining direct or indirect control over the Company), or a corporate transaction such as a dissolution or liquidation of our company, or any corporate separation or division, including, but not limited to, a split-up, a split-off or a spin-off, or a sale in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the assets of our company or a merger, consolidation, or reverse merger in which we are not the surviving entity, then all outstanding stock awards under the plan may be assumed, continued or substituted for by any surviving or acquiring entity (or its parent company), or may be cancelled either with or without consideration for the vested portion of the awards, all as determined by the plan administrator. In the event an award would be cancelled without consideration paid to the extent vested, the award recipient may exercise the award in full or in part for a period of ten days.

**401(k) Plan**

We participate in a 401(k) Plan. Employees may elect to defer a portion of their compensation up to the statutorily prescribed limit. Each pay period we make a matching contribution to each employee's deferral, not to exceed six percent. An employee's interests in his or her deferrals are 100% vested when contributed. An employee's interests in the matching contribution are vested at the rate of 20% for each completed year of eligibility. The 401(k) Plan is intended to qualify under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, contributions to the 401(k) Plan and earnings on those contributions are not taxable to the employee until distributed from the 401(k) Plan, and all contributions are deductible by us when made.

**Table of Contents**

**Potential Payments Upon Termination, Resignation or Change of Control**

The following table shows the estimated benefits payable to our named executive officers in various hypothetical scenarios as of December 31, 2011:

Name	Termination Without Cause or Upon Death or Disability <sup>(1)(2)</sup>				Resignation for Good Reason <sup>(3)</sup>				Change of Control			
	Base Salary	Benefits	Other	Total	Base Salary	Benefits	Other	Total	Base Salary	Benefits	Other	Total
Steven West												
Travis D. Stice <sup>(4)</sup>												
Teresa L. Dick <sup>(5)</sup>												
Jeff White <sup>(6)</sup>												
Paul Molnar <sup>(6)</sup>												
Michael Hollis <sup>(6)</sup>												

- (1) In the event a named executive officer (except for Mr. West) is terminated upon death or disability, the receipt of the payments and benefits described in this table is subject to such executive's continued compliance with the non-competition, confidentiality, non-interference, proprietary information, return of property, non-solicitation and non-disparagement provisions of such executive's employment agreement.
- (2) In the event a named executive officer is terminated without cause, the receipt of the payments and benefits described in this table are subject to (a) such executive's continued compliance with the non-competition, confidentiality, non-interference, proprietary information, return of property, non-solicitation and non-disparagement provisions of such executive's employment agreement and (b) such executive executing (and not revoking) a full general release of all claims, known or unknown against us, Wexford and various other parties affiliated with Wexford.
- (3) Under the terms of the employment agreements with our named executive officers (except for Mr. Stice), the applicable officer is entitled to certain benefits in the event such officer resigns for good cause, which means such resignation follows any (a) material breach by us of the terms of the applicable employment agreement that goes uncured for a period of five business days following our receipt of notice thereof or (b) material diminution in the officer's position, duties or authority, subject to (i) such executive's continued compliance with the non-competition, confidentiality, non-interference, proprietary information, return of property, non-solicitation and non-disparagement provisions of such executive's employment agreement and (ii) such executive executing (and not revoking) a full general release of all claims, known or unknown against us, Wexford and various other parties affiliated with Wexford.
- (4) Under the terms of Mr. Stice's employment agreement, Mr. Stice's stock options granted pursuant to such agreement shall vest immediately in the event that more than 50% of the combined voting power of our then outstanding stock is controlled by one or more parties that is not us, Wexford or an affiliate of Wexford.
- (5) Under the terms of Ms. Dick's employment agreement, Ms. Dick's stock options granted under such agreement will vest immediately in the event that more than 50% of the combined voting power of our then outstanding stock is controlled by one or more parties that is not us, Wexford, an affiliate of Wexford or an underwriter temporarily holding securities pursuant to an offering of securities and there is a material change in Ms. Dick's position, duties or authority or upon termination without cause or upon death or disability.
- (6) Under the terms of our employment agreement with each of Messrs. White, Molnar and Hollis, the stock options granted under such agreement will vest immediately (a) in the event that more than 50% of the combined voting power of our then outstanding stock is controlled by one or more parties that is not us, Wexford, an affiliate of Wexford or an underwriter temporarily holding securities pursuant to an offering of securities and either there is a material change in the applicable named executive officer's position, duties or authority or such officer is required to relocate to a location outside of a 50 mile radius of Midland, Texas or (b) upon termination without cause or upon death or disability.

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**Table of Contents**

**Limitations on Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors**

***Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws***

Our certificate of incorporation provides that no director shall be personally liable to us or any of our stockholders for monetary damages resulting from breaches of their fiduciary duty as directors, except to the extent such limitation on or exemption from liability is not permitted under the Delaware General Corporation Law, or DGCL. The effect of this provision of our certificate of incorporation is to eliminate our rights and those of our stockholders (through stockholders' derivative suits on our behalf) to recover monetary damages against a director for breach of the fiduciary duty of care as a director, including breaches resulting from negligent or grossly negligent behavior, except, as restricted by the DGCL:

for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the company or its stockholders;

for acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

in respect of certain unlawful dividend payments or stock redemptions or repurchases; and

for any transaction from which the director derives an improper personal benefit.

This provision does not limit or eliminate our rights or the rights of any stockholder to seek non-monetary relief, such as an injunction or rescission, in the event of a breach of a director's duty of care.

Our certificate of incorporation also provides that we will, to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, indemnify our directors and officers against losses that they may incur in investigations and legal proceedings resulting from their service.

Our bylaws include provisions relating to advancement of expenses and indemnification rights consistent with those provided in our certificate of incorporation. In addition, our bylaws provide:

for a right of indemnitee to bring a suit in the event a claim for indemnification or advancement of expenses is not paid in full by us within a specified period of time; and

permit us to purchase and maintain insurance, at our expense, to protect us and any of our directors, officers and employees against any loss, whether or not we would have the power to indemnify that person against that loss under Delaware law.

***Indemnification Agreements***

We will enter into indemnification agreements with each of our current directors and executive officers effective upon the closing of this offering. These agreements require us to indemnify these individuals to the fullest extent permitted under Delaware law against liabilities that may arise by reason of their service to us, and to advance expenses incurred as a result of any proceeding against them as to which they could be indemnified. We also intend to enter into indemnification agreements with our future directors and executive officers.

***Liability Insurance***

We intend to provide liability insurance for our directors and officers, including coverage for public securities matters. There is no pending litigation or proceeding involving any of our directors, officers or employees for which indemnification from us is sought. We are not aware of any threatened litigation that may result in claims for indemnification from us.





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**Table of Contents**

**RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

**Review and Approval of Related Party Transactions**

We do not currently have a written policy regarding the review and approval of related party transactions, but intend to implement such a policy in connection with, and prior to the completion of, this offering. In connection with this offering, we will establish an audit committee consisting solely of independent directors whose functions will be set forth in the audit committee charter. We anticipate that one of the audit committee's functions will be to review and approve all relationships and transactions in which we and our directors, director nominees and executive officers and their immediate family members, as well as holders of more than 5% of any class of our voting securities and their immediate family members, have a direct or indirect material interest. We anticipate that such policy will be a written policy included as part the audit committee charter that will be implemented by the audit committee and in the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that our board of directors will adopt prior to the completion of this offering.

Historically, the review and approval of related party transactions have been the responsibility of our management, and all of the transactions discussed under *Related Party Transactions* below have been approved by our management, subject to a conflicts of interest policy set forth in our employee handbook, pursuant to which all of our employees must avoid any situations where their personal outside interest could conflict, or even appear to conflict, with the interests of the Company. Although our management believes that the terms of the related party transactions described below are reasonable, it is possible that we could have negotiated more favorable terms for such transactions with unrelated third parties.

Our management will continue to review and approve related party transactions, subject to the above-referenced conflicts of interest policy, until the adoption of the policy regarding the review and approval of such transactions by the audit committee, which we intend to adopt in connection with, and prior to the completion of, this offering.

**Administrative Services**

We are a party to a shared services agreement, dated January 1, 2008, with Everest Operations Management LLC, or Everest, an entity controlled by Wexford, our equity sponsor. Under this agreement, Everest provides us with technical, administrative and payroll services and office space in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and we reimburse Everest in an amount determined by Everest's management based on estimates of the amount of office space provided and the amount of its employees' time spent performing services for us. Historically, certain management, administrative, employee and treasury functions and office space were provided to us by Everest. For purposes of presenting the consolidated financial statements, included elsewhere in this prospectus, allocations were made to determine the cost of general and administrative activities performed attributable to us. The allocations were made based upon underlying salary costs of employees performing Company related functions, payroll, revenue or headcount relative to other companies managed by Everest, or specifically identified invoices processed, depending on the nature of the cost.

The initial term of the shared services agreement with Everest was two years. Since the expiration of such two-year period on March 1, 2010, the agreement, by its terms, has continued on a month-to-month basis and will continue to do so until terminated by either party upon thirty days prior written notice. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, we incurred total costs to Everest of approximately \$2.6 million, \$5.8 million, \$5.5 million and \$5.6 million, respectively, and at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010 and 2009, we owed \$0.6 million, \$0.4 million and \$0.9 million, respectively, under this shared services agreement. We expect to discontinue all services under this shared services agreement prior to the closing of this offering.

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## **Table of Contents**

### **Drilling Services**

Bison Drilling and Field Services LLC, or Bison, has performed drilling and field services for us since 2010. Bison was a wholly-owned subsidiary of ours until March 31, 2011, when various funds affiliated with Wexford started contributing capital to Bison. These contributions aggregated \$11.5 million and ultimately diluted our ownership interest to 52.2%. In September 2011, we sold a 25% interest in Bison to Gulfport Energy Corporation, or Gulfport, for \$6.0 million, subject to adjustment. An affiliate of Wexford beneficially owns approximately 13.3% of Gulfport's common stock. As a result of this transaction, we now hold a 27.2% ownership interest in Bison, with the remaining equity interests in Bison held by Gulfport and various entities controlled by Wexford. For the period April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011, we were billed \$11.6 million by Bison for drilling services. At September 30, 2011, we owed Bison \$0.5 million.

### **Completion and Well Servicing Services**

We contracted with Great White Energy Services, or Great White, an entity formerly controlled by Wexford, for certain well completion services. For the year ended December 31, 2010, we were billed \$7.7 million by Great White and we owed \$3.1 million for such services at December 31, 2010. Effective August 24, 2011, Great White was sold to an unrelated third party and, therefore, Great White is no longer a related party. While still a related party, during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 Great White billed us \$12.5 million for such services.

### **Marketing Services**

On March 1, 2009, we entered into an agreement with Windsor Midstream LLC, or Midstream, an entity controlled by Wexford, pursuant to which Midstream purchased a significant portion of our oil volumes. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, our revenues from Midstream were \$26.7 million, \$21.4 million and \$8.8 million, respectively, and at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010 and 2009 we had an accounts receivable balance of \$2.6 million, \$2.7 million and \$1.5 million, respectively. Effective December 1, 2011, we ceased all sales of our oil production to Midstream under this agreement.

### **Midland Lease**

We occupy our corporate headquarters in Midland, Texas under a five-year lease, effective May 15, 2011, with Fasken Midland, LLC, or Fasken, an entity controlled by an affiliate of Wexford. Through September 30, 2011, we paid \$16,289 to Fasken under this lease. Our current monthly rent under the lease is \$7,593. Our monthly rent will increase to \$7,881 for the period from June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013 and will continue to increase annually on June 1 of each year during the remainder of the lease term, with a maximum monthly rent of \$8,939 payable in the last year of the lease.

### **Area of Mutual Interest and Related Agreements**

Effective as of November 1, 2007, we and Gulfport entered into an area of mutual interest agreement to jointly acquire oil and gas leases in the Permian Basin. The agreement provides that each party must offer the other party the right to participate in 50% of each such acquisition. The parties also agreed, subject to certain exceptions, to share third-party costs and expenses in proportion to their respective participating interests and pay certain other fees as provided in the agreement. The agreement continues in force on a month-to-month basis until terminated by either party upon 30 days prior written notice.

In connection with the area of mutual interest agreement, we, Gulfport and Windsor Energy Group, L.L.C., or Energy Group, an entity controlled by Wexford, as the operator, entered into a joint development agreement, effective as of November 1, 2007, pursuant to which we and Gulfport agreed to develop certain jointly-held oil and gas leases in the Permian Basin and Energy Group agreed to act as the operator under the terms of a joint operating agreement, effective as of November 1, 2007. In the event either party has a majority interest in a prospect (as defined in the development agreement), the majority party may designate the operator of its choice.

## **Table of Contents**

The parties agreed to designate Energy Group as the operator with respect to the contract area as provided in the joint operating agreement. As operator of these properties, Energy Group was responsible for the daily operations, monthly operation billings and monthly revenue disbursements for the properties in which we held an interest. Effective February 26, 2010, the agreement with Energy Group was terminated and we became the operator of these properties. For the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, Energy Group billed us approximately \$3.8 million, \$20.4 million and \$59.6 million, respectively, and at December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, we owed \$0.07 million, \$2.8 million and \$11.6 million, respectively, for these services.

Upon becoming operator effective February 26, 2010, we began providing joint interest billing services to certain of our affiliates. For the year ended December 31, 2010 and the nine months ended September 30, 2011, we billed Gulfport \$30.0 million and \$37.0 million, respectively, and we billed an entity controlled by Wexford \$17.3 million and \$2.1 million, respectively, for such services. At December 31, 2010 and September 30, 2011, Gulfport owed us \$4.6 million and \$10.7 million, respectively, and the Wexford controlled entity owed us zero and \$0.6 million, respectively.

### **Investment in Muskie Holdings LLC**

During 2011, we purchased certain assets, real estate and rights in a lease covering land in Wisconsin that is prospective for mining oil and natural gas fracture grade sand for \$4.2 million from an unrelated third party. On October 7, 2011, we contributed these assets, real estate and lease rights to a newly-formed entity, Muskie Holdings LLC, or Muskie, in exchange for a 48.6% equity interest. The remaining equity interests in Muskie are held 25% by Gulfport and 26.4% by entities controlled by Wexford. Through additional contributions from the Wexford-controlled entities to Muskie, we anticipate that our equity interest will decrease through 2012 to approximately 13%.

### **Advisory Services Agreement**

Prior to the closing of this offering we will enter into an advisory services agreement with Wexford under which Wexford will provide us with general financial and strategic advisory services related to our business in return for an annual fee of \$500,000, plus reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. This agreement has a term of two years commencing on the completion of this offering. The parties may extend the then current term for additional one-year periods by entering into a written agreement reflecting the terms of such extension at least ten days prior to the expiration of the then current term. The agreement may be terminated at any time by either party upon 30 days prior written notice. In the event we terminate the agreement, we are obligated to pay all amounts due through the remaining term of the agreement. In addition, in this agreement we have agreed to pay Wexford to-be-negotiated market-based fees approved by our independent directors for such services as may be provided by Wexford at our request in connection with future acquisitions and divestitures, financings or other transactions in which we may be involved. The services provided by Wexford under the advisory services agreement will not extend to our day-to-day business or operations.

### **Registration Rights**

Prior to the closing of this offering, we will enter a registration rights agreement with DB Holdings under which we will grant DB Holdings certain demand and piggyback registration rights. For more information regarding this agreement, see *Shares Eligible for Future Sale Registration Rights* beginning on page 113 of this prospectus.

**Table of Contents**

**PRINCIPAL AND SELLING STOCKHOLDER**

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock by:

the selling stockholder;

each stockholder known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the outstanding shares of our common stock;

each of our directors;

each of our named executive officers; and

all of our directors and executive officers as a group.

Except as otherwise indicated, we believe that each of the stockholders named in this table has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares indicated as beneficially owned.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>(1)</sup>	Percentage of Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>(1)</sup>	
		Prior to Offering	After Offering
<b>Selling Stockholder and other 5% Stockholders:</b>			
DB Holdings LLC <sup>(2)</sup>			
<b>Executive Officers and Directors:</b>			
Travis D. Stice			
Teresa L. Dick			
Russell Pantermuehl			
Paul Molnar			
Michael Hollis			
William Franklin			
Jeff White			
Randall J. Holder			
Steven E. West			
All executive officers and directors as a group (9 persons)			

- (1) Percentage of beneficial ownership is based upon shares of common stock outstanding as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011, and shares of common stock outstanding after the offering. The table assumes no exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option. For purposes of this table, a person or group of persons is deemed to have beneficial ownership of any shares which such person has the right to acquire within 60 days. For purposes of computing the percentage of outstanding shares held by each person or group of persons named above, any security which such person or group of persons has the right to acquire within 60 days is deemed to be outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership for such person or persons, but is not deemed to be outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. As a result, the denominator used in calculating the beneficial ownership among our stockholders may differ.
- (2) Wexford is the manager of DB Holdings, which is the selling stockholder in this offering. The number of shares to be sold in the offering by DB Holdings includes up to \_\_\_\_\_ shares that will be sold if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full. As manager of DB Holdings, Wexford has the exclusive authority to, among other things, purchase, hold and dispose of its assets, including the shares of our common stock that will be owned by DB Holdings. Wexford may, by reason of its status as manager of DB Holdings, be deemed to

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beneficially own the interest in the shares of our common stock owned by DB Holdings. Each of Charles E. Davidson and Joseph M. Jacobs may, by reason of his status as a controlling person of Wexford, be deemed to beneficially own the interests in the shares of our common stock owned by DB Holdings. Each of Charles E. Davidson, Joseph M. Jacobs and Wexford share the power to vote and to dispose of the interests in the shares of our common stock owned by DB Holdings. Each of Messrs. Davidson and Jacobs disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares of our common stock owned by DB Holdings and Wexford. Wexford's address is Wexford Plaza, 411 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830.

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**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

We will amend and restate our certificate of incorporation and bylaws in connection with this offering. The following description of our common stock, certificate of incorporation and our bylaws are summaries thereof and are qualified by reference to our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws as so amended and restated, copies of which will be filed with the SEC as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Our authorized capital stock consists of \_\_\_\_\_ shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and \_\_\_\_\_ shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. We intend to apply for listing of our shares of common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol FANG.

**Common Stock**

Holders of shares of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. Shares of common stock do not have cumulative voting rights, which means that the holders of more than 50% of the shares voting for the election of the board of directors can elect all the directors to be elected at that time, and, in such event, the holders of the remaining shares will be unable to elect any directors to be elected at that time. Our certificate of incorporation denies stockholders any preemptive rights to acquire or subscribe for any stock, obligation, warrant or other securities of ours. Holders of shares of our common stock have no redemption or conversion rights nor are they entitled to the benefits of any sinking fund provisions.

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of shares of common stock shall be entitled to receive, pro rata, all the remaining assets of our company available for distribution to our stockholders after payment of our debts and after there shall have been paid to or set aside for the holders of capital stock ranking senior to common stock in respect of rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up the full preferential amounts to which they are respectively entitled.

Holders of record of shares of common stock are entitled to receive dividends when and if declared by the board of directors out of any assets legally available for such dividends, subject to both the rights of all outstanding shares of capital stock ranking senior to the common stock in respect of dividends and to any dividend restrictions contained in debt agreements. All outstanding shares of common stock and any shares sold and issued in this offering will be fully paid and nonassessable by us.

**Preferred Stock**

Our board of directors is authorized to issue up to \_\_\_\_\_ shares of preferred stock in one or more series. The board of directors may fix for each series:

the distinctive serial designation and number of shares of the series;

the voting powers and the right, if any, to elect a director or directors;

the terms of office of any directors the holders of preferred shares are entitled to elect;

the dividend rights, if any;

the terms of redemption, and the amount of and provisions regarding any sinking fund for the purchase or redemption thereof;

the liquidation preferences and the amounts payable on dissolution or liquidation;

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the terms and conditions under which shares of the series may or shall be converted into any other series or class of stock or debt of the corporation; and

any other terms or provisions which the board of directors is legally authorized to fix or alter.



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## **Table of Contents**

We do not need stockholder approval to issue or fix the terms of the preferred stock. The actual effect of the authorization of the preferred stock upon your rights as holders of common stock is unknown until our board of directors determines the specific rights of owners of any series of preferred stock. Depending upon the rights granted to any series of preferred stock, your voting power, liquidation preference or other rights could be adversely affected. Preferred stock may be issued in acquisitions or for other corporate purposes. Issuance in connection with a stockholder rights plan or other takeover defense could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or of discouraging a third party from acquiring, control of our company. We have no present plans to issue any shares of preferred stock.

### **Related Party Transactions and Corporate Opportunities**

Subject to the limitations of applicable law, our certificate of incorporation, among other things:

permits us to enter into transactions with entities in which one or more of our officers or directors are financially or otherwise interested so long as it has been approved by our board of directors;

permits any of our stockholders, officers or directors to conduct business that competes with us and to make investments in any kind of property in which we may make investments; and

provides that if any director or officer of one of our affiliates who is also one of our officers or directors becomes aware of a potential business opportunity, transaction or other matter (other than one expressly offered to that director or officer in writing solely in his or her capacity as our director or officer), that director or officer will have no duty to communicate or offer that opportunity to us, and will be permitted to communicate or offer that opportunity to such affiliates and that director or officer will not be deemed to have (i) acted in a manner inconsistent with his or her fiduciary or other duties to us regarding the opportunity or (ii) acted in bad faith or in a manner inconsistent with our best interests.

### **Anti-takeover Effects of Provisions of Our Certificate of Incorporation and Our Bylaws**

Some provisions of our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws contain provisions that could make it more difficult to acquire us by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise, or to remove our incumbent officers and directors. These provisions, summarized below, are expected to discourage coercive takeover practices and inadequate takeover bids. These provisions are also designed to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to first negotiate with our board of directors. We believe that the benefits of increased protection of our potential ability to negotiate with the proponent of an unfriendly or unsolicited proposal to acquire or restructure us outweigh the disadvantages of discouraging such proposals because negotiation of such proposals could result in an improvement of their terms.

**Undesignated preferred stock.** The ability to authorize and issue undesignated preferred stock may enable our board of directors to render more difficult or discourage an attempt to change control of us by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise. For example, if in the due exercise of its fiduciary obligations, the board of directors were to determine that a takeover proposal is not in our best interest, the board of directors could cause shares of preferred stock to be issued without stockholder approval in one or more private offerings or other transactions that might dilute the voting or other rights of the proposed acquirer or insurgent stockholder or stockholder group.

**Stockholder meetings.** Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that a special meeting of stockholders may be called only by the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or by a resolution adopted by a majority of our board of directors.

**Requirements for advance notification of stockholder nominations and proposals.** Our bylaws establish advance notice procedures with respect to stockholder proposals and the nomination of candidates for election as directors, other than nominations made by or at the direction of the board of directors.

## **Table of Contents**

***Stockholder action by written consent.*** Our bylaws provide that, except as may otherwise be provided with respect to the rights of the holders of preferred stock, no action that is required or permitted to be taken by our stockholders at any annual or special meeting may be effected by written consent of stockholders in lieu of a meeting of stockholders, unless the action to be effected by written consent of stockholders and the taking of such action by such written consent have expressly been approved in advance by our board. This provision, which may not be amended except by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of all then outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class, makes it difficult for stockholders to initiate or effect an action by written consent that is opposed by our board.

***Amendment of the bylaws.*** Under Delaware law, the power to adopt, amend or repeal bylaws is conferred upon the stockholders. A corporation may, however, in its certificate of incorporation also confer upon the board of directors the power to adopt, amend or repeal its bylaws. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws grant our board the power to adopt, amend and repeal our bylaws at any regular or special meeting of the board on the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors then in office. Our stockholders may adopt, amend or repeal our bylaws but only at any regular or special meeting of stockholders by an affirmative vote of holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of all then outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class.

***Removal of Director.*** Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that members of our board of directors may only be removed by the affirmative vote of holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of all then outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class.

***Amendment of the Certificate of Incorporation.*** Our certificate of incorporation provides that, in addition to any other vote that may be required by law or any preferred stock designation, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of all then outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class, is required to amend, alter or repeal, or adopt any provision as part of our certificate of incorporation inconsistent with the provisions of our certificate of incorporation dealing with distributions on our common stock, related party transactions, our board of directors, our bylaws, meetings of our stockholders or amendment of our certificate of incorporation.

The provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws could have the effect of discouraging others from attempting hostile takeovers and, as a consequence, they may also inhibit temporary fluctuations in the market price of our common stock that often result from actual or rumored hostile takeover attempts. These provisions may also have the effect of preventing changes in our management. It is possible that these provisions could make it more difficult to accomplish transactions which stockholders may otherwise deem to be in their best interests.

## **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

will be the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

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**Table of Contents**

**SHARES ELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE SALE**

Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for our common stock. Future sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market, or the perception that such sales may occur, could adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock. We cannot predict the effect, if any, that future sales of shares, or the availability of shares for future sales, will have on the market price of our common stock prevailing from time to time.

**Sale of Restricted Shares**

Upon completion of this offering, we will have \_\_\_\_\_ shares of common stock outstanding. Of these shares of common stock, the \_\_\_\_\_ shares of common stock being sold in this offering, plus any shares sold upon exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares, will be freely tradable without restriction under the Securities Act, except for any such shares held or acquired by an affiliate of ours, as that term is defined in Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act, which shares will be subject to the volume limitations and other restrictions of Rule 144 described below. The remaining \_\_\_\_\_ shares of common stock held by our existing stockholder upon completion of this offering, or \_\_\_\_\_ shares if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares in full, will be restricted securities, as that phrase is defined in Rule 144, and may be resold only after registration under the Securities Act or pursuant to an exemption from such registration, including, among others, the exemptions provided by Rule 144 and 701 under the Securities Act, which rules are summarized below. These remaining shares of common stock held by our existing stockholder upon completion of this offering will be available for sale in the public market after the expiration of the lock-up agreements described in *Underwriting*, taking into account the provisions of Rules 144 and 701 under the Securities Act.

**Rule 144**

In general, under Rule 144 as currently in effect, persons who became the beneficial owner of shares of our common stock prior to the completion of this offering may sell their shares upon the earlier of (1) the expiration of a six-month holding period, if we have been subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), for at least 90 days prior to the date of the sale and have filed all reports required thereunder, or (2) the expiration of a one-year holding period.

At the expiration of the six-month holding period, assuming we have been subject to the Exchange Act reporting requirements for at least 90 days and have filed all reports required thereunder, a person who was not one of our affiliates at any time during the three months preceding a sale would be entitled to sell an unlimited number of shares of our common stock, and a person who was one of our affiliates at any time during the three months preceding a sale would be entitled to sell, within any three-month period, a number of shares of common stock that does not exceed the greater of either of the following:

1% of the number of shares of our common stock then outstanding, which will equal approximately \_\_\_\_\_ shares immediately after this offering; or

the average weekly trading volume of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market during the four calendar weeks preceding the filing of a notice on Form 144 with respect to the sale.

At the expiration of the one-year holding period, a person who was not one of our affiliates at any time during the three months preceding a sale would be entitled to sell an unlimited number of shares of our common stock without restriction. A person who was one of our affiliates at any time during the three months preceding a sale would remain subject to the volume restrictions described above.

Sales under Rule 144 by our affiliates are also subject to manner of sale provisions and notice requirements and to the availability of current public information about us.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Rule 701**

In general, under Rule 701, any of our employees, directors, officers, consultants or advisors who purchased shares from us in connection with a compensatory stock or option plan or other written agreement before the effective date of this offering, or who purchased shares from us after that date upon the exercise of options granted before that date, are eligible to resell such shares in reliance upon Rule 144 beginning 90 days after the date of this prospectus. If such person is not an affiliate, the sale may be made subject only to the manner-of-sale restrictions of Rule 144. If such a person is an affiliate, the sale may be made under Rule 144 without compliance with its one-year minimum holding period, but subject to the other Rule 144 restrictions.

### **Registration Rights**

Prior to the closing of this offering, we will enter into a registration rights agreement with DB Holdings. Under the registration rights agreement, DB Holdings has demand and piggyback registration rights. The demand rights enable DB Holdings to require us to register its shares of our common stock with the SEC at any time, subject to the 180-day lock-up agreement it has entered into in connection with this offering. The piggyback rights will allow DB Holdings to register the shares of our common stock that it owns along with any shares that we register with the SEC. These registration rights are subject to customary conditions and limitations, including the right of the underwriters of an offering to limit the number of shares.

### **Stock Plans**

We intend to file one or more registration statements on Form S-8 under the Securities Act to register shares of our common stock issued or reserved for issuance under our equity incentive plan. The first such registration statement is expected to be filed soon after the date of this prospectus and will automatically become effective upon filing with the SEC. Accordingly, shares registered under such registration statement will be available for sale in the open market following the effective date, unless such shares are subject to vesting restrictions with us, Rule 144 restrictions applicable to our affiliates or the lock-up restrictions described below.

### **Lock-Up Agreements**

We, each of our directors and executive officers and DB Holdings have agreed that, without the prior written consent of \_\_\_\_\_, we and they will not (subject to certain exceptions), during the period ending 180 days after the date of this prospectus (subject to certain extensions):

offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase, lend, or otherwise transfer or dispose of, directly or indirectly, any shares of common stock or any other securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock; or

enter into any swap or other arrangement that transfers to another, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of the common stock;

whether any transaction described above is to be settled by delivery of shares of our common stock or such other securities, in cash or otherwise. For additional information, see *Underwriting*.

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**Table of Contents**

**MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME AND ESTATE TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS**

The following is a general discussion of material U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our common stock by a non-U.S. holder. This discussion deals only with common stock purchased in this offering that is held as a capital asset by a non-U.S. holder. Except as modified for estate tax purposes, the term "non-U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of our common stock that is not, for U.S. federal income and estate tax purposes:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (including any entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust, if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons (as defined under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code) have authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or if it has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations to be treated as a United States person.

An individual may generally be treated as a resident of the United States in any calendar year for U.S. federal income tax purposes, by, among other ways, being present in the United States for at least 31 days in that calendar year and for an aggregate of at least 183 days during a three-year period ending in the current calendar year. For purposes of the 183-day calculation, all of the days present in the current year, one-third of the days present in the immediately preceding year and one-sixth of the days present in the second preceding year are counted. Residents are taxed for U.S. federal income tax purposes as if they were U.S. citizens.

This discussion is based upon provisions of the Code, and Treasury regulations, administrative rulings and judicial decisions, all as of the date hereof. Those authorities may be changed, perhaps retroactively, so as to result in U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences different from those discussed below. This discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income and estate taxation and does not deal with other U.S. federal tax laws (such as gift tax laws) or foreign, state, local or other tax considerations that may be relevant to non-U.S. holders in light of their personal circumstances. In addition, this discussion does not address tax considerations applicable to investors that may be subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, such as (without limitation):

certain former U.S. citizens or residents;

shareholders that hold our common stock as part of a straddle, constructive sale transaction, synthetic security, hedge, conversion transaction or other integrated investment or risk reduction transaction;

shareholders that acquired our common stock through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation or through a tax-qualified retirement plan;

shareholders that are partnerships or entities treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes or other pass-through entities or owners thereof;

financial institutions;

insurance companies;

tax-exempt entities;

dealers in securities or foreign currencies; and

traders in securities that use a mark-to-market method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

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## **Table of Contents**

If a partnership (including an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership (including an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holding our common stock, you should consult your tax advisor.

**Investors considering the purchase of our common stock should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the U.S. federal income and estate and gift tax laws to their particular situation as well as the applicability and effect of any state, local or foreign tax laws or tax treaties.**

### **Distributions on Common Stock**

We do not expect to pay any cash distributions on our common stock in the foreseeable future. However, in the event we do make such cash distributions, these distributions generally will constitute dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent paid from our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. If any such distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will be treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of the non-U.S. holder's tax basis in our common stock and thereafter as capital gain from the sale or exchange of such common stock. See *Gain on Disposition of Common Stock*. Dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder of our common stock that are not effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business within the United States will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a 30% rate, or if an income tax treaty applies, a lower rate specified by the treaty. In order to receive a reduced treaty rate, a non-U.S. holder must provide to the withholding agent Internal Revenue Service ( IRS ) Form W-8BEN (or applicable substitute or successor form) properly certifying eligibility for the reduced rate.

Dividends that are effectively connected with a non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States and, if an income tax treaty so requires, are attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States, are taxed on a net income basis at the regular graduated rates and in the manner applicable to United States persons (as defined under the Code). In that case, we will not have to withhold U.S. federal withholding tax if the non-U.S. holder complies with applicable certification and disclosure requirements (which may generally be met by providing an IRS Form W-8ECI). In addition, a branch profits tax may be imposed at a 30% rate (or a lower rate specified under an applicable income tax treaty) on dividends received by a foreign corporation that are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

### **Gain on Disposition of Common Stock**

A non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain recognized on a disposition of our common stock unless:

the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States and, if an income tax treaty applies, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States, in which case, the gain will be taxed on a net income basis at the rates and in the manner applicable to United States persons (as defined under the Code), and if the non-U.S. holder is a foreign corporation, the branch profits tax described above may also apply;

the non-U.S. holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the disposition and meets other requirements, in which case, the non-U.S. holder will be subject to a flat 30% tax on the gain derived from the disposition, which may be offset by U.S. source capital losses; or

we are or have been a United States real property holding corporation, or USRPHC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes at any time during the shorter of the five-year period ending on the date of disposition, or the period that the non-U.S. holder held our common stock.

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## **Table of Contents**

Generally, a corporation is a USRPHC if the fair market value of its United States real property interests equals or exceeds 50% of the sum of the fair market value of its worldwide real property interests and its other assets used or held for use in a trade or business. We have not determined whether we are currently a USRPHC for United States federal income tax purposes, but we believe we currently may be a USRPHC. If we are or become a USRPHC, a non-U.S. holder nonetheless will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding in respect of any gain realized on a sale or other disposition of our common stock so long as (i) our common stock continues to be regularly traded on an established securities market for U.S. federal income tax purposes (as it currently is) and (ii) such non-U.S. holder does not actually or constructively own, at any time during the applicable period described in the third bullet point, above, more than 5% of our outstanding common stock. Accordingly, a non-U.S. holder who actually or constructively owns more than 5% of our common stock would be subject to U.S. federal income tax and withholding in respect of any gain realized on any sale or other disposition of common stock (taxed in the same manner as gain that is effectively connected income, except that the branch profits tax would not apply). Non-U.S. holders should consult their own advisor about the consequences that could result if we are, or become, a USRPHC.

### **Information Reporting and Backup Withholding Tax**

Dividends paid to you will generally be subject to information reporting and may be subject to U.S. backup withholding. You will be exempt from backup withholding if you properly provide a Form W-8BEN certifying under penalties of perjury that you are a non-U.S. holder or otherwise meet documentary evidence requirements for establishing that you are a non-U.S. holder, or you otherwise establish an exemption. Copies of the information returns reporting such dividends and the tax withheld with respect to such dividends also may be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which you reside.

The gross proceeds from the disposition of our common stock may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding. If you receive payments of the proceeds of a disposition of our common stock to or through a U.S. office of a broker, the payment will be subject to both U.S. backup withholding and information reporting unless you properly provide an IRS Form W-8BEN certifying under penalties of perjury that you are a non-U.S. person (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person, as defined under the Code) or you otherwise establish an exemption. If you sell your common stock outside the United States through a non-U.S. office of a non-U.S. broker and the sales proceeds are paid to you outside the United States, then the U.S. backup withholding and information reporting requirements generally will not apply to that payment. However, U.S. information reporting, but not backup withholding, will generally apply to a payment of sales proceeds, even if that payment is made outside the United States, if you sell your common stock through a non-U.S. office of a broker that has certain relationships with the United States unless the broker has documentary evidence in its files that you are a non-U.S. person and certain other conditions are met, or you otherwise establish an exemption.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. You may obtain a refund or credit of any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules that exceed your U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

### **Additional Withholding Requirements**

Under recently-enacted legislation, the relevant withholding agent may be required to withhold 30% of any dividends and the proceeds of a sale or other disposition of our common stock to (i) a foreign financial institution unless such foreign financial institution agrees to verify, report and disclose its U.S. account holders and meets certain other requirements or (ii) a non-financial foreign entity that is the beneficial owner of the payment unless such entity certifies that it does not have any substantial United States owners or provides the name, address and taxpayer identification number of each substantial United States owner and such entity meets certain other requirements. IRS Guidance issued in July 2011 indicates that regulations will be enacted that will provide that withholding will only be made on payments of dividends made on or after January 1, 2014, and on other withholdable payments (including payments of gross proceeds) made on or after January 1, 2015.



**Table of Contents**

**Federal Estate Tax**

Our common stock that is owned (or treated as owned) by an individual who is not a citizen or resident of the United States (as specially defined for United States federal estate tax purposes) at the time of death will be included in such individual's gross estate for United States federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise, and, therefore, may be subject to United States federal estate tax.

THE FOREGOING DISCUSSION IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS TAX ADVICE. INVESTORS CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE OF OUR COMMON STOCK SHOULD CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME AND ESTATE AND GIFT TAX LAWS TO THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATION AS WELL AS THE APPLICABILITY AND EFFECT OF ANY STATE, LOCAL OR FOREIGN TAX LAWS OR TAX TREATIES.

**Table of Contents**

**UNDERWRITING**

are the representatives of the several underwriters named below. We and the selling stockholder have entered into an underwriting agreement with the representatives of the underwriters. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, we and the selling stockholder have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each underwriter has agreed to purchase, the number of shares of common stock listed next to its name in the following table:

Underwriter	Number of Shares
Total	

The underwriting agreement is subject to a number of terms and conditions and will provide that the underwriters must buy all of the shares if they buy any of them. The underwriters will sell the shares to the public when and if the underwriters buy the shares from us and the selling stockholder.

We and the selling stockholder have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriters initially will offer the shares to the public at the price specified on the cover page of this prospectus. The underwriters may allow a concession of not more than \$ per share to selected dealers. The underwriters may also allow, and those dealers may re-allow, a concession of not more than \$ per share to some other dealers. If all the shares are not sold at the public offering price, the underwriters may change the public offering price and the other selling terms. The common stock is offered subject to a number of conditions, including:

receipt and acceptance of the common stock by the underwriters; and

the underwriters' right to reject orders in whole or in part.

We estimate that our total expenses in connection with this offering, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$ . The selling stockholder will not bear any portion of these expenses.

**Over-Allotment Option.** We and the selling stockholder have granted the underwriters an over-allotment option to buy up to additional shares of our common stock at the same price per share as they are paying for the shares shown in the table above. These additional shares would cover sales of shares by the underwriters that exceed the total number of shares shown in the table above. The underwriters may exercise this option at any time within 30 days after the date of this prospectus. To the extent that the underwriters exercise this option, each underwriter will purchase additional shares from us and the selling stockholder in approximately the same proportion as it purchased the shares shown in the table above. If purchased, the additional shares will be sold by the underwriters on the same terms as those on which the other shares are sold. We will pay the expenses associated with the exercise of this option. The selling stockholder will not bear any portion of these expenses.

**Discounts and Commissions.** The following table shows the per share and total underwriting discounts and commissions to be paid to the underwriters by us and the selling stockholder. These amounts are shown assuming no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares.

**Table of Contents**

	Per Share		Total	
	Without Over-allotment	With Over-allotment	Without Over-allotment	With Over-allotment
Public offering price for shares sold by us	\$	\$	\$	\$
Underwriting fees to be paid by us	\$	\$	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us				
Public offering price for shares sold by the selling stockholder				
Underwriting fees to be paid by the selling stockholder				
Proceeds, before expenses, to the selling stockholder	\$	\$	\$	\$

**Listing.** We intend to apply for listing of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol FANG. In order to meet one of the requirements for listing the common stock on the NASDAQ, the underwriters will undertake to sell lots of 100 or more shares to a minimum of 400 beneficial owners.

**Directed Share Program.** At our request, the underwriters have reserved up to % of the common stock being offered by this prospectus for sale to our directors, officers, employees, business associates and related persons at the public offering price. The sales will be made by the underwriters through a directed share program. We do not know if these persons will choose to purchase all or any portion of this reserved common stock, but any purchases they do make will reduce the number of shares available to the general public. To the extent the allotted shares are not purchased in the directed share program, we will offer these shares to the public. These persons must commit to purchase no later than the close of business on the day following the date of this prospectus. Any directors or officers purchasing such reserved common stock will be prohibited from selling such stock for a period of 180 days after the date of this prospectus.

**Stabilization.** In connection with this offering, the underwriters may engage in activities that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of our common stock, including:

stabilizing transactions;

short sales;

syndicate covering transactions;

imposition of penalty bids; and

purchases to cover positions created by short sales.

Stabilizing transactions consist of bids or purchases made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common stock while this offering is in progress. Stabilizing transactions may include making short sales of our common stock, which involves the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of shares of common stock than they are required to purchase in this offering, and purchasing shares of common stock from us or in the open market to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales may be covered shorts, which are short positions in an amount not greater than the underwriters' over-allotment option referred to above, or may be naked shorts, which are short positions in excess of that amount. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of our common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions.

The underwriters may close out any covered short position either by exercising their over-allotment option, in whole or in part, or by purchasing shares in the open market. In making this determination, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market compared to the price at which the underwriters may purchase shares through the over-allotment option.

A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the common stock in the open market that could adversely affect investors who purchased shares of our common stock in this offering. To the extent

that the underwriters create a naked short position, they will purchase shares in the open market to cover the position.

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**Table of Contents**

The representatives also may impose a penalty bid on underwriters and dealers participating in the offering. This means that the representatives may reclaim from any syndicate member or other dealers participating in the offering the commissions and selling concessions on shares sold by them and purchased by the representatives in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

These activities may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common stock. As a result of these activities, the price of our common stock may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If the underwriters commence these activities, they may discontinue them at any time. The underwriters may carry out these transactions on the NASDAQ, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. None of the Company, the selling stockholder or any of the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of our common stock.

**Discretionary Accounts.** The underwriters have informed us that they do not expect to make sales to accounts over which they exercise discretionary authority in excess of 5% of the shares of common stock being offered.

**IPO Pricing.** Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for our common stock. The initial public offering price has been negotiated between us and the representatives of the underwriters. The factors that were considered in these negotiations were:

the history of, and prospects for, us and the industry in which we compete;

our past and present financial performance;

an assessment of our management;

the present state of our development;

the prospects for our future earnings;

the prevailing conditions of the applicable United States securities market at the time of this offering; and

market valuations of publicly traded companies that we and the representatives of the underwriters believe to be comparable to us.

**Lock-up Agreements.** We, our directors and executive officers, and DB Holdings, which is the selling stockholder in this offering, will enter into lock-up agreements with the underwriters. Under these agreements, subject to exceptions, we may not issue any new shares of common stock, and we and those persons or entities may not, directly or indirectly, offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of or hedge any common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock, or publicly announce the intention to do any of the foregoing, without the prior written consent of, on behalf of the underwriters, for a period of 180 days from the date of this prospectus. This consent may be given at any time without public notice. In addition, during the applicable restricted period we will agree not to file any registration statement for, and each of our directors and executive officers and the selling stockholder will agree not to make any demand for, or exercise any right of, the registration of any shares of common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock without the prior written consent of \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of the underwriters.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if (i) during the last 17 days of the lock-up period described above, we issue an earnings release or material news or a material event relating to us occurs or (ii) prior to the expiration of the lock-up period, we announce that we will release earnings results during the 16-day period beginning on the last day of the lock-up period, then in each case the lock-up period will be extended until the expiration of the 18-day period beginning on the date of the issuance of the earnings release or the occurrence of the material news or material event, as applicable, unless waives, in writing, such extension (which waiver may be withheld at the sole discretion of \_\_\_\_\_).



**Table of Contents**

***Other Relationships.*** Certain of the underwriters and their respective affiliates have from time to time performed, and may in the future perform, various financial advisory and investment banking services for us, and the selling stockholder for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses.

None of the company, the selling stockholder or the underwriters have authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to give any information or to represent anything to you other than the information contained in this prospectus. You must not rely on unauthorized information. This prospectus does not offer to sell or ask for offers to buy any of the shares of common stock offered by us or the selling stockholder in any jurisdictions where it is unlawful. The information in this prospectus is current only as of its date.

**Table of Contents**

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the shares of common stock that are offered hereby by us and the selling stockholder will be passed upon by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. The underwriters have been represented by \_\_\_\_\_.

**EXPERTS**

The audited financial statements included in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement have been so included in reliance upon the report of Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accountants, upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Information referenced or incorporated by reference in this prospectus regarding our estimated quantities of oil and gas reserves and the discounted present value of future net cash flows therefrom is based upon estimates of such reserves and present values prepared by Ryder Scott Company L.P. as of December 31, 2011 and by Pinnacle Energy Services, LLC as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, each an independent petroleum engineering firm.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-1 under the Securities Act covering the securities offered by this prospectus. This prospectus, which constitutes a part of that registration statement, does not contain all of the information that you can find in that registration statement and its exhibits. Certain items are omitted from this prospectus in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about us and the common stock offered by this prospectus, reference is made to the registration statement and the exhibits filed with the registration statement. Statements contained in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to are not necessarily complete and in each instance such statement is qualified by reference to each such contract or document filed as part of the registration statement. When we complete this offering, we will be required to file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read any materials we file with the SEC free of charge at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of all or any part of these documents may be obtained from such office upon the payment of the fees prescribed by the SEC. The public may obtain information on the operation of the public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants that file electronically with the SEC. The address of the site is [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The registration statement, including all exhibits thereto and amendments thereof, has been filed electronically with the SEC.



**Table of Contents**

**Appendix A**

**GLOSSARY OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS TERMS**

The following is a description of the meanings of some of the oil and natural gas industry terms used in this prospectus.

**3-D seismic.** Geophysical data that depict the subsurface strata in three dimensions. 3-D seismic typically provides a more detailed and accurate interpretation of the subsurface strata than 2-D, or two-dimensional, seismic.

**Basin-centered gas.** A regional abnormally-pressured, gas-saturated accumulation in low-permeability reservoirs.

**Bbl.** Stock tank barrel, or 42 U.S. gallons liquid volume, used in this prospectus in reference to crude oil or other liquid hydrocarbons.

**Bbl/day.** Bbl per day.

**Bcf.** Billion cubic feet of natural gas.

**Bcfe.** Billion cubic feet equivalent, determined using the ratio of six Mcf of natural gas to one Bbl of crude oil, condensate or natural gas liquids.

**BOE.** Barrels of oil equivalent, with six thousand cubic feet of natural gas being equivalent to one barrel of oil.

**Btu or British thermal unit.** The quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit.

**Coalbed methane (CBM).** Natural gas formed as a byproduct of the coal formation process, which is trapped in coal seams and produced by non-traditional means.

**Completion.** The process of treating a drilled well followed by the installation of permanent equipment for the production of natural gas or oil, or in the case of a dry hole, the reporting of abandonment to the appropriate agency.

**Condensate.** Liquid hydrocarbons associated with the production of a primarily natural gas reserve.

**Developed acreage.** The number of acres that are allocated or assignable to productive wells or wells capable of production.

**Development well.** A well drilled within the proved area of a natural gas or oil reservoir to the depth of a stratigraphic horizon known to be productive.

**Deviated well.** A well purposely deviated from the vertical using controlled angles to reach an objective location other than directly below the surface location.

**Dry hole.** A well found to be incapable of producing hydrocarbons in sufficient quantities such that proceeds from the sale of such production exceed production expenses and taxes.

**Environmental Assessment (EA).** A study that can be required pursuant to federal law to assess the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of a project.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** A more detailed study that can be required pursuant to federal law to assess the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of a project that may be made available to the public for review and comment.

## **Table of Contents**

**Exploratory well.** A well drilled to find and produce natural gas or oil reserves not classified as proved, to find a new reservoir in a field previously found to be productive of natural gas or oil in another reservoir or to extend a known reservoir.

**Field.** An area consisting of either a single reservoir or multiple reservoirs, all grouped on or related to the same individual geological structural feature and/or stratigraphic condition.

**Finding and Development Costs.** Capital costs incurred in the acquisition, exploitation and exploration of proved oil and natural gas reserves divided by proved reserve additions and revisions to proved reserves.

**Fracturing.** The process of creating and preserving a fracture or system of fractures in a reservoir rock typically by injecting a fluid under pressure through a wellbore and into the targeted formation.

**Gross acres or gross wells.** The total acres or wells, as the case may be, in which a working interest is owned.

**Horizontal drilling.** A drilling technique used in certain formations where a well is drilled vertically to a certain depth and then drilled at a right angle with a specified interval.

**Identified drilling locations.** Total gross locations specifically identified by management to be included in the Company's multi-year drilling activities on existing acreage. The Company's actual drilling activities may change depending on the availability of capital, regulatory approvals, seasonal restrictions, oil and natural gas prices, costs, drilling results and other factors.

**MBbls.** Thousand barrels of crude oil or other liquid hydrocarbons.

**MBOE.** One thousand barrels of crude oil equivalent, determined using a ratio of six Mcf of natural gas to one Bbl of crude oil, condensate or natural gas liquids.

**Mcf.** Thousand cubic feet of natural gas.

**Mcf/day.** Mcf per day.

**MMcfe.** Thousand cubic feet equivalent, determined using the ratio of six Mcf of natural gas to one Bbl of crude oil, condensate or natural gas liquids.

**MMBbls.** Million barrels of crude oil or other liquid hydrocarbons.

**MMBOE.** Million barrels of oil equivalent.

**MMBtu.** Million British Thermal Units.

**MMcf.** Million cubic feet of natural gas.

**MMcf/day.** MMcf per day.

**MMcfe.** Million cubic feet equivalent, determined using the ratio of six Mcf of natural gas to one Bbl of crude oil, condensate or natural gas liquids.

**MMcfe/day.** MMcfe per day.

**Net acres or net wells.** The sum of the fractional working interest owned in gross acres or gross wells, as the case may be.

**Net revenue interest.** An owner's interest in the revenues of a well after deducting proceeds allocated to royalty and overriding interests.

**PDNP.** Proved developed non-producing.



## **Table of Contents**

**PDP.** Proved developed producing.

**Play.** A set of discovered or prospective oil and/or natural gas accumulations sharing similar geologic, geographic and temporal properties, such as source rock, reservoir structure, timing, trapping mechanism and hydrocarbon type.

**Plugging and abandonment.** Refers to the sealing off of fluids in the strata penetrated by a well so that the fluids from one stratum will not escape into another or to the surface. Regulations of all states require plugging of abandoned wells.

**PUD.** Proved undeveloped.

**Productive well.** A well that is found to be capable of producing hydrocarbons in sufficient quantities such that proceeds from the sale of the production exceed production expenses and taxes.

**Prospect.** A specific geographic area which, based on supporting geological, geophysical or other data and also preliminary economic analysis using reasonably anticipated prices and costs, is deemed to have potential for the discovery of commercial hydrocarbons.

**Proved developed reserves (PDP).** Reserves that can be expected to be recovered through existing wells with existing equipment and operating methods.

**Proved reserves.** The estimated quantities of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids which geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be commercially recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions.

**Proved undeveloped reserves (PUD).** Proved reserves that are expected to be recovered from new wells on undrilled acreage or from existing wells where a relatively major expenditure is required for recompletion.

**Recompletion.** The process of re-entering an existing wellbore that is either producing or not producing and completing new reservoirs in an attempt to establish or increase existing production.

**Reservoir.** A porous and permeable underground formation containing a natural accumulation of producible natural gas and/or oil that is confined by impermeable rock or water barriers and is separate from other reservoirs.

**Stratigraphic play.** An oil or natural gas formation contained within an area created by permeability and porosity changes characteristic of the alternating rock layer that result from the sedimentation process.

**Structural play.** An oil or natural gas formation contained within an area created by earth movements that deform or rupture (such as folding or faulting) rock strata.

**Tight gas sands.** A formation with low permeability that produces natural gas with very low flow rates for long periods of time.

**Undeveloped acreage.** Lease acreage on which wells have not been drilled or completed to a point that would permit the production of commercial quantities of oil and natural gas regardless of whether such acreage contains proved reserves.

**Working interest.** The operating interest that gives the owner the right to drill, produce and conduct operating activities on the property and receive a share of production and requires the owner to pay a share of the costs of drilling and production operations.

**Workover.** The repair or stimulation of an existing production well for the purpose of restoring, prolonging or enhancing the production of hydrocarbons.

**WINDSOR PERMIAN LLC**  
**Estimated**  
**Future Reserves and Income**  
**Attributable to Certain**  
**Leasehold Interests**  
**SEC Parameters**  
**As of**  
**December 31, 2011**

/s/ Don P. Griffin, P.E.

Don P. Griffin, P.E.

TBPE License No. 64150

Senior Vice President

**RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.**

TBPE Firm License No. F-1580

[SEAL]



**Table of Contents**

January 20, 2012

Windsor Permian LLC

500 West Texas, Suite 1210

Midland, Texas 79701

Gentlemen:

At your request, Ryder Scott Company (Ryder Scott) has prepared an estimate of the proved, probable and possible reserves, future production, and income attributable to certain leasehold interests of Windsor Permian LLC (Windsor) as of December 31, 2011. The subject properties are located in the state of Texas. The reserves and income data were estimated based on the definitions and disclosure guidelines of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) contained in Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting, Final Rule released January 14, 2009 in the Federal Register (SEC regulations). Our third party study, completed on January 20, 2012 and presented herein, was prepared for public disclosure in Windsor's filings made with the SEC in accordance with the disclosure requirements set forth in the SEC regulations.

The properties evaluated by Ryder Scott represent 100 percent of the total net proved, probable and possible liquid hydrocarbon reserves and 100 percent of the total net proved, probable and possible gas reserves of Windsor as of December 31, 2011.

The results of this study are summarized below.

**SEC PARAMETERS**

Estimated Net Reserves and Income Data

Certain Leasehold Interests of **Windsor****Permian LLC**

As of December 31, 2011

	Developed		Proved	Total Proved
	Producing	Non-Producing	Undeveloped	
<b><u>Net Remaining Reserves</u></b>				
Oil/Condensate MBbl	3,494	311	12,912	16,717
Plant Products MBbl	1,143	90	3,530	4,763
Gas MMCF	4,799	388	14,432	19,619
MBOE	5,437	466	18,847	24,750
<b><u>Income Data (\$M)</u></b>				
Future Gross Revenue	\$ 386,409	\$ 33,732	\$ 1,383,530	\$ 1,803,671
Deductions	115,007	10,909	706,774	832,690
Future Net Income (FNI)	\$ 271,402	\$ 22,823	\$ 676,756	\$ 970,981
Discounted FNI @ 10%	\$ 147,447	\$ 12,090	\$ 183,910	\$ 343,447

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B-2



**Table of Contents**

Windsor Permian LLC

January 20, 2012

Page 2

	<b>Total Probable Undeveloped</b>	<b>Total Possible Undeveloped</b>
<b><u>Net Remaining Reserves</u></b>		
Oil/Condensate MBbl	14,309	4,892
Plant Products MBbl	3,058	1,024
Gas MMCF	11,133	3,577
MBOE	19,223	6,512
<b><u>Income Data (\$M)</u></b>		
Future Gross Revenue	\$ 1,470,059	\$ 500,339
Deductions	827,874	283,474
Future Net Income (FNI)	\$ 642,185	\$ 216,865
Discounted FNI @ 10%	\$ 134,064	\$ 42,956

The estimated reserves and future net income amounts presented in this report, as of December 31, 2011 are related to hydrocarbon prices. The hydrocarbon prices used in the preparation of this report are based on the average prices during the 12-month period prior to the ending date of the period covered in this report, determined as the un-weighted arithmetic averages of the prices in effect on the first-day-of-the-month for each month within such period, unless prices were defined by contractual arrangements, as required by the SEC regulations. Actual future prices may vary significantly from the prices required by SEC regulations; therefore, volumes of reserves actually recovered and the amounts of income actually received may differ significantly from the estimated quantities presented in this report.

Liquid hydrocarbons are expressed in thousands of standard 42 gallon barrels (MBbl). All gas volumes are reported on an as sold basis expressed in millions of cubic feet (MMCF) at the official temperature and pressure bases of the areas in which the gas reserves are located. The net remaining reserves are also shown herein on an equivalent unit basis wherein natural gas is converted to oil equivalent using a factor of 6,000 cubic feet of natural gas per one barrel of oil equivalent. MBOE means thousands barrels of oil equivalent. In this report, the revenues, deductions, and income data are expressed as thousands of U.S. dollars (M\$).

The estimates of the reserves, future production, and income attributable to properties in this report were prepared using the economic software package Aries™ System Petroleum Economic Evaluation Software, a copyrighted program of Halliburton. The program was used solely at the request of Windsor. Ryder Scott has found this program to be generally acceptable, but notes that certain summaries and calculations may vary due to rounding and may not exactly match the sum of the properties being summarized. Furthermore, one line economic summaries may vary slightly from the more detailed cash flow projections of the same properties, also due to rounding. The rounding differences are not material.

The future gross revenue is after the deduction of production taxes. The deductions incorporate the normal direct costs of operating the wells, ad valorem taxes, recompletion costs and development costs. The future net income is before the deduction of state and federal income taxes and general administrative overhead, and has not been adjusted for outstanding loans that may exist nor does it include any adjustment for cash on hand or undistributed income.

Liquid hydrocarbon reserves account for approximately 96.0 percent and gas reserves account for the remaining 4.0 percent of total future gross revenue from proved reserves. Liquid hydrocarbon reserves account

RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS



**Table of Contents**

Windsor Permian LLC

January 20, 2012

Page 3

for approximately 97.2 percent and gas reserves account for the remaining 2.8 percent of total future gross revenue from probable reserves. Liquid hydrocarbon reserves account for approximately 97.3 percent and gas reserves account for the remaining 2.7 percent of total future gross revenue from possible reserves.

The discounted future net income shown above was calculated using a discount rate of 10 percent per annum compounded monthly. Future net income was discounted at four other discount rates which were also compounded monthly. These results are shown in summary form as follows.

Discount Rate	Discounted Future Net Income		
	Total	As of December 31, 2011 (\$M)	
		Proved	Probable
5	\$539,390	\$283,594	\$93,201
15	\$236,843	\$ 59,858	\$18,649
20	\$171,787	\$ 18,984	\$ 5,580
25	\$128,974	\$ -4,953	\$ -1,903

The results shown above are presented for your information and should not be construed as our estimate of fair market value.

**Reserves Included in This Report**

The proved, probable and possible reserves included herein conform to the definitions as set forth in the Securities and Exchange Commission's Regulations Part 210.4-10(a). An abridged version of the SEC reserves definitions from 210.4-10(a) entitled "Petroleum Reserves Definitions" is included as an attachment to this report.

The various reserve status categories are defined under the attachment entitled "Petroleum Reserves Definitions" in this report. The proved developed non-producing reserves included herein consist of the shut-in category.

No attempt was made to quantify or otherwise account for any accumulated gas production imbalances that may exist. The proved, probable and possible gas volumes included herein do not attribute gas consumed in operations as reserves.

Reserves are estimated remaining quantities of oil and gas and related substances anticipated to be economically producible, as of a given date, by application of development projects to known accumulations. All reserve estimates involve an assessment of the uncertainty relating to the likelihood that the actual remaining quantities recovered will be greater or less than the estimated quantities determined as of the date the estimate is made. The uncertainty depends chiefly on the amount of reliable geologic and engineering data available at the time of the estimate and the interpretation of these data. The relative degree of uncertainty may be conveyed by placing reserves into one of two principal classifications, either proved or unproved. Unproved reserves are less certain to be recovered than proved reserves and may be further sub-classified as probable and possible reserves to denote progressively increasing uncertainty in their recoverability. At Windsor's request, this report addresses the proved, probable and possible reserves attributable to the properties evaluated herein.

RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS

B-4

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**Table of Contents**

Windsor Permian LLC

January 20, 2012

Page 4

Proved oil and gas reserves are those quantities of oil and gas which, by analysis of geoscience and engineering data, can be estimated with reasonable certainty to be economically producible from a given date forward. If deterministic methods are used, the SEC has defined reasonable certainty for proved reserves as a high degree of confidence that the quantities will be recovered. Probable reserves are those additional reserves that are less certain to be recovered than proved reserves but which, together with proved reserves, are as likely as not to be recovered. Possible reserves are those additional reserves which are less certain to be recovered than probable reserves and thus the probability of achieving or exceeding the proved plus probable plus possible reserves is low.

The reserves included herein were estimated using deterministic methods and presented as incremental quantities. Under the deterministic incremental approach, discrete quantities of reserves are estimated and assigned separately as proved, probable or possible based on their individual level of uncertainty. Because of the differences in uncertainty, caution should be exercised when aggregating quantities of oil and gas from different reserves categories. Furthermore, the reserves and income quantities attributable to the different reserve categories that are included herein have not been adjusted to reflect these varying degrees of risk associated with them and thus are not comparable.

Reserve estimates will generally be revised only as additional geologic or engineering data become available or as economic conditions change. For proved reserves, the SEC states that as changes due to increased availability of geoscience (geological, geophysical, and geochemical), engineering, and economic data are made to the estimated ultimate recovery (EUR) with time, reasonably certain EUR is much more likely to increase or remain constant than to decrease. Moreover, estimates of proved, probable and possible reserves may be revised as a result of future operations, effects of regulation by governmental agencies or geopolitical or economic risks. Therefore, the proved, probable and possible reserves included in this report are estimates only and should not be construed as being exact quantities, and if recovered, the revenues therefrom, and the actual costs related thereto, could be more or less than the estimated amounts.

Windsor's operations may be subject to various levels of governmental controls and regulations. These controls and regulations may include, but may not be limited to, matters relating to land tenure and leasing, the legal rights to produce hydrocarbons, drilling and production practices, environmental protection, marketing and pricing policies, royalties, various taxes and levies including income tax and are subject to change from time to time. Such changes in governmental regulations and policies may cause volumes of proved, probable and possible reserves actually recovered and amounts of proved, probable and possible income actually received to differ significantly from the estimated quantities.

The estimates of reserves presented herein were based upon a detailed study of the properties in which Windsor owns an interest; however, we have not made any field examination of the properties. No consideration was given in this report to potential environmental liabilities that may exist nor were any costs included for potential liabilities to restore and clean up damages, if any, caused by past operating practices.

***Estimates of Reserves***

The estimation of reserves involves two distinct determinations. The first determination results in the estimation of the quantities of recoverable oil and gas and the second determination results in the estimation of the uncertainty associated with those estimated quantities in accordance with the definitions set forth by the Securities and Exchange Commission's Regulations Part 210.4-10(a). The process of estimating the quantities of recoverable oil and gas reserves relies on the use of certain generally accepted analytical procedures. These

RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS

B-5

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**Table of Contents**

Windsor Permian LLC

January 20, 2012

Page 5

analytical procedures fall into three broad categories or methods: (1) performance-based methods, (2) volumetric-based methods and (3) analogy. These methods may be used singularly or in combination by the reserve evaluator in the process of estimating the quantities of reserves. Reserve evaluators must select the method or combination of methods which in their professional judgment is most appropriate given the nature and amount of reliable geoscience and engineering data available at the time of the estimate, the established or anticipated performance characteristics of the reservoir being evaluated and the stage of development or producing maturity of the property.

In many cases, the analysis of the available geoscience and engineering data and the subsequent interpretation of this data may indicate a range of possible outcomes in an estimate, irrespective of the method selected by the evaluator. When a range in the quantity of reserves is identified, the evaluator must determine the uncertainty associated with the incremental quantities of the reserves. If the reserve quantities are estimated using the deterministic incremental approach, the uncertainty for each discrete incremental quantity of the reserves is addressed by the reserve category assigned by the evaluator. Therefore, it is the categorization of reserve quantities as proved, probable and/or possible that addresses the inherent uncertainty in the estimated quantities reported. For proved reserves, uncertainty is defined by the SEC as reasonable certainty wherein the quantities actually recovered are much more likely than not to be achieved. The SEC states that probable reserves are those additional reserves that are less certain to be recovered than proved reserves but which, together with proved reserves, are as likely as not to be recovered. The SEC states that possible reserves are those additional reserves that are less certain to be recovered than probable reserves and the total quantities ultimately recovered from a project have a low probability of exceeding proved plus probable plus possible reserves. All quantities of reserves within the same reserve category must meet the SEC definitions as noted above.

Estimates of reserves quantities and their associated reserve categories may be revised in the future as additional geoscience or engineering data become available. Furthermore, estimates of reserves quantities and their associated reserve categories may also be revised due to other factors such as changes in economic conditions, results of future operations, effects of regulation by governmental agencies or geopolitical or economic risks as previously noted herein.

The proved, probable and possible reserves for the properties included herein were estimated by performance methods, analogy, or a combination of both methods. Approximately 85 percent of the proved producing reserves attributable to producing wells were estimated by performance methods. These performance methods include, but may not be limited to, decline curve analysis, which utilized extrapolations of historical production and pressure data available through December, 2011 in those cases where such data were considered to be definitive. The data utilized in this analysis were furnished to Ryder Scott by Windsor and were considered sufficient for the purpose thereof. The remaining 15 percent of the proved reserves were estimated by analogy, or a combination of performance and analogy methods. The analogy method was used where there were inadequate historical performance data to establish a definitive trend and where the use of production performance data as a basis for the reserve estimates was considered to be inappropriate.

All proved, probable, and possible developed non-producing and undeveloped reserves included herein were estimated by the analogy method.

To estimate economically recoverable proved, probable and possible oil and gas reserves and related future net cash flows, we consider many factors and assumptions including, but not limited to, the use of reservoir parameters derived from geological, geophysical and engineering data which cannot be measured directly, economic criteria based on current costs and SEC pricing requirements, and forecasts of future production rates.

RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS

B-6

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**Table of Contents**

Windsor Permian LLC

January 20, 2012

Page 6

Under the SEC regulations 210.4-10(a)(22)(v) and (26), proved, probable and possible reserves must be anticipated to be economically producible from a given date forward based on existing economic conditions including the prices and costs at which economic producibility from a reservoir is to be determined. While it may reasonably be anticipated that the future prices received for the sale of production and the operating costs and other costs relating to such production may increase or decrease from those under existing economic conditions, such changes were, in accordance with rules adopted by the SEC, omitted from consideration in making this evaluation.

Windsor has informed us that they have furnished us all of the material accounts, records, geological and engineering data, and reports and other data required for this investigation. In preparing our forecast of future proved, probable and possible production and income, we have relied upon data furnished by Windsor with respect to property interests owned, production and well tests from examined wells, normal direct costs of operating the wells or leases, other costs such as transportation and/or processing fees, ad valorem and production taxes, recompletion and development costs, product prices based on the SEC regulations, adjustments or differentials to product prices, geological structural and isochore maps, well logs, core analyses, and pressure measurements. Ryder Scott reviewed such factual data for its reasonableness; however, we have not conducted an independent verification of the data furnished by Windsor. We consider the factual data used in this report appropriate and sufficient for the purpose of preparing the estimates of reserves and future net revenues herein.

In summary, we consider the assumptions, data, methods and analytical procedures used in this report appropriate for the purpose hereof, and we have used all such methods and procedures that we consider necessary and appropriate to prepare the estimates of reserves herein. The proved, probable and possible reserves included herein were determined in conformance with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule, including all references to Regulation S-X and Regulation S-K, referred to herein collectively as the SEC Regulations. In our opinion, the proved, probable and possible reserves presented in this report comply with the definitions, guidelines and disclosure requirements as required by the SEC regulations.

***Future Production Rates***

For wells currently on production, our forecasts of future production rates are based on historical performance data. If no production decline trend has been established, future production rates were held constant, or adjusted for the effects of curtailment where appropriate, until a decline in ability to produce was anticipated. An estimated rate of decline was then applied to depletion of the reserves. If a decline trend has been established, this trend was used as the basis for estimating future production rates.

Test data and other related information were used to estimate the anticipated initial production rates for those wells or locations that are not currently producing. For reserves not yet on production, sales were estimated to commence at an anticipated date furnished by Windsor. Wells or locations that are not currently producing may start producing earlier or later than anticipated in our estimates due to unforeseen factors causing a change in the timing to initiate production. Such factors may include delays due to weather, the availability of rigs, the sequence of drilling, completing and/or recompleting wells and/or constraints set by regulatory bodies.

The future production rates from wells currently on production or wells or locations that are not currently producing may be more or less than estimated because of changes including, but not limited to, reservoir performance, operating conditions related to surface facilities, compression and artificial lift, pipeline capacity and/or operating conditions, producing market demand and/or allowables or other constraints set by regulatory bodies.

RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS

B-7

**Table of Contents**

Windsor Permian LLC

January 20, 2012

Page 7

**Hydrocarbon Prices**

The hydrocarbon prices used herein are based on SEC price parameters using the average prices during the 12-month period prior to the ending date of the period covered in this report, determined as the unweighted arithmetic averages of the prices in effect on the first-day-of-the-month for each month within such period, unless prices were defined by contractual arrangements. For hydrocarbon products sold under contract, the contract prices, including fixed and determinable escalations, exclusive of inflation adjustments, were used until expiration of the contract. Upon contract expiration, the prices were adjusted to the 12-month un-weighted arithmetic average as previously described.

As noted above, Windsor furnished us with the average prices in effect on December 31, 2011. These initial SEC hydrocarbon prices were determined using the 12-month average first-day-of-the-month benchmark prices appropriate to the geographic area where the hydrocarbons are sold. These benchmark prices are prior to the adjustments for differentials as described herein. The table below summarizes the benchmark prices and price reference used for the geographic area included in the report. In certain geographic areas, the price reference and benchmark prices may be defined by contractual arrangements.

The product prices which were actually used to determine the future gross revenue for each property reflect adjustments to the benchmark prices for gravity, quality, local conditions, gathering and transportation fees and/or distance from market, referred to herein as differentials. The differentials used in the preparation of this report were furnished to us by Windsor and were accepted as factual data and reviewed by us for their reasonableness; however, we have not conducted an independent verification of the data used by Windsor to determine these differentials.

In addition, the table below summarizes the net volume weighted benchmark prices adjusted for differentials and referred to herein as the average realized prices. The average realized prices shown in the table below were determined from the total future gross revenue before production taxes and the total net reserves by reserve category for the geographic area and presented in accordance with SEC disclosure requirements for each of the geographic areas included in the report.

Geographic Area	Product	Price Reference	Avg Benchmark Prices	Avg Proved Realized Prices	Avg Probable Realized Prices	Avg Possible Realized Prices
North America						
United States	Oil/Condensate	WTI	\$ 96.19/Bbl	\$ 93.09/Bbl	\$ 92.89/Bbl	\$ 92.85/Bbl
		Cushing				
	NGLs	WTI	\$ 61.97/Bbl	\$ 56.33/Bbl	\$ 57.02/Bbl	\$ 56.91/Bbl
		Cushing				
	Gas	Henry Hub/ Colorado				
		Interstate	\$ 4.12/MMBTU	\$ 3.91/MCF	\$ 3.95/MCF	\$ 3.95/MCF

The effects of derivative instruments designated as price hedges of oil and gas quantities are not reflected in our individual property evaluations.

RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS





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**Table of Contents**

Windsor Permian LLC

January 20, 2012

Page 8

***Costs***

Operating costs for the leases and wells in this report are based on the operating expense reports of Windsor and include only those costs directly applicable to the leases or wells. The operating costs include a portion of general and administrative costs allocated directly to the leases and wells. The operating costs furnished to us were accepted as factual data and reviewed by us for their reasonableness; however, we have not conducted an independent verification of the operating cost data used by Windsor. No deduction was made for loan repayments, interest expenses, or exploration and development prepayments that were not charged directly to the leases or wells.

Development costs were furnished to us by Windsor and are based on authorizations for expenditure for the proposed work or actual costs for similar projects. The development costs furnished to us were accepted as factual data and reviewed by us for their reasonableness; however, we have not conducted an independent verification of these costs. Windsor's estimates of zero abandonment costs after salvage value for onshore properties were used in this report. Ryder Scott has not performed a detailed study of the abandonment costs or the salvage value and makes no warranty for Windsor's estimate.

The proved, probable and possible developed non-producing and undeveloped reserves in this report have been incorporated herein in accordance with Windsor's plans to develop these reserves as of December 31, 2011. The implementation of Windsor's development plans as presented to us and incorporated herein is subject to the approval process adopted by Windsor's management. As the result of our inquiries during the course of preparing this report, Windsor has informed us that the development activities included herein have been subjected to and received the internal approvals required by Windsor's management at the appropriate local, regional and/or corporate level. In addition to the internal approvals as noted, certain development activities may still be subject to specific partner AFE processes, Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) requirements or other administrative approvals external to Windsor. Additionally, Windsor has informed us that they are not aware of any legal, regulatory, political or economic obstacles that would significantly alter their plans.

Current costs used by Windsor were held constant throughout the life of the properties.

***Standards of Independence and Professional Qualification***

Ryder Scott is an independent petroleum engineering consulting firm that has been providing petroleum consulting services throughout the world for over seventy years. Ryder Scott is employee-owned and maintains offices in Houston, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and Calgary, Alberta, Canada. We have over eighty engineers and geoscientists on our permanent staff. By virtue of the size of our firm and the large number of clients for which we provide services, no single client or job represents a material portion of our annual revenue. We do not serve as officers or directors of any publicly-traded oil and gas company and are separate and independent from the operating and investment decision-making process of our clients. This allows us to bring the highest level of independence and objectivity to each engagement for our services.

Ryder Scott actively participates in industry-related professional societies and organizes an annual public forum focused on the subject of reserves evaluations and SEC regulations. Many of our staff have authored or co-authored technical papers on the subject of reserves related topics. We encourage our staff to maintain and enhance their professional skills by actively participating in ongoing continuing education.

Prior to becoming an officer of the Company, Ryder Scott requires that staff engineers and geoscientists have received professional accreditation in the form of a registered or certified professional engineer's license or

RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS

**Table of Contents**

Windsor Permian LLC

January 20, 2012

Page 9

a registered or certified professional geoscientist's license, or the equivalent thereof, from an appropriate governmental authority or a recognized self-regulating professional organization.

We are independent petroleum engineers with respect to Windsor. Neither we nor any of our employees have any interest in the subject properties and neither the employment to do this work nor the compensation is contingent on our estimates of reserves for the properties which were reviewed.

The results of this study, presented herein, are based on technical analysis conducted by teams of geoscientists and engineers from Ryder Scott. The professional qualifications of the undersigned, the technical person primarily responsible for the evaluation of the reserves information discussed in this report, are included as an attachment to this letter.

***Terms of Usage***

The results of our third party study, presented in report form herein, were prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements set forth in the SEC regulations and intended for public disclosure as an exhibit in filings made with the SEC by Windsor.

We have provided Windsor with a digital version of the original signed copy of this report letter. In the event there are any differences between the digital version included in filings made by Windsor and the original signed report letter, the original signed report letter shall control and supersede the digital version.

The data and work papers used in the preparation of this report are available for examination by authorized parties in our offices. Please contact us if we can be of further service.

Very truly yours,

**RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.**  
TBPE Firm Registration No. F-1580

/s/ Don P. Griffin, P.E.  
Don P. Griffin, P.E.  
TBPE License No. 64150  
Senior Vice President

DPG/pl

[SEAL]

RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS

B-10

**Table of Contents**

**Professional Qualifications of Primary Technical Person**

The conclusions presented in this report are the result of technical analysis conducted by teams of geoscientists and engineers from Ryder Scott Company, L.P. Don P. Griffin was the primary technical person responsible for overseeing the estimate of the reserves, future production and income presented herein.

Mr. Griffin, an employee of Ryder Scott Company L.P. (Ryder Scott) since 1981, is a Senior Vice President responsible for coordinating and supervising staff and consulting engineers of the company in ongoing reservoir evaluation studies worldwide. Before joining Ryder Scott, Mr. Griffin served in a number of engineering positions with Amoco Production Company. For more information regarding Mr. Griffin's geographic and job specific experience, please refer to the Ryder Scott Company website at <http://www.ryderscott.com/Experience/Employees.php>.

Mr. Griffin graduated with honors from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1975 and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. He is also a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and the Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers.

In addition to gaining experience and competency through prior work experience, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers requires a minimum of fifteen hours of continuing education annually, including at least one hour in the area of professional ethics, which Mr. Griffin fulfills. Mr. Griffin attended an additional 15 hours of training during 2011 covering such topics as reservoir engineering, geoscience and petroleum economics evaluation methods, procedures and software and ethics for consultants.

Based on his educational background, professional training and more than 30 years of practical experience in the estimation and evaluation of petroleum reserves, Mr. Griffin has attained the professional qualifications as a Reserves Estimator and Reserves Auditor as set forth in Article III of the Standards Pertaining to the Estimating and Auditing of Oil and Gas Reserves Information promulgated by the Society of Petroleum Engineers as of February 19, 2007.

RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS

B-11

**Table of Contents**

**PETROLEUM RESERVES DEFINITIONS**

**As Adapted From:**

**RULE 4-10(a) of REGULATION S-X PART 210**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)**

***PREAMBLE***

On January 14, 2009, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) published the Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule in the Federal Register of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule includes revisions and additions to the definition section in Rule 4-10 of Regulation S-X, revisions and additions to the oil and gas reporting requirements in Regulation S-K, and amends and codifies Industry Guide 2 in Regulation S-K. The Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule, including all references to Regulation S-X and Regulation S-K, shall be referred to herein collectively as the SEC regulations. The SEC regulations take effect for all filings made with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission as of December 31, 2009, or after January 1, 2010. Reference should be made to the full text under Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Regulation S-X Part 210, Rule 4-10(a) for the complete definitions (direct passages excerpted in part or wholly from the aforementioned SEC document are denoted in italics herein).

*Reserves are estimated remaining quantities of oil and gas and related substances anticipated to be economically producible, as of a given date, by application of development projects to known accumulations.* All reserve estimates involve an assessment of the uncertainty relating the likelihood that the actual remaining quantities recovered will be greater or less than the estimated quantities determined as of the date the estimate is made. The uncertainty depends chiefly on the amount of reliable geologic and engineering data available at the time of the estimate and the interpretation of these data. The relative degree of uncertainty may be conveyed by placing reserves into one of two principal classifications, either proved or unproved. Unproved reserves are less certain to be recovered than proved reserves and may be further sub-classified as probable and possible reserves to denote progressively increasing uncertainty in their recoverability. Under the SEC regulations as of December 31, 2009, or after January 1, 2010, a company may optionally disclose estimated quantities of probable or possible oil and gas reserves in documents publicly filed with the SEC. The SEC regulations continue to prohibit disclosure of estimates of oil and gas resources other than reserves and any estimated values of such resources in any document publicly filed with the SEC unless such information is required to be disclosed in the document by foreign or state law as noted in §229.1202 Instruction to Item 1202.

Reserves estimates will generally be revised only as additional geologic or engineering data become available or as economic conditions change.

Reserves may be attributed to either natural energy or improved recovery methods. Improved recovery methods include all methods for supplementing natural energy or altering natural forces in the reservoir to increase ultimate recovery. Examples of such methods are pressure maintenance, natural gas cycling, waterflooding, thermal methods, chemical flooding, and the use of miscible and immiscible displacement fluids. Other improved recovery methods may be developed in the future as petroleum technology continues to evolve.

Reserves may be attributed to either conventional or unconventional petroleum accumulations. Petroleum accumulations are considered as either conventional or unconventional based on the nature of their in-place characteristics, extraction method applied, or degree of processing prior to sale. Examples of unconventional petroleum accumulations include coalbed or coalseam methane (CBM/CSM), basin-centered gas, shale gas, gas hydrates, natural bitumen and oil shale deposits. These unconventional accumulations may require specialized extraction technology and/or significant processing prior to sale.

RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS

B-12

**Table of Contents**

PETROLEUM RESERVES DEFINITIONS

Page 2

Reserves do not include quantities of petroleum being held in inventory.

Because of the differences in uncertainty, caution should be exercised when aggregating quantities of petroleum from different reserves categories.

**RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS)**

Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X §210.4-10(a)(26) defines reserves as follows:

**Reserves.** *Reserves are estimated remaining quantities of oil and gas and related substances anticipated to be economically producible, as of a given date, by application of development projects to known accumulations. In addition, there must exist, or there must be a reasonable expectation that there will exist, the legal right to produce or a revenue interest in the production, installed means of delivering oil and gas or related substances to market, and all permits and financing required to implement the project.*

**Note to paragraph (a)(26):** *Reserves should not be assigned to adjacent reservoirs isolated by major, potentially sealing, faults until those reservoirs are penetrated and evaluated as economically producible. Reserves should not be assigned to areas that are clearly separated from a known accumulation by a non-productive reservoir (i.e., absence of reservoir, structurally low reservoir, or negative test results). Such areas may contain prospective resources (i.e., potentially recoverable resources from undiscovered accumulations).*

**PROVED RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS)**

Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X §210.4-10(a)(22) defines proved oil and gas reserves as follows:

**Proved oil and gas reserves.** *Proved oil and gas reserves are those quantities of oil and gas, which, by analysis of geoscience and engineering data, can be estimated with reasonable certainty to be economically producible from a given date forward, from known reservoirs, and under existing economic conditions, operating methods, and government regulations prior to the time at which contracts providing the right to operate expire, unless evidence indicates that renewal is reasonably certain, regardless of whether deterministic or probabilistic methods are used for the estimation. The project to extract the hydrocarbons must have commenced or the operator must be reasonably certain that it will commence the project within a reasonable time.*

(i) *The area of the reservoir considered as proved includes:*

(A) *The area identified by drilling and limited by fluid contacts, if any, and*