

Edgar Filing: NORTH EUROPEAN OIL ROYALTY TRUST - Form 10-Q

NORTH EUROPEAN OIL ROYALTY TRUST  
Form 10-Q  
February 26, 2016

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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the quarterly period ended January 31, 2016 or  
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Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ .

Commission file number 1-8245

NORTH EUROPEAN OIL ROYALTY TRUST

-----  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

22-2084119

-----  
(State of organization)

-----  
(I.R.S. Employer I.D. No.)

Suite 19A, 43 West Front Street, Red Bank, New Jersey 07701

-----  
(Address of principal executive offices)

(732) 741-4008

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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes X No  
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-2-

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (Section 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No  
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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 X -----  
Non-accelerated filer ----- Smaller reporting company -----

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No X  
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Class	Outstanding at January 31, 2016
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Units of Beneficial Interest	9,190,590

-3-

PART I -- FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements.

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND TRUST CORPUS (NOTE 1)

JANUARY 31, 2016 AND OCTOBER 31, 2015

(Unaudited)

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Current assets -- Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,652,717	\$ 2,192,865
Producing gas and oil royalty rights, net of amortization (Notes 1 and 2)	1	1
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,652,718</u>	<u>\$ 2,192,866</u>
LIABILITIES AND TRUST CORPUS		
Current liabilities -- Distributions to be paid to unit owners, paid February 2016 and November 2015	\$ 1,470,494	\$ 2,113,835
Trust corpus (Notes 1 and 2)	1	1
Undistributed earnings	182,223	79,030
Total Liabilities and Trust Corpus	<u>\$ 1,652,718</u>	<u>\$ 2,192,866</u>

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

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-4-

STATEMENTS OF REVENUE COLLECTED AND EXPENSES PAID (NOTE 1)

FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2016 AND 2015

(Unaudited)

	2016	2015
Gas, sulfur and oil royalties received	\$ 1,832,471	\$ 3,442,713
Interest income	1,100	3,412
Trust Income	\$ 1,833,571	\$ 3,446,125
Non-related party expenses	(235,343)	(312,295)
Related party expenses (Note 3)	(24,541)	(36,914)
Trust Expenses	(259,884)	(349,209)
Net Income	\$ 1,573,687	\$ 3,096,916
Net income per unit	\$ .17	\$ .34
Distributions per unit paid or to be paid to unit owners	\$ .16	\$ .35

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

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-5-

STATEMENTS OF UNDISTRIBUTED EARNINGS (NOTE 1)  
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 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2016 AND 2015  
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(Unaudited)  
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	2016	2015
	-----	-----
Balance, beginning of period	\$ 79,030	\$ 170,406
Net income	1,573,687	3,096,916
	-----	-----
	1,652,717	3,267,322
Less:		
Current year distributions paid or to be paid to unit owners	1,470,494	3,216,706
	-----	-----
Balance, end of period	\$ 182,223	\$ 50,616
	=====	=====

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

-6-

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STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (NOTE 1)

FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2016 AND 2015

(Unaudited)

	2016	2015
Sources of Cash and Cash Equivalents:		
Gas, sulfur and oil royalties received	\$ 1,832,471	\$ 3,442,713
Interest income	1,100	3,412
	1,833,571	3,446,125
Uses of Cash and Cash Equivalents:		
Payment of Trust expenses	259,884	349,209
Distributions paid	2,113,835	3,584,330
	2,373,719	3,933,539
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the period	(540,148)	(487,414)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	2,192,865	3,754,736
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 1,652,717	\$ 3,267,322

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

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NORTH EUROPEAN OIL ROYALTY TRUST

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(1) Summary of significant accounting policies:

Basis of accounting -

The accompanying financial statements of North European Oil Royalty Trust (the "Trust") are prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. Financial statement balances and financial results are presented on a modified cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("GAAP basis"). In the opinion of management, all adjustments that are considered necessary for a fair presentation of these financial statements, including adjustments of a normal, recurring nature, have been included.

On a modified cash basis, revenue is earned when cash is received and expenses are incurred when cash is paid. GAAP basis financial statements disclose revenue as earned and expenses as incurred, without regard to receipts or payments. The modified cash basis of accounting is utilized to permit the accrual for distributions to be paid to unit owners (those distributions approved by the Trustees for the Trust). The Trust's distributable income represents royalty income received by the Trust during the period plus interest income less any expenses incurred by the Trust, all on a cash basis. In the opinion of the Trustees, the use of the modified cash basis of accounting provides a more meaningful presentation to unit owners of the results of operations of the Trust.

The results of any interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the fiscal year. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements that were included in the Trust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended October 31, 2015 (the "2015 Form 10-K"). The Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Trust Corpus included herein contain information from the Trust's 2015 Form 10-K.

Producing gas and oil royalty rights -

The rights to certain gas and oil royalties in Germany were transferred to the Trust at their net book value by North European Oil Company (the "Company") (see Note 2). The net book value of the royalty rights has been reduced to one dollar (\$1) in view of the fact that the remaining net book value of royalty rights is de minimis relative to annual royalties received and distributed by the Trust and does not bear any meaningful relationship to the fair value of such rights or the actual amount of proved producing reserves.

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### Federal and state income taxes - -----

The Trust, as a grantor trust, is exempt from federal income taxes under a private letter ruling issued by the Internal Revenue Service. The Trust has no state income tax obligations.

### Cash and cash equivalents - -----

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as amounts deposited in bank accounts and amounts invested in certificates of deposit and U. S. Treasury bills with original maturities generally of three months or less from the date of purchase. The investment options available to the Trust are limited in accordance with specific provisions of the Trust Agreement. As of January 31, 2016, the uninsured amount held in the Trust's U.S. bank accounts was approximately \$1,430,989. In addition, the Trust held Euros 9,985, the equivalent of \$10,815, in its German bank account at January 31, 2016.

### Net income per unit - -----

Net income per unit is based upon the number of units outstanding at the end of the period. As of both January 31, 2016 and 2015, there were 9,190,590 units of beneficial interest outstanding.

### New accounting pronouncements - -----

The Trust is not aware of any recently issued, but not yet effective, accounting standards that would be expected to have a significant impact on the Trust's financial position or results of operations.

### (2) Formation of the Trust: -----

The Trust was formed on September 10, 1975. As of September 30, 1975, the Company was liquidated and the remaining assets and liabilities of the Company, including its royalty rights, were transferred to the Trust. The Trust, on behalf of the owners of beneficial interest in the Trust, holds overriding royalty rights covering gas and oil production in certain concessions or leases in the Federal Republic of Germany. These rights are held under contracts with local German exploration and development subsidiaries of ExxonMobil Corp. and the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies. Under these contracts, the Trust receives various percentage royalties on the proceeds of the sales of certain products from the areas involved. At the present time, royalties are received for sales of gas well gas, oil well gas, crude oil, condensate and sulfur.

### (3) Related party transactions:



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John R. Van Kirk, the Managing Director of the Trust, provides office space and office services to the Trust at cost. For such office space and office services, the Trust reimbursed the Managing Director \$5,273 and \$4,334 in the first quarter of fiscal 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Lawrence A. Kobrin, a Trustee of the Trust, is a Senior Counsel at Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP, which serves as counsel to the Trust. For the first quarter of fiscal 2016 and 2015, the Trust paid Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP \$19,268 and \$32,580 for legal services, respectively.

(4) Employee benefit plan:  
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The Trust has established a savings incentive match plan for employees (SIMPLE IRA) that is available to both employees of the Trust, one of whom is the Managing Director. The Trustees have authorized the Trust to make contributions to the accounts of the employees, on a matching basis, of up to 3% of cash compensation paid to each employee effective for the 2016 and 2015 calendar years.

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### Executive Summary

The Trust is a passive fixed investment trust which holds overriding royalty rights, receives income under those rights from certain operating companies, pays its expenses and distributes the remaining net funds to its unit owners. As mandated by the Trust Agreement, distributions of income are made on a quarterly basis. These distributions, as determined by the Trustees, constitute substantially all of the funds on hand after provision is made for Trust expenses then anticipated.

The Trust does not engage in any business or extractive operations of any kind in the areas over which it holds royalty rights and is precluded from engaging in such activities by the Trust Agreement. There are no requirements, therefore, for capital resources with which to make capital expenditures or investments in order to continue the receipt of royalty revenues by the Trust.

The properties of the Trust, which the Trust and Trustees hold pursuant to the Trust Agreement on behalf of the unit owners, are overriding royalty rights on sales of gas, sulfur and oil under certain concessions or leases in the Federal Republic of Germany. The actual leases or concessions are held either by Mobil Erdgas-Erdol GmbH ("Mobil Erdgas"), a German operating subsidiary of the ExxonMobil Corp. ("ExxonMobil"), or by Oldenburgische Erdolgesellschaft ("OEG"). The Oldenburg concession is the primary area from which the natural gas, sulfur and oil are extracted and provides nearly 100% of all the royalties received by the Trust. The Oldenburg concession approximately (1,386,000 acres) covers virtually the entire former Grand Duchy of Oldenburg and is located in the German federal state of Lower Saxony.

In 2002, Mobil Erdgas and BEB Erdgas und Erdol GmbH ("BEB"), a joint venture of ExxonMobil and the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies, formed a company, ExxonMobil Production Deutschland GmbH ("EMPG"), to carry out all exploration, drilling and production activities. All sales activities are still handled by the operating companies, either Mobil Erdgas or BEB.

Vermilion Energy Inc. ("Vermilion"), a Canadian based international oil and gas producer, entered into a Farm-In Agreement (the "Farm-In Agreement") with Mobil Erdgas and BEB effective as of January 1, 2016. The Farm-In Agreement specifies that Vermilion has acquired an interest in various portions of a concession or areas owned by Mobil Erdgas and BEB. Three of these licenses cover the three northernmost areas of the Oldenburg concession. The Farm-In Agreement commits Vermilion to financial participation at a 50% level in 11 gross exploratory wells over the next five years. If Vermilion conducts any successful drilling within the confines of the Oldenburg concession, sales of that gas or oil would be subject to the relevant royalty contract.

The operating companies pay monthly royalties to the Trust based on their sales of natural gas, sulfur and oil. Of these three products, natural gas provided approximately 100% of the cumulative royalty income received in fiscal 2016. The amount of royalties paid to the Trust is primarily based on four factors: the amount of gas sold, the price of that gas, the area from which the gas is sold and the exchange rate.

On approximately the 25th of the months of January, April, July and October, the operating companies calculate the amount of gas sold during the

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previous calendar quarter and determine the amount of royalties that were payable to the Trust based on those sales. This amount is divided into thirds and forms the monthly royalty payments (payable on the 15th of each month) to the Trust for its upcoming fiscal quarter. At the same time that the operating companies determine the actual amount of royalties that were payable for the prior calendar quarter, they look at the actual amount of royalties that were paid to the Trust for that period and calculate the difference between what was paid and what was payable. Additional amounts payable by the operating companies would be paid immediately and any overpayment would be deducted from the payment for the first month of the following fiscal quarter. In September of each year, the operating companies make the final determination of any necessary royalty adjustments for the prior calendar year with a positive or negative adjustment made accordingly. The Trust's German accountants review the royalty calculations on a biennial basis.

There are two types of natural gas found within the Oldenburg concession, sweet gas and sour gas. Sweet gas has little or no contaminants and needs no treatment before it can be sold. Sour gas, in comparison, must be processed at the Grossenkneten desulfurization plant before it can be sold. The desulfurization process removes hydrogen sulfide and other contaminants. The hydrogen sulfide in gaseous form is converted to sulfur in a solid form and sold separately. As needed, EMPG conducts maintenance on the plant generally during the summer months when demand is lower. The operating companies have informed the Trust that, to promote greater efficiency and cost effectiveness, the production capacity of Grossenkneten will be reduced beginning in 2017.

Under one set of rights covering the western part of the Oldenburg concession (approximately 662,000 acres), the Trust receives a royalty payment of 4% on gross receipts from sales by Mobil Erdgas of gas well gas, oil well gas, crude oil and condensate (the "Mobil Agreement"). Under the Mobil Agreement, there is no deduction of costs prior to the calculation of royalties from gas well gas and oil well gas, which together accounted for approximately 99% of the cumulative royalty income received under this agreement in fiscal 2016. Historically, the Trust has received significantly greater royalty payments under the Mobil Agreement, as compared to the OEG Agreement described below, due to the higher royalty rate specified by that agreement.

The Trust is also entitled under the Mobil Sulfur Agreement to receive a 2% royalty on gross receipts of sales of sulfur obtained as a by-product of sour gas produced from the western part of Oldenburg. The payment of the sulfur royalty is conditioned upon sales of sulfur by Mobil Erdgas at a selling price above an agreed upon base price. This base price is adjusted annually by an inflation index. In the first three months of fiscal 2016 and 2015, the Trust received no sulfur royalties under the Mobil Agreement. In the first quarter of fiscal 2016, the Trust was entitled to receive royalties attributable to sulfur sales during the third and fourth quarters of 2015. However, the operating companies made an accounting error by including eastern Oldenburg sulfur sales for the fourth quarter of 2011, all of 2012 and the first quarter of 2015 in the calculation of the western sulfur royalties under the Mobil Sulfur Agreement. This error resulted in an overpayment of sulfur royalties previously paid to the Trust. This overpayment was matched against the current sulfur royalties payable, and the remaining negative balance of \$191,321 was applied against other royalties paid during the first quarter of fiscal 2016.

Under another set of rights covering the entire Oldenburg concession and pursuant to the agreement with OEG, the Trust receives royalties at the rate of 0.6667% on gross receipts from sales by BEB of gas well gas, oil well

gas, crude oil, condensate and sulfur (removed during the processing of sour gas) less a certain allowed deduction of costs (the "OEG Agreement"). Under the

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OEG Agreement, 50% of the field handling, treatment and transportation costs, as reported for state royalty purposes, are deducted from the gross sales receipts prior to the calculation of the royalty to be paid to the Trust.

Under the Mobil and OEG Agreements, the gas is sold in one of three ways: (1) directly on the spot market; (2) between Mobil Erdgas and BEB (intra-company sales); or (3) directly to various distributors under contracts (which delineate, among other provisions, the timing, manner, volume and price of the gas sold). While gas supply contracts have in the past used the price of light heating oil in Germany as one of the primary pricing components, we have been advised that the number of such contracts now account for only a minor percentage of all Oldenburg gas sales. In contrast, the price of gas sold on the spot market or sold between Mobil Erdgas and BEB is largely determined by the quoted market price of gas then trading as determined by supply and demand and has no relationship to the price of oil.

The Trust itself does not have access to the specific sales contracts under which gas from the Oldenburg concession is sold. However, working under a confidentiality agreement with the operating companies, the Trust's German accountants review the spot market sales, the intra-company sales and the contractual sales periodically on behalf of the Trust to verify their correctness. The Trust's accountants in Germany are in the process of completing their examination of the operating companies for 2013 and 2014.

For unit owners, changes in the dollar value of the Euro have an immediate impact. This impact occurs at the time the royalties, which are paid to the Trust in Euros, are converted into U.S. dollars at the applicable exchange rate and transferred from Germany to the United States. In relation to the dollar, a stronger Euro would yield more dollars and a weaker Euro would yield less dollars.

Seasonal demand factors affect the income from the Trust's royalty rights insofar as they relate to energy demands and increases or decreases in prices, but on average they are generally not material to the annual income received under the Trust's royalty rights.

The Trust has no means of ensuring continued income from overriding royalty rights at their present level or otherwise. The Trust's consultant in Germany provides general information to the Trust on the German and European economies and energy markets. This information provides a context in which to evaluate the actions of the operating companies. The Trust's consultant receives reports from EMPG with respect to current and planned drilling and exploration efforts. However, EMPG and the operating companies continue to limit the information flow to that which is required by German law.

The Trust has no means of ensuring continued income from overriding royalty rights at their present level or otherwise. The Trust's consultant in Germany provides general information to the Trust on the German and European economies and energy markets. This information provides a context in which to evaluate the actions of the operating companies. In his position as the Trust's consultant, he receives reports from EMPG with respect to current and planned drilling and exploration efforts. However, EMPG and the operating companies continue to limit the information flow to that which is required by German law.

-13-

The low level of administrative expenses of the Trust limits the effect of inflation on costs. Sustained price inflation would be reflected in sales prices. Sales prices along with sales volumes form the basis on which

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the royalties paid to the Trust are computed.

### Results: First Quarter of Fiscal 2016 Versus First Quarter of Fiscal 2015

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Total royalty income received during the first quarter of fiscal 2016 was derived from sales of gas, sulfur and oil from the Trust's overriding royalty areas in Germany during the fourth calendar quarter of 2015. The distribution of \$0.16 per unit was paid on February 24, 2016 to owners of record as of February 12, 2016. Comparisons of total royalty income and net income for the first quarter of fiscal 2016 and 2015 are shown below.

	1st Fiscal Qtr. Ended 1/31/2016	1st Fiscal Qtr. Ended 1/31/2015	Percentage Change
Total Royalties Received	\$1,832,471	\$3,442,713	- 46.77%
Net Income	\$1,573,687	\$3,096,916	- 49.19%
Distribution per Unit	\$0.16	\$0.35	- 54.29%

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The decline in net income between the first quarter of fiscal 2016 and the first quarter of fiscal 2015 resulted primarily from lower gas sales, lower gas prices and lower average exchange rates under both the Mobil and OEG Agreements as shown in the table below. Additionally, an accounting error by the operating companies resulted in an overpayment of sulfur royalties previously paid to the Trust. This overpayment was matched against the current sulfur royalties payable, and the remaining negative balance of \$191,321 reduced total royalties received by the Trust during the first quarter of fiscal 2016. No sulfur payments were received during the first quarter of fiscal 2015.

"Total Royalties Received" also includes various positive and negative adjustments that the operators made during the quarter, including corrections from prior years. The net amount of such adjustments reduced royalties received in the first quarter of fiscal 2016 by \$369,582. The net amount of such adjustments reduced royalties received in the first quarter of fiscal 2015 by \$200,209.

-14-

The table below is intended to illustrate trends based on actual gas sales in each quarter. "Gas Royalties" shown in the table below are based solely on the actual gas sales that occurred during the fourth calendar quarter of 2015 and do not reflect any adjustments for prior periods.

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Quarterly Gas Data Providing Basis for Fiscal Quarter Royalties			
Mobil Agreement	4th Calendar Qtr. Ended 12/31/2015	4th Calendar Qtr. Ended 12/31/2014	Percentage Change
Gas Sales (Bcf) (1)	6.604	7.876	- 16.15%
Gas Prices (Ecents/Kwh) (2)	1.8649	2.3538	- 20.77%
Average Exchange Rates (3)	1.0881	1.2127	- 10.27%
Gas Royalties	\$1,538,701	\$2,577,934	- 40.31%
Gas Prices (\$/Mcf) (4)	\$ 5.82	\$ 8.18	- 28.85%
<hr/>			
OEG Agreement			
Gas Sales (Bcf)	20.507	23.497	- 12.73%
Gas Prices (Ecents/Kwh)	1.9803	2.4808	- 20.17%
Average Exchange Rates	1.0874	1.1973	- 9.18%
Gas Royalties	\$668,112	\$1,129,397	- 40.84%
Gas Prices (\$/Mcf)	\$ 6.04	\$ 8.33	- 27.49%

(1) Billion cubic feet

(2) Euro cents per Kilowatt hour

(3) Based on average exchanges rates of cumulative royalty transfers

(4) Dollars per thousand cubic feet

Excluding the effects of differences in prices and average exchange rates, the combination of royalty rates on gas sold from western Oldenburg results in an effective royalty rate approximately seven times higher than the royalty rate on gas sold from eastern Oldenburg. This is of particular significance to the Trust since gas sold from western Oldenburg provides the bulk of royalties paid to the Trust. For the first quarter of fiscal 2016, gas sales from western Oldenburg accounted for only 32.21% of all gas sales. However, royalties on these gas sales provided approximately 77.79% or \$1,499,728 out of a total of \$1,928,031 in Oldenburg royalties attributable to gas.

Trust expenses for the first quarter of fiscal 2016 decreased 25.58% or \$89,325 to \$259,884 in comparison to \$349,209 in the first quarter of fiscal 2015. The decrease in costs reflects a shift in the timing of payments associated with the mailing of the materials for the annual meeting and the payment of the NYSE annual fee as well as reduced legal expenses and a reduction in the amount of Trustee fees as specified in the Trust Agreement. Trust interest income received in the first quarter of fiscal 2016 was \$1,100, a decrease from interest income of \$3,412 received in the first quarter of fiscal 2015 due to reduced funds available.

The current Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Trust Corpus of the Trust at January 31, 2016, compared to that at fiscal year-end (October 31, 2015), shows a decline in assets due to lower royalty receipts during the first quarter of fiscal 2016.

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This report on Form 10-Q may contain forward-looking statements intended to qualify for the safe harbor from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements address future expectations and events or conditions concerning the Trust. Many of these statements are based on information provided to the Trust by the operating companies or by consultants using public information sources. These statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in any forward-looking statements. These include:

1. risks and uncertainties concerning levels of gas production and gas sale prices, general economic conditions and currency exchange rates;
2. the ability or willingness of the operating companies to perform under their contractual obligations with the Trust;
3. potential disputes with the operating companies and the resolution thereof; and
4. the risk factors set forth under Item 1A of the Trust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended October 31, 2015.

All such factors are difficult to predict, contain uncertainties that may materially affect actual results, and are generally beyond the control of the Trust. New factors emerge from time to time and it is not possible for the Trust to predict all such factors or to assess the impact of each such factor on the Trust. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which such statement is made, and the Trust does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made.

### Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

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The Trust does not engage in any trading activities with respect to possible foreign exchange fluctuations. The Trust does not use any financial instruments to hedge against possible risks related to foreign exchange fluctuations. The market risk is negligible because standing instructions at the Trust's German bank require the bank to process conversions and transfers of royalty payments as soon as possible following their receipt. The Trust does not engage in any trading activities with respect to possible commodity price fluctuations.

-16-

### Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

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The Trust maintains disclosure controls and procedures that are

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designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Trust is recorded, processed, summarized, accumulated and communicated to its management, which consists of the Managing Director, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure, and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

The Managing Director has performed an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Trust's disclosure controls and procedures as of January 31, 2016 based on the criteria for effective internal control over financial reporting described in the standards promulgated by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and the Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on that evaluation, the Managing Director concluded that the Trust's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of January 31, 2016.

There have been no changes in the Trust's internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation described above that occurred during the first quarter of fiscal 2016 that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Trust's internal control over financial reporting.

-17-

PART II -- OTHER INFORMATION

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Item 1. Legal Proceedings.  
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The Trust is not a party to any pending legal proceedings.

Item 6. Exhibits.  
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Exhibit 31. Certification of Chief Executive Officer and  
Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302  
of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Exhibit 32. Certification of Chief Executive Officer and  
Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906  
of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

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

NORTH EUROPEAN OIL ROYALTY TRUST  
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(Registrant)

/s/ John R. Van Kirk  
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John R. Van Kirk  
Managing Director

February 26, 2016