

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

Regency Energy Partners LP  
Form 10-K  
February 27, 2015  
Table of Contents

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

---

Form 10-K

---

ý ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF  
1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

OR

.. 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: 001-35262

---

REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

---

Delaware	16-1731691
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2001 Bryan Street	75201
Suite 3700, Dallas, Texas	
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)
(214) 750-1771	

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report): None

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Units of Limited Partner Interests	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

---

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes ý No ..

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes .. No ý

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 ý No ..

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 (§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 file). Yes ý No ..

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. "

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 small reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.    ☐ Large accelerated filer    ☐ Accelerated filer    ☐ Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)    ☐ 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    ☒

As of June 30, 2014, the aggregate market value of the registrant's common units held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$9.66 billion based on the closing sale price on such date as reported on the New York Stock Exchange. The issuer had 410,927,131 common units and 6,274,483 Class F units outstanding as of February 19, 2015.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

None

---

Table of Contents

REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP  
ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014  
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PART I	
Item 1 <u>Business</u>	<u>1</u>
Item 1A <u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>20</u>
Item 1B <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	<u>44</u>
Item 2 <u>Properties</u>	<u>44</u>
Item 3 <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>44</u>
Item 4 <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	<u>44</u>
PART II	
Item 5 <u>Market for Registrant’s Common Units, Related Unitholders Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	<u>44</u>
Item 6 <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	<u>47</u>
Item 7 <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>55</u>
Item 7A <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk</u>	<u>75</u>
Item 8 <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	<u>76</u>
Item 9 <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	<u>76</u>
Item 9A <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	<u>76</u>
Item 9B <u>Other Information</u>	<u>77</u>
PART III	
Item 10 <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	<u>78</u>
Item 11 <u>Executive Compensation</u>	<u>83</u>
Item 12 <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Unitholder Matters</u>	<u>95</u>
Item 13 <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	<u>97</u>
Item 14 <u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	<u>99</u>
PART IV	
Item 15 <u>Exhibit and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	<u>99</u>

Table of Contents

Introductory Statement

References in this report to the “Partnership,” “we,” “our,” “us” and similar terms refer to Regency Energy Partners LP and its subsidiaries. We use the following definitions in this annual report on Form 10-K:

Name	Definition or Description
/d	Per day
2018 Notes	\$600 million of 6.875% senior notes with original maturity on December 1, 2018
AOCI	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)
Aqua - PVR	Aqua - PVR Water Services, LLC
ARO	Asset Retirement Obligation
APM	Anadarko Pecos Midstream LLC
Barclays	Barclays Capital Inc.
Bbls	Barrels
bps	Basis points
Bcf	One billion cubic feet
Citi	Citigroup Global Markets Inc.
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CFTC	Commodity Futures Trading Commission
CM	Chesapeake West Texas Processing, L.L.C.
Coal Handling	Coal Handling Solutions LLC, Kingsport Handling LLC, and Kingsport Services LLC, now known as Materials Handling Solutions LLC
CWA	Clean Water Act
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
DNR	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation
Eagle Rock	Eagle Rock Energy Partners, L.P.
EFS Haynesville	EFS Haynesville, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of GECC
EIA	Energy Information Administration
ELG	Edwards Lime Gathering LLC and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, ELG Oil LLC and ELG Utility LLC
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPD	Enterprise Products Partners L.P.
ERISA	Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974
ETC	Energy Transfer Company, the name assumed by La Grange Acquisition, L.P. for conducting business and shared services, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP
ETE	Energy Transfer Equity, L.P.
ETE Common Holdings	ETE Common Holdings, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETE
ETE GP	ETE GP Acquirer LLC
ETP	Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.
ETP GP	Energy Transfer Partners GP, LP
Exchange Act	Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board
FASB ASC	FASB Accounting Standards Codification
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Finance Corp.	Regency Energy Finance Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Partnership
GAAP	Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America

Table of Contents

Name	Definition or Description
General Partner	Regency GP LP, the general partner of the Partnership, or Regency GP LLC, the general partner of Regency GP LP, which effectively manages the business and affairs of the Partnership through its board of directors and Regency Employees Management LLC
Grey Ranch	Grey Ranch Plant LP, a former joint venture of the Partnership
Gulf States	Gulf States Transmission LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Partnership
HLPSA	Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act
Holdco	ETP Holdco Corporation
Hoover	Hoover Energy Partners, LP
HPC	RIGS Haynesville Partnership Co. and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Regency Intrastate Gas LP
ICA	Interstate Commerce Act
IDRs	Incentive Distribution Rights
IRC	Internal Revenue Code
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
KMP	Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.
LDH	LDH Energy Asset Holdings LLC
LIBOR	London Interbank Offered Rate
Lone Star	Lone Star NGL LLC
LTIP	Long-Term Incentive Plan
MBbls	One thousand barrels
MEP	Midcontinent Express Pipeline LLC
Mi Vida JV	Mi Vida JV LLC
MLP	Master Limited Partnership
MMBtu	One million BTUs. BTU is a unit of energy needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit
MMcf	One million cubic feet
NGA	Natural Gas Act of 1938
NGLs	Natural gas liquids, including ethane, propane, normal butane, iso butane and natural gasoline
NGPA	Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978
NGPSA	Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, as amended
NMED	New Mexico Environmental Development
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NYMEX	New York Mercantile Exchange
NYSE	New York Stock Exchange
ORS	Ohio River System LLC
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Act
PADEP	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Partnership	Regency Energy Partners LP
PEPL	Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company, LP
PEPL Holdings	PEPL Holdings, LLC, a former wholly-owned subsidiary of Southern Union that merged into PEPL
PVR	PVR Partners, L.P.
Ranch JV	Ranch Westex JV LLC
Regency Western	Regency Western G&P LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Partnership
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RGS	Regency Gas Services, LP, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Partnership
RIGS	Regency Intrastate Gas System

SEC

Securities and Exchange Commission

iii

---

Table of Contents

Name	Definition or Description
Securities Act	Securities Act of 1933, as amended
Senior Notes	The collective of 2019 Notes, 2020 Notes, 2020 PVR Notes, 2021 Notes, 2021 PVR Notes, 2022 Notes, October 2022 Notes, 2023 4.5% Notes and 2023 5.5% Notes
Series A Preferred Units	Series A convertible redeemable preferred units
Services Co.	ETE Services Company, LLC
Southern Union	Southern Union Company
SUGS	Southern Union Gas Services
SUN	Sunoco LP (formerly known as Susser, L.P.)
Sweeny JV	Sweeny Gathering, L.P.
SXL	Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P.
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TRRC	Texas Railroad Commission
U.S.	United States
Wells Fargo	Wells Fargo Securities, LLC
WTI	West Texas Intermediate Crude
Cautionary Statement about Forward-Looking Statements	
<p>Certain matters discussed in this report include “forward-looking” statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”) and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Forward-looking statements are identified as any statement that does not relate strictly to historical or current facts. Statements using words such as “anticipate,” “believe,” “intend,” “project,” “plan,” “expect,” “continue,” “estimate,” “goal,” “forecast,” “may” or similar expressions help identify forward-looking statements. Although we believe our forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions and current expectations and projections about future events, we cannot give assurances that such expectations will prove to be correct. Forward-looking statements are subject to a variety of risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including without limitation the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• volatility in the price of oil, natural gas, condensate, NGLs and coal;</li> <li>• unexpected difficulties in integrating any significant acquisitions into our operations;</li> <li>• declines in the credit markets and the availability of credit for us as well as for producers connected to our pipelines and our gathering and processing facilities, and for our customers of our contract services business;</li> <li>• the level of creditworthiness of, and performance by, our counterparties and customers;</li> <li>• our access to capital to fund organic growth projects and acquisitions, and our ability to obtain debt or equity financing on satisfactory terms;</li> <li>• our use of derivative financial instruments to hedge commodity risks;</li> <li>• the amount of collateral required to be posted from time-to-time in our transactions;</li> <li>• changes in commodity prices, interest rates and demand for our services;</li> <li>• changes in laws and regulations or enforcement practices impacting the midstream sector of the natural gas industry, oil industry and the coal mining industry, including those that relate to climate change and environmental protection and safety, including with respect to emissions levels applicable to coal-burning power generators and permissible levels of mining runoff;</li> <li>• the adoption of new laws, or the promulgation of new regulations, at the federal, state or local level that promote use and development of renewable energy or limit use or development of fossil fuels;</li> <li>• weather and other natural phenomena;</li> <li>• industry changes including the impact of consolidation and changes in competition;</li> <li>• regulation of transportation rates on our natural gas, NGL, and oil pipelines;</li> <li>• our ability to obtain indemnification related to cleanup liabilities and to clean up any hazardous materials release on satisfactory terms;</li> </ul>	

Table of Contents

- our ability to obtain required approvals for construction or modernization of our facilities and the timing of production from such facilities;
- the effect of accounting pronouncements issued periodically by accounting standard setting boards;
- the extent to which the amount and quality of actual production of our coal differs from estimated recoverable coal reserves;
- the experience and financial condition of our coal lessees, including our lessees' ability to satisfy their royalty, environmental, reclamation and other obligations to us and others;
- operating risks, including unanticipated geological problems, incidental to our Gathering and Processing segment and Natural Resources segment;
- the ability of our lessees to produce sufficient quantities of coal on an economic basis from our reserves and obtain favorable contracts for such production;
- delays in anticipated start-up dates of new development in our Gathering and Processing segment and our lessees' mining operations and related coal infrastructure projects, including the timing of receipt of necessary governmental permits by us or our lessees; and
- uncertainties relating to the effects of regulatory guidance on permitting under the Clean Water Act and the outcome of current and future litigation regarding mine permitting.

If one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results may differ materially from those anticipated, estimated, projected or expected.

Other factors that could cause our actual results to differ from our projected results are discussed in Item 1A of this annual report.

Each forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date of the particular statement and we undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.



## Table of Contents

### PART I

#### Item 1. Business

Pending Merger with ETP. On January 25, 2015, we and ETP entered into a definitive merger agreement, as amended on February 18, 2015 (the "Merger Agreement") pursuant to which the Partnership will merge with a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP, with the Partnership continuing as the surviving entity and becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP (the "Merger"). At the effective time of the Merger (the "Effective Time"), each Partnership common unit and Class F unit will be converted into the right to receive 0.4066 ETP common units, plus a number of additional ETP common units equal to \$0.32 per Partnership unit divided by the lesser of (i) the volume weighted average price of ETP common units for the five trading days ending on the third trading day immediately preceding the Effective Time and (ii) the closing price of ETP common units on the third trading day immediately preceding the Effective Time, rounded to the nearest ten thousandth of a unit. Each Series A Preferred Unit will be converted into the right to receive a preferred unit representing a limited partner interest in ETP, a new class of units in ETP to be established at the Effective Time. Early termination of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, for the Merger was granted by the United States Federal Trade Commission on February 24, 2015. The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2015 and is subject to other customary closing conditions including approval by the Partnership's unitholders. Additional information regarding the proposed Merger and the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement are set forth in our Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on January 26, 2015 and February 18, 2015.

#### OVERVIEW

We are a growth-oriented publicly-traded Delaware limited partnership engaged in the gathering and processing, compression, treating and transportation of natural gas; the transportation, fractionation and storage of NGLs; the gathering, transportation and terminaling of oil (crude, and/or condensate, a lighter oil) received from producers; the gathering and disposing of salt water; natural gas and NGL marketing and trading; and the management of coal and natural resource properties in the United States. We focus on providing midstream services in some of the most prolific natural gas producing regions in the United States, including the Eagle Ford, Haynesville, Barnett, Fayetteville, Marcellus, Utica, Bone Spring, Avalon and Granite Wash shales. Our assets are primarily located in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, Mississippi, Alabama, New Mexico and the mid-continent region of the United States, which includes Kansas, Colorado and Oklahoma.

We divide our operations into six business segments:

**Gathering and Processing.** We provide "wellhead-to-market" services to producers of natural gas, which include transporting raw natural gas from the wellhead through gathering systems, processing raw natural gas to separate NGLs from the raw natural gas and selling or delivering pipeline-quality natural gas and NGLs to various markets and pipeline systems, the gathering of oil (crude and/or condensate, a lighter oil) received from producers, the gathering and disposing of salt water, and natural gas and NGL marketing and trading. This segment also includes our 60% membership interest in ELG, which operates natural gas gathering, oil pipeline, and oil stabilization facilities in south Texas, our 33.33% membership interest in Ranch JV, which processes natural gas delivered from NGL-rich shale formations in west Texas, our 50% interest in Sweeny JV, which operates a natural gas gathering facility in south Texas, our 51% membership interest in Aqua - PVR, which transports and supplies fresh water to natural gas producers in the Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania, our 75% membership interest in ORS, which will operate a natural gas gathering system in the Utica shale in Ohio, and our 50% interest in Mi Vida JV, which will operate a cryogenic processing plant and related facilities in west Texas.

**Natural Gas Transportation.** We own a 49.99% general partner interest in HPC, which owns RIGS, a 450-mile intrastate pipeline that delivers natural gas from northwest Louisiana to downstream pipelines and markets, and a 50% membership interest in MEP, which owns a 500-mile interstate natural gas pipeline stretching from southeast Oklahoma through northeast Texas, northern Louisiana and central Mississippi to an interconnect with the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line system in Butler, Alabama. This segment also includes Gulf States, which owns a 10-mile interstate pipeline that extends from Harrison County, Texas to Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

**NGL Services.** We own a 30% membership interest in Lone Star, an entity owning a diverse set of midstream energy assets including NGL pipelines, storage, fractionation and processing facilities located in Texas, New Mexico,

Mississippi and Louisiana.

Contract Services. We own and operate a fleet of compressors used to provide turn-key natural gas compression services for customer specific systems. We also own and operate a fleet of equipment used to provide treating services, such as carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide removal, natural gas cooling, dehydration and BTU management.

• Natural Resources. We are involved in the management of coal and natural resources properties and the related collection of royalties. We also earn revenues from other land management activities, such as selling standing timber,

Table of Contents

leasing coal-related infrastructure facilities, and collecting oil and gas royalties. This segment also included our 50% interest in Coal Handling, which owns and operates end-user coal handling facilities. We purchased the remaining interest in these companies effective December 31, 2014.

Corporate. The Corporate segment comprises our corporate assets.

The following map depicts the geographic areas of our operations as of December 31, 2014:

2

---

Table of Contents

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The chart below depicts our general organizational and ownership structure as of December 31, 2014:

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes our 75% interest in ORS and our 60% interest in ELG.

3

---

## Table of Contents

### INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

**General.** The midstream natural gas industry is the link between exploration and production of raw natural gas and the delivery of its components to end-user markets. It consists of natural gas gathering, compression, dehydration, processing, amine treating, fractionation and transportation as well as the gathering and handling of oil produced at the wellhead (crude and/or condensate, a lighter oil). Raw natural gas produced from the wellhead is gathered and often delivered to a plant located near the production area, where it is treated, dehydrated and/or processed. Natural gas processing involves the separation of raw natural gas into pipeline quality natural gas, principally methane and mixed NGLs. Natural gas treating entails the removal of impurities, such as water, sulfur compounds, carbon dioxide and nitrogen. Pipeline-quality natural gas is delivered by interstate and intrastate pipelines to markets. Mixed NGLs are typically transported via NGL pipelines or by truck to fractionators, which separate the NGLs into their components, such as ethane, propane, normal butane, isobutane and natural gasoline. The NGL components are then sold to end users.

**Natural Gas Gathering.** A gathering system typically consists of a network of low-pressure, small-diameter pipelines that collect natural gas from the wellhead and transport it to processing or treating plants for processing, treating, and/or dehydration, for redelivery to larger diameter pipelines for further transportation to end-user markets.

**Compression.** Natural gas compression is a mechanical process in which gas at a lower pressure is boosted, or compressed, to a desired higher pressure, allowing the gas to flow into a higher-pressure, downstream pipeline where it will be transported to end-user markets. Field compression is typically used to lower the gas pressure at entry into the gathering system while maintaining or increasing the exit pressure, providing sufficient pressure to deliver gas into a higher-pressure, downstream pipeline.

**Dehydration.** Dehydration is the process during which water is removed from the gas; also called Glycol Absorption.

**Processing.** Natural gas processing is the separation of natural gas into pipeline quality natural gas and a mixed NGL stream through either an absorption, mechanical or cryogenic process. The heavier components which make up the NGL stream are typically ethane, propane, isobutane, normal butane and natural gasoline.

**Amine Treating.** Natural gas treating entails the removal of impurities such as water, sulfur compounds, carbon dioxide and nitrogen. The amine treating process involves a continuous circulation of a liquid chemical called amine that physically contacts with the natural gas. The gas and amine are separated and the impurities are removed from the amine by heating. The treating plants are sized according to the amine circulation rate in terms of GPM.

**Fractionation.** NGL fractionation facilities separate mixed NGL streams into discrete NGL products: ethane, propane, normal butane, isobutane and natural gasoline. Ethane is primarily used in the petrochemical industry as feedstock for ethylene, one of the basic building blocks for a wide range of plastics and other chemical products. Propane is used both as a petrochemical feedstock in the production of propylene and as a heating fuel, an engine fuel and an industrial fuel. Normal butane is used as a petrochemical feedstock in the production of butadiene (a key ingredient in synthetic rubber) and as a blend stock for motor gasoline. Isobutane is typically fractionated from mixed butane (a stream of normal butane and isobutane in solution), principally for use in enhancing the octane content of motor gasoline.

Natural gasoline, a mixture of pentanes and heavier hydrocarbons, is used primarily as motor gasoline blend stock, petrochemical feedstock or as a diluent for heavy crude oil to assist in pipeline transportation.

**Transportation.** Natural gas transportation consists of moving pipeline-quality natural gas from gathering systems, processing or treating plants and other pipelines and delivering it to wholesalers, end users, local distribution companies and other pipelines.

**Storage.** A place to store natural gas supplies for use at a later time. Storage can be an old gas field, a developed salt dome or a liquefied natural gas tank.

### INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—General Trends and Outlook”.

### GATHERING AND PROCESSING OPERATIONS

**General.** We operate gathering and processing assets in five geographic regions of the United States: Arklatex (north Louisiana, Arkansas and east Texas), the mid-continent region (north Texas, Kansas, Colorado and Oklahoma), south Texas, Permian, and Eastern (Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio) with a total of 25,684 miles of pipeline across

all regions. We contract with producers to gather raw natural gas, NGLs, and oil (crude, and/or condensate, a lighter oil) from individual wells or central receipt points, which may have multiple wells behind them, located near our processing plants, treating facilities and/or gathering systems. Following the execution of a contract, we connect wells and central receipt points to our gathering lines through which the raw natural gas flows to a processing plant, treating facility or directly to interstate or intrastate gas transportation pipelines. At our

Table of Contents

processing plants and treating facilities, we remove impurities from the raw natural gas stream and extract the NGLs. We also perform a producer service function, whereby we purchase natural gas from producers at gathering systems and plants and sell this gas at downstream outlets. In certain regions, we also contract with producers to gather the oil produced with the natural gas and deliver the oil to a tank for transportation by truck or pipeline.

All raw natural gas, NGLs, and oil (crude, and/or condensate, a lighter oil) flowing through our gathering and processing facilities are supplied under gathering and processing contracts having terms ranging from month-to-month to the life of the oil and gas lease. For a description of our contracts, read “-Our Contracts” and “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

The pipeline-quality natural gas remaining after separation of NGLs through processing is either returned to the producer or sold, for our own account or for the account of the producer, at the tailgates of our processing plants for delivery to interstate or intrastate gas transportation pipelines.

The following table sets forth information regarding our gathering systems and processing plants as of December 31, 2014:

Region	Plants	Compression (Horsepower)
Arklatex	9	96,834
South Texas	3	187,723
Permian	10	387,932
Mid-Continent	14	425,394
Eastern	—	112,282
Total	36	1,210,165

Arklatex. Our Arklatex assets gather, compress, treat and dehydrate natural gas in several Parishes of north and west Louisiana and several counties in east Texas. Our assets also include cryogenic natural gas processing facilities, a refrigeration plant, a conditioning plant, amine treating plants, and an interstate NGL pipeline.

Through the gathering and processing systems described above and their interconnections with RIGS in north Louisiana described in “Natural Gas Transportation Operations,” we offer producers wellhead-to-market services, including natural gas gathering, compression, processing, treating and transportation.

In May 2014, we announced the construction of a new 200 MMcf/d cryogenic processing plant and 47-mile, 40,000 bbls/d capacity NGL pipeline, for a combined total of \$191 million, which is expected to be completed in mid-2015.

South Texas. Our south Texas assets gather, compress, treat and dehydrate natural gas in Bee, LaSalle, Webb, Karnes, Atascosa, McMullen, Frio and Dimmitt counties. Some of the natural gas produced in this region can have significant quantities of hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide that require treating to remove these impurities. The pipeline systems that gather this gas are connected to third-party processing plants and our treating facilities that include an acid gas reinjection wells located in McMullen County, Texas. We also gather oil for producers in the region and deliver it to tanks for further transportation by truck or pipeline.

The natural gas supply for our south Texas gathering systems is derived from a combination of natural gas wells located in mature basins that generally have long lives and predictable gas flow rates, including the Frio, Vicksburg, Miocene, Canyon Sands and Wilcox formations, and the NGLs-rich and oil-rich Eagle Ford shale formation, which lies directly under our existing south Texas gathering system infrastructure.

We own a 60% interest in ELG with Talisman Energy USA Inc. and Statoil Texas Onshore Properties LP owning the remaining 40% interest. We operate a natural gas gathering, oil pipeline and oil stabilization facilities for the joint venture while our joint venture partners operate a lean gas gathering system in the Edwards Lime natural gas trend that delivers to this system.

Permian. Our Permian Basin gathering system assets offer wellhead-to-market services to producers in the Texas counties of Ward, Winkler, Reeves, Pecos, Crockett, Upton, Crane, Ector, Culberson, Reagan and Andrews counties, as well as into Eddy and Lea counties in New Mexico which surround the Waha Hub, one of Texas’ developing NGLs-rich natural gas market areas. As a result of the proximity of our system to the Waha Hub, the Waha gathering system has a variety of market outlets for the natural gas that we gather and process, including several major interstate and intrastate pipelines serving California, the mid-continent region of the United States and Texas natural gas

markets. The NGL market outlets include Lone Star's NGL pipeline.



## Table of Contents

Our Permian assets consist of a network of natural gas and NGL pipelines, six processing and treating plants, two processing plants and two treating plants. These assets offer a broad array of services to producers including field gathering and compression of natural gas; treating, dehydration, sulfur recovery and reinjection and other conditioning; and natural gas processing and marketing of natural gas and NGLs.

In October 2014, we entered into a joint venture with Anadarko Mi Vida LLC (“Anadarko”). Anadarko and Regency each own a 50% membership interest in the new joint venture, Mi Vida JV. We are constructing and will operate a 200 MMcf/d cryogenic processing plant and related facilities, in west Texas, on behalf of Mi Vida JV.

We own a 33.33% membership interest in Ranch JV which processes natural gas delivered from the NGLs-rich Bone Spring and Avalon shale formations in west Texas. The joint venture owns a 25 MMcf/d refrigeration plant and a 100 MMcf/d cryogenic processing plant.

**Mid-Continent.** Our mid-continent systems are located in two large natural gas producing regions in the United States, the Hugoton Basin in southwest Kansas, and the Anadarko Basin in western Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle.

These mature basins have continued to provide generally long-lived, predictable production volume. Our mid-continent gathering assets are extensive systems that gather, compress and dehydrate low-pressure gas. We have 14 natural gas producing facilities and approximately 12,995 miles of gathering pipeline.

We operate our mid-continent gathering systems at low pressures to maximize the total throughput volumes from the connected wells. Wellhead pressures are therefore adequate to allow for flow of natural gas into the gathering lines without the cost of wellhead compression.

We also own the Hugoton gathering system that has 1,900 miles of pipeline extending over nine counties in Kansas and Oklahoma. This system is operated by a third party.

**Eastern.** Our eastern region assets are located in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, and gather natural gas from the Marcellus and Utica basins. Our eastern gathering assets include approximately 370 miles of natural gas gathering pipeline, natural gas trunkline pipelines, and fresh water pipelines. Our eastern region assets include the Lycoming, Wyoming, East Lycoming, Bradford, Green, and Preston gathering systems. Our Eastern segment earns revenues primarily from fees charged to producers for natural gas gathering, transportation, compression and other related services.

We also own a 51% membership interest in Aqua - PVR, a joint venture that transports and supplies fresh water to natural gas producers drilling in the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania.

In August 2014, we entered into a joint venture with American Energy - Midstream, LLC (“AEM”). We and AEM own a 75% and 25% membership interest, respectively, in the new joint venture, ORS. On behalf of ORS, we are constructing and will operate our Ohio Utica River System, (the “ORS System”) which consists of a 52-mile, 36-inch gathering trunkline that will be capable of delivering up to 2.1 bcf/d to Rockies Express Pipeline (“REX”), Texas Eastern Transmission, and potentially others, and the construction of 25,000 horsepower of compression at the REX interconnect. This project will also include the construction of a 12-mile, 30-inch lateral that will initially connect to the tailgate of the Cadiz processing plant and Harrison County wellhead production. Phase I and Phase II are expected to be completed in the second and third quarters of 2015, respectively. Total costs for the ORS System are expected to be approximately \$500 million; 75% contributed from us and 25% contributed from AEM. Additionally, we and American Energy - Utica, LLC (“AEU”), an affiliate of AEM, entered into a gathering agreement for gas produced from the Utica Shale in eastern Ohio by AEU.

**Logistics and Trading.** We conduct natural gas marketing and trading activities through our Logistics and Trading subsidiary. We engage in activities intended to capitalize on favorable price differentials between various receipt and delivery locations.

## **NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS**

RIGS has the capacity to transport up to 2.1 Bcf/d of natural gas. Results of RIGS’s operations are determined primarily by the volumes of natural gas transported and subscribed on its intrastate pipeline system and the level of fees charged to customers or the margins received from purchases and sales of natural gas. RIGS generates revenues and segment margins principally under fee-based transportation contracts. The fixed capacity reservation charges related to RIGS that are not directly dependent on throughput volumes or commodity prices represent 93% of HPC’s margin.

MEP pipeline system, operated by KMP, has the capability to transport up to 1.8 Bcf/d of natural gas, and the pipeline capacity is nearly fully subscribed; Zone 1 is 95% subscribed and Zone 2 is fully subscribed, –with long-term binding commitments from creditworthy shippers. Results of MEP’s operations are determined primarily by the volumes of natural gas transported and subscribed on its interstate pipeline system and the level of fees charged to customers.

MEP generates revenues and segment margins principally under fee-based transportation contracts. The margin MEP earns is primarily related to fixed capacity

## Table of Contents

reservation charges that are not directly dependent on throughput volumes or commodity prices. If a sustained decline in commodity prices should result in a decline in volumes, MEP's revenues would not be significantly impacted until expiration of the current contracts.

Gulf States is a small interstate pipeline that uses cost-based rates and terms and conditions of service for shippers wishing to secure capacity for interstate transportation service. Rates charged are largely governed by long-term negotiated rate agreements.

### **NGL SERVICES OPERATIONS**

Lone Star owns and operates a NGLs storage, fractionation and transportation business. Lone Star's storage assets are primarily located in Mont Belvieu, Texas. The West Texas Pipeline, which passes through the Barnett shale, and the Lone Star West Texas Gateway NGL Pipeline, which passes through the Eagle Ford shale, transports NGLs in interstate and intrastate commerce through pipeline systems that originate in the Permian and Delaware basins in west Texas, and terminates at Lone Star's storage and fractionation complex. Lone Star also owns and operates fractionation and processing assets located in Louisiana and Texas, including the Lone Star Fractionator I and Fractionator II, located at Mont Belvieu, which began service in December 2012 and November 2013, respectively. Results of Lone Star's operations are based upon fee-based revenues and commodity pricing which are determined primarily by volumes stored, processed or transported, the level of fees charged to customers and the value of the commodity in the market at the time of sale. The margin Lone Star earns is primarily related to the volume of NGLs stored, processed and transported.

In May 2013, SXL and Lone Star announced the Mariner South project which will integrate SXL's existing Nederland Marine Terminal and pipeline from Mont Belvieu, Texas to Nederland, Texas with Lone Star's Mont Belvieu fractionation and storage facilities, creating a LPG export/import operation in the U.S. Gulf Coast. Mariner South will have an initial capacity of 6 million barrels per month and will be designed to load LPG carriers with an approximate capacity of 550,000 barrels. The Mariner South project is expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2015. The project will utilize Lone Star's increasing fractionation capacity at Mont Belvieu as well as construction of a new 100,000 barrel per day de-ethanizer to convert propane to international specifications. It also will involve the construction of new refrigerated storage tanks located at the Nederland Terminal to take deliveries into the LPG vessels. The Nederland Terminal will provide 24-hour ship access in the Gulf Coast with a load rate of up to 30,000 barrels per hour. The terminal facility includes existing docks and acreage for future expansion. Long-term, fee-based arrangements have been executed with Shell Trading Company US to move forward with this project, making Shell the anchor customer. The project can be expanded to handle additional volumes of products.

In November 2014, Lone Star announced that it will construct a 533 mile, 24- and 30-inch NGL pipeline from the Permian Basin to Mont Belvieu, Texas, and convert Lone Star's existing West Texas 12-inch NGL pipeline into crude oil/condensate service. The new pipeline and conversion projects, estimated to cost aggregately between \$1.5 billion and \$1.8 billion, are expected to be operational by the third quarter of 2016 and the first quarter of 2017, respectively.

### **CONTRACT SERVICES OPERATIONS**

Contract services operations can be divided into contract compression services and contract treating services. The natural gas contract compression services include designing, sourcing, owning, installing, operating, servicing, repairing and maintaining compressors and related equipment for which we guarantee our customers 98% mechanical availability for land installations and 96% mechanical availability for over-water installations. We focus on meeting the complex requirements of field-wide compression applications, as opposed to targeting the compression needs of individual wells within a field. These field-wide applications include compression for natural gas gathering and natural gas processing. We believe that we improve the stability of our cash flow by focusing on field-wide compression applications because such applications generally involve long-term installations of multiple large horsepower compression units. Our contract compression operations are located in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Colorado and California.

We own and operate a fleet of equipment used to provide treating services, such as carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide removal, natural gas cooling, dehydration and BTU management. Our contract treating services are primarily located in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES OPERATIONS

Our Natural Resources operations primarily involve the management and leasing of coal properties and the subsequent collection of royalties. We also earn revenues from other land management activities, such as selling standing timber, leasing fee-based coal-related infrastructure facilities to certain lessees and end-user industrial plants, collecting oil and gas royalties and from coal transportation, or wheelage fees. As of December 31, 2014, we owned or controlled approximately 821 million tons of proven and probable coal reserves in Central and Northern Appalachia, properties in eastern Kentucky, Tennessee, southwestern Virginia

## Table of Contents

and southern West Virginia; and the Illinois Basin, properties in southern Illinois, Indiana, and western Kentucky. During 2004, our coal reserves located in the San Juan basin depleted and our associated coal royalty revenues ceased. The Natural Resources segment held a 50% interest in coal handling companies. In December 2014, we acquired the remaining membership interests in these companies through which we own and operate facilities for industrial customers on a fee basis.

Coal reserves are coal tons that can be economically extracted or produced at the time of determination considering legal, economic and technical limitations. All of the estimates of our coal reserves are classified as proven and probable reserves. Proven and probable coal reserves are defined as follows:

**Proven Coal Reserves.** Proven coal reserves are reserves for which: (i) quantity is computed from dimensions revealed in outcrops, trenches, workings or drill holes; (ii) grade and/or quality are computed from the results of detailed sampling; and (iii) the sites for inspection, sampling and measurement are spaced so closely, and the geologic character is so well defined, that the size, shape, depth and mineral content of reserves are well-established.

**Probable Coal Reserves.** Probable coal reserves are reserves for which quantity and grade and/or quality are computed from information similar to that used for proven reserves, but the sites for inspection, sampling and measurement are more widely spaced or are otherwise less adequately spaced. The degree of assurance, although lower than that for proven coal reserves, is high enough to assume continuity between points of observation.

In areas where geologic conditions indicate potential inconsistencies related to coal reserves, we perform additional exploration to ensure the continuity and mineability of the coal reserves. Consequently, sampling in those areas involves drill holes or channel samples that are spaced closer together than those distances cited above.

Coal reserve estimates are adjusted annually for production, unmineable areas, acquisitions and sales of coal in place. The majority of our coal reserves are high in energy content, low in sulfur and suitable for either the steam or to a lesser extent the metallurgical market.

The amount of coal that a lessee can profitably mine at any given time is subject to several factors and may be substantially different from “proven and probable coal reserves.” Included among the factors that influence profitability are the existing market price, coal quality and operating costs.

We enter into long-term leases with experienced, third-party mine operators, providing them the right to mine our coal reserves in exchange for royalty payments. We actively work with our lessees to develop efficient methods to exploit our reserves and to maximize production from our properties. We do not operate any mines. In 2014, our lessees produced 15.9 million tons of coal (11.3 million tons from March 21, 2014 (the date of acquisition) to December 31, 2014) from our properties and paid us coal royalty revenues of \$59.1 million (\$44.1 million from March 21, 2014 (the date of acquisition) to December 31, 2014, for an average royalty per ton of \$3.71 (\$3.91 from March 21, 2014 (the date of acquisition) to December 31, 2014—). Approximately 84% of our coal royalty revenues in 2014 were derived from coal mined on our properties under leases containing royalty rates based on the higher of a fixed base price or a percentage of the gross sales price. The balance of our coal royalty revenues for the respective periods was derived from coal mined on our properties under leases containing fixed royalty rates that escalate annually.

Our lessees mine coal using both underground and surface methods. As of December 31, 2014, our lessees operated 24 surface mines and 24 underground mines. Approximately 57% of the coal produced from our properties in 2014 came from underground mines and 43% came from surface mines. Most of our lessees use the continuous mining method in their underground mines located on our properties. In continuous mining, main airways and transportation entries are developed and remote-controlled continuous miners extract coal from “entries” leaving “pillars” to support the roof. Shuttle cars transport coal to a conveyor belt for transportation to the surface. In several underground mines, our lessees use two continuous miners running at the same time, also known as a supersection, to improve productivity and reduce unit costs.



Table of Contents

The following tables set forth production data for the periods presented and reserve information with respect to each of our properties for the period presented (tons in millions):

Property	Production for the Years Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
Central Appalachia	9.0	10.2
Northern Appalachia	2.7	3.3
Illinois Basin	2.4	2.4
San Juan Basin <sup>(1)</sup>	1.8	9.2
Total	15.9	25.1

<sup>(1)</sup> Our San Juan reserves were fully depleted in the first quarter of 2014.

The following table sets forth the coal reserves we owned and leased with respect to each of our coal properties as of December 31, 2014 (tons in millions):

Property	Owned	Leased	Total Controlled
Central Appalachia	482.3	141	623.3
Northern Appalachia	16.6	—	16.6
Illinois Basin	150.5	30.7	181.2
Total	649.4	171.7	821.1

The following table sets forth our coal reserve activity for the periods presented and ended (tons in millions):

	2014	2013
Reserves - beginning of year	847.0	871.0
Purchase of coal reserves	—	2.3
Tons mined by lessees	(15.9)	(25.1)
Revisions of estimates and other	(10.0)	(1.2)
Reserves - end of year	821.1	847.0

Our coal reserve estimates are prepared from geological data assembled and analyzed by our internal geologists and engineers. These estimates are compiled using geological data taken from thousands of drill holes, geophysical logs, adjacent mine workings, outcrop prospect openings and other sources. These estimates also take into account legal, qualitative, technical and economic limitations that may keep coal from being mined. Coal reserve estimates will change from time to time due to mining activities, analysis of new engineering and geological data, acquisition or divestment of reserve holdings, modification of mining plans or mining methods and other factors.

**CORPORATE OPERATIONS**

Our Corporate segment comprises our corporate offices and management services provided to affiliates.

**OUR CONTRACTS**

The table below provides margin share by product in percentages for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 for all of our operating segments including our proportional shares in our unconsolidated affiliates:

Margin by Product	2014	2013	
Net Fee	75	% 77	%
NGLs	5	8	
Gas	10	8	
Condensate	10	7	
Total	100	% 100	%

## Table of Contents

**Gathering and Processing Contracts.** We contract with producers to gather raw natural gas, NGLs, and oil (crude, and/or condensate, a lighter oil) from individual wells or central receipt points located near our gathering systems and processing plants. Following the execution of a contract with the producer, we connect the producer's wells or central receipt points to our gathering lines through which the natural gas, NGLs, and oil (crude, and/or condensate, a lighter oil) is delivered to a processing plant owned and operated by us or a third party. We obtain supplies of raw natural gas, NGLs, and oil (crude, and/or condensate, a lighter oil) for our gathering and processing facilities under contracts having terms ranging from month-to-month to life of the lease. We categorize our processing contracts in increasing order of commodity price risk as fee-based, percentage-of-proceeds or keep-whole contracts. The following is a summary of our most common contractual arrangements:

**Fee-Based Arrangements.** Under these arrangements, we are generally paid a fixed cash fee for performing the gathering and processing service. This fee is directly related to the volume of natural gas that flows through our systems and is not directly dependent on commodity prices. A sustained decline in commodity prices, however, could result in a decline in volumes and, thus, a decrease in our fee revenues. These arrangements provide stable cash flows, but minimal, if any, upside in higher commodity price environments.

**Percent-of-Proceeds Arrangements.** Under these arrangements, we generally gather raw natural gas from producers at the wellhead or central receipt points, transport it through our gathering system, process it and sell the processed gas and NGLs at prices based on published index prices. In this type of arrangement, we retain the sales proceeds less amounts remitted to producers and the retained sales proceeds constitute our margin. These arrangements provide upside in high commodity price environments, but result in lower margins in low commodity price environments. Under these arrangements, our margins typically cannot be negative. The price paid to producers is based on an agreed percentage of one of the following: (1) the actual sale proceeds; (2) the proceeds based on an index price; or (3) the proceeds from the sale of processed gas or NGLs or both. Under this type of arrangement, our margin correlates directly with the prices of natural gas and NGLs (although there is often a fee-based component to these contracts in addition to the commodity sensitive component).

**Keep-Whole Arrangements.** Under these arrangements, we process raw natural gas to extract NGLs and pay to the producer the full thermal equivalent volume of raw natural gas received from the producer in processed gas or its cash equivalent. We are generally entitled to retain the processed NGLs and to sell them for our account. Accordingly, our margin is a function of the difference between the value of the NGLs produced and the cost of the processed gas used to replace the thermal equivalent value of those NGLs. The profitability of these arrangements is subject not only to the commodity price risk of natural gas and NGLs, but also to the price of natural gas relative to NGL prices. These arrangements can provide large profit margins in favorable commodity price environments, but also can be subject to losses if the cost of natural gas exceeds the value of its thermal equivalent of NGLs. Many of our keep-whole contracts include provisions that reduce our commodity price exposure, including (1) embedded discounts to the applicable natural gas index price under which we may reimburse the producer an amount in cash for the thermal equivalent volume of raw natural gas acquired from the producer; (2) fixed cash fees for ancillary services, such as gathering, treating, and compression; or (3) the ability to bypass processing in unfavorable price environments. We also contract with producers to gather the oil produced with the natural gas. Some of these contracts are subject to the market based tariff rates and terms of service we establish for the oil pipeline system(s). These arrangements typically include a fee per barrel of oil gathered. Additionally, we perform a producer service function. We purchase natural gas from producers or gas marketers at receipt points or plant tailgates, including points on HPC's RIGS, and we sell the natural gas to other market participants, often after transporting the gas to delivery points on HPC's RIGS or other transportation pipeline systems.

Our natural gas sales contracts (physical) are consummated under North American Energy Standards Board or Gas Industry Standards Board contracts with pricing predominately based on Platt's Gas Daily or inside FERC pricing points. We sell our NGL output to third parties at pricing based on OPIS pricing at Mont Belvieu, Texas or Conway, Kansas delivery points. We have multi-year, firm agreements with third parties for NGL fractionation.



Natural Gas Transportation Contracts. HPC and MEP, through their respective pipeline systems, provide natural gas transportation services pursuant to contracts with natural gas shippers. These contracts are primarily fee-based. HPC's long-term firm transportation contracts will expire between 2015 and 2022; and MEP's long-term firm service agreements will expire between 2015 and 2021.

NGL Services Contracts. Lone Star owns and operates 2,025 miles of NGL pipelines, two cryogenic refinery off-gas processing plants, two fractionation facilities with a capacity of 200,000 Bbls/d, and two NGL storage facilities with aggregate working storage capacity of 47 million Bbls. Lone Star also has a non-operating interest in an additional cryogenic processing plant. Revenue is principally generated from fees charged to customers under dedicated contracts, take-or-pay contracts and commodity pricing. Under a dedicated contract, the customer agrees to deliver the total output from particular processing plants that are connected to

## Table of Contents

the NGL pipeline. Take-or-pay contracts have minimum throughput commitments requiring the customer to pay regardless of whether a fixed volume is transported. Transportation fees are based on tariff rates, which are competitive with regional regulated pipelines.

**Compression Contracts.** We generally enter into a new contract with respect to each distinct application for which we will provide contract compression services. Our compression contracts typically have an initial term between one and five years, after which the contract continues on a month-to-month basis until renewal or cancellation. Our customers generally pay a fixed monthly fee, or, in rare cases, a fee based on the volume of natural gas actually compressed. We are not responsible for acts of force majeure and our customers are generally required to pay our monthly fee for fixed fee contracts, or a minimum fee for throughput contracts, even during periods of limited or disrupted production. We are generally responsible for the costs and expenses associated with operation and maintenance of our compression equipment, such as providing necessary lubricants, although certain fees and expenses are the responsibility of the customers under the terms of their contracts. For example, all fuel gas is provided by our customers without cost to us, and in many cases customers are required to provide all water and electricity. We also are reimbursed by our customers for certain ancillary expenses such as trucking, crane and installation labor costs, depending on the terms agreed to in a particular contract.

**Natural Resources Contracts.** We earn most of our coal royalty revenues under long-term leases that generally require our lessees to make royalty payments to us based on the higher of a percentage of the gross sales price or a fixed price per ton of coal they sell. The balance of our coal royalty revenues is earned under long-term leases that require the lessees to make royalty payments to us based on fixed royalty rates that escalate annually. A typical lease either expires upon exhaustion of the leased reserves or has a five to ten-year base term, with the lessee having an option to extend the lease for at least five years after the expiration of the base term. Substantially all of our leases require the lessee to pay minimum rental payments to us in monthly or annual installments, even if no mining activities are ongoing. These minimum rentals are recoupable, usually over a period from one to three years from the time of payment, against the production royalties owed to us once coal production commences.

Substantially all of our leases impose obligations on the lessees to diligently mine the leased coal using modern mining techniques, indemnify us for any damages we incur in connection with the lessee's mining operations, including any damages we may incur due to the lessee's failure to fulfill reclamation or other environmental obligations, conduct mining operations in compliance with all applicable laws, obtain our written consent prior to assigning the lease and maintain commercially reasonable amounts of general liability and other insurance.

Substantially all of the leases grant us the right to review all lessee mining plans and maps, enter the leased premises to examine mine workings and conduct audits of lessees' compliance with lease terms. In the event of a default by a lessee, substantially all of the leases give us the right to terminate the lease and take possession of the leased premises. In addition, we earn revenues under coal services contracts, timber contracts and oil and gas leases. Our coal services contracts generally provide that the users of our coal services pay us a fixed fee per ton of coal processed at our facilities. All of our coal services contracts are with lessees of our coal reserves and these contracts generally have terms that run concurrently with the related coal lease. Our timber contracts generally provide that the timber companies pay us a fixed price per thousand board feet of timber harvested from our property. We receive royalties under our oil and gas leases based on a percentage of the revenues the producers receive for the oil and gas they sell. We also earn revenues by providing coal handling services to industrial and utility customers.

## COMPETITION

**Gathering and Processing.** We face strong competition in each region in acquiring new gas supplies. Our competitors in acquiring new gas supplies and in processing new natural gas supplies include major integrated oil companies, major interstate and intrastate pipelines and other natural gas gatherers that gather, process and market natural gas. Competition for natural gas supplies is primarily based on the reputation, efficiency and reliability of the gatherer and the pricing arrangements offered by the gatherer.

Many of our competitors have capital resources and control supplies of natural gas substantially greater than ours. Our major competitors for gathering and related services in each region include:

Arklatex; Enable Midstream, DCP Midstream's PELICO Pipeline, LLC (Pelico), ETP, KMP and Access Midstream Partners, L.P.;

South Texas: EPD, DCP Midstream Partners, LP, KMP and ETP;

Permian Region: EPD, DCP Midstream Partners LP and Targa Resources Partners LP.;

Mid-Continent: DCP Midstream Partners, LP and ONEOK Partners, L.P.; and

Eastern: Williams Partners LP and MarkWest Energy Partners, L.P.

Natural Gas Transportation. Competitors in natural gas transportation differentiate themselves by the price of transportation, the nature of the markets accessible from a transportation pipeline and the type of service provided.

HPC's major competitors in the

## Table of Contents

natural gas transportation business are DCP Midstream Partners, L.P., Enable Gas Transmission, Gulf South Pipeline, L.P., Texas Gas Transmission, LLC, ETP and EPD.

Capacity on the MEP pipeline system is almost fully contracted under long-term firm service agreements, Zone 1 is 95% contracted and Zone 2 is fully contracted. The majority of volume is contracted to producers moving supply from the Barnett shale and Oklahoma supply basins. These agreements provide the pipeline with fixed monthly reservation revenues for the primary term of such contracts. Although there are other pipeline competitors providing transportation from these supply basins, the MEP pipeline system was designed and constructed to realize economies of scale and offers its shippers competitive fuel rates and variable costs to transport gas supplies from these mid-continent supply areas to pipelines serving Eastern markets. MEP's competitors include Gulf Crossing Pipeline, Enable Gas Transmission and Natural Gas Pipeline Co. of America.

NGL Services. In markets served by its NGL pipelines, Lone Star competes with other pipeline companies and barge, rail and truck fleet operations. Lone Star also faces competition with other fractionation and storage facilities based on fees charged and the ability to receive and distribute the customer's products. Lone Star's main competitors include EPD, DCP Midstream Partners, LP and ONEOK Partners, L.P.

Contract Services. Our contract services operation includes contract compression and contract treating. We believe that the superior mechanical availability of our standardized compressor fleet is the primary basis on which we compete and a significant distinguishing factor from our competition. All of our competitors attempt to compete on the basis of price. We believe our pricing is competitive because of the superior mechanical availability we deliver, the quality of our compression units, as well as the technical expertise we provide to our customers. We believe our focus on addressing customers' more complex natural gas compression needs related primarily to field-wide compression applications differentiates us from many of our competitors who target smaller horsepower projects related to individual wellhead applications. The natural gas contract compression services business is highly competitive. We face competition from large national and multinational companies and, on a regional basis, from numerous smaller companies. Our main competitors in the natural gas contract compression business, based on horsepower, are Exterran Holdings, Inc., Compressor Systems, Inc., USA Compression, Valerus Compression Services LP, and J-W Energy Company.

Natural Resources. The coal industry is intensely competitive primarily as a result of the existence of numerous producers. Our lessees compete with both large and small coal producers in various regions of the United States for domestic and international sales. The industry has undergone significant consolidation which has led to some of the competitors of our lessees having significantly larger financial and operating resources than most of our lessees. Our lessees compete on the basis of coal price at the mine, coal quality (including sulfur content), transportation cost from the mine to the customer and the reliability of supply. Continued domestic demand for our coal and the prices that our lessees obtain are also affected by demand for electricity, demand for metallurgical coal, access to transportation, environmental and government regulations, technological developments and the availability and price of alternative fuel supplies, including nuclear, natural gas, oil and hydroelectric power. Demand for our low sulfur coal and the prices our lessees will be able to obtain for it will also be affected by the price and availability of high sulfur coal, which can be marketed in tandem with emissions allowances which permit the high sulfur coal to meet federal Clean Air Act, or CAA, requirements. Continued demand for United States coal exports are also influenced by a number of factors including global economic conditions, weather patterns and political instability.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

To manage commodity price and interest rate risks, we have implemented a risk management program under which we seek to:

- match sales prices of commodities (especially NGLs) with purchases under our contracts;
- manage our portfolio of contracts to reduce commodity price risk;
- optimize our portfolio by active monitoring of basis, swing, and fractionation spread exposure; and
- hedge a portion of our exposure to commodity prices.

As a result of our gathering and processing contract portfolio, we derive a portion of our earnings from a long position in NGLs, natural gas and condensate, resulting from the purchase of natural gas for our account or from the payment of processing charges in kind. This long position is exposed to commodity price fluctuations in the condensate, NGLs

and natural gas markets. Operationally, we mitigate this price risk by generally purchasing natural gas and NGLs at prices derived from published indices, rather than at a contractually fixed price and by selling natural gas and NGLs under similar pricing mechanisms. In addition, we optimize the operations of our processing facilities on a daily basis, for example by rejecting ethane in processing when recovery of ethane as an NGL is uneconomical. We hedge this commodity price risk by entering into a series of swap contracts or put option contracts for individual NGLs, natural gas and WTI. Our hedging positions are maintained within limits established by the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board of Directors. Read “Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk” for information regarding the status of these contracts.

## Table of Contents

As part of our natural gas marketing and trading activities, we enter into both financial derivatives and physical contracts. These financial derivatives, primarily basis swaps, are transacted: (i) to economically hedge subscribed capacity exposed to market rate fluctuations and (ii) to mitigate the price risk related to other purchase and sales of natural gas. By entering into a basis swap, one pricing index is exchanged for another, effectively locking in the margin between the natural gas purchase and sale by removing index spread risk on the combined physical and financial transaction. Changes in the fair value of these financial and physical contracts are recorded as adjustments to natural gas sales.

Neither our contract compression business nor our contract treating business has direct exposure to natural gas commodity price risk because we do not take title to the natural gas we compress or treat and because the natural gas we use as fuel for our compressors is supplied by our customers or treating units without cost to us.

## REGULATION

### Industry Regulation

**Intrastate Natural Gas Pipeline Regulation.** The Partnership owns intrastate pipelines that are subject to state regulation. In Louisiana, HPC owns RIGS, an intrastate pipeline regulated by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation (DNR). The DNR is generally responsible for regulating intrastate pipelines and gathering facilities in Louisiana and has authority to review and authorize natural gas transportation transactions and the construction, acquisition, abandonment and interconnection of physical facilities. In Texas, the Partnership owns Regency DeSoto Pipeline LLC (“DeSoto Pipeline”) and other gas utilities. Gas utilities are subject to regulation by the Railroad Commission of Texas (RCT). The RCT has jurisdiction over the rates and terms of service provided by utilities, which must be provided on a non-discriminatory basis to similarly-situated shippers, although most operate under contracts with negotiated rates and terms of service. DeSoto delivers gas to end-use markets, such as commercial and industrial customers and local distribution companies.

RIGS and DeSoto Pipeline transport interstate natural gas for many of their shippers pursuant to Section 311 of the NGPA. To the extent that RIGS and DeSoto Pipeline transport natural gas in interstate service, their rates and terms and conditions of service are subject to the jurisdiction of FERC, including its non-discrimination requirements. FERC has substantial enforcement authority to impose administrative, civil and criminal penalties of up to \$1 million per day per violation and to order the disgorgement of unjust profits for non-compliance.

Under Section 311 of the NGPA, rates charged for transportation services must be fair and equitable. FERC approved RIGS’ NGPA Section 311 rates as fair and equitable effective February 1, 2010, under a settlement. As part of the settlement and consistent with FERC policy, RIGS is required to justify its current rates or propose new rates every five years. Accordingly, RIGS made a rate filing on January 30, 2015, justifying the continuation of its current maximum rates. RIGS’ rates are in effect, but subject to refund with interest until FERC has determined that the rates are fair and equitable. FERC approved DeSoto Pipeline’s NGPA Section 311 rates as fair and equitable on May 1, 2012. Consistent with FERC policy, DeSoto Pipeline is required to justify its current rates or propose new rates every five years, or by May 17, 2017.

FERC continually proposes and implements new rules and regulations affecting Section 311 transportation. For example, on October 21, 2010, the FERC issued a Notice of Inquiry regarding the applicability of the FERC’s buy-sell rules to intrastate pipelines that provide Section 311 transportation service, including whether the FERC should impose capacity release requirements on such pipelines that offer firm transportation service. We cannot predict the outcome of this notice of inquiry or other regulatory changes that may be proposed or enacted, but any changes could lead to greater regulatory requirements on intrastate pipelines that provide Section 311 services, including RIGS.

**Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Regulation.** FERC also has broad regulatory authority over the business and operations of interstate natural gas pipelines. Under the NGA, rates charged for interstate natural gas transmission must be just and reasonable. Gulf States and MEP hold FERC-approved tariffs setting forth cost-based rates and terms and conditions of service for shippers wishing to secure capacity for interstate transportation service. Rates charged on MEP are largely governed by long-term negotiated rate agreements, an arrangement approved by FERC in its July 25, 2008 order granting MEP the certificate of public convenience and necessity to build, own and operate these facilities. MEP and Gulf States are NGA-jurisdictional interstate pipelines subject to FERC’s broad regulatory oversight. FERC’s authority extends to:

- rates and charges for natural gas transportation and related services;
- certification and construction of new facilities;
- construction, extension or abandonment of services and facilities;
- maintenance of accounts and records;
- relationships between the pipeline and its energy affiliates;
- terms and conditions of service;
- depreciation, depletion and amortization policies;

## Table of Contents

accounting rules for ratemaking purposes;  
 acquisition and disposition of facilities;  
 initiation and discontinuation of service;  
 prevention of market manipulation in connection with interstate sales, purchase or transportation of natural gas; and  
 information posting requirements.

We also own interstate natural gas pipelines that extend from our processing plants to third party interstate natural gas pipelines. We have sought certificates of public convenience and necessity with waiver of FERC's reporting and tariff requirements for certain of these pipelines.

FERC regularly conducts audits of interstate pipelines and has multiple means to receive complaints of alleged violations of its rules, including anonymous complaints through a toll-free hotline. Any failure to comply with the laws and regulations for interstate natural gas pipelines could result in the imposition of significant administrative, civil and criminal penalties. FERC has authority to impose civil penalties of up to \$1 million per day per violation. Gathering Pipeline Regulation. Section 1(b) of the NGA exempts natural gas gathering facilities from FERC jurisdiction under the NGA. We own a number of natural gas pipelines that we believe meet the traditional tests that FERC has used to establish a pipeline's status as a gatherer not subject to FERC's interstate pipeline jurisdiction. The distinction between FERC-regulated transmission facilities and federally unregulated gathering facilities is the subject of substantial, on-going litigation none of which we are currently party to. As a result, the classification and regulation of one or more of our gathering systems may be subject to change based on future determinations by FERC, the courts or the U.S. Congress.

State regulation of gathering facilities generally includes various safety, environmental and, in some circumstances, nondiscriminatory take requirements and, in other instances, complaint-based rate regulation. We are subject to state ratable take and common purchaser statutes. The ratable take statutes generally require gatherers to take, without undue discrimination, natural gas production that may be tendered to the gatherer for handling. Similarly, common purchaser statutes generally require gatherers that purchase gas to purchase without undue discrimination as to source of supply or producer. These statutes are designed to prohibit discrimination in favor of one producer over another or one source of supply over another. These statutes have the effect of restricting our right as an owner of gathering facilities to decide with whom we contract to purchase or gather natural gas.

In addition, many of the producing states have adopted some form of complaint-based regulation that generally allows natural gas producers and shippers to file complaints with state regulators in an effort to resolve grievances relating to natural gas gathering access and rate discrimination. Our gathering operations could be adversely affected should they be subject in the future to the application of state or federal regulation of rates and services. Our gathering operations also may be subject to safety and operational regulations relating to the design, installation, testing, construction, operation, replacement and management of gathering facilities. Additional rules, ordinances and legislation pertaining to these matters may be considered or adopted from time to time at either the federal, state or local level. We cannot predict what effect, if any, such changes might have on our operations, but we and our competitors could be required to incur additional capital expenditures and increased costs depending on future legislative and regulatory changes.

Regulation of NGL and Oil Transportation. We have and may construct pipelines that transport NGLs or oil in interstate commerce pursuant to a FERC-approved tariff. Additionally, Lone Star has pipelines that transport NGLs in interstate commerce pursuant to a FERC-approved tariff. Under the ICA, the Energy Policy Act of 1992, and rules and orders promulgated thereunder, the transportation tariff is required to be just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or confer any undue preference. FERC has established an indexing system of transportation rates for oil, NGLs and other products that allows for an annual inflation based increase in the cost of transporting these liquids to shipper. Any failure on our part to comply with the laws and regulations governing interstate transmission of NGLs or oil could result in the imposition of administrative, civil and criminal penalties and could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Lone Star also has pipelines that transport NGLs in intrastate commerce pursuant to state common carrier regulation. We also have and are constructing pipelines that are subject to state common carrier regulation for the transportation of NGLs, crude oil or condensate. Under state common carrier regulation, pipelines must charge rates that are non-discriminatory and operate pursuant to a tariff.



Sales of Natural Gas and NGLs. Our ability to sell gas in interstate markets is subject to FERC authority and oversight. The price at which we buy and sell natural gas currently is not subject to federal regulation and, for the most part, is not subject to state regulation. The price at which we sell NGLs and oil/condensate is not subject to state or federal regulation. However, with regard to our physical purchases and sales of these energy commodities, our gathering or transportation of these energy commodities, and any related hedging activities that we undertake, we are required to observe anti-market manipulation laws and related regulations enforced by FERC and/or the CFTC.

## Table of Contents

The prices at which we sell natural gas are affected by many competitive factors, including the availability, terms and cost of pipeline transportation. As noted above, the price and terms of access to pipeline transportation are subject to extensive federal and state regulation. Additionally, FERC imposed rules requiring wholesale purchasers and sellers of natural gas to report certain aggregated annual volume and other information beginning in 2009. On November 15, 2012, FERC issued a Notice of Inquiry seeking comments on whether reporting should be expanded to include more frequent and detailed information about certain interstate natural gas sales transactions. We cannot predict the outcome of this Notice of Inquiry or other regulatory changes that may be proposed or enacted.

We also have firm and interruptible transportation contracts with interstate pipelines that are subject to FERC regulation. As a shipper on an interstate pipeline, we are subject to FERC requirements related to use of interstate capacity. Any failure on our part to comply with the FERC's regulations or an interstate pipeline's tariff could result in the imposition of administrative, civil and criminal penalties and the disgorgement of unjust profits.

Sales of crude oil, natural gas, condensate and NGLs are not currently regulated. Prices of these products are set by the market rather than by regulation.

**Anti-Market Manipulation Requirements.** Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, FERC possesses regulatory oversight over natural gas markets, including the purchase, sale and transportation activities of non-interstate pipelines and other natural gas market participants. The CFTC also holds authority to monitor certain segments of the physical and futures energy commodities market pursuant to the Commodity Exchange Act. With regard to our physical purchases and sales of natural gas, NGLs and crude oil, our gathering (of natural gas) or transportation of these energy commodities, and any related hedging activities that we undertake, we are required to observe these anti-market manipulation laws and related regulations enforced by FERC and/or the CFTC. These agencies hold substantial enforcement authority, including the ability to assess civil penalties of up to \$1 million per day per violation in connection with the sale, purchase or transportation of natural gas, to order disgorgement of profits and to recommend criminal penalties. Should we violate the anti-market manipulation laws and regulations, we could also be subject to related third party damage claims by, or among others, sellers, royalty owners and taxing authorities.

**Anti-Terrorism Regulations.** We may be subject to future anti-terrorism requirements of the DHS. The DHS has issued its National Infrastructure Protection Plan calling for broadened efforts to "reduce vulnerability, deter threats, and minimize the consequences of attacks and other incidents" as they relate to pipelines, processing facilities and other infrastructure. The precise parameters of DHS regulations and any related sector-specific requirements are not currently known, and there can be no guarantee that any final anti-terrorism rules that might be applicable to our facilities will not impose costs and administrative burdens on our operations.

**Eminent Domain.** Gas utilities, common carrier pipelines, intrastate pipelines and interstate pipelines typically have eminent domain authority granted by the state or federal government. These eminent domain rights are often subject to public scrutiny, lawsuits and regulatory and/or legislative review. In 2011, the Texas Supreme Court issued a decision impacting the ability of common carriers to acquire land through the use of eminent domain. Certain components of the decision were clarified in 2012; however, as a result of the decision common carrier pipelines could be required to prove "public use" separately in each condemnation proceeding along the entire route of a pipeline. The decision could impact our ability to acquire right-of-way using condemnation for the construction of new common carrier pipeline projects in the state of Texas. Any new court decisions or changes to eminent domain laws or regulations could alter our ability to acquire pipeline right-of-way utilizing eminent domain.

**Local Laws and Regulations.** With the rapid expansion of natural gas development in shale plays, local governmental authorities are seeking to impose additional regulatory requirements on natural gas market participants, including producers, gatherers, and pipeline companies, which may result in additional cost burdens and permitting requirements for new and existing facilities.

### **Environmental Matters**

**General.** Our operations and the operations of our lessees are subject to stringent and complex federal, state and local laws and regulations governing, among other things air emissions, wastewater discharges, the use, management and disposal of hazardous and nonhazardous materials and wastes, the cleanup of contamination, permitting and licensing, and employee health and safety. Noncompliance with such laws and regulations, or incidents resulting in environmental releases, could cause us or our lessees to incur substantial costs, penalties, fines, criminal sanctions,

third party claims for personal injury or property damage, incur expenses to upgrade facilities and programs, or curtail operations. Compliance with existing and anticipated environmental laws and regulations increases our and our lessees' overall cost of doing business.

In addition, the electric utility industry, which is the most significant end-user of coal, is subject to extensive regulation regarding the environmental impact of its power generation activities, which could adversely affect demand for coal mined by our lessees. However, we do not believe that continued compliance will have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. We cannot be certain, however, that identification of presently unidentified conditions, more rigorous enforcement by regulatory agencies, enactment of more stringent laws and regulations or other unanticipated events will not arise

## Table of Contents

in the future and give rise to material environmental liabilities that could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, and financial condition.

**Hazardous Substances and Waste Materials.** We are subject to the requirements of environmental laws and regulations related to the release of hazardous substances and waste materials into soils, groundwater and surface water, and that include measures to prevent, minimize or remediate contamination of the environment. These laws and regulations generally regulate the generation, storage, treatment, transportation and disposal of hazardous substances and waste materials and may require investigatory and remedial actions at sites where such material has been released or disposed. For example, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (“CERCLA”) and comparable state laws, impose joint and several liability without regard to fault or the legality of the original conduct on certain classes of persons that contributed to a release of a “hazardous substance” into the environment. These persons include the owner and operator of the site where a release occurred and persons that disposed or arranged for the disposal of the hazardous substance that has been released into the environment. These persons may be liable for, among other things, the costs of investigating and remediating the hazardous substances that have been released into the environment, for damages to natural resources and for the costs of certain health studies. CERCLA and comparable laws also authorize the EPA, its state counterparts, and, in some instances, third parties to take actions in response to threats to the public health or the environment and to seek to recover from the responsible classes of persons the costs they incur. It is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury and property damage allegedly caused by hazardous substances or other pollutants released into the environment. Although “petroleum” as well as natural gas and NGLs are excluded from CERCLA’s definition of a “hazardous substance,” in the course of our ordinary operations we generate wastes or other materials that may fall within that definition or that may be subject to other waste disposal laws and regulations.

We also generate both hazardous and nonhazardous wastes that are subject to the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (“RCRA”) and comparable state laws. From time to time, the EPA has considered the adoption of stricter handling, storage and disposal standards for nonhazardous wastes, including crude oil and natural gas wastes. It is possible that some wastes generated by us that are currently classified as nonhazardous may in the future be designated as “hazardous wastes,” resulting in the wastes being subject to more rigorous and costly disposal requirements, or that the full complement of RCRA standards could be applied to facilities that generate lesser amounts of hazardous waste. Changes in applicable regulations may result in a material increase in our capital expenditures or plant operating and maintenance expense. Furthermore, some products used by coal companies in operations generate waste containing hazardous substances. We could be pursued under CERCLA and analogous state laws if our lessees are unable to pay for environmental cleanup costs or other responses to threats to the public. In addition, RCRA and analogous state laws and regulations exclude many mining wastes from the regulatory definition of hazardous wastes. The management and disposal of coal combustion byproducts, or coal combustion residues (“CCR”), are not regulated as hazardous or special wastes, but the EPA did recently finalize regulations that impose technical requirements for landfills and surface impoundments that accept CCR.

**Air Emissions.** Our operations and the operations of our lessees are subject to the Clean Air Act (“CAA”) and comparable state laws and regulations. These laws and regulations govern emissions of air pollutants from, and impose monitoring and reporting requirements on, various industrial sources. Such laws and regulations may require that we obtain pre-approval for the construction or modification of certain facilities expected to produce air emissions or to result in the increase of existing air emissions, that we obtain and strictly comply with air permits containing various emissions and operational limitations, or that we utilize specific emission control technologies to limit emissions. Such laws and regulations also may require our lessees to obtain permits and install emissions control equipment.

The EPA and state agencies are continually proposing new rules and regulations that could impact our existing operations, the operations of our lessees, and the costs and timing of new infrastructure development.

For example, on August 16, 2012 the EPA published final rules that extend New Source Performance Standards (“NSPS”) and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (“NESHAPs”) to certain exploration and production operations. The rule package includes revised NSPS performance standards to address volatile organic compounds (“VOCs”) and sulfur dioxide emissions at natural gas processing plants, emissions requirements for compressors, pneumatic controllers, dehydrators, storage tanks and other production equipment, revised and more stringent leak detection requirements for natural gas processing plants, and NESHAPs for certain existing stationary spark ignition reciprocating internal combustion engines. These rules will require a number of modifications to our operations, including the installation of new equipment. We are still evaluating the effect of these rules on our operations, but we expect that they could result in significant costs, including increased capital expenditures and operating costs, which may adversely impact our business.

In addition, some of our operations are located in areas that do not meet the national ambient air quality standards (“NAAQS”) established by the EPA relating to ozone. The EPA has recently proposed revisions to the ozone NAAQS that could make those air quality standards even more stringent. The final rule revising the ozone NAAQS is currently scheduled to be issued in October

## Table of Contents

2015, with designations of areas failing to meet the standard scheduled to be made in October 2017. It is possible that a further tightening of the ozone NAAQS could increase pressure on some states in which we operate to seek further reductions from emissions sources that may contribute to ozone formation. Any such action may require us to install additional pollution controls.

The CAA also indirectly impacts our lessees' coal mining and processing operations by extensively regulating the air emissions of coal-fired electric power generating plants and other end users of coal. There have been a series of recent rulemakings that are focused on emissions from coal-fired electric generating facilities, which will make it more costly to build and operate coal-fired power plants and, depending on the requirements of state implementation plans, are likely to make coal a less attractive fuel alternative in the planning and building of power plants in the future. The air emissions programs that may affect our lessees' operations directly or indirectly include, but are not limited to: the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule ("CSAPR"), which requires certain Midwestern and Eastern states to reduce power plant emissions that cross state lines and contribute to ozone and/or fine particle pollution in other states; the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards ("MATS") Rule, which requires coal and oil-fired power plants to reduce air toxics emissions; NAAQS, which impose air quality standards for carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and lead; and the Acid Rain Program, which regulates emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from electric generating facilities. Any reduction in coal's share of power generating capacity could negatively impact our lessees' ability to sell coal, which could have a material effect on our coal royalty revenues.

**Hydraulic Fracturing.** Certain of our customers' natural gas is developed from formations requiring hydraulic fracturing as part of the completion process. Fracturing is a process where water, sand and chemicals are injected under pressure into subsurface formations to stimulate production. While the underground injection of fluids is regulated by the EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA"), fracturing is excluded from regulation unless the injection fluid is diesel fuel. Furthermore, hydraulic fracturing is primarily regulated by state environmental or similar agencies. Congress has recently considered legislation that would repeal the exclusion under the SDWA, allowing the EPA to more generally regulate fracturing, although the EPA is using its current regulatory authority to do so. For example, the EPA announced its intention to propose regulations under the Clean Water Act to regulate wastewater discharged from hydraulic fracturing and other natural gas production; published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that seeks public comment on plans to initiate a rulemaking under the Toxic Substances Control Act to obtain data regarding the composition of hydraulic fracturing fluids; and implemented regulations that require new or reworked hydraulically fractured wells to use reduced emission (or "green") completions to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds. The U.S. Department of the Interior has also published a proposed rule that would update existing regulation of hydraulic fracturing activities on federal lands, including requirements for chemical disclosure, well bore integrity and handling of flowback water. Compliance with these rules could result in additional costs, including increased capital expenditures and operating costs for our customers. This could reduce production of natural gas and, in turn, adversely affect our revenues and results of operations by decreasing the volumes of natural gas and NGLs that we gather, process and transport.

**Climate Change.** In December 2009, the EPA published its findings that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases present an endangerment to public health and the environment because emissions of such gases are contributing to the warming of the Earth's atmosphere and other climatic changes. These findings allow the EPA to adopt and implement regulations that would restrict emissions of greenhouse gases under existing provisions of the CAA. Accordingly, the EPA adopted regulations limiting emissions of greenhouse gases from motor vehicles, which then triggered CAA construction and operating permit requirements under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration ("PSD") and Title V permitting programs for certain large stationary sources of greenhouse gases. Facilities that are required to obtain permits for their greenhouse gas emissions will be required to reduce those emissions according to "best available control technology" standards for greenhouse gases, which are currently being developed on a case-by-case basis. The EPA has also proposed New Source Performance Standards ("NSPS") for carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants, and is in the process of finalizing a proposal for new power

plants.

In addition, on October 30, 2009, the EPA published a final rule requiring the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from specified large greenhouse gas sources in the United States on an annual basis, beginning in 2011 for emissions occurring after January 1, 2010. On November 30, 2010, the EPA revised its greenhouse gas reporting rule to include onshore oil and natural gas production, processing, transmission, storage and distribution facilities. Under the new rules, reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from such facilities, including many of our facilities, is required on an annual basis. In December 2014, the EPA proposed additional amendments to its greenhouse gas reporting rule, which would add reporting requirements for additional facilities, including gathering and boosting systems.

Various pieces of legislation to reduce emissions of, or to create cap and trade programs for, greenhouse gases have been proposed by the U.S. Congress over the past several years, but no proposal has yet passed. More than one-third of the states have already taken legal measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, primarily through the planned development of greenhouse gas emission inventories and/or regional greenhouse gas cap and trade programs. The United States is actively participating in international discussions that are currently underway to develop a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol after its expiration. Any new international, federal or state laws or regulations that reduce emissions of greenhouse gases or impose other requirements on

## Table of Contents

our operations, the operations of our lessees, and/or the operations of our customers, could have a material adverse impact on our financial results.

One consequence of climate change could be increased severity of extreme weather, such as increased hurricanes and floods. If such effects were to occur, our operations and the operations of our lessees could be adversely affected in various ways, including damage to facilities or increased costs for insurance. Another possible consequence of climate change is increased volatility in seasonal temperatures. The market for our NGLs and natural gas is generally improved by periods of colder weather and impaired by periods of warmer weather, so any changes in climate could affect the market for the fuels that we produce. Despite the use of the term “global warming” as a shorthand for climate change, some studies indicate that climate change could cause some areas to experience temperatures substantially colder than their historical averages. As a result, it is difficult to predict how the market for our fuels could be affected by increased temperature volatility, although if there is an overall trend of warmer temperatures, it would be expected to have an adverse effect on our business.

**Clean Water Act.** The Clean Water Act (“CWA”) and comparable state laws restrict the discharge of pollutants and other materials into regulated waters. Pursuant to these laws, federal and/or state permits must be obtained to discharge pollutants and other materials into regulated waters, including wetlands. Permits may also be required for the discharge of stormwater runoff. Continued compliance with such existing permit conditions are not expected to have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. However, in March 2014, the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a proposed rule to update the definition of waters subject to the CWA. An expansion of this definition to include previously unregulated waters could have a material adverse impact on our operations if it requires us to obtain additional permits or otherwise limits construction activities.

Our coal lessees’ operations are also regulated under the CWA with respect to discharges of pollutants and other materials into regulated waters. The EPA issues permits for the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters while the Army Corps of Engineers issues dredge and fill permits. The CWA authorizes the EPA to review and veto permits issued by the Army Corps. The EPA has exercised its veto power to retroactively rescind a permit issued by the Army Corps of Engineers, which has been upheld by the courts. Any future use of this authority could create uncertainty with regard to our lessees’ continued use of their current permits, as well as impose additional time and cost burdens on future operations, potentially adversely affecting our coal royalty revenues.

**Safe Drinking Water Act.** The SDWA and its state equivalents affect coal mining operations by imposing requirements on the underground injection of fine coal slurries, fly ash and flue gas scrubber sludge, and by requiring permits to conduct such underground injection activities. In addition to establishing the underground injection control program, the SDWA also imposes regulatory requirements on owners and operators of “public water systems.” This regulatory program could impact our lessees’ reclamation operations where subsidence or other mining-related problems require the provision of drinking water to affected adjacent homeowners.

**Endangered Species Act.** The Endangered Species Act restricts activities that may affect endangered or threatened species or their habitat. We and our lessees may operate in areas that are currently designated as a habitat for endangered or threatened species, the discovery of previously unidentified endangered species, or the designation of additional species as endangered or threatened, which could cause us to incur additional costs, to develop habitat conservation plans, to become subject to expansion or operating restrictions, or bans in the affected areas.

In March 2014, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service listed the lesser prairie chicken as a “threatened” species under the federal Endangered Species Act. This species is predominantly located in the Permian and Midcontinent regions; therefore, we may encounter additional costs and delays in infrastructure development. We are participating, along with other companies in our industry, in a conservation plan for this species, which will allow us to participate in managing conservation efforts.



Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (“SMCRA”) and similar state laws establish minimum operational, reclamation and closure standards for surface mining and deep mining. SMCRA requires that comprehensive environmental protection and reclamation standards be met during the course of and following the completion of mining activities. These requirements typically are implemented through mining permits issued at the state level. SMCRA also imposes on mine operators the responsibility of restoring the land to its original state and compensating the landowner for types of damages occurring as a result of mining operations, and requires mine operators to post performance bonds to ensure compliance with any reclamation obligations. Moreover, regulatory authorities may attempt to assign the liabilities of our coal lessees to another entity, such as us, if any of our lessees are not financially capable of fulfilling those obligations on the theory that we “owned” or “controlled” the mine operator. To our knowledge, no such claims have been asserted against us to date. In conjunction with mining the property, our coal lessees are contractually obligated under the terms of their leases to comply with all federal, state and local laws, including SMCRA, with obligations including the reclamation and restoration of the mined areas by grading, shaping and reseeded the soil. Additionally, the Abandoned Mine Lands Program, which is part of SMCRA, imposes a tax on all

## Table of Contents

current mining operations, the proceeds of which are used to restore mines closed before 1977. The current tax is 28 cents per ton on surface-mined coal and 12 cents per ton on underground-mined coal. States from time to time have increased and may continue to increase their fees and taxes to fund reclamation of orphaned mine sites and abandoned mine drainage control on a statewide basis.

Federal and state laws require bonds to secure our lessees' obligations to reclaim lands used for mining and to satisfy other miscellaneous obligations. These bonds are typically renewable on a yearly basis. It has become increasingly difficult for mining companies to secure new surety bonds without the posting of partial collateral. In addition, surety bond costs have increased while the market terms of surety bonds have generally become less favorable. It is possible that surety-bond issuers may refuse to renew bonds or may demand additional collateral upon those renewals. Any failure to maintain, or inability to acquire, surety bonds that are required by state and federal laws would have a material adverse effect on our lessees' ability to produce coal, which could affect our coal royalties revenues.

Under some circumstances, substantial fines and penalties, including revocation of mining permits and criminal sanctions, may be imposed under the laws described above. Regulations also provide that a mining permit can be refused or revoked if the permit applicant or permittee owns or controls, directly or indirectly through other entities, mining operations which have outstanding environmental violations. Although our lessees from time-to-time have been cited for violations in the ordinary course of business, to our knowledge, none of them have had one of their permits suspended or revoked because of any violation, and the penalties assessed for these violations have not been material.

To dispose of mining overburden generated from surface mining activities, our lessees often need to obtain government approvals, including CWA Section 404 permits to construct valley fills, stream impoundments, and sediment control ponds. Recently, these Section 404 permits and the Section 404 permitting standard have been the target of increased scrutiny by environmental groups, legislators, the White House, and the EPA which has made it more difficult for miners to obtain, and in some cases maintain, Section 404 permits. In one case, the EPA retroactively rescinded a permit that had been issued. The U.S. Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation ("OSMRE") is in the process of evaluating its options to address the impacts of mining on streams, with a view towards releasing a proposed rule. If the OSMRE promulgates a more restrictive rule, any such additional requirements could impact coal mining operations, particularly in Appalachia, including, for example, by reducing locations where coal mining operations can be conducted or by further restricting common spoil disposal practices. Regulations which dramatically increase the costs of compliance or prohibit our lessees from obtaining new permits could reduce coal production and cash flows, and could ultimately have an adverse effect on our royalty revenues.

**Employee Health and Safety.** Our operations and the operations of our lessees are subject to the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act ("OSHA") and comparable state laws that regulate the protection of the health and safety of workers. OSHA also requires that information be maintained about hazardous materials used or produced in operations and that this information be provided to employees, state and local government authorities and citizens. Furthermore, in 2013, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration published a request for information, seeking public comment on potential changes to its Process Safety Management ("PSM") Standard and related enforcement policies. The PSM Standard imposes requirements on certain employers in connection with the management of hazards associated with the use of hazardous chemicals.

**Mine Health and Safety Laws.** The operations of our coal lessees are also subject to stringent health and safety standards that have been imposed by federal legislation since the adoption of the Mine Health and Safety Act, which imposes comprehensive health and safety standards on all mining operations. In addition to federal regulatory programs. The states in which we operate also have programs for mine safety and health regulation and enforcement. As part of the Mine Health and Safety Act, the Black Lung Acts require payments of benefits by all businesses conducting current mining operations to coal miners with black lung or pneumoconiosis and to some beneficiaries of

miners who have died from this disease.

In addition, in 2006, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act (“Miner Act”) was enacted which imposed obligations related to improvements in mine safety practices, increased civil and criminal penalties for non-compliance, created additional mine rescue teams and expanded the scope of federal oversight, inspection and enforcement activities. Pursuant to the Miner Act, the Mine Safety Health Administration (“MSHA”) has promulgated new emergency rules on mine safety and revised its civil penalty assessment regulations, which resulted in an across-the-board increase in penalties from the existing regulations. Since passage of the Miner Act, enforcement scrutiny has also increased, including more inspection hours at mine sites, increased numbers of inspections and increased issuance of the number and the severity of enforcement actions and related penalties. Various states also have enacted their own new laws and regulations addressing many of these same subjects. The Dodd Frank Bill that was enacted by Congress in 2010 now requires mining companies, including coal companies, to include various safety statistics regarding citations, penalties, notices of violation and pending legal actions in periodic reports that are required by the securities laws. These disclosures may lead to the enactment of yet further legislation regarding mine safety.

## Table of Contents

Mining accidents in the last several years in West Virginia, Utah, and Kentucky have received national attention and instigated responses at the state and national level that are likely to result in increased scrutiny of current safety practices and procedures at all mining operations, particularly underground mining operations. More stringent mine safety laws and regulations promulgated by these states and the federal government have included increased sanctions for non-compliance. Other states have proposed or passed similar bills, resolutions or regulations addressing mine safety practices.

### EMPLOYEES

As of December 31, 2014, our General Partner employed 1,879 employees, of whom 1,406 were field operating employees and 473 were mid-and senior-level management and staff. None of these employees are represented by a labor union and there are no outstanding collective bargaining agreements to which our General Partner is a party. Our General Partner believes that it has good relations with its employees.

### AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We file or furnish annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and any related amendments and supplements thereto with the SEC. From time to time, we may also file registration and related statements pertaining to equity or debt offerings. You may read and copy any materials we file or furnish with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information regarding the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-732-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC.

We make our SEC filings available to the public, free of charge and as soon as practicable after they are filed with the SEC, through our Internet website located at <http://www.regencygasservices.com>. Our annual reports are filed on Form 10-K, our quarterly reports are filed on Form 10-Q and current-event reports are filed on Form 8-K; we also file amendments to reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. References to our website addressed in this report are provided as a convenience and do not constitute, and should not be viewed as, an incorporation by reference of the information contained on, or available through, our website. Therefore, such information should not be considered part of this report.

### Item 1A. Risk Factors

In addition to risks and uncertainties in the ordinary course of business that are common to all businesses, important factors that are specific to our business, our structure as a limited partnership and our tax treatment could materially impact our future performance and results of operations. We have provided below a list of these risk factors that should be reviewed when considering an investment in our securities. These are not all of the risks we face as there are other factors currently considered immaterial or unknown to us that may impact our future operations.

### RISKS INHERENT IN AN INVESTMENT IN US

We may not have sufficient cash from operations to enable us to pay our current quarterly distribution following the establishment of cash reserves and payment of fees and expenses, including reimbursement of fees and expenses of our General Partner.

We may not have sufficient available cash from operating surplus each quarter to pay our Minimum Quarterly Distribution (MQD) in the amount of \$0.35 per common unit. The amount of cash we can distribute to our unitholders depends principally on the amount of cash we generate from our operations, which will fluctuate from quarter to quarter based on, among other things:

- prevailing economic conditions;
  - the fees we charge and the margins we realize for our services and sales;
  - the prices of, level of, production of, and demand for natural gas, NGLs and oil (crude, and/or condensate, a lighter oil);
  - the volumes of natural gas, NGLs and oil (crude, and/or condensate, a lighter oil) we gather, process and transport; and
  - the amounts of our operating costs, including reimbursement of fees and expenses of our General Partner.
- In addition, the actual amount of cash we will have available for distribution will depend on other factors, some of which are beyond our control, including:

- our debt service requirements;
- our obligation to pay distributions on our Series A Preferred Units;
- fluctuation in our working capital needs;
- our ability to borrow funds and access capital markets;
- restrictions contained in our debt agreements;
- the cost of acquisitions, if any;
- the amounts of cash reserves established by our General Partner; and

## Table of Contents

our ability to maintain commodity hedge prices from year to year.

You should be aware that the amount of cash we have available for distribution depends primarily upon our cash flow, not net income (loss) calculated in accordance with GAAP. As a result, we may make cash distributions during periods when we record losses for financial accounting purposes and may not be able to make cash distributions during periods when we record net income for financial accounting purposes.

Our cash flow is affected by supply and demand for natural gas, NGL products, oil (crude, and/or condensate, a lighter oil) and by natural gas and NGL prices. Natural gas, NGLs, crude oil, and other commodity prices are volatile, and an unfavorable change in these prices could adversely affect our cash flow and operating results.

We are subject to risks due to frequent and often substantial fluctuations in commodity prices. NGL prices generally fluctuate on a basis that correlates to fluctuations in crude oil prices as well as global demand of petrochemical products. In the past, the prices of natural gas, NGLs and crude oil have been extremely volatile, and this volatility could continue. Volatility in crude oil, natural gas and NGL prices can impact our customers' activity levels and spending for our products and services, as well as our margins under our keep-whole and percentage-of-proceeds natural gas gathering and processing contracts. The markets and prices for natural gas and NGLs depend upon factors beyond our control. These factors include demand for crude oil, natural gas and NGLs, which fluctuates with changes in market and economic conditions and other factors, including:

- the impact of weather on the demand for crude oil, natural gas and NGLs;
- the level of domestic crude oil and natural gas production;
- the availability of imported crude oil, natural gas and NGLs;
- actions taken by foreign crude oil and gas producing nations;
- the availability of local transportation systems;
- the price, availability and marketing of competitive fuels;
- the demand for electricity;
- the impact of energy conservation efforts; and
- the extent of governmental regulation and taxation.

Our natural gas gathering and processing businesses operate under two types of contractual arrangements that expose our cash flows to increases and decreases in the price of natural gas and NGLs: percentage-of-proceeds and keep-whole arrangements. Under percentage-of-proceeds arrangements, we generally purchase natural gas from producers and retain from the sale an agreed percentage of pipeline-quality gas and NGLs resulting from our processing activities (in cash or in-kind) at market prices. Under keep-whole arrangements, we receive the NGLs removed from the natural gas during our processing operations as the fee for providing our services in exchange for replacing the thermal content removed as NGLs with a like thermal content in pipeline-quality gas or its cash equivalent. Under these types of arrangements our revenues and our cash flows increase or decrease as the prices of natural gas and NGLs fluctuate. The relationship between natural gas prices and NGL prices may also affect our profitability. When natural gas prices are low relative to NGLs prices, it is more profitable for us to process natural gas under keep-whole arrangements. When natural gas prices are high relative to NGLs prices, it is less profitable for us and our customers to process natural gas both because of the higher value of natural gas and of the increased cost (principally that of natural gas as a feedstock and a fuel) of separating the mixed NGLs from the natural gas. As a result, we may experience periods in which higher natural gas prices relative to NGL prices reduce the volume of natural gas processed at some of our plants.

Our leverage may limit our ability to borrow additional funds, make distributions, comply with the terms of our indebtedness or capitalize on business opportunities.

Our leverage is significant in relation to our partners' capital. Our debt to capital ratio, calculated as total debt divided by the sum of total debt and partners' capital, as of December 31, 2014 was 41%. We will be prohibited from making cash distributions during an event of default under any of our indebtedness, and, in the case of the indentures governing our senior notes, the failure to maintain a prescribed ratio of consolidated cash flows (as defined in such indentures) to interest expense. Various limitations in our credit facility, as well as the indentures governing our senior notes, may reduce our ability to incur additional debt, to engage in some transactions and to capitalize on certain business opportunities. Any refinancing of our current indebtedness or any new indebtedness could have similar or

greater restrictions.

Our leverage may adversely affect our ability to fund future working capital, capital expenditures and other general partnership requirements, future acquisition, construction or development activities, or otherwise realize fully the value of our assets and opportunities because of the need to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to payments on our indebtedness or to comply with any restrictive terms of our indebtedness. Our leverage may also make our results of operations more susceptible to adverse economic and industry conditions by limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry in which we operate and may place us at a competitive disadvantage as compared to our competitors that have less debt.

## Table of Contents

Increases in interest rates could adversely impact our common unit price and our ability to issue additional equity in order to finance acquisitions, to reduce debt or for other purposes.

The interest rates on our senior notes are fixed and the loans outstanding under our credit facility bear interest at a floating rate. Interest rates on future credit facilities and senior notes could be significantly higher than current levels, causing our financing costs to increase accordingly. As with other yield-oriented securities, the market price for our common units will be affected by the level of our cash distributions and implied distribution yield. The distribution yield is often used by investors to compare and rank yield-oriented securities for investment decision-making purposes. Therefore, changes in interest rates, either positive or negative, may affect the yield requirements of investors who invest in our common units, and a rising interest rate environment could have an adverse effect on our unit price and our ability to issue additional equity in order to make acquisitions, to reduce debt or for other purposes. Because we distribute all of our available cash to our unitholders, our future growth may be limited.

Since we will distribute all of our available cash to our unitholders, subject to the limitations on restricted payments contained in the indentures governing our senior notes and our credit facility, we will depend on financing provided by commercial banks and other lenders and the issuance of debt and equity securities to finance any significant internal organic growth or acquisitions. If we are unable to obtain adequate financing from these sources, our ability to grow will be limited.

To the extent that we intend to grow internally through construction of new, or modification of existing, facilities, we may not be able to manage that growth effectively, which could decrease our cash flow and adversely affect our results of operations.

A principal focus of our strategy is to continue to grow by expanding our business both internally and through acquisitions. Our ability to grow internally will depend on a number of factors, some of which will be beyond our control. We may not be able to finance planned construction or modifications on satisfactory terms. In general, the construction of additions or modifications to our existing systems and the construction of new midstream assets involve numerous regulatory, environmental, political and legal uncertainties beyond our control. Any project that we undertake may not be completed on schedule, at budgeted cost or at all. Construction may occur over an extended period, and we are not likely to receive a material increase in revenues related to such project until it is completed. Moreover, our revenues may not increase immediately upon the completion of construction because the anticipated growth in production that the project was intended to capture may not materialize, our estimate of the growth in production proves inaccurate or for other reasons. For any of these reasons, newly constructed or modified midstream facilities may not generate our expected investment return and that, in turn, could adversely affect our cash flows and results of operations. In addition, our ability to undertake growth projects in this fashion will depend on our ability to hire, train and retain qualified personnel to manage and operate these facilities when completed.

We may have difficulty financing our planned capital expenditures, including making additional capital contributions to our joint ventures, which could adversely affect our results and growth.

We expect that we will distribute all of our available cash to our unitholders and will rely primarily upon external financing sources, including borrowings under our credit facility and the issuance of debt and equity securities, to fund our acquisitions and expansion capital expenditures. If we are not able to obtain adequate financing from the capital markets, our ability to grow and our results of operations could be adversely impacted. To access amounts under our credit facility for joint venture capital expenditures or additional investments, we may need to amend to our credit facility, and we cannot assure you that we can obtain any such amendment.

We may not have the ability to raise funds necessary to finance any change of control offer required under our senior notes and our Series A Preferred Units or to repay our credit facility upon a change of control.

If a change of control (as defined in the indentures governing our senior notes) occurs, we will be required to offer to purchase our outstanding senior notes at 101% of their principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest. If a purchase offer obligation arises under these indentures, a change of control could also have occurred under our credit facility, which could result in the acceleration of the indebtedness outstanding thereunder. Further, if a change of control (as defined in our partnership agreement) occurs, we will be required, under certain circumstances, to offer to purchase the Series A Preferred Units at 101% of their liquidation value (as defined in our partnership agreement) Any of our future debt agreements may contain similar restrictions and provisions. If a change in control were to occur, we



may not have sufficient funds to pay the purchase price of all debt or the Series A Preferred Units that we are required to purchase or repay.

## Table of Contents

Our ability to manage and grow our business effectively may be adversely affected if our General Partner is unable to hire or retain key management or operational personnel.

We depend on the continuing efforts of our executive officers. The departure of any of our executive officers could have a significant negative effect on our business, operating results, financial condition, and on our ability to compete effectively in the marketplace. Additionally, employees of our General Partner and its affiliates operate some of our business activities. Our General Partner's ability to hire, train, and retain qualified personnel will continue to be important and will become more challenging as we grow and if energy industry market conditions remain positive. When general industry conditions are good, the competition for experienced operational and field technicians increases as other energy and manufacturing companies' needs for the same personnel increases. Our ability to grow and perhaps even to continue our current level of service to our current customers will be adversely impacted if our General Partner or its affiliates that provide these personnel are unable to successfully hire, train and retain these important personnel.

A downgrade of our credit rating could impact our liquidity, access to capital and our costs of doing business, and maintaining credit ratings is under the control of independent third parties.

Credit rating agencies perform independent analysis when assigning credit ratings. The analysis includes a number of criteria including, but not limited to, business composition, market and operational risks, as well as various financial tests. Credit rating agencies continue to review the criteria for industry sectors and various debt ratings and may make changes to those criteria from time to time. Credit ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold investments in the rated entity. Ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the rating agencies, and we cannot assure you that we will maintain our current credit ratings. A downgrade of our credit rating might increase our cost of borrowing and could require us to post collateral with third parties, negatively impacting our available liquidity. Our ability to access capital markets could also be limited by a downgrade of our credit rating.

ETE and ETP may sell common units in the public or private markets, and the sale could have an adverse impact on the price of our common units.

As of February 19, 2015, ETE directly owns 26,266,791 of our common units and its subsidiary, ETE Common Holdings, LLC, owns 30,890,565 of our common units, ETP indirectly owns 31,372,419 of our common units and 6,274,483 of our Class F units, which will convert into common units on a one-for-one basis in May 2015. All such common units have correlating demand registration rights pursuant to which we are obligated to register the common units for resale under the Securities Act. The resale of these common units in the public or private markets could have an adverse impact on the price of our common units or on the trading market for them.

An impairment of goodwill and intangible assets could reduce our earnings.

At December 31, 2014, our consolidated balance sheet reflected \$1.2 billion of goodwill and \$3.4 billion of intangible assets. Goodwill is recorded when the purchase price of a business exceeds the fair market value of the tangible and separately measurable intangible net assets. GAAP requires us to test goodwill for impairment on an annual basis or when events or circumstances occur that indicate goodwill might be impaired. Long-lived assets such as intangible assets with finite useful lives are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. If we determine that any of our goodwill or intangible assets are impaired, we would be required to take an immediate charge to earnings with a correlative effect on partners' capital and balance sheet leverage as measured by debt to total capitalization. During 2014, we recorded a \$370 million goodwill impairment charge related to our Permian reporting unit within the Gathering and Processing segment.

### **RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS**

Our success depends on our ability to obtain new supplies of natural gas, NGLs, and crude oil. Any decrease in supplies or the price of natural gas, NGLs, or crude oil in our areas of operation could adversely affect our business and operating results.

Our gathering and processing and transportation pipeline systems are dependent on the level of production from natural gas wells that supply our systems and such production will naturally decline over time. As a result, our cash flows associated with these wells will also decline over time. In order to maintain or increase throughput volume levels on our gathering and transportation pipeline systems and the asset utilization rates at our natural gas processing plants, we must continually obtain new supplies. The primary factors affecting our ability to obtain new supplies of

natural gas and attract new customers to our assets are: the level of successful drilling activity near our systems and our ability to compete with other gathering and processing companies for volumes from successful new wells.

Table of Contents

The level of natural gas drilling activity is dependent on economic and business factors beyond our control. The primary factor that impacts drilling decisions is natural gas prices. A sustained decline in natural gas prices, as has occurred in recent years, could result in a decrease in exploration and development activities in the fields served by our gathering and processing facilities and pipeline transportation systems, which would lead to reduced utilization of these assets. Some producers have indicated that they will focus their exploration and production efforts on geographic areas with oil and NGL-rich natural gas products. Other factors that impact production decisions include producers' capital budget limitations, the ability of producers to obtain necessary drilling and other governmental permits and regulatory changes.

Because of these factors, even if additional natural gas reserves were discovered in areas served by our assets, producers may choose not to develop those reserves. If we were not able to obtain new supplies of natural gas to replace the natural decline in volumes from existing wells due to reductions in drilling activity or competition, throughput volumes on our pipelines and the utilization rates of our processing facilities would decline, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our natural gas contract compression operations significantly depend upon the continued demand for and production of natural gas and crude oil. Demand may be affected by, among other factors, natural gas prices, crude oil prices, weather, demand for energy, and availability of alternative energy sources. Any prolonged, substantial reduction in the demand for natural gas or crude oil would, in all likelihood, depress the level of production activity and result in a decline in the demand for our contract compression services and products. Lower natural gas prices or crude oil prices over the long-term could result in a decline in the production of natural gas or crude oil, respectively, resulting in reduced demand for our natural gas contract compression services. Additionally, production from natural gas sources such as longer-lived tight sands, shales and beds constitute an increasing percentage of our compression services business. Such sources are generally less economically feasible to produce in lower natural gas price environments, and a reduction in demand for natural gas may cause such sources of natural gas to be uneconomic to drill and produce, which could in turn negatively impact the demand for our compression services.

The profitability of certain activities in our NGLs and refined products storage business, our NGLs transportation business and our off-gas processing and fractionating business are largely dependent upon market demand for NGLs and refined products, and competition in the market place, both of which are factors that are beyond our control. Our NGLs and refined products storage revenues are primarily derived from fixed capacity arrangements between us and our customers. However, a portion of our revenues are derived from fungible storage and throughput arrangements, under which our revenues are more dependent upon demand for storage from our customers. Demand for these services may fluctuate as a result of changes in commodity prices. Our NGLs and refined products storage assets are primarily located in the Mont Belvieu area, which is a significant storage distribution and trading complex with multiple industry participants, any one of which could compete for the business of our existing and potential customers. Any loss of business from existing customers or our inability to attract new customers could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Revenues from our NGLs transportation systems are exposed to risks due to fluctuations in demand for transportation as a result of unfavorable commodity prices and competition from nearby pipelines. We receive substantially all of our transportation revenues through dedicated contracts under which the customer agrees to deliver the total output from particular processing plants that are connected only to our transportation system. We may not be able to renew these contracts or execute new customer contracts on favorable terms if NGLs prices decline and demand for our transportation services decreases. Any loss of existing customers due to decreased demand for our services or competition from other transportation service providers could have a negative impact on our revenues and have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Revenues from our off-gas processing and fractionating system in south Louisiana are exposed to risks due to the low concentration of suppliers near our facilities and the possibility that connected refineries may not provide us with sufficient off-gas for processing at our facilities. The connected refineries may also experience outages due to maintenance issues and severe weather, such as hurricanes. We receive revenues primarily through a percent-of-proceeds arrangements, as well as from transportation and fractionation fees. Consequently, a large portion of our off-gas processing and fractionation revenues are exposed to risks due to fluctuations in commodity prices. In

addition, a decline in NGL prices could cause a decrease in demand for our off-gas processing and fractionation services and could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Many of our customers' drilling activity levels and spending for transportation on our gathering and pipeline systems may be impacted by commodity prices and the credit markets.

Many of our customers finance their drilling activities through cash flow from operations, the incurrence of debt or the issuance of equity. Any combination of a reduction of cash flow resulting from declines in natural gas prices, a reduction in borrowing bases under reserve-based credit facilities and the lack of availability of debt or equity financing may result in a significant reduction in our customers' spending for natural gas or crude oil drilling activity, which could result in lower volumes being transported on our gathering and pipeline systems. A significant reduction in drilling activity could have a material adverse effect on our operations.

## Table of Contents

We depend on certain key producers and other customers for a significant portion of our supply of natural gas, contract compression and contract treating revenues. The loss of, or reduction in, any of these key producers or customers could adversely affect our business and operating results.

We rely on a limited number of producers and other customers for a significant portion of our natural gas supplies and our contracts for compression services. These contracts have terms that range from month-to-month to life of lease. As these contracts expire, we will have to negotiate extensions or renewals or replace the contracts with those of other suppliers. We may be unable to obtain new or renewed contracts on favorable terms, if at all. The loss of all or even a portion of the volumes of natural gas supplied by these producers and other customers, as a result of competition or otherwise, could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Any reduction in the capacity of, or the allocations to, our shippers in interconnecting, third-party pipelines could cause a reduction of volumes transported in our pipelines, which would adversely affect our revenues and cash flow.

Users of our pipelines are dependent upon connections to and from third-party pipelines to receive and deliver natural gas, NGLs, and oil (crude and/or condensate, a lighter crude). Any reduction in the capacities of these interconnecting pipelines due to testing, line repair, reduced operating pressures, or other causes could result in reduced volumes being transported in our pipelines. Similarly, if additional shippers begin transporting volumes of natural gas, NGLs, and oil (crude and/or condensate, a lighter crude) over interconnecting pipelines, the allocations to existing shippers in these pipelines could be reduced, which could also reduce volumes transported in our pipelines. Any reduction in volumes transported in our pipelines would adversely affect our revenues and cash flow.

The contract compression business within our Contract Services segment depends on particular suppliers and is vulnerable to parts and equipment shortages and price increases, which could have a negative impact on our results of operations.

The principal manufacturers of components for our natural gas compression equipment include Caterpillar, Inc. for engines, Air-X-Changers for coolers, and Ariel Corporation for compressors and frames. Our reliance on these suppliers involves several risks, including price increases and a potential inability to obtain an adequate supply of required components in a timely manner. We also rely primarily on one vendor, SEC Energy Products & Services, L.P., a subsidiary of ETP, to package and assemble our compression units. We do not have long-term contracts with these suppliers or packagers, and a partial or complete loss of certain of these sources could have a negative impact on our results of operations and could damage our customer relationships. In addition, since we expect any increase in component prices for compression equipment or packaging costs will be passed on to us, a significant increase in their pricing could have a negative impact on our results of operations.

The contract treating business within our Contract Services segment depends on particular suppliers and is vulnerable to parts and equipment shortages and price increases, which could have a negative impact on our results of operations. Our contract treating business' ability to manufacture new equipment used to provide treating services, and to obtain replacement components, depends on particular suppliers and is sensitive to equipment shortages and price increases. Spitzer Industries, the principal manufacturer and packager of amine plants, determines the cost of our contract treating equipment based primarily on the price and availability of commodities (i.e. steel), components and labor. If a significant increase in the cost of manufacturing were to occur, we could see a reduced rate of return on our capital investments relating to our contract treating business absent offsetting increases in revenue rates.

In accordance with industry practice, we do not obtain independent evaluations of natural gas reserves dedicated to our gathering systems. Accordingly, volumes of natural gas gathered on our gathering systems in the future could be less than we anticipate, which could adversely affect our business and operating results.

We do not obtain independent evaluations of natural gas reserves connected to our gathering systems due to the unwillingness of producers to provide reserve information as well as the cost of such evaluations.

Accordingly, we do not have estimates of total reserves dedicated to our systems or the anticipated lives of such reserves. If the total reserves or estimated lives of the reserves connected to our gathering systems are less than we anticipate and we are unable to secure additional sources of natural gas, then the volumes of natural gas gathered on our gathering systems in the future could be less than we anticipate. A decline in the volumes of natural gas gathered on our gathering systems could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.



## Table of Contents

In our gathering and processing business, we purchase raw natural gas containing significant quantities of NGLs, process the raw natural gas and sell the processed gas and NGLs. If we are unsuccessful in balancing the purchase of raw natural gas with its component NGLs and our sales of pipeline quality gas and NGLs, our exposure to commodity price risks will increase.

We purchase from producers and other customers a substantial amount of the natural gas that flows through our natural gas gathering and processing systems and our RIGS transportation pipeline for resale to third parties, including natural gas marketers and utilities. We may not be successful in balancing our purchases and sales. In addition, a producer could fail to deliver promised volumes or could deliver volumes in excess of contracted volumes, a purchaser could purchase less than contracted volumes, or the natural gas price differential between the regions in which we operate could vary unexpectedly. Any of these actions could cause our purchases and sales to not be balanced. If our purchases and sales are not balanced, we will face increased exposure to commodity price risks and could have increased volatility in our operating results.

We may be unable to integrate successfully the operations of future acquisitions with our operations, and we may not realize all the anticipated benefits of our past and any future acquisitions.

Integration of acquisitions with our business and operations is a complex, time consuming, and costly process. Failure to integrate acquisitions successfully with our business and operations in a timely manner may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations. We cannot assure you that we will achieve the desired profitability from past or future acquisitions. In addition, failure to assimilate future acquisitions successfully could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. Our acquisitions involve numerous risks, including:

- operating a significantly larger combined organization and adding operations;
- difficulties in the assimilation of the assets and operations of the acquired business, especially if the assets acquired are in a new business segment or geographic area;
- the risk that natural gas reserves expected to support the acquired assets may not be of the anticipated magnitude or may not be developed as anticipated;
- the loss of significant producers or markets or key employees from the acquired business;
- the availability of local, intrastate and interstate transportation system;
- the diversion of management's attention from other business concerns;
- the failure to realize expected profitability, growth or synergies and cost savings;
- properly assessing and managing environmental compliance;
- coordinating geographically disparate organizations, systems, and facilities; and
- coordinating or consolidating corporate and administrative functions.

Further, unexpected costs and challenges may arise whenever businesses with different operations or management are combined, and we may experience unanticipated delays in realizing the benefits of an acquisition. If we consummate any future acquisition, our capitalization and results of operation may change significantly, and you may not have the opportunity to evaluate the economic, financial and other relevant information that we will consider in evaluating future acquisitions.

If we do not make acquisitions on economically acceptable terms, our future growth could be limited.

Our results of operations and our ability to grow and to increase distributions to unitholders will depend in part on our ability to make acquisitions that are accretive to our distributable cash flow per unit.

We may be unable to make accretive acquisitions for any of the following reasons, among others:

- because we are unable to identify attractive acquisition candidates or negotiate acceptable purchase contracts with them;
- because we are unable to raise financing for such acquisitions on economically acceptable terms; or
- because we are outbid by competitors, some of which are substantially larger than us and have greater financial resources and lower costs of capital than we do.



If we consummate future acquisitions, our capitalization and results of operations may change significantly. As we determine the application of our funds and other resources, unitholders will not have an opportunity to evaluate the economics, financial and other relevant information that we will consider.

Our industry is highly competitive, and increased competitive pressure could adversely affect our business and operating results.

We compete with similar enterprises in each of our areas of operations. Some of our competitors are large oil, natural gas, gathering and processing and natural gas and NGL pipeline companies that have greater financial resources and access to supplies of natural gas, NGLs, and oil (crude and/or condensate, a lighter crude) than we do. In addition, our customers who are significant producers or consumers of NGLs may develop their own processing facilities in lieu of using ours. Similarly, competitors may establish new connections with pipeline systems that would create additional competition for services that we provide to our customers. Our

Table of Contents

ability to renew or replace existing contracts with our customers at rates sufficient to maintain current revenues and cash flows could be adversely affected by the activities of our competitors.

The natural gas contract compression business is highly competitive, and there are low barriers to entry for individual projects. In addition, some of our competitors are large national and multinational companies that have greater financial and other resources than we do. Our ability to renew or replace existing contracts with our customers at rates sufficient to maintain current revenue and cash flows could be adversely affected by the activities of our competitors and our customers. If our competitors substantially increase the resources they devote to the development and marketing of competitive services or substantially decrease the prices at which they offer their services, we may be unable to compete effectively. Some of these competitors may expand or construct newer or more powerful compressor fleets that would create additional competition for us. In addition, our customers that are significant producers of natural gas and crude oil may purchase and operate their own compressor fleets in lieu of using our natural gas contract compression services.

We may also compete with similar enterprises or others for potential future acquisitions. Some of these competitors may have greater financial resources, may have the ability to achieve greater synergies with potential acquisitions, or may have other strategic or other interests in potential acquisitions. This competition may result in our inability to successfully bid for desirable acquisitions or may result in our having to pay higher purchase prices for acquisitions in which we are the successful bidder. As we and other companies in our industry expand, the availability of attractive acquisitions may decline over time, limiting our ability for future growth through acquisitions.

All of these competitive pressures could have a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations, and financial condition.

Our results of operations and cash flow may be adversely affected by risks associated with our hedging activities. In performing our functions in our gathering and processing segment, we are a seller of natural gas, NGLs, and oil (crude, and/or condensate, a lighter oil) and are exposed to commodity price risk associated with movements in commodity prices. As a result of the volatility of commodity prices and interest rates, we have executed swap contracts or put options settled against natural gas, some NGL products and West Texas Intermediate crude oil market prices. Some of our risks remain unhedged. We continually monitor our hedging and contract portfolio and expect to adjust our hedge position as conditions warrant. For more information about our risk management activities, read "Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk." Even though our management monitors our hedging activities, these activities can result in substantial losses. Such losses could occur under various circumstances, including any circumstance in which a counterparty does not perform its obligations under the applicable hedging arrangement, the hedging arrangement is imperfect, or our hedging policies and procedures are not followed or do not work as planned.

The implementation of derivatives legislation by the United States 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.

On July 21, 2010, new comprehensive financial reform legislation, known as the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), was enacted that establishes federal oversight and regulation of the over-the-counter derivatives market and entities, such as us, that participate in that market. The Dodd-Frank Act requires the Commodities Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC"), the US Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulators to promulgate rules and regulations implementing the new legislation. While many of the regulations are already in effect, the implementation process is still ongoing, and we cannot yet predict the ultimate effect of the regulations on our business.

In its rulemaking under the Dodd-Frank Act, the CFTC is finalizing its final regulations to set position limits for certain futures and option contracts in the major energy markets and for swaps that are their economic equivalents, although certain bona fide hedging transactions would be exempt from these position limits provided that various conditions are satisfied. Once finalized, the position limits rule and its companion rule on aggregation may have an impact on our ability to hedge our exposure to certain enumerated commodities.

The CFTC also has finalized other regulations, including critical rulemakings on the definition of “swap,” “security-based swap,” “swap dealer” and “major swap participant.” To further define the term “swap,” the CFTC has issued several interpretations clarifying whether certain forwards with optionality will remain as forwards or would qualify as options on commodities and therefore swaps. Once finalized, this interpretation may have an impact on our ability to enter into certain forwards.

The Dodd-Frank Act and CFTC rules also will require us, in connection with certain derivatives activities, to comply with clearing and trade-execution requirements (or take steps to qualify for an exemption to such requirements). As the CFTC further designates swap contracts as required to be cleared, the utility of an end-user exception will become even more important. Our ability to rely on the end-user exception may change the profitability trades or the efficiency of our hedging.

## Table of Contents

In addition, new regulations may require us to comply with margin requirements for our over-the-counter derivative contracts with certain regulated entities, which could adversely affect our liquidity and ability to use derivatives to hedge our risks, although these regulations are not finalized and their application to us is uncertain at this time. Other regulations also remain to be finalized, and the CFTC recently has delayed the compliance dates for various regulations already finalized. As a result, it is not possible at this time to predict with certainty the full effects of the Dodd-Frank Act and CFTC rules on us and the timing of such effects.

Under the Dodd-Frank Act, the CFTC is also directed generally to prevent price manipulation and fraud in the following two markets: (a) physical commodities traded in interstate commerce, including physical energy and other commodities, as well as (b) financial instruments, such as futures, options and swaps. Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, the CFTC has adopted additional anti-market manipulation, anti-fraud and disruptive trading practices regulations that prohibit, among other things, fraud and price manipulation in the physical commodities, futures, options and swaps markets. Should we violate these laws and regulations, we could be subject to CFTC enforcement action and material penalties, and sanctions.

The Dodd-Frank Act also may require the counterparties to our derivative instruments to spin off some of their derivatives activities to a separate entity, which may not be as creditworthy as the current counterparty. The Dodd-Frank Act and any new regulations could significantly increase the cost of derivative contracts (including from swap recordkeeping and reporting requirements and through requirements to post collateral which could adversely affect our available liquidity), materially alter the terms of derivative contracts, reduce the availability of some derivatives to protect against risks we encounter, reduce our ability to monetize or restructure our existing derivative contracts, and potentially increase our exposure to less creditworthy counterparties. If we reduce our use of derivatives as a result of the Dodd-Frank Act 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 Dodd-Frank Act 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 Dodd-Frank Act and regulations is to lower commodity prices. Any of these consequences could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash available for distribution to our unitholders.

In addition to the Dodd-Frank Act, the European Union and other foreign regulators have adopted and are implementing local reforms generally comparable with the reforms under the Dodd-Frank Act. Implementation and enforcement of these regulatory provisions may reduce our ability to hedge our market risks with non-U.S. counterparties and may make our transactions involving cross-border swaps more expensive and burdensome. Additionally, the lack of regulatory equivalency across jurisdictions may increase compliance costs and make it more difficult to satisfy our regulatory obligations.

We are exposed to the credit risks of our key customers, and any material nonpayment or nonperformance by our key customers could adversely affect our cash flow and results of operations.

We are subject to risks of loss resulting from nonpayment or nonperformance by our customers. Any material nonpayment or nonperformance by our key customers could reduce our ability to make distributions to our unitholders. Many of our customers finance their activities through cash flow from operations, the incurrence of debt or the issuance of equity. The combination of reduction of cash flow resulting from declines in commodity prices, a reduction in borrowing bases under reserve based credit facilities (resulting from a decline in commodity prices) and the lack of availability of debt or equity financing may result in a significant reduction in our customers' liquidity and ability to make payment or perform on their obligations to us. Furthermore, some of our customers may be highly leveraged and subject to their own operating and regulatory risks, which increases the risk that they may default on their obligations to us.

We do not control the actions of our joint ventures.

Our joint ventures have their own governing boards. We exercise some influence over our joint ventures because our approval is required for their most significant decisions, but we do not control the decisions made by these boards. We also cannot control the actions of our joint venture partners, including any nonperformance, default, or bankruptcy of our joint venture partners. In the event that any of our joint venture partners do not observe their obligations, it is possible that the affected joint venture would not be able to operate in accordance with its business plans. As a result, we may be required to increase our level of commitment to the affected joint venture to give effect to such plans. Differences in views among the joint venture parties may result in delayed decisions or in failures to agree on significant matters, which could adversely affect the business and operations of the joint ventures and, in turn, our business and operations.

Further, all of our joint ventures may request that we make additional capital contributions to support their capital expenditure programs. If such capital contributions are required, we may not be able to obtain the financing necessary to satisfy our obligations. In the event that we elect not to participate in future capital contributions, our ownership interest in the joint ventures will be diluted.

## Table of Contents

Certain of our assets may become subject to regulation.

Intrastate transportation of NGLs is largely regulated by the state in which such transportation takes place. Lone Star's NGL pipeline transports NGLs within the state of Texas and is subject to regulation by the TRRC. This transportation system offers services pursuant to an intrastate transportation tariff on file with the TRRC. Lone Star's NGL pipeline also commenced the interstate transportation of NGLs in 2013, which is subject to FERC's jurisdiction under the Interstate Commerce Act and the Energy Policy Act of 1992. Both intrastate and interstate NGL transportation services must be provided in a manner that is just, reasonable, and non-discriminatory. The tariff rates established for interstate services were based on a negotiated agreement; however if FERC's rate making methodologies were imposed, they may, among other things, delay the use of rates that reflect increased costs and subject us to potentially burdensome and expensive operational, reporting and other requirements. Any of the foregoing could adversely affect revenues and cash flow related to these assets.

Our interstate gas transportation operations, including Section 311 service performed by our intrastate pipelines, our sales of gas in interstate commerce, and our shipment of gas on interstate pipelines are subject to FERC regulation; failure to comply with applicable regulation, future changes in regulations or policies, or the establishment of more onerous terms and conditions applicable to natural gas transportation service could adversely affect our business. FERC has broad regulatory authority over the business and operations of interstate natural gas pipelines, such as the pipelines owned by Gulf States and MEP, both of which hold FERC-approved tariffs setting forth cost-based rates, terms and conditions for services to shippers wishing to take interstate transportation service. Under the NGA, rates charged for, and the terms and conditions of service of, interstate natural gas transmission must be just and reasonable, and amounts collected in excess of just and reasonable rates may be subject to refund with interest. In addition, FERC regulates the rates, terms and conditions of service with respect to Section 311 transportation service provided by HPC (through RIGS). FERC has authority to alter its rules, regulations and policies governing service provided by interstate pipelines and intrastate pipelines providing Section 311 services. We cannot give any assurance regarding the likely future regulations under which Gulf States, MEP or HPC will operate their interstate transportation services or the effect such regulation could have on our businesses or results of operations. In addition, FERC also has broad authority to require compliance with its rules and regulations and to prohibit and penalize manipulative behavior that affects markets. Since our gathering and processing businesses sell natural gas in interstate commerce and ship gas on interstate pipelines, these activities are subject to FERC oversight. Any failure on our part to comply with applicable FERC-administered statutes, rules, regulations and orders could result in the imposition of significant administrative, civil and/or criminal penalties or both, as well as increased operational requirements or prohibitions.

As limited partnership entities, neither we nor our regulated natural gas pipelines may be able to include a full tax allowance in calculating our costs-of-service for rate-making purposes.

Under current policy applied under the NGA and Section 311, FERC permits regulated natural gas pipelines to include, in the cost-of-service used as the basis for calculating the pipeline's regulated rates, a tax allowance reflecting the actual or potential income tax liability on pipeline income attributable to all partnership or limited liability company interests, if the ultimate owner of the interest has an actual or potential income tax liability on such income. Whether a pipeline's owners have such actual or potential income tax liability will be reviewed by FERC on a case-by-case basis, and the pipeline is required to demonstrate that such potential income tax liability exists. Although FERC's policy is generally favorable for pipelines that are organized as, or owned by, tax-pass-through entities, application of the policy in individual rate cases still entails rate risk due to the case-by-case review requirement. The specific terms and application of that policy remain subject to future refinement or change by FERC and the courts. Moreover, we cannot guarantee that this policy will not be altered in the future.

There are uncertainties in the calculation of the return on equity that FERC will authorize a natural gas pipeline to include in its cost-of-service.

An important part of the determination of rates by FERC is the establishment of an authorized return on equity. FERC currently calculates a range of potential returns, based on a discounted cash flow analysis of companies included in a proxy group, and then determines where a pipeline's risks require it to be placed within this range. FERC policy also currently allows the inclusion of master limited partnerships, or MLPs, in proxy groups used to calculate the appropriate returns on equity under FERC's discounted cash flow analysis, but FERC limits recognition of certain

MLP earnings and allows case-by-case determination by FERC of the appropriateness of any MLP, or indeed any stock corporation, proposed as a member of the pipeline's proxy group.

A change in the level of regulation or the jurisdictional characterization of some of our assets or business activities by federal, state or local regulatory agencies could affect our operations and revenues.

Our natural gas gathering, processing and intrastate transportation operations are generally exempt from FERC regulation under the NGA, but FERC regulation still affects these businesses and the markets for products derived from these businesses. With the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT 2005), FERC has expanded its oversight of natural gas purchasers, natural gas

## Table of Contents

sellers, gatherers, intrastate pipelines and shippers on FERC regulated pipelines by imposing new market monitoring and market transparency rules and rules prohibiting manipulative behavior. In addition, EPACT 2005 substantially increased FERC's penalty authority. In recent years, FERC has adopted rules requiring increased reporting by purchasers and sellers of natural gas and increased transactional reporting requirements for intrastate pipelines. In 2010, FERC also sought formal comments on the applicability of buy-sell prohibitions and capacity release requirements on intrastate pipelines that provide interstate service under NGPA Section 311. We cannot predict the outcome of this proceeding or how FERC will approach future matters such as pipeline rates and rules and policies that may affect purchases or sales of natural gas or rights of access to natural gas transportation capacity.

In addition, the distinction between FERC-regulated natural gas interstate transmission service, on one hand, and intrastate natural gas transmission or federally unregulated natural gas gathering services, on the other hand, is the subject of litigation at FERC and in the courts and of policy discussions at FERC. In such circumstances, the classification and regulation of some of our gathering or our intrastate transportation pipelines may be subject to change based on future determinations by FERC, the courts, or Congress. Such a change could result in increased regulation by FERC, which could adversely affect our business.

Other state and local regulations also affect our business. Our gathering pipelines are subject to ratable take and common purchaser statutes in states in which we operate. Ratable take statutes generally require gatherers to take, without undue discrimination, oil or natural gas production that may be tendered to the gatherer for handling. Similarly, common purchaser statutes generally require gatherers to purchase without undue discrimination as to source of supply or producer. These statutes restrict our right as an owner of gathering facilities to decide with whom we contract to purchase or transport natural gas. Federal law leaves any economic regulation of natural gas gathering to the states. Many states in which we operate have adopted complaint-based regulation of natural gas gathering activities, which allows natural gas producers and shippers to file complaints with state regulators in an effort to resolve grievances relating to natural gas gathering access and rate discrimination. Our intrastate NGL, crude oil, and condensate pipelines are subject to state common carrier regulations, which require just and reasonable rates, non-discriminatory service, and the filing of tariffs. Our common carrier pipeline tariffs contemplate additional rights to, or superior terms of service for "anchor shippers", and if these or any other provisions in our common carrier pipeline tariffs are found to be inconsistent with non-discrimination requirements, then we may be required to modify the rates and/or terms of service in our tariffs and may not be able to provide the level of service contemplated in agreements with "anchor shippers".

Any new laws, rules, regulations or orders could result in additional compliance costs and/or requirements, which could adversely affect our business. If we fail to comply with any new or existing laws, rules, regulations or orders, we could be subject to administrative, civil and/or criminal penalties, or both, as well as increased operational requirements or prohibitions.

Our business involves many hazards and operational risks, some of which may not be fully covered by insurance. If a significant accident or event occurs that is not fully insured, our operations, the operations of our lessees, and our financial results could be adversely affected.

Our operations and the coal mining operations of our lessees are subject to numerous operational risks including:

- the inability to acquire necessary permits;
- changes in governmental regulation;
- adverse weather conditions and natural disasters;
- fires and explosions;
- equipment failures, damage to our or our lessees facilities, and unexpected maintenance problems; and
- leaks or losses of hydrocarbons and other pollutants into the environment.

These risks could result in substantial losses due to personal injury or loss of life, severe damage to and destruction of property and equipment and pollution or other environmental damage, and may result in curtailment or suspension of our operations, or the operations of our lessees. We are not insured against all events that might occur. If a significant accident or event occurs that is not insured or fully insured, it could adversely affect our operations, the operations of our lessees, and our financial condition.



If the natural gas that we ship on our pipelines fails to meet the specifications of interconnecting interstate pipelines, those interstate pipelines could curtail shipments of our natural gas.

The markets to which the shippers on our pipelines ship natural gas include interstate pipelines. These interstate pipelines establish specifications for the natural gas that they are willing to accept, which include requirements such as hydrocarbon dew point, temperature and foreign content including water, sulfur, carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide. These specifications vary by interstate pipeline. If the total mix of natural gas shipped by the shippers on our pipelines fails to meet the specifications of a particular interstate pipeline, the interstate pipeline may refuse to accept all or a part of the natural gas scheduled for delivery to it. In those circumstances, we may be required to find alternative markets for that gas or to shut-in the producers of the non-conforming gas, potentially reducing our throughput volumes or revenues.

## Table of Contents

We may incur significant costs and liabilities as a result of pipeline integrity management program testing and any related pipeline repair, or preventative or remedial measures, as well as any future legislative and regulatory initiatives related to pipeline safety.

The DOT has adopted regulations requiring pipeline operators to develop integrity management programs for transportation pipelines and certain gathering lines located where a leak or rupture could do the most harm in “high consequence areas.” The regulations require operators to:

- perform ongoing assessments of pipeline integrity;
- identify and characterize applicable threats to pipeline segments that could impact a high consequence area;
- improve data collection, integration and analysis;
- repair and remediate the pipeline as necessary; and
- implement preventive and mitigating actions.

In addition, states have adopted regulations similar to existing DOT regulations for intrastate gathering and transmission lines. We currently estimate that we will incur costs of \$3.5 million in 2015 to implement pipeline integrity management program testing along certain segments of our pipeline, as required by existing DOT regulations. This estimate does not include the costs, if any, for repair, remediation, preventative or mitigating actions that may be determined to be necessary as a result of the testing program, which could be substantial.

The DOT is continually proposing new pipeline safety rules and issuing pipeline safety advisories that impact our businesses. Additionally, Congress has been engaged in developing more stringent safety laws.

The Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 went into effect on January 3, 2012 and requires more stringent oversight of pipelines and increased civil penalties for violations of pipeline safety rules. The law requires numerous studies and/or the development of rules over the next two years covering the expansion of integrity management, use of automatic and remote-controlled shut-off valves, leak detection systems, sufficiency of existing regulation of gathering pipelines, use of excess flow valves, verification of maximum allowable operating pressure, incident notification, and other pipeline-safety related rules. The DOT has sought comments on potential rules to implement this legislation. Any resulting regulatory changes could have a material effect on our operations through more stringent and comprehensive safety regulations, increased costs and higher penalties for the violation of those regulations.

We may incur significant costs and liabilities in the future resulting from our or our lessees’ failure to comply with new or existing environmental regulations or releases of hazardous materials into the environment.

Our operations and the operations of our lessees are subject to stringent and complex federal, state and local laws and regulations governing, among other things, employee health and safety, permitting and licensing, air emissions, wastewater discharges, the use, management and disposal of hazardous and nonhazardous materials and wastes, and the cleanup of contamination. Noncompliance with such laws and regulations, or incidents resulting in environmental releases, could cause us or our lessees to incur substantial costs, penalties, fines and other criminal sanctions, third party claims for personal injury or property damage, investments to retrofit or upgrade our facilities and programs, or curtailment of operations. Certain federal and state environmental laws impose strict, joint and several liability for costs required to clean up and restore sites where hazardous substances have been disposed or otherwise released. The possibility exists that stricter laws, regulations or enforcement policies could significantly increase our or our lessees’ compliance costs and the cost of any remediation that may become necessary. We cannot be certain that identification of presently unidentified conditions, more vigorous enforcement by regulatory agencies, enactment of more stringent laws and regulations, or other unanticipated events will not arise in the future and give rise to material environmental liabilities that could have a material adverse effect on our operations, the operations of our lessees, and financial condition.

Climate change legislation or regulations restricting emissions of “greenhouse gases” could result in increased operating costs and reduced demand for the natural gas and other hydrocarbon products that we handle in connection with our transportation and midstream services, as well as reduce demand for the coal that our lessees mine, which could adversely affect our coal royalty payments.

In December 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) published its findings that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases present an endangerment to public health and the environment because

emissions of such gases are contributing to the warming of the Earth's atmosphere and other climatic changes. These findings allow the EPA to adopt and implement regulations that restrict emissions of greenhouse gases under existing provisions of the Clean Air Act ("CAA"). Accordingly, the EPA adopted regulations limiting emissions of greenhouse gases from motor vehicles, which then triggered CAA construction and operating permit requirements under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration ("PSD") and Title V permitting programs for certain large stationary sources of greenhouse gases. The EPA has also proposed New Source Performance Standards.

## Table of Contents

(“NSPS”) for carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants, and is in the process of finalizing a proposal for new power plants.

In addition, in October 2009, the EPA published a final rule requiring the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from specified greenhouse gas sources on an annual basis, beginning in 2011 for emissions occurring after January 1, 2010. In November 2010, the EPA revised its greenhouse gas reporting rule to include onshore oil and natural gas production, processing, transmission, storage and distribution facilities. Under these rules, reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from such facilities, including many of our facilities, is required on an annual basis, with reporting beginning in 2012 for emissions occurring in 2011. In December 2014, the EPA proposed additional amendments to its greenhouse gas reporting rule, which could add reporting requirements for additional facilities, including gathering and boosting systems.

Various pieces of legislation to reduce emissions of, or to create cap and trade programs for, greenhouse gases have been proposed by the U.S. Congress over the past several years, but no proposal has yet passed. More than one-third of the states have already taken legal measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, primarily through the planned development of greenhouse gas emission inventories and/or regional greenhouse gas cap and trade programs. The United States is actively participating in international discussions that are currently underway to develop a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol after its expiration.

The regulation of emissions of greenhouse gases from our equipment and operations could require us to incur costs to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations, and it could also adversely affect demand for our transportation, storage and midstream services. It could also lead our lessees’ customers to curtail their operations, switch to other fuels or other alternatives which may, individually or collectively, reduce demand for our lessees’ coal and thereby decrease revenues. As a result of current laws and proposed laws, regulations and trends, electric generators may switch from coal to other fuels that generate fewer greenhouse gas emissions, possibly reducing demand for coal.

One consequence of climate change could be increased severity of extreme weather, such as increased hurricanes and floods. If such effects were to occur, our operations and the operations of our lessees could be adversely affected in various ways, including damage to facilities or increased costs for insurance. Another possible consequence of climate change is increased volatility in seasonal temperatures. The market for our NGLs and natural gas is generally improved by periods of colder weather and impaired by periods of warmer weather, so any changes in climate could affect the market for the fuels that we produce. Despite the use of the term “global warming” as a shorthand for climate change, some studies indicate that climate change could cause some areas to experience temperatures substantially colder than their historical averages. As a result, it is difficult to predict how the market for our fuels could be affected by increased temperature volatility, although if there is an overall trend of warmer temperatures, it would be expected to have an adverse effect on our business.

Increased regulation of hydraulic fracturing could result in reductions or delays in drilling and completing new natural gas wells, which could adversely impact our revenues by decreasing the volumes of natural gas that we gather, process and transport.

An increasing percentage of our customers’ natural gas production is being developed from unconventional sources, such as shale formations. Hydraulic fracturing is an important and common practice that is used to stimulate production of natural gas from shale formations. The process involves the injection of water, sand and a small percentage of chemicals under pressure into the formation to fracture the surrounding rock and stimulate production. Hydraulic fracturing is typically regulated by state oil and gas commissions. Some states, including those in which we operate, have adopted, and other states are considering adopting, regulations that could impose more stringent disclosure and/or well construction requirements on hydraulic fracturing operations. In addition, a number of federal agencies, including the EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy, are analyzing, or have been requested to review, a variety of environmental issues associated with hydraulic fracturing, and have asserted federal regulatory authority over the process. Moreover, Congress from time to time has proposed legislation to more closely and uniformly regulate hydraulic fracturing at the federal level. If new laws or regulations that significantly restrict hydraulic fracturing are adopted, such laws could make it more difficult or costly for our customers to perform fracturing to stimulate production from tight formations. Restrictions on hydraulic fracturing could also reduce the

volume of and natural gas that produce, and could thereby adversely affect our revenues and results of operations. We do not own all of the land on which our pipelines and facilities have been constructed, and we are therefore subject to the possibility of increased costs or the inability to retain necessary land use.

We obtain the rights to construct and operate our pipelines on land owned by third parties and governmental agencies. Many of these rights-of-way are perpetual in duration; others have terms ranging from five to ten years. Many are subject to rights of reversion in the case of non-utilization for periods ranging from one to three years. In addition, some of our processing facilities are located on leased premises. Our loss of these rights, through our inability to renew right-of-way contracts or leases or otherwise, could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

## Table of Contents

In addition, the construction of additions to our existing gathering and transportation assets may require us to obtain new rights-of-way prior to constructing new pipelines. We may be unable to obtain such rights-of-way to connect new natural gas or NGL supplies to our existing pipelines or to capitalize on other attractive expansion opportunities. If the cost of obtaining new rights-of-way increases, then our cash flows and growth opportunities could be adversely affected. Additionally, certain of our pipelines are gas utilities or common carrier pipelines with the statutory right of eminent domain. A recent Texas Supreme Court decision could severely limit our ability to use eminent domain to acquire right-of-way for common carrier expansion and growth projects, and potentially gas utility projects. Any such limitations could adversely affect our growth opportunities and cash flows.

Some portions of our current gathering infrastructure and other assets have been in use for many decades, which may adversely affect our business.

Some portions of our assets, including some of our gathering infrastructure, have been in use for many decades. The current age and condition of our assets could result in a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations if the costs of maintaining our facilities exceed current expectations.

If our coal lessees do not manage their operations well or experience financial difficulties, their production volumes and our coal royalty revenues could decrease.

We depend on our coal lessees to effectively manage their operations on our properties. Our coal lessees make their own business decisions with respect to their operations, including decisions relating to:

- the method of mining;
- credit review of their customers;
- marketing of the coal mined;
- coal transportation arrangements;
- negotiations with unions;
- employee hiring and firing;
- employee wages, benefits and other compensation;
- permitting;
- surety bonding; and
- mine closure and reclamation.

If our lessees do not manage their operations well, or if they experience financial difficulties, their production could be reduced, which would result in lower coal royalty revenues to us and could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

We could be negatively impacted by any decline in the market demand for coal.

The domestic demand for, and price of, the coal produced from our reserves primarily depend on coal consumption patterns of the domestic electric utility industry. Consumption by the domestic electric utility industry is affected by the demand for electricity, environmental and other governmental regulations, technological developments and the price of competing coal and alternative fuel sources, such as natural gas, nuclear, hydroelectric power and other renewable energy sources. In addition, during the last several years, the U.S. coal industry has experienced increased consolidation, which has contributed to the industry becoming more competitive. Increased competition by coal producers or producers of alternate fuels could decrease the demand for or pricing of coal or impact the length of term of coal sales contracts, adversely impacting demand for the coal that our lessees produce and thereby reducing our coal royalty revenues. Indirect competition from gas-fired plants that are less expensive to construct and easier to permit has the most potential to displace a significant amount of coal-fired generation in the near term, particularly for older, less efficient coal-powered generators.

The demand for U.S. coal exports is dependent upon a number of factors, including the overall demand for electricity in foreign markets, currency exchange rates, ocean freight rates, the demand for foreign-produced steel both in foreign markets and in the U.S. market (which is dependent in part on tariff rates on steel), general economic conditions in foreign countries, technological developments and environmental and other governmental regulations and any other pressures placed on companies that are connected to the emission of greenhouse gases. Historically, global demand for electricity and steel production has decreased during periods of economic downturn. If there is a worsening of

foreign and U.S. economic and financial market conditions, and additional tightening of global credit markets, foreign demand for U.S. coal could decline, causing competition among coal producers in the United States to intensify, potentially resulting in additional downward pressure on domestic coal prices and thereby reducing our coal royalty revenues.

## Table of Contents

In addition, federal, state and local laws and regulations extensively regulate the amount of sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, mercury and other compounds emitted into the air from electric power plants, which are the ultimate consumers of the coal our lessees produce. These laws and regulations can require significant emission control expenditures for many coal-fired power plants, and various new and proposed laws and regulations may require further emission reductions and associated emission control expenditures. As a result of these current and proposed laws, regulations and trends, electricity generators may elect to switch to other fuels that generate less of these emissions, possibly further reducing demand for the coal that our lessees produce and thereby reducing our coal royalty revenues.

A substantial or extended decline in coal prices could reduce our coal royalty revenues and the value of our coal reserves.

During 2014, weaker international and domestic economies, low natural gas prices and mild weather have impacted coal markets and market weakness is expected to continue into 2015. A substantial or extended decline in coal prices could have a material adverse effect on our coal lessees' operations (including mine closures) and on the quantities of coal that may be economically produced from our properties. In addition, because a majority of our coal royalty are derived from coal mined on our properties under leases containing royalty rates based on the higher of a fixed base price or a percentage of the gross sales price, our coal royalty revenues could be reduced by such a decline. Such a decline could also reduce our coal services revenues and the value of our coal reserves. Additionally, volatility in coal prices could make it difficult to estimate with precision the value of our coal reserves. The future state of the global economy, including developments in financial and credit markets and their impact on coal production levels and prices is uncertain. Depending on economic conditions, demand for coal may continue to decline, which could adversely affect production and pricing for coal mined by our lessees, and, consequently, adversely affect the royalty income received by us.

We depend on a limited number of primary operators for a significant portion of our coal royalty revenues and the loss of or reduction in production from any of our major lessees would reduce our coal royalty revenues.

We depend on a limited number of primary operators for a significant portion of our coal royalty revenues. If any of these operators enters bankruptcy or decides to cease operations or significantly reduces its production, our coal royalty revenues would be reduced.

A failure on the part of our lessees to make coal royalty payments could give us the right to terminate the lease, repossess the property or obtain liquidation damages and/or enforce payment obligations under the lease. If we repossessed any of our properties, we would seek to find a replacement lessee. We may not be able to find a replacement lessee and, if we find a replacement lessee, we may not be able to enter into a new lease on favorable terms within a reasonable period of time. In addition, the outgoing lessee could be subject to bankruptcy or other proceedings that could further delay the execution of a new lease or the assignment of the existing lease to another operator. If we enter into a new lease, the replacement operator might not achieve the same levels of production or sell coal at the same price as the lessee it replaced.

Our coal reserves decline as our lessees mine our coal and our inability to acquire additional coal reserves that are economically recoverable may have a material adverse effect on the future profitability of our coal business.

Because our reserves decline as our lessees mine our coal, we have historically expanded our coal operations by adding and developing coal reserves in existing, adjacent and neighboring properties and through acquisitions of additional coal reserves that are economically recoverable to replace the reserves we produce. If we are unable to negotiate purchase contracts to replace or increase our coal reserves on acceptable terms, our coal royalty revenues will decline as our coal reserves are eventually depleted. As of December 31, 2014, we owned or controlled approximately 847 million tons of proven or probable coal reserves located in Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Illinois and New Mexico. We anticipate that these reserves will take over 33 years to deplete, based upon 2014 production volumes. Our current business strategy does not contemplate any additional growth in our coal reserve holdings through acquisitions or investments in our existing market areas. During 2014, our coal reserves located in the San Juan Basin were depleted and the associated royalty revenue ceased.

Our coal lessees could satisfy obligations to their customers with coal from properties other than ours, depriving us of the ability to receive amounts in excess of the minimum coal royalty payments.



We do not control our coal lessees' business operations. Our lessees' customer supply contracts do not generally require our lessees to satisfy their obligations to their customers with coal mined from our reserves. Several factors may influence a lessee's decision to supply its customers with coal mined from properties we do not own or lease, including the royalty rates under the lessee's lease with us, mining conditions, transportation costs and availability and customer coal quality specifications. If a coal lessee satisfies its obligations to its customers with coal from properties we do not own or lease, production under our lease will decrease, and we will receive lower coal royalty revenues.

## Table of Contents

Fluctuations in transportation costs and the availability or reliability of transportation could reduce the production of coal mined from our properties.

Transportation costs represent a significant portion of the total cost of coal for the customers of our lessees. Increases in transportation costs could make coal a less competitive source of energy or could make coal produced by some or all of our lessees less competitive than coal produced from other sources. On the other hand, significant decreases in transportation costs could result in increased competition for our lessees from coal producers in other parts of the country or increased imports from offshore producers.

Our lessees depend upon rail, barge, trucking, overland conveyor and other systems to deliver coal to their customers. Disruption of these transportation services due to weather-related problems, strikes, lockouts, bottlenecks, mechanical failures and other events could temporarily impair the ability of our lessees to supply coal to their customers. Our lessees' transportation providers may face difficulties in the future and impair the ability of our lessees to supply coal to their customers, thereby resulting in decreased coal royalty revenues to us.

Our lessees' workforces could become increasingly unionized in the future, which could adversely affect their productivity and thereby reduce our coal royalty revenues.

One of our lessees has one mine operated by unionized employees. This mine was our largest mine on the basis of coal production for the year ended December 31, 2014. All of our lessees have workforces that could become increasingly unionized in the future. If some or all of our lessees' non-unionized operations were to become unionized, it could adversely affect their productivity due to an increase in the risk of work stoppages. In addition, our lessees' operations may be adversely affected by work stoppages at unionized companies, particularly if union workers were to orchestrate boycotts against our lessees' operations. Any further unionization of our lessees' employees could adversely affect the stability of production from our coal reserves and reduce our coal royalty revenues.

Our coal reserve estimates depend on many assumptions that may be inaccurate, which could materially adversely affect the quantities and value of our coal reserves.

Our estimates of our coal reserves may vary substantially from the actual amounts of coal our coal lessees may be able to economically recover. There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of reserves, including many factors beyond our control. Estimates of coal reserves necessarily depend upon a number of variables and assumptions, any one of which may, if incorrect, result in an estimate that varies considerably from actual results.

These factors and assumptions relate to, among other things:

- geological and mining conditions, which may not be fully identified by available exploration data;

- the amount of ultimately recoverable coal in the ground;

- the effects of regulation by governmental agencies; and

- future coal prices, operating costs, capital expenditures, severance and excise taxes and development and reclamation costs.

Actual production, revenues and expenditures with respect to our coal reserves will likely vary from estimates, and these variations may be material. As a result, you should not place undue reliance on the coal reserve data provided by us.

Terrorist or cyber-attacks, the threat of terrorist or cyber-attacks, hostilities in the Middle East, or other sustained military campaigns may adversely impact our results of operations.

The long-term impact of terrorist attacks, such as the attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, cyber-attacks and the magnitude of the threat of future terrorist or cyber-attacks on the energy transportation industry in general and on us in particular are not known at this time. Uncertainty surrounding hostilities in the Middle East or other sustained military campaigns may affect us in unpredictable ways, including disruptions of natural gas supplies and markets for natural gas and NGLs and the possibility that

infrastructure facilities could be direct targets of, or indirect casualties of, an act of terror. Changes in the insurance markets attributable to terrorist or cyber-attacks may make certain types of insurance more difficult for us to obtain. Moreover, the insurance that may be available to us may be significantly more expensive than our existing insurance coverage. Instability in the financial markets as a result of terrorism or war could also affect our ability to raise capital.



Table of Contents

**RISKS RELATED TO OUR STRUCTURE**

Our General Partner is owned by ETE, which also controls the general partners of ETP and SXL. This may result in conflicts of interest.

ETE owns our General Partner and as a result controls us. ETE owns the general partner of ETP, a publicly traded partnership with which we compete in the natural gas gathering, processing and transportation business. ETE and ETP own the general partner of SXL, who is also in the NGL services business. The directors and officers of our General Partner and its affiliates have fiduciary duties to manage our General Partner in a manner that is beneficial to ETE, its sole owner. At the same time, our General Partner has fiduciary duties to manage us in a manner that is beneficial to our unitholders. Therefore, our General Partner's duties to us may conflict with the duties of its officers and directors to its sole owner. As a result of these conflicts of interest, our General Partner may favor its own interest or the interests of ETE, ETP, SXL, or their owners or affiliates over the interest of our unitholders.

Such conflicts may arise from, among other things, the following:

Decisions by our General Partner regarding the amount and timing of our cash expenditures, borrowings and issuances of additional limited partnership units or other securities can affect the amount of incentive distribution payments on our IDRs that we make to ETE;

ETE, ETP, SXL and their affiliates may engage in substantial competition with us;

Neither our partnership agreement nor any other agreement requires ETE or its affiliates, including ETP and SXL, to pursue a business strategy that favors us. The directors and officers of the general partners of ETE, ETP and SXL have a fiduciary duty to make decisions in the best interest of ETE's, ETP's and SXL's members, limited partners and unitholders, as applicable, which may be contrary to our best interests;

Our General Partner is allowed to take into account the interests of other parties, such as ETE, ETP and SXL and their affiliates, which has the effect of limiting its fiduciary duties to our unitholders;

Some of the directors and officers of ETE who provide advice to us also may devote significant time to the business of ETE, ETP and SXL and their affiliates and will be compensated by them for their services;

Our partnership agreement limits the liability and reduces the fiduciary duties of our General Partner, while also restricting the remedies available to our unitholders for actions that, without these limitations, might constitute breaches of fiduciary duty;

Our General Partner determines the amount and timing of asset purchases and sales and other acquisitions, operating expenditures, capital expenditures, borrowings, repayments of debt, issuances of equity and debt securities and cash reserves, each of which can affect the amount of cash available for distribution to our unitholders;

Our General Partner determines which costs, including allocated overhead costs and costs under the services agreement we have with Service Co. and our operating agreement with ETP, incurred by it and its affiliates are reimbursable by us; and

Our partnership agreement does not restrict our General Partner from causing us to pay it or its affiliates for any services rendered on terms that are fair and reasonable to us or entering into additional contractual arrangements, such as the services agreement we have with Service Co. and operating agreement with ETP, with any of these entities on our behalf.

Specifically, certain conflicts may arise as a result of our pursuing acquisitions or development opportunities that may also be advantageous to ETE, ETP or SXL. If we are limited in our ability to pursue such opportunities, we may not realize any or all of the commercial value of such opportunities. In addition, if ETE, ETP or SXL is allowed access to our information concerning any such opportunity and ETE, ETP or SXL uses this information to pursue the opportunity to our detriment, we may not realize any of the commercial value of this opportunity. In either of these situations, our business, results of operations and the amount of our distributions to our unitholders may be adversely affected. Although we, ETE and ETP have adopted a policy to address these conflicts and to limit the commercially sensitive information that we furnish to ETE, ETP and their affiliates, we cannot assure unitholders that such conflicts will not occur.

Our reimbursement of our General Partner's expenses will reduce our cash available for distribution to common unitholders.

Prior to making any distribution on our common units, we will reimburse our General Partner and its affiliates for all expenses they incur on our behalf. These expenses will include all costs incurred by our General Partner and its affiliates in managing and operating us, including costs for rendering corporate staff and support services to us. The reimbursement of expenses incurred by our General Partner and its affiliates could adversely affect our ability to pay cash distributions to our unitholders.

## Table of Contents

Our partnership agreement limits our General Partner's fiduciary duties to our unitholders and restricts the remedies available to unitholders for actions taken by our General Partner that might otherwise constitute breaches of fiduciary duty.

Our partnership agreement contains provisions that reduce the standards to which our General Partner might otherwise be held by state fiduciary duty law. For example, our partnership agreement:

permits our General Partner to make a number of decisions in its individual capacity, as opposed to its capacity as our General Partner. This entitles our General Partner to consider only the interests and factors that it desires, and it has no duty or obligation to give any consideration to any interest of, or factors affecting us, our affiliates or any limited partner. Examples include the exercise of its limited call right, its voting rights with respect to the units it owns, its registration rights and its determination whether or not to consent to any merger or consolidation of the partnership; provides that our General Partner will not have any liability to us or our unitholders for decisions made in its capacity as a General Partner so long as it acted in good faith, meaning it believed the decision was in the best interests of our partnership;

provides that our General Partner may resolve any conflicts of interest involving us and our General Partner and its affiliates, and any resolution of a conflict of interest by our General Partner that is "fair and reasonable" to us will be deemed approved by all partners, including the Unitholders, and will not constitute a breach of the partnership agreement;

provides that our General Partner may, but is not required, in connection with its resolution of a conflict of interest, to seek "special approval" of such resolution by appointing a conflicts committee of the General Partner's board of directors composed of two or more independent directors to consider such conflicts of interest and to recommend action to the board of directors, and any resolution of the conflict of interest by the conflicts committee shall be conclusively deemed "fair and reasonable" to us;

- provides generally that affiliated transactions and resolutions of conflicts of interest not approved by the conflicts committee of our General Partner and not involving a vote of unitholders must be on terms no less favorable to us than those generally being provided to or available from unrelated third parties or be "fair and reasonable" to us, as determined by our General Partner in good faith, and that, in determining whether a transaction or resolution is "fair and reasonable," our General Partner may consider the totality of the relationships between the parties involved, including other transactions that may be particularly advantageous or beneficial to us; and

provides that our General Partner and its officers and directors will not be liable for monetary damages to us or our limited partners for any acts or omissions unless there has been a final and non-appealable judgment entered by a court of competent jurisdiction determining that the General Partner or those other persons acted in bad faith or engaged in fraud or willful misconduct.

Any unitholder is bound by the provisions in the partnership agreement, including those discussed above.

Unitholders have limited voting rights and are not entitled to elect our General Partner or its directors.

Unlike the holders of common stock in a corporation, unitholders have only limited voting rights on matters affecting our business and, therefore, limited ability to influence management's decisions regarding our business. Unitholders do not elect our General Partner or its Board of Directors and have no right to elect our General Partner or its Board of Directors on an annual or other continuing basis. The Board of Directors of our General Partner is chosen by the members of our General Partner. Furthermore, if the unitholders are dissatisfied with the performance of our General Partner, they will have little ability to remove our General Partner. As a result of these limitations, the price at which our common units trade could be diminished because of the absence or reduction of a takeover premium in the trading price.

Even if unitholders are dissatisfied, they cannot remove our General Partner without its consent.

Our unitholders may be unable to remove our General Partner without its consent because our General Partner and its affiliates own a substantial number of common units and Class F units. A vote of the holders of at least 66.67% of all outstanding units voting together as a single class is required to remove our General Partner. As of February 19, 2015, affiliates of our General Partner owned 21.5% of our outstanding common units.

Our partnership agreement restricts the voting rights of those unitholders owning 20% or more of our common units or Series A Preferred Units.

Unitholders' voting rights are further restricted by the partnership agreement provision providing that any units held by a person that owns 20% or more of any class of units then outstanding, other than our General Partner, its affiliates, their transferees, and persons who acquired such units with the prior approval of our General Partner, cannot vote on any matter. Our partnership

## Table of Contents

agreement also contains provisions limiting the ability of unitholders to call meetings or to acquire information about our operations, as well as other provisions limiting our unitholders' ability to influence the manner or direction of our management.

Control of our General Partner may be transferred to a third party without unitholder consent.

Our General Partner may transfer its general partner interest in us to a third party in a merger or in a sale of all or substantially all of its assets without the consent of our unitholders. Furthermore, our partnership agreement does not restrict the ability of the partners of our General Partner from transferring their ownership in our General Partner to a third party. The new partners of our General Partner would then be in a position to replace the Board of Directors and officers of our General Partner with their own choices and to control the decisions taken by the Board of Directors and officers of our General Partner.

We may issue an unlimited number of additional units without unitholders' approval, which would dilute the ownership interest of existing unitholders.

Our General Partner, without the approval of our unitholders, may cause us to issue an unlimited number of additional common units or other equity securities. The issuance by us of additional common units or other equity securities of equal or senior rank will have the following effects:

- our unitholders' proportionate ownership interest in us will decrease;
- the amount of cash available for distribution on each unit may decrease;
- the relative voting strength of each previously outstanding unit may be diminished; and
- the market price of our common units may decline.

Our General Partner may, in its sole discretion, approve the issuance of partnership securities and specify the terms of such partnership securities.

Pursuant to our partnership agreement, our General Partner has the ability, in its sole discretion and without the approval of the Unitholders, to approve the issuance of securities by the Partnership at any time and to specify the terms and conditions of such securities. The securities authorized to be issued may be issued in one or more classes or series, with such designations, preferences, rights, powers and duties (which may be senior to existing classes and series of partnership securities), as shall be determined by our General Partner, including:

- the right to share in Partnership's profits and losses;
- the right to share in the Partnership's distributions;
- the rights upon dissolution and liquidation of the Partnership;
- whether, and the terms upon which, the Partnership may redeem the securities;
- whether the securities will be issued, evidenced by certificates and assigned or transferred; and
- the right, if any, of the security to vote on matters relating to the Partnership, including matters relating to the relative rights, preferences and privileges of such security.

Please see "—We may issue an unlimited number of additional units without unitholders' approval, which would dilute the ownership interest of existing unitholders." above.

Our General Partner has a limited call right that may require unitholders to sell their units at an undesirable time or price.

If at any time our General Partner and its affiliates own more than 80% of our common units, our General Partner will have the right, but not the obligation (which it may assign to any of its affiliates or to us) to acquire all, but not less than all, of our common units held by unaffiliated persons at a price not less than their then-current market price. As a result, unitholders may be required to sell their common units at an undesirable time or price and may not receive any return on their investment. Unitholders may also incur a tax liability upon a sale of their common units. As of February 19, 2015, affiliates of our General Partner owned 21.5% of the total number of our outstanding common units.

Unitholders may not have limited liability if a court finds that unitholder actions constitute control of our business.

Under Delaware law, a unitholder could be held liable for our obligations to the same extent as a general partner if a court determined that the right of unitholders to remove our General Partner or to take other action under our partnership agreement constituted participation in the "control" of our business.



Our General Partner generally has unlimited liability for our obligations, such as our debts and environmental liabilities, except for those contractual obligations that are expressly made without recourse to our General Partner. Our partnership agreement allows the general partner to incur obligations on our behalf that are expressly non-recourse to the general partner. Our General

## Table of Contents

Partner has entered into such limited recourse obligations in most instances involving payment liability and intends to do so in the future.

In addition, Section 17-607 of the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act provides that under some circumstances, a unitholder may be liable to us for the amount of a distribution for a period of three years from the date of the distribution.

We have a holding company structure in which our subsidiaries conduct our operations and own our operating assets. Additionally, we are not able to control the amounts of cash that our joint ventures may distribute to us.

We are a holding company, and our subsidiaries conduct all of our operations and own all of our operating assets. We have no significant assets other than the partnership interests and the equity in our subsidiaries. As a result, our ability to make required payments on our debt obligations and distributions on our common units depends on the performance of our subsidiaries and their ability to distribute funds to us. The ability of our subsidiaries to make distributions to us may be restricted by, among other things, our revolving credit facility, the indentures governing our senior notes and applicable state partnership and limited liability company laws and other laws and regulations. If we are unable to obtain the funds necessary to pay the principal amount at maturity of our debt obligations, to repurchase our debt obligations upon the occurrence of a change of control or make distributions on our common units, we may be required to adopt one or more alternatives, such as a refinancing of our debt obligations or borrowing funds to make distributions on our common units. We cannot assure unitholders that we would be able to borrow funds to make distributions on our common units.

Additionally, the ability of our joint ventures to make distributions to us may be restricted by, among other things, the terms of each such entity's partnership or limited liability company agreement, as applicable, and any debt instruments entered into by such entity as well as applicable state partnership or limited liability company laws, as applicable, and other laws and regulations. We do not control the amounts of cash that our joint ventures may distribute to us.

The credit and risk profile of our General Partner and its owners could adversely affect our credit ratings and profile. The credit and business risk profiles of our General Partner and of ETE as the indirect owner of our General Partner, may be factors in credit evaluations of us as a publicly traded limited partnership due to the significant influence of our General Partner and ETE over our business activities, including our cash distributions, acquisition strategy and business risk profile. Another factor that may be considered is the financial condition of our General Partner and ETE, including the degree of their financial leverage and their dependence on cash flow from us to service their indebtedness.

ETE has significant indebtedness outstanding and is dependent principally on the cash distributions from its general and limited partner interests in us and ETP to service such indebtedness. Any distributions by us to ETE will be made only after satisfying our then current obligations to our creditors. Although we have taken certain steps in our organizational structure, financial reporting and contractual relationships to reflect the separateness of us and our General Partner from the entities that control our General Partner (ETE and its general partner), our credit ratings and business risk profile could be adversely affected if the ratings and risk profiles of such entities were viewed as substantially lower or riskier than ours.

### **TAX RISKS TO OUR UNITHOLDERS**

Our tax treatment depends on our status as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, as well as our not being subject to a material amount of entity-level taxation by individual states or local entities. If the IRS treats us as a corporation or we become subject to a material amount of entity-level taxation for state or local tax purposes, it would substantially reduce the amount of cash available for payment for distributions on our common units.

If we were treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, we would pay federal income tax on our income at the corporate tax rate, which is currently a maximum of 35%, and would likely pay state and local income tax at varying rates. Distributions to our common unitholders would generally be taxed again as corporate distributions, and no income, gains, losses or deductions would flow through to unitholders. Because a tax would be imposed upon us as a corporation, our cash available for distribution to our common unitholders would be substantially reduced.

Therefore, treatment of us as a corporation would result in a material reduction in the anticipated cash flow and after-tax return to the unitholders, likely causing a substantial reduction in the value of the units.

Current law may change so as to cause us to be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes or otherwise subject us to entity-level taxation. At the federal level, from time to time, members of Congress propose and consider substantive changes to the existing federal income tax laws that affect publicly traded partnerships. Any modification to the federal income tax laws and interpretations thereof may or may not be retroactively applied and could make it more difficult or impossible to meet the exception for us to be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. We are unable to predict whether any of these changes or other proposals will be reintroduced or will ultimately be enacted. Any such changes could negatively impact the value

## Table of Contents

of an investment in our common units. At the state level, because of widespread state budget deficits and other reasons, several states are evaluating ways to subject partnerships to entity-level taxation through the imposition of state income, franchise and other forms of taxation. For example, we are required to pay a Texas margin tax. Imposition of such a tax on us by Texas, and, if applicable, by any other state, will reduce our cash available for distribution to our common unitholders.

Our partnership agreement provides that if a law is enacted or existing law is modified or interpreted in a manner that subjects us to taxation as a corporation or otherwise subjects us to entity-level taxation for federal, state or local income tax purposes, the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution amounts may be reduced to reflect the impact of that law on us.

A successful IRS contest of the federal income tax positions we take may adversely affect the market for our common units, and the cost of any IRS contest will reduce our cash available for distribution to you.

The IRS may adopt positions that differ from the positions we take. It may be necessary to resort to administrative or court proceedings to sustain some or all of the positions we take. A court may not agree with all of the positions we take. Any contest with the IRS may materially and adversely impact the market for our common units and the price at which they trade. In addition, our costs of any contest with the IRS will be borne indirectly by our unitholders and our General Partner because the costs will reduce our cash available for distribution.

Unitholders may be required to pay taxes on income from us even if you do not receive any cash distributions from us. Because our unitholders will be treated as partners to whom we will allocate taxable income that could be different in amount than the cash we distribute, they will be required to pay any federal income taxes and, in some cases, state and local income taxes on their share of our taxable income even if they receive no cash distributions from us. Our unitholders may not receive cash distributions from us equal to their share of our taxable income or even equal to the tax liability that results from that income.

Tax gain or loss on disposition of common units could be more or less than expected.

If a unitholder sells his common units, he will recognize a gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and his tax basis in those common units. Prior distributions to a unitholder in excess of the total net taxable income he was allocated for a common unit, which decreased his tax basis in that common unit, will, in effect, become taxable income to him if the common unit is sold at a price greater than his tax basis in that common unit, even if the price is less than his original cost. A substantial portion of the amount realized, whether or not representing gain, may be ordinary income. In addition, because the amount realized includes a unitholder's share of our nonrecourse liabilities, if a unitholder sells his common units, he may incur a tax liability in excess of the amount of cash he receives from the sale.

Tax-exempt entities and non-U.S. persons face unique tax issues from owning common units that may result in adverse tax consequences to them.

Investment in common units by tax-exempt entities, such as individual retirement accounts (known as IRAs), other retirement plans and non-U.S. persons raises issues unique to them. For example, virtually all of our income allocated to organizations that are exempt from federal income tax, including IRAs and other retirement plans, will be unrelated business taxable income and will be taxable to them. Distributions to non-U.S. persons will be reduced by withholding taxes at the highest applicable effective tax rate, and non-U.S. persons will be required to file United States federal tax returns and pay tax on their share of our taxable income. If a unitholder is a tax-exempt entity or a non-U.S. person, he should consult his tax advisor before investing in our common units.

We will treat each purchaser of our common units as having the same tax benefits without regard to the actual common units purchased. The IRS may challenge this treatment, which could adversely affect the value of our common units.

Because we cannot match transferors and transferees of common units and because of other reasons, we will take depreciation and amortization positions that may not conform to all aspects of existing Treasury regulations. A successful IRS challenge to those positions could adversely affect the amount of tax deductions available to a unitholder. It also could affect the timing of these tax deductions or the amount of gain from the sale of common units and could have a negative impact on the value of our common units or result in audit adjustments to a unitholder's tax returns.



## Table of Contents

We prorate our items of income, gain, loss and deduction between transferors and transferees of our units each month based upon the ownership of our units on the first day of each month, instead of on the basis of the date a particular unit is transferred. The IRS may challenge this treatment, which could change the allocation of items of income, gain, loss and deduction among our unitholders.

We prorate our items of income, gain, loss and deduction between transferors and transferees of our units each month based upon the ownership of our units on the first day of each month, instead of on the basis of the date a particular unit is transferred. The use of this proration method may not be permitted under existing Treasury Regulations.

However, recently proposed Treasury Regulations provide a safe harbor for publicly traded partnerships pursuant to which a similar monthly convention is allowed. Existing publicly traded partnerships are entitled to rely on these proposed Treasury Regulations; however they are not binding on the IRS and are subject to change until final Treasury Regulations are issued. Accordingly, if the IRS were to challenge our method of allocating income, gain, loss and deduction between transferors and transferees, or new Treasury Regulations were issued, we may be required to change the allocation of items of income, gain, loss and deduction among our unitholders.

A unitholder whose units are loaned to a “short seller” to cover a short sale of units may be considered as having disposed of those units. If so, he would no longer be treated for tax purposes as a partner with respect to those units during the period of the loan and may recognize gain or loss from the disposition.

Because a unitholder whose units are loaned to a “short seller” to cover a short sale of units may be considered as having disposed of the loaned units, he may no longer be treated for tax purposes as a partner with respect to those units during the period of the loan to the short seller and the unitholder may recognize gain or loss from such disposition.

Moreover, during the period of the loan to the short seller, any of our income, gain, loss or deduction with respect to those units may not be reportable by the unitholder and any cash distributions received by the unitholder as to those units could be fully taxable as ordinary income. Unitholders desiring to assure their status as partners and avoid the risk of gain recognition from a loan to a short seller are urged to modify any applicable brokerage account agreements to prohibit their brokers from borrowing their units.

We have adopted certain valuation and allocation methodologies that may result in a shift of income, gain, loss and deductions between the general partner and the unitholders. The IRS may challenge this treatment, which could adversely affect the value of our common units.

When we issue additional units or engage in certain other transactions, we determine the fair market value of our assets and allocate any unrealized gain or loss attributable to our assets to the capital accounts of our unitholders and our General Partner. Our methodology may be viewed as understating the value of our assets. In that case, there may be a shift of income, gain, loss and deduction between certain unitholders and the general partner, which may be unfavorable to such unitholders. Moreover, under our current valuation methods, subsequent purchasers of common units may have a greater portion of their Internal Revenue Code Section 743(b) adjustment allocated to our tangible assets and a lesser portion allocated to our intangible assets. The IRS may challenge our valuation methods, or our allocation of the Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to our tangible and intangible assets, and allocations of income, gain, loss and deduction between the general partner and certain of our unitholders.

In addition, for purposes of determining the amount of the unrealized gain or loss to be allocated to the capital accounts of our unitholders and our General Partner, we will reduce the fair market value of our property (to the extent of any unrealized income or gain in our property that has not previously been reflected in the capital accounts) to reflect the incremental share of such fair market value that would be attributable to the holders of our outstanding convertible redeemable preferred units if all of such convertible redeemable preferred units were converted into common units as of such date. Consequently, a holder of common units may be allocated less unrealized gain in connection with an adjustment of the capital accounts than such holder would have been allocated if there were no outstanding convertible redeemable preferred units. Following the conversion of our convertible redeemable preferred units into common units, items of gross income and gain (or gross loss and deduction) will be specially allocated to the holders of such common units to reflect differences between the capital accounts maintained with respect to such convertible redeemable preferred units and the capital accounts maintained with respect to common units. This method of maintaining capital accounts and allocating income, gain, loss and deduction with respect to the convertible redeemable preferred units is intended to comply with proposed Treasury Regulations. However, these proposed

Treasury Regulations are not legally binding and are subject to change until final Treasury Regulations are issued. Accordingly, we may be required to change the allocation of items of income, gain, loss and deduction among our unitholders.

A successful IRS challenge to these methods or allocations could adversely affect the amount of taxable income or loss being allocated to our unitholders. It also could affect the amount of gain from our unitholders' sale of common units and could have a negative impact on the value of our common units or result in audit adjustments to our unitholders' tax returns without the benefit of additional deductions.

## Table of Contents

The sale or exchange of 50% or more of our capital and profits interests during any twelve-month period will result in the termination of our partnership for federal income tax purposes.

We will be considered to have terminated for federal income tax purposes if there is a sale or exchange of 50% or more of the total interests in our capital and profits within a twelve-month period. For purposes of determining whether the 50% threshold has been reached, multiple sales of the same unit will be counted only once. Although a termination likely will cause our unitholders to realize an increased amount of taxable income as a percentage of the cash distributed to them, we anticipate that the ratio of taxable income to distributions for future years will return to levels commensurate with our prior tax periods. However, any future termination of our partnership could have similar consequences. Additionally, in the case of a unitholder reporting on a taxable year other than a fiscal year ending December 31, the closing of our taxable year may result in more than twelve months of our taxable income or loss being includable in his taxable income for the year of termination. The position that there was a partnership termination does not affect our classification as a partnership for federal income tax purposes; however, we are treated as a new partnership for tax purposes. If treated as a new partnership, we must make new tax elections and could be subject to penalties if we are unable to prevail that a termination occurred. The IRS has recently announced a publicly traded partnership technical termination relief program whereby, if a publicly traded partnership that technically terminates requests publicly traded partnership technical termination relief and such relief is granted by the IRS, among other things, the partnership will only have to provide one Schedule K-1 to unitholders for the year notwithstanding two partnership tax years.

You may be subject to state and local taxes and tax return filing requirements.

In addition to federal income taxes, you will likely be subject to other taxes, including state and local taxes, unincorporated business taxes and estate, inheritance or intangible taxes that are imposed by the various jurisdictions in which we do business or own property, even if you do not live in any of those jurisdictions. You will likely be required to file state and local income tax returns and pay state and local income taxes in some or all of these jurisdictions. Further, you may be subject to penalties for failure to comply with those requirements. We own assets and do business in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Louisiana, West Virginia, Arkansas, Colorado, Alabama, California, Mississippi, New Mexico, Utah and Pennsylvania. Each of these states, other than Texas, currently imposes a personal income tax as well as an income tax on corporations and other entities. Texas imposes a margin tax on corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships and limited liability companies. As we make acquisitions or expand our business, we may own assets or do business in additional states that impose a personal income tax. It is your responsibility to file all United States federal, foreign, state and local tax returns required as a result of being a unitholder.

## **RISKS RELATED TO OUR PROPOSED MERGER WITH ETP**

We and ETP are subject to contractual restrictions while the merger is pending, which could materially and adversely affect each party's business and operations, and, pending the completion of the transaction, our business and operations could be materially and adversely affected.

Under the terms of our merger agreement with ETP, we are subject to certain restrictions on the conduct of our business prior to completing the transaction, which may adversely affect our ability to execute certain of our business strategies without first obtaining consent from ETP, including our ability in certain cases to enter into contracts, incur capital expenditures or grow our business. The merger agreement also restricts our ability to solicit, initiate or encourage alternative acquisition proposals with any third party and may deter a potential acquirer from proposing an alternative transaction or may limit our ability to pursue any such proposal. Such limitations could negatively affect our business and operations prior to the completion of the proposed transaction. Furthermore, the process of planning to integrate two businesses and organizations for the post-merger period can divert management attention and resources and could ultimately have an adverse effect on us.

In connection with the pending merger, it is possible that some customers, suppliers and other persons with whom we have business relationships may delay or defer certain business decisions or might decide to seek to terminate, change or renegotiate their relationship with us as a result of the transaction, which could negatively affect our revenues, earnings and cash flows, as well as the market price of our common units, regardless of whether the transaction is



completed.

We may have difficulty attracting, motivating and retaining executives and other employees in light of the merger. Uncertainty about the effect of the merger on our employees may have an adverse effect on us and the combined organization. This uncertainty may impair our ability to attract, retain and motivate personnel until the merger is completed. Employee retention may be particularly challenging during the pendency of the merger, as employees may feel uncertain about their future roles with the combined organization. In addition, we may have to provide additional compensation in order to retain employees. If our employees depart because of issues relating to the uncertainty and difficulty of integration or a desire not to become employees

## Table of Contents

of the combined organization, the combined organization's ability to realize the anticipated benefits of the merger could be reduced. Also, if we fail to complete the merger, it may be difficult and expensive to recruit and hire replacements for such employees.

We will incur substantial transaction-related costs in connection with the merger.

We expect to incur a number of non-recurring merger-related costs associated with completing the merger, combining the operations of the two companies, and achieving desired synergies. These fees and costs will be substantial.

Non-recurring transaction costs include, but are not limited to, fees paid to legal, financial and accounting advisors, filing fees and printing costs. Additional unanticipated costs may be incurred in the integration of our and ETP's businesses. There can be no assurance that the elimination of certain duplicative costs, as well as the realization of other efficiencies related to the integration of the two businesses, will offset the incremental transaction-related costs over time. Thus, any net benefit may not be achieved in the near term, the long term or at all.

Failure to successfully combine our and ETP's businesses in the expected time frame may adversely affect the future results of the combined organization, and, consequently, the value of the ETP common units that our unitholders receive as the merger consideration.

The success of the proposed merger will depend, in part, on the ability of ETP to realize the anticipated benefits and synergies from combining our and ETP's businesses. To realize these anticipated benefits, the businesses must be successfully combined. If the combined organization is not able to achieve these objectives, or is not able to achieve these objectives on a timely basis, the anticipated benefits of the merger may not be realized fully or at all. In addition, the actual integration may result in additional and unforeseen expenses, which could reduce the anticipated benefits of the merger.

Failure to complete the merger, or significant delays in completing the merger, could negatively affect the trading price of our common units and our future business and financial results.

Completion of the merger is not assured and is subject to risks, including the risks that approval of the merger by our unitholders or governmental agencies is not obtained or that other closing conditions are not satisfied. If the merger is not completed, or if there are significant delays in completing the merger, it could negatively affect the trading price of our common units and our future business and financial results, and we will be subject to several risks, including the following:

• liability for damages to ETP under the terms and conditions of the merger agreement;

- negative reactions from the financial markets, including declines in the price of our common units due to the fact that current prices may reflect a market assumption that the merger will be completed;

• having to pay certain significant costs relating to the merger, including a termination fee of \$450 million; and

• the attention of our management will have been diverted to the merger rather than our own operations and pursuit of other opportunities that could have been beneficial to us.

Lawsuits have been filed against us, our General Partner, our General Partner's board of directors, ETP, ETP GP, and ETE challenging the merger, and any injunctive relief or adverse judgment for monetary damages could prevent the merger from occurring or could have a material adverse effect on us, ETP or the combined company following the merger.

The Partnership, the General Partner, the directors of the General Partner, ETP, ETP GP, and ETE are named defendants in purported class actions and derivative petitions brought by purported Partnership unitholders in Dallas County, Texas, generally alleging claims of breach of duties under the partnership agreement, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing in connection with the merger transactions, and aiding and abetting arising out of the defendants' pursuit of the merger by way of an allegedly conflicted and unfair process. Similar lawsuits have been filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. The plaintiffs in these lawsuits seek to enjoin the defendants from proceeding with or consummating the merger and, to the extent that the merger is implemented before relief is granted, plaintiffs seek to have the merger rescinded. Plaintiffs also seek money damages and attorneys' fees. One of the conditions to the completion of the merger is that no order, decree, or injunction of any court or agency of competent jurisdiction shall be in effect, and no law shall have been enacted or adopted, that enjoins, prohibits, or makes illegal consummation of any of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. A

preliminary injunction could delay or jeopardize the completion of the merger, and an adverse judgment granting permanent injunctive relief could indefinitely enjoin completion of the merger. An adverse judgment for rescission or for monetary damages could have a material adverse effect on us, ETP or the combined company following the merger.

## Table of Contents

### Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

### Item 2. Properties

Substantially all of our pipelines (including those of HPC, MEP, Lone Star, Ranch JV, Aqua - PVR, ORS, Mi Vida JV and Sweeny JV) are constructed on rights-of-way granted by the apparent record owners of the property. Lands over which pipeline rights-of-way have been obtained may be subject to prior liens that have not been subordinated to the right-of-way grants. We have obtained, where necessary, easement agreements from public authorities and railroad companies to cross over or under, or to lay facilities in or along, watercourses, county roads, municipal streets, railroad properties and state highways, as applicable. In some cases, properties on which our pipelines were built were purchased in fee. These pipelines are used in our gathering and processing segment, natural gas transportation segment and NGL Services segment.

We believe that we have satisfactory title to all our assets. Record title to some of our assets may continue to be held by prior owners until we have made the appropriate filings in the jurisdictions in which such assets are located. Obligations under our credit facility are secured by substantially all of our assets and are guaranteed by the Partnership. Title to our assets may also be subject to other encumbrances. We believe that none of such encumbrances should materially detract from the value of our properties or our interest in those properties or should materially interfere with our use of them in the operation of our business.

Our executive offices occupy two entire floors and half of another floor in an office building at 2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700, Dallas, Texas, 75201, under a lease that expires on October 31, 2019. We also maintain regional offices located on leased premises in Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania. While we may require additional office space as our business expands, we believe that our existing facilities are adequate to meet our needs for the immediate future, and that additional facilities will be available on commercially reasonable terms as needed.

For additional information regarding our properties, read “Item 1. Business.”

### Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are subject to a variety of risks and disputes normally incident to our business. As a result, we may, at any given time, be a defendant in various legal or governmental proceedings and litigation arising in the ordinary course of business. These claims and lawsuits in aggregate are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Partnership’s business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

For a description of legal proceedings, see Note 12 in the Notes to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

We maintain insurance policies with insurers in amounts and with coverages and deductibles that we, with the advice of our insurance advisers and brokers, believe are reasonable and prudent. We cannot, however, assure you that this insurance will be adequate to protect us from all material expenses related to potential future claims for personal and property damage or that these levels of insurance will be available in the future at economical prices.

### Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

## PART II

### Item 5. Market for Registrant’s Common Units, Related Unitholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities Market Price of and Distributions on the Common Units and Related Unitholder Matters

Our common units represent limited partnership interests and were first offered and sold to the public on February 3, 2006. Our common units are listed on the NYSE under the symbol “RGP.” As of February 19, 2015, the number of holders of record of common units was 150, with 320,445,553 units held in street name.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low quarterly sales prices per common unit, as reported on the NYSE:

Period	Price Ranges		Cash Distributions (per common unit)
	High	Low	
2014			
Fourth Quarter	\$32.86	\$22.07	\$0.5025
Third Quarter	33.57	29.54	0.5025
Second Quarter	32.22	25.67	0.4900
First Quarter	27.91	25.29	0.4800
2013			
Fourth Quarter	\$29.52	\$23.86	\$0.4750
Third Quarter	29.35	25.57	0.4700
Second Quarter	27.15	23.70	0.4650
First Quarter	25.66	22.03	0.4600
2012			
Fourth Quarter	\$24.35	\$20.58	\$0.4600
Third Quarter	24.46	21.93	0.4600
Second Quarter	25.29	20.61	0.4600
First Quarter	27.40	23.59	0.4600
Class F Units			

In connection with the SUGS Acquisition, we issued 6,274,483 Class F units. The Class F units are not entitled to participate in the Partnership's distributions for twenty-four months post-transaction closing. The Class F units were issued in a private placement conducted in accordance with the exemption from registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, under Section 4(a)(2) thereof. The Class F units will convert into common units on a one-for-one basis in May 2015.

**Cash Distribution Policy**

We distribute to our unitholders, on a quarterly basis, all of our available cash in the manner described below. If we do not have sufficient cash to pay our distributions as well as satisfy our other operational and financial obligations, our General Partner has the ability to reduce or eliminate the distribution paid on our common units so that we may satisfy such obligations, including payments on our debt instruments.

Available cash generally means, for any quarter ending prior to liquidation of the Partnership, all cash on hand at the end of that quarter less the amount of cash reserves that are necessary or appropriate in the reasonable discretion of the General Partner to:

- provide for the proper conduct of our business;
- comply with applicable law or any partnership debt instrument or other agreement; or
- provide funds for distributions to unitholders and the General Partner in respect of any one or more of the next four quarters.

In addition to distributions on its General Partner interest, our General Partner is entitled to receive incentive distributions if the amount we distribute with respect to any quarter exceeds specified levels. The partnership agreement requires that we make distributions of Available Cash from operating surplus for any quarter after the subordination period in the following manner:

- first, to all unitholders and to the General Partner, pro rata, until each unitholder receives a minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.35 per unit outstanding for that quarter;
- second, to all unitholders and to the General Partner, pro rata, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.4025 per unit outstanding for that quarter;



Table of Contents

third, (i) to the General Partner in accordance with its percentage interest, (ii) 13% to holders of the IDRs, pro rata, and (iii) to all unitholders a percentage equal to 100% less the percentages applicable to the General Partner and holders of the IDRs, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.4375 per unit outstanding for that quarter; fourth, (i) to the General Partner in accordance with its percentage interest, (ii) 23% to holders of the IDRs, pro rata, and (iii) to all unitholders a percentage equal to 100% less the percentages applicable to the General Partner and holders of the IDRs, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.5250 per unit outstanding for that quarter; and thereafter, (i) to the General Partner in accordance with its percentage interest, (ii) 48% to holders of the IDRs, pro rata, and (iii) to all unitholders a percentage equal to 100% less the percentages applicable to the General Partner and holders of the IDRs.

In each case, the amount of the distribution set forth above is exclusive of any distributions to common unitholders to eliminate any cumulative arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution.

Under the terms of the agreements governing our debt, we are prohibited from declaring or paying any distribution to unitholders if a default or event of default (as defined in such agreements) exists. See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources” for further discussion regarding the restrictions on distributions.

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

None.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

None.

Table of Contents

## Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The historical financial information presented below was derived from our audited consolidated financial statements as of and for the periods presented. See “Item 7. Management’s Discussions and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” for a discussion of why our results may not be comparable, either from period to period or going forward. All tabular dollar amounts, except per unit data, are in millions.

	Successor				Period from Acquisition (May 26, 2010) to December 31, 2010	Predecessor Period from January 1, 2010 to May 25, 2010
	Year Ended December 31, 2014	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Year Ended December 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011		
Statement of Operations Data:						
Total revenues	\$4,951	\$2,521	\$2,000	\$1,434	\$ 716	\$505
Total operating costs and expenses	4,968	2,466	1,970	1,394	702	485
Operating (loss) income	(17	) 55	30	40	14	20
Other income and deductions:						
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	195	135	105	120	54	16
Interest expense, net	(304	) (164	) (122	) (103	) (48	) (35
Loss on debt refinancing, net	(25	) (7	) (8	) —	(16	) (2
Other income and deductions, net	12	7	29	17	(8	) (4
(Loss) income from continuing operations before income taxes	\$(139	) \$26	\$34	\$74	\$(4	) \$(5
Income tax expense (benefit)	3	(1	) —	—	1	—
(Loss) income from continuing operations	\$(142	) \$27	\$34	\$74	\$(5	) \$(5
Discontinued operations:						
Net loss from operations of east Texas assets	—	—	—	—	(1	) —
Net (loss) income	\$(142	) \$27	\$34	\$74	\$(6	) \$(5
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest	(15	) (8	) (2	) (2	) —	—
Net (loss) income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	\$(157	) \$19	\$32	\$72	\$(6	) \$(5
Amounts attributable to Series A Preferred Units	4	6	10	8	5	3
General partner’s interest, including IDRs	31	11	9	7	3	1
Beneficial conversion feature for Class F units	7	4	—	—	—	—
Pre-acquisition loss from SUGS allocated to predecessor equity	—	(36	) (14	) —	—	—
Limited partners’ interest in net (loss) income	\$(199	) \$34	\$27	\$57	\$(14	) \$(9





Table of Contents

	Successor				Period from Acquisition (May 26, 2010) to December 31, 2010	Predecessor Period from January 1, 2010 to May 25, 2010
	Year Ended December 31, 2014	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Year Ended December 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011		
Basic and diluted (loss) income from continuing operations per unit:						
Basic (loss) income from continuing operations per common unit	\$(0.57 )	\$0.17	\$0.16	\$0.39	\$(0.09 )	\$(0.10 )
Diluted (loss) income from continuing operations per common unit	(0.57 )	0.17	0.13	0.32	(0.09 )	(0.10 )
Distributions per common unit	1.975	1.87	1.84	1.81	0.89	0.89
Basic and diluted loss on discontinued operations per common unit	—	—	—	—	(0.01 )	—
Basic and diluted net (loss) income per unit:						
Basic net (loss) income per common unit	\$(0.57 )	\$0.17	\$0.16	\$0.39	\$(0.10 )	\$(0.10 )
Diluted net (loss) income per common unit	(0.57 )	0.17	0.13	0.32	(0.10 )	(0.10 )
Income per Class F unit due to beneficial conversion feature	1.08	0.72	—	—	—	—
	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010	December 31, 2010
Balance Sheet Data:						
Property, plant and equipment, net	\$9,217	\$4,418	\$3,686	\$1,886	\$1,660	\$1,660
Total assets	17,103	8,782	8,123	5,568	4,770	4,770
Long-term debt (non-current portion only)	6,641	3,310	2,157	1,687	1,141	1,141
Series A Preferred Units	33	32	73	71	71	71
Partners' capital and noncontrolling interest	9,585	4,916	5,340	3,531	3,294	3,294
	Successor				Period from Acquisition (May 26, 2010) to December 31, 2010	Predecessor Period from January 1, 2010 to May 25, 2010
	Year Ended December 31, 2014	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Year Ended December 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011		
Cash Flow Data:						
Net cash flows provided by (used in):						
Operating activities	\$719	\$436	\$324	\$254	\$80	\$89

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

Investing activities	(2,169	) (1,393	) (807	) (955	) (297	) (148	)
Financing activities	1,455	923	535	693	203	72	
Other Financial Data:							
Adjusted total segment margin <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 1,399	\$ 729	\$ 602	\$ 417	\$ 235	\$ 154	
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	1,172	608	517	420	218	108	
Maintenance capital expenditures	98	48	58	22	7	8	

(1) See “—Non-GAAP Financial Measures” for a reconciliation to its most directly comparable GAAP measure.

Table of Contents

Non-GAAP Financial Measures

We include in “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” the following non-GAAP financial measures: EBITDA, adjusted EBITDA, total segment margin, and adjusted total segment margin. We provide reconciliations of these non-GAAP financial measures to their most directly comparable financial measures as calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP.

We define EBITDA as net income (loss) plus interest expense, provision for income taxes and depreciation, depletion and amortization expense, and impairment expense. We define adjusted EBITDA as EBITDA plus or minus the following:

- non-cash loss (gain) from commodity and embedded derivatives;
- non-cash unit-based compensation;
- loss (gain) on asset sales, net;
- loss on debt refinancing, net;
- other non-cash (income) expense, net;
- acquisition costs;
- our interest in ELG and ORS adjusted EBITDA less EBITDA attributable to ELG and ORS; and
- our interest in adjusted EBITDA from unconsolidated affiliates less income from unconsolidated affiliates.

## Table of Contents

These measures are used as supplemental measures by our management and by external users of our financial statements such as investors, banks, research analysts and others, to assess:

- financial performance of our assets without regard to financing methods, capital structure or historical cost basis;
- the ability of our assets to generate cash sufficient to pay interest costs, support our indebtedness and make cash distributions to our unitholders and General Partner;
- our operating performance and return on capital as compared to those of other companies in the midstream energy sector, without regard to financing or capital structure; and
- the viability of acquisitions and capital expenditure projects and the overall rates of return on alternative investment opportunities.

Neither EBITDA nor adjusted EBITDA should be considered an alternative to, or more meaningful than net income, operating income, cash flows from operating activities or any other measure of financial performance presented in accordance with GAAP. EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA may not be comparable to a similarly titled measure of another company because other entities may not calculate EBITDA or adjusted EBITDA in the same manner. Adjusted EBITDA is the starting point in determining distributable cash flow, which is an important non-GAAP financial measure for a publicly traded Partnership.

EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA do not include interest expense, income tax expense or depreciation, depletion and amortization expense. Because we have borrowed money to finance our operations, interest expense is a necessary element of our costs and our ability to generate cash available for distribution. Because we use capital assets, depreciation, depletion and amortization are also necessary elements of our costs. Therefore, any measures that exclude these elements have material limitations. To compensate for these limitations, we believe that it is important to consider both net earnings determined under GAAP, as well as EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA, to evaluate our performance.

We define segment margin, generally, as revenues minus cost of sales. We calculate our Gathering and Processing segment margin and Natural Gas Transportation segment margin as revenues generated from operations less the cost of natural gas and NGLs purchased and other costs of sales, including third-party transportation and processing fees. We do not record segment margin for our investments in unconsolidated affiliates (HPC, MEP, Lone Star, Ranch JV, Aqua - PVR, Mi Vida JV and Sweeny JV) because we record our ownership percentages of their net income as income from unconsolidated affiliates in accordance with the equity method of accounting. We calculate our Contract Services segment margin as revenues minus direct costs, primarily compressor unit repairs, associated with those revenues. Our Natural Resources segment margin is generally equal to total revenues as there is typically minimal cost of sales associated with the management and leasing of these properties. We calculate total segment margin as the sum of segment margin of our segments less intersegment eliminations. We define adjusted segment margin as segment margin adjusted for non-cash (gains) losses from commodity derivatives, the 40% of ELG margin attributable to the holder of the noncontrolling interest, the 25% ORS margin attributable to the holder of the noncontrolling interest, our 33.33% portion of Ranch JV margin, and our 50% portion of the Mi Vida JV margin. Our adjusted total segment margin equals the sum of our operating segments' adjusted segment margins or segment margins, as applicable, including intersegment eliminations.

Total segment margin and adjusted total segment margin are included as a supplemental disclosure because they are primary performance measures used by our management as they represent the result of product sales, service fee revenues and product purchases, a key component of our operations. We believe total segment margin and adjusted total segment margin are important measures because they are directly related to our volumes and commodity price changes. Operation and maintenance expense is a separate measure used by management to evaluate operating performance of field operations. Direct labor, insurance, property taxes, repair and maintenance, utilities and contract services comprise the most significant portion of our operation and maintenance expenses. These expenses are largely independent of the volumes we transport or process and fluctuate depending on the activities performed during a specific period. We do not deduct operation and maintenance expenses from total revenue in calculating total segment margin and adjusted total segment margin because we separately evaluate commodity volume and price changes in these margin amounts. As an indicator of our operating performance, total segment margin or adjusted total segment margin should not be considered an alternative to, or more meaningful than, net income as determined in accordance

with GAAP. Our total segment margin and adjusted total segment margin may not be comparable to a similarly titled measure of another company because other entities may not calculate these measures in the same manner.

Table of Contents

	Successor					Period from Acquisition (May 26, 2010) to December 31, 2010	Predecessor Period from January 1, 2010 to May 25, 2010
	Year Ended December 31, 2014	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Year Ended December 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011			
Reconciliation of “Adjusted EBITDA” to net cash flows provided by operating activities and net (loss) income							
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	\$719	\$436	\$324	\$254	\$80		\$89
Add (deduct):							
Depreciation, depletion and amortization, including debt issuance cost write-off and amortization and bond premium write-off and amortization	(525	) (293	) (259	) (175	) (78	) (51	)
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	195	135	105	120	54	16	
Derivative valuation change	93	(6	) 12	21	(33	) (12	)
Gain (loss) on assets sales, net	1	(2	) (3	) 2	—	—	
Unit-based compensation expenses	(10	) (7	) (5	) (3	) (2	) (12	)
Revaluation of unconsolidated affiliate upon acquisition	6	—	—	—	—	—	
Goodwill impairment	(370	) —	—	—	—	—	
Trade accounts receivable, accrued revenues and related party receivables	(28	) 96	—	8	—	11	
Other current assets and other current liabilities	(34	) 54	(10	) (11	) 13	(25	)
Trade accounts payable, accrued cost of gas and liquids, related party payables, and deferred revenues	16	(119	) (18	) (23	) 15	(9	)
Distributions of earnings received from unconsolidated affiliates	(204	) (142	) (121	) (119	) (57	) (12	)
Cash flow changes in other assets and liabilities	(1	) (125	) 9	—	2	—	
Net (loss) income	\$(142	) \$27	\$34	\$74	\$(6	) \$(5	)
Add (deduct):							
Interest expense, net	304	164	122	103	48	35	
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	541	287	252	169	77	46	
Income tax expense (benefit)	3	(1	) —	—	1	—	
Goodwill impairment	370	—	—				

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

EBITDA	\$1,076	\$477	\$408	\$346	\$120	\$76
--------	---------	-------	-------	-------	-------	------

51

---



Table of Contents

	Successor				Period from Acquisition (May 26, 2010) to December 31, 2010	Predecessor Period from January 1, 2010 to May 25, 2010
	Year Ended December 31, 2014	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Year Ended December 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011		
EBITDA	\$1,076	\$477	\$408	\$346	\$120	\$76
Add (deduct):						
Partnership's interest in unconsolidated affiliates	325	250	222	213	102	21
adjusted EBITDA <sup>(1) (2) (3) (4)</sup> <sup>(5) (6)</sup>						
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	(195 )	(135 )	(105 )	(120 )	(54 )	(16 )
Non-cash (gain) loss from commodity and embedded derivatives	(92 )	3	(19 )	(18 )	31	11
Loss on debt refinancing, net	25	7	8	—	16	2
(Gain) loss on assets sales, net	(1 )	2	3	(2 )	—	—
Other, net	34	4	—	1	3	14
Adjusted EBITDA	\$1,172	\$608	\$517	\$420	\$218	\$108

(1) 100% of HPC's Adjusted  
EBITDA is calculated as  
follows:

Net income	\$67	\$72	\$70	\$109	\$72	\$35
Depreciation and amortization	36	37	36	35	20	12
Interest expense	13	5	2	1	—	—
Impairment of property, plant and equipment	—	—	22	—	—	—
Other, net	—	—	2	—	—	—
HPC's Adjusted EBITDA	\$116	\$114	\$132	\$145	\$92	\$47
Ownership interest	49.99 %	49.99 %	49.99 %	49.99 %	49.99 %	45 %
Partnership's interest in HPC's Adjusted EBITDA	\$58	\$57	\$65	\$72	\$46	\$21

(2) 100% of MEP's Adjusted  
EBITDA is calculated as  
follows:

Net income	\$89	\$80	\$83	\$85	\$43	\$—
Depreciation and amortization	69	69	69	70	40	—
Interest expense, net	45	51	52	51	29	—
Other expenses, net	1	—	—	—	—	—
MEP's Adjusted EBITDA	\$204	\$200	\$204	\$206	\$112	\$—
Ownership interest	50 %	50 %	50 %	50 %	49 %	— %
Partnership's interest in MEP's Adjusted EBITDA	\$102	\$100	\$102	\$103	\$56	\$—

(3) 100% of Lone Star's

Adjusted EBITDA is  
calculated as follows:

Net income	\$ 387	\$ 214	\$ 147	\$ 94	\$ —	\$ —
Depreciation and amortization	106	84	52	32	—	—
Other, net	3	2	—	—	—	—
Lone Star's Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 496	\$ 300	\$ 199	\$ 126	\$ —	\$ —
Ownership interest	30	% 30	% 30	% 30	% —	% —
Partnership's interest in Lone Star's Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 149	\$ 90	\$ 60	\$ 38	\$ —	\$ —

Table of Contents

	Successor				Predecessor	
	Year Ended December 31, 2014	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Year Ended December 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011	Period from Acquisition (May 26, 2010) to December 31, 2010	Period from January 1, 2010 to May 25, 2010
(4) 100% of Ranch JV's Adjusted EBITDA is calculated as follows:						
Net income (loss)	\$29	\$4	\$(2)	) \$—	\$—	\$—
Depreciation and amortization	6	5	1	—	—	—
Other expenses, net	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ranch JV's Adjusted EBITDA	\$36	\$9	\$(1)	) \$—	\$—	\$—
Ownership interest	33.33	% 33.33	% 33.33	% —	% —	% —
Partnership's interest in Ranch JV's Adjusted EBITDA	\$12	\$3	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
(5) 100% of Aqua - PVR's Adjusted EBITDA is calculated as follows:						
Net loss	\$(7)	) \$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
Depreciation and amortization	8	—	—	—	—	—
Aqua - PVR's Adjusted EBITDA	\$1	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
Ownership interest	51	% —	% —	% —	% —	% —
Partnership's interest in Aqua-PVR's Adjusted EBITDA	\$1	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
(6) 100% of Others' Adjusted EBITDA is calculated as follows: <sup>(1)</sup>						
Net income (loss)	\$4	\$(1)	) \$(18)	) \$—	\$—	\$—
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	2	—	8	—	—	—
Others' Adjusted EBITDA	\$6	\$(1)	) \$(10)	) \$—	\$—	\$—
Ownership interest	50	% 50	% 50	% —	% —	% —
Partnership's interest in Others' Adjusted EBITDA	\$3	\$—	\$(5)	) \$—	\$—	\$—

(1) Others includes Coal Handling and Grey Ranch

Table of Contents

	Successor				Period from Acquisition (May 26, 2010) to December 31, 2010	Predecessor Period from January 1, 2010 to May 25, 2010
	Year Ended December 31, 2014	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Year Ended December 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011		
Reconciliation of net (loss) income to "Adjusted total segment margin"						
Net (loss) income	\$(142	) \$27	\$34	\$74	\$(6	) \$(5
Add (deduct):						
Operation and maintenance	448	296	228	147	78	48
General and administrative	158	88	100	67	44	37
(Gain) loss on asset sales, net	(1	) 2	3	(2	) —	—
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	541	287	252	169	76	42
Goodwill impairment	370	—	—	—	—	—
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	(195	) (135	) (105	) (120	) (54	) (16
Interest expense, net	304	164	122	103	48	35
Loss on debt refinancing, net	25	7	8	—	16	2
Other income and deductions, net	(12	) (7	) (29	) (17	) 8	4
Income tax expense (benefit)	3	(1	) —	—	1	—
Discontinued operations	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total segment margin	\$1,499	\$728	\$613	\$421	\$212	\$147
Add (deduct):						
Non-cash (gain) loss from commodity derivatives	(89	) 9	(5	) —	23	7
Segment margin related to noncontrolling interest of ELG	(25	) (13	) (6	) (4	) —	—
Segment margin related to ownership percentage in Ranch JV	14	5	—	—	—	—
Adjusted total segment margin	\$1,399	\$729	\$602	\$417	\$235	\$154

## Table of Contents

### Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion analyzes our financial condition and results of operations. You should read the following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations in conjunction with our historical consolidated financial statements and notes included elsewhere in this document.

We are a growth-oriented publicly-traded Delaware limited partnership engaged in the gathering and processing, compression, treating and transportation of natural gas; the transportation, fractionation and storage of NGLs; the gathering, transportation and terminaling of oil (crude, and/or condensate, a lighter oil) received from producers; the gathering and disposing of salt water; natural gas and NGL marketing and trading; and the management of coal and natural resource properties in the United States. We focus on providing midstream services in some of the most prolific natural gas producing regions in the United States, including the Eagle Ford, Haynesville, Barnett, Fayetteville, Marcellus, Utica, Bone Spring, Avalon and Granite Wash shales. Our assets are primarily located in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, Mississippi, Alabama, New Mexico and the mid-continent region of the United States, which includes Kansas, Colorado and Oklahoma.

We divide our operations into the following six business segments:

- Gathering and Processing. We provide "wellhead-to-market" services to producers of natural gas, which include transporting raw natural gas from the wellhead through gathering systems, processing raw natural gas to separate NGLs from the raw natural gas and selling or delivering pipeline-quality natural gas and NGLs to various markets and pipeline systems, the gathering of oil (crude and/or condensate, a lighter oil) received from producers, the gathering and disposing of salt water, and natural gas and NGL marketing and trading. This segment also includes our 60% membership interest in ELG, which operates natural gas gathering, oil pipeline, and oil stabilization facilities in south Texas, our 33.33% membership interest in Ranch JV, which processes natural gas delivered from NGL-rich shale formations in west Texas, our 50% interest in Sweeny JV, which operates a natural gas gathering facility in south Texas, our 51% membership interest in Aqua - PVR, which transports and supplies fresh water to natural gas producers in the Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania, our 75% membership interest in ORS, which will operate a natural gas gathering system in the Utica shale in Ohio, and our 50% interest in Mi Vida JV, which will operate a cryogenic processing plant and related facilities in west Texas.

Natural Gas Transportation. We own a 49.99% general partner interest in HPC, which owns RIGS, a 450-mile intrastate pipeline that delivers natural gas from northwest Louisiana to downstream pipelines and markets, and a 50% membership interest in MEP, which owns a 500-mile interstate natural gas pipeline stretching from southeast Oklahoma through northeast Texas, northern Louisiana and central Mississippi to an interconnect with the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line system in Butler, Alabama. This segment also includes Gulf States, which owns a 10-mile interstate pipeline that extends from Harrison County, Texas to Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

NGL Services. We own a 30% membership interest in Lone Star, an entity owning a diverse set of midstream energy assets including NGL pipelines, storage, fractionation and processing facilities located in Texas, New Mexico, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Contract Services. We own and operate a fleet of compressors used to provide turn-key natural gas compression services for customer specific systems. We also own and operate a fleet of equipment used to provide treating services, such as carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide removal, natural gas cooling, dehydration and BTU management.

Natural Resources. We are involved in the management of coal and natural resources properties and the related collection of royalties. We also earn revenues from other land management activities, such as selling standing timber, leasing coal-related infrastructure facilities, and collecting oil and gas royalties. This segment also included our 50% interest in Coal Handling, which owns and operates end-user coal handling facilities. We purchased the remaining 50% interest in these companies effective December 31, 2014.

Corporate. The Corporate segment comprises our corporate assets.

Gathering and Processing segment. Results of operations from our Gathering and Processing segment are determined primarily by the volumes of natural gas that we gather and process, our current contract portfolio and natural gas and

NGL prices. We measure the performance of this segment primarily by the adjusted segment margin it generates. We gather and process natural gas pursuant to a variety of arrangements generally categorized as “fee-based” arrangements, “percent-of-proceeds” arrangements and “keep-whole” arrangements. Under fee-based arrangements, we earn fixed cash fees for the services that we render. Under the latter two types of arrangements, we generally purchase raw natural gas and sell processed natural gas and NGLs. We regard the adjusted segment margin generated by our sales of natural gas and NGLs under percent-of-proceeds and keep-whole arrangements as comparable to the revenues generated by fixed fee arrangements to the extent that they are hedged.

## Table of Contents

Percent-of-proceeds and keep-whole arrangements involve commodity price risk to us because our adjusted segment margin is based in part on natural gas and NGL prices. We seek to minimize our exposure to fluctuations in commodity prices in several ways, including managing our contract portfolio and executing product specific swap contracts. In managing our contract portfolio, we classify our gathering and processing contracts according to the nature of commodity risk implicit in the settlement structure of those contracts. We execute product-specific swap contracts and continually monitor our hedging and contract portfolio and expect to continue to adjust our hedge position as conditions warrant.

In addition, we perform a producer services function whereby we purchase natural gas from producers or gas marketers at receipt points on our systems and transport that gas to delivery points at which we sell the natural gas at market price. We regard the segment margin with respect to those purchases and sales as the economic equivalent of a fee for our transportation service. These contracts are frequently settled in terms of an index price for both purchases and sales. In order to minimize commodity price risk, we attempt to match sales with purchases at the index price. We typically sell natural gas under pricing terms related to a market index. To the extent possible, we match the pricing and timing of our supply portfolio to our sales portfolio in order to lock in our margin and reduce our overall commodity price exposure. To the extent our natural gas position is not balanced, we will be exposed to the commodity price risk associated with the price of natural gas. Refer to “Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk” for further details.

**Logistics and Trading.** We conduct natural gas marketing and trading activities through our Logistics and Trading subsidiary. We engage in activities intended to capitalize on favorable price differentials between various receipt and delivery locations.

**Natural Gas Transportation segment.** HPC has the capacity to transport up to 2.1 Bcf/d of natural gas. Results of HPC’s operations are determined primarily by the volumes of natural gas transported and subscribed on its intrastate pipeline system and the level of fees charged to customers or the margins received from purchases and sales of natural gas. HPC generates revenues and segment margins principally under fee-based transportation contracts. The fixed capacity reservation charges related to HPC that are not directly dependent on throughput volumes or commodity prices represents 93% of HPC’s margin.

**MEP pipeline system,** operated by KMP, has the capability to transport up to 1.8 Bcf/d of natural gas, and the pipeline capacity is nearly fully subscribed, Zone 1 is ~95% subscribed and Zone 2 is fully subscribed, with long-term binding commitments from creditworthy shippers. Results of MEP’s operations are determined primarily by the volumes of natural gas transported and subscribed on its interstate pipeline system and the level of fees charged to customers. MEP generates revenues and segment margins principally under fee-based transportation contracts. The margin MEP earns is primarily related to fixed capacity reservation charges that are not directly dependent on throughput volumes or commodity prices. If a sustained decline in commodity prices should result in a decline in volumes, MEP’s revenues would not be significantly impacted until expiration of the current contracts.

**Gulf States** is a small interstate pipeline that uses cost-based rates and terms and conditions of service for shippers wishing to secure capacity for interstate transportation service. Rates charged are largely governed by long-term negotiated rate agreements.

**NGL Services segment.** Lone Star owns and operates a NGLs storage, fractionation and transportation business. Lone Star’s storage assets are primarily located in Mont Belvieu, Texas and its West Texas Pipeline, which passes through the Barnett shale, and its Lone Star West Texas Gateway NGL Pipeline, which passes through the Eagle Ford shale, transports NGLs through intrastate pipeline systems that originate in the Permian and Delaware basins in west Texas, and terminates at Lone Star’s storage and fractionation complex. Lone Star also owns and operates fractionation and processing assets located in Louisiana and Texas, including the Lone Star Fractionator I and Fractionator II, located at Mont Belvieu, which began service in December 2012 and November 2013, respectively. Results of Lone Star’s operations are based upon fee-based revenues and commodity pricing which are determined primarily by volumes stored, processed or transported, the level of fees charged to customers and the value of the commodity in the market at the time of sale. The margin Lone Star earns is primarily related to the volume of NGLs stored, processed and transported.

Contract Services segment. Fees charged for compression and treating services are typically fixed and are generally based on the revenue generating horsepower.

Natural Resources segment. Our Natural Resources operation primarily involves the management and leasing of coal properties and the subsequent collection of royalties. We also earn revenues from other land management activities, such as selling standing timber, leasing fee-based coal-related infrastructure facilities to certain lessees and end-user industrial plants, collecting oil and gas royalties, from coal transportation, or wheelage fees and as operator of end-user coal handling facilities.

**HOW WE EVALUATE OUR OPERATIONS.** Management uses a variety of financial and operational measurements to analyze our performance. We view these measures as important tools for evaluating the success of our operations and review these measurements on a monthly basis for consistency and trend analysis. These measures include volumes, segment margin, total



## Table of Contents

segment margin, adjusted segment margin, adjusted total segment margin, revenue generating horsepower and operation and maintenance expense on a segment and company-wide basis and EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA on a company-wide basis.

**Volumes.** We must continually obtain new supplies of natural gas to maintain or increase throughput volumes on our gathering and processing systems. Our ability to maintain existing supplies of natural gas and obtain new supplies is affected by (i) the level of workovers or recompletions of existing connected wells and successful drilling activity in areas currently dedicated to our gathering and processing systems, (ii) our ability to compete for volumes from successful new wells in other areas and (iii) our ability to obtain natural gas that has been released from other commitments. We routinely monitor producer activity in the areas served by our gathering and processing systems to pursue new supply opportunities.

**Segment Margin and Total Segment Margin.** We define segment margin, generally, as revenues minus cost of sales. We calculate our Gathering and Processing segment margin and Natural Gas Transportation segment margin as our revenues generated from operations less the cost of natural gas and NGLs purchased and other cost of sales, including third-party transportation and processing fees.

We do not record segment margin for our investments in unconsolidated affiliates (HPC, MEP, Lone Star, Ranch JV, Aqua - PVR, Mi Vida JV and Sweeny JV) because we record our ownership percentage of their net income as income from unconsolidated affiliates in accordance with the equity method of accounting.

We calculate our Contract Services segment margin as our revenues generated from our contract compression and treating operations minus direct costs, primarily repairs, associated with those revenues.

Our Natural Resources segment margin is generally equal to total revenues as there is typically minimal cost of sales associated with the management and leasing of these properties.

We calculate total segment margin as the total of segment margin of our five segments, less intersegment eliminations.

**Adjusted Segment Margin and Adjusted Total Segment Margin.** We define adjusted segment margin as segment margin adjusted for non-cash (gains) losses from commodity derivatives. Our adjusted total segment margin equals the sum of our operating segments' adjusted segment margins or segment margins, including intersegment eliminations. Adjusted segment margin and adjusted total segment margin are included as supplemental disclosures because they are primary performance measures used by management as they represent the results of product purchases and sales, a key component of our operations.

**Revenue Generating Horsepower.** Revenue generating horsepower is the primary driver for revenue growth in our Contract Services segment, and it is also the primary measure for evaluating our operational efficiency. Revenue generating horsepower is the total horsepower that our Contract Services segment owns and operates for external customers. It does not include horsepower under contract that is not generating revenue or idle horsepower.

**Coal Royalty Tonnage.** Coal royalty tonnage is the primary driver of the value of our coal royalty revenues in our Natural Resources segment. We earn most of our coal royalty revenues under long-term leases that generally require our lessees to make royalty payments to us based on the higher of a percentage of the gross sales price or a fixed price per ton of coal they sell. The balance of our coal royalty revenues is earned under long-term leases that require the lessees to make royalty payments to us based on fixed royalty rates that escalate annually.

**Operation and Maintenance Expense.** Operation and maintenance expense is a separate measure that we use to evaluate operating performance of field operations. Direct labor, insurance, property taxes, repair and maintenance, utilities and contract services comprise the most significant portion of our operating and maintenance expense. These expenses are largely independent of the volumes through our systems but fluctuate depending on the activities performed during a specific period. We do not deduct operation and maintenance expenses from total revenues in calculating segment margin because we use segment margin to separately evaluate commodity volume and price changes.

**EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA.** We define EBITDA as net income (loss) plus interest expense, provision for income taxes and depreciation, depletion and amortization expense, and impairment expense. We define adjusted EBITDA as EBITDA plus or minus the following:

- non-cash loss (gain) from commodity and embedded derivatives;
- non-cash unit-based compensation;

Loss (gain) on asset sales, net;  
Loss on debt refinancing, net;  
Other non-cash (income) expense, net;

57

---

## Table of Contents

acquisition costs;

our interest in ELG and ORS adjusted EBITDA less adjusted EBITDA attributable to ELG and ORS; and  
 our interest in adjusted EBITDA from unconsolidated affiliates less income from unconsolidated affiliates.

These measures are used as supplemental measures by our management and by external users of our financial statements such as investors, banks, research analysts and others, to assess:

financial performance of our assets without regard to financing methods, capital structure or historical cost basis;  
 the ability of our assets to generate cash sufficient to pay interest costs, support our indebtedness and make cash distributions to our unitholders and General Partner;  
 our operating performance and return on capital as compared to those of other companies in the midstream energy sector, without regard to financing or capital structure; and  
 the viability of acquisitions and capital expenditure projects and the overall rates of return on alternative investment opportunities.

Neither EBITDA nor adjusted EBITDA should be considered as an alternative to, or more meaningful than, net income, operating income, cash flows from operating activities or any other measure of financial performance presented in accordance with GAAP. EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA may not be comparable to a similarly titled measure of another company because other entities may not calculate EBITDA or adjusted EBITDA in the same manner. Adjusted EBITDA is the starting point in determining distributable cash flow, which is an important non-GAAP financial measure for a publicly traded partnership.

**GENERAL TRENDS AND OUTLOOK.** We expect our business to continue to be affected by the following key trends. Our expectations are based on assumptions made by us and information currently available to us. To the extent our underlying assumptions about or interpretations of available information prove incorrect, our actual results may vary materially from our expected results.

In its annual energy outlook forecast, the EIA projects that domestic production of crude oil grows from 2012 through 2019 before peaking at more than 9.6 million barrels per day. Growth in the onshore crude production is the result of continued development of tight oil resources in the Bakken, Eagle Ford, and Permian Basin formations, with a production of 4.8 million barrels per day from 2018 to 2021, and then declines to about 3.2 million barrels per day in 2040 as areas are depleted. The pace of oil-directed drilling is anticipated to be much stronger as producers locate and target sweet spots of plays currently under development and find additional tight formations that can be developed with the latest technologies. Production using carbon dioxide-enhanced oil recovery is anticipated to increase after 2017, with cumulated production between 2013 and 2040 reaching 5.2 billion barrels.

Natural gas production is anticipated to grow by an average of 1.6% per year from 2012 to 2040, more than double the 0.8% annual growth rate of total consumption. The growth in production meets increasing demand and exports, while making up for a drop in natural gas imports. The United States is anticipated to become a net exporter of natural gas before 2020, with growing LNG exports supporting higher prices. The United States transitions from being a net importer of 1.5 Tcf of natural gas in 2012 to a net exporter of 5.8 Tcf in 2040, with 88% of the rise in net exports occurring by 2030, followed by slower growth through 2040. Pipeline exports of U.S. natural gas to Asia through 2030 is expected to account for 55% of the rise in total natural gas exports, and exports to Mexico is anticipated to grow steadily from 0.6 Tcf in 2012 to 3.1 Tcf in 2040, and pipeline imports from Canada drop from 2.0 Tcf in 2012 to 0.4 Tcf in 2030. The dual application of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing is expected to contribute to the continued growth in shale gas production. Another contributing factor is ongoing drilling in shale and other plays with high concentrations of NGLs and crude oil, which have a higher energy-equivalent than dry natural gas.

Low natural gas prices and increased availability of natural gas and related resources benefit the U.S. industrial sector, with generally lower energy prices resulting in more rapid economic growth. The higher level of industrial production leads to growth in natural gas consumption from 8.7 quadrillion Btu in 2012 to 10.6 quadrillion Btu in 2025. Natural gas is also an attractive fuel for new electric generating capacity. Natural gas-fired generation captures markets formerly supplied by coal-fired and nuclear plants, and by 2035, natural gas is anticipated to surpass coal as the nation's largest source of energy for electricity generation, accounting for 43% of total electricity generation by 2040. In its short-term energy outlook published in January 2015, the EIA forecasts that WTI crude oil prices will average \$55 per barrel in 2015 and \$71 per barrel in 2016. WTI futures contracts for April 2015 delivery averaged \$51 per

barrel, establishing the lower and upper limits of the 95% confidence interval for the market's expectations of monthly average WTI prices in April 2015 at \$34 per barrel and \$76 per barrel, respectively. The 95% confidence interval for market expectations widens considerably over time, with lower and upper limits of \$28 per barrel and \$112 per barrel for prices in December 2015. The EIA expects global oil inventories

## Table of Contents

to continue to build in 2015, keeping downward pressure on oil prices, concentrated in the first half of 2015, and increasing throughout the remainder of the year.

**Effect of Interest Rates and Inflation.** Interest rates on existing and future credit facilities and future debt offerings could be significantly higher than current levels, causing our financing costs to increase accordingly. Although increased financing costs could limit our ability to raise funds in the capital markets, we expect to remain competitive with respect to acquisitions and capital projects since our competitors would face similar circumstances.

**Inflation in the United States** has been relatively low in recent years and has not had a material effect on our results of operations. It may in the future, however, increase the cost to acquire or replace property, plant and equipment and may increase the costs of labor and supplies. Our operating revenues and costs are influenced to a greater extent by price changes in natural gas and NGLs. To the extent permitted by competition, regulation and our existing agreements, we have and will continue to pass along a portion of increased costs to our customers in the form of higher fees.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

**Pending Merger with ETP.** On January 25, 2015, we and ETP entered into the Merger Agreement pursuant to which the Partnership will merge with a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP, with the Partnership continuing as the surviving entity and becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP (the "Merger"). At the effective time of the Merger (the "Effective Time"), each Partnership common unit and Class F unit will be converted into the right to receive 0.4066 ETP common units, plus a number of additional ETP common units equal to \$0.32 per Partnership unit divided by the lesser of (i) the volume weighted average price of ETP common units for the five trading days ending on the third trading day immediately preceding the Effective Time and (ii) the closing price of ETP common units on the third trading day immediately preceding the Effective Time, rounded to the nearest ten thousandth of a unit. Each Series A Preferred Unit will be converted into the right to receive a preferred unit representing a limited partner interest in ETP, a new class of units in ETP to be established at the Effective Time. Early termination of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, for the Merger was granted by the United States Federal Trade Commission on February 24, 2015. The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2015 and is subject to other customary closing conditions including approval by the Partnership's unitholders.

**PVR Acquisition.** On March 21, 2014, we acquired PVR for a total purchase price of \$5.7 billion, including \$1.8 billion of assumed debt. The PVR Acquisition enhanced our geographic diversity by adding a strategic presence in the Marcellus and Utica shales in the Appalachian Basin and the Granite Wash in the Mid-Continent region.

**Dubberly Expansion.** In May 2014, we announced that we will construct a new 200 MMcf/d processing plant at our Dubberly facility in north Louisiana, which will accept gas directly from our recently completed Dubberly gathering trunkline. The residue outlet for this facility will be RIGS. In addition, we will construct a new, 47-mile, 10-inch NGL pipeline from Dubberly for delivery to fractionation facilities in Louisiana and Texas. The NGL pipeline will have an initial capacity of 40,000 Bbls/d and will be expandable via additional pump stations. Combined project costs are expected to be \$191 million and both the new processing facility and the NGL pipeline are backed by fee-based contracts. The projects are expected to be completed in mid-2015.

**Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition.** On July 1, 2014, we acquired Eagle Rock's midstream business for \$1.3 billion. This acquisition complemented our core gathering and processing business, and when combined with the PVR Acquisition, further diversified our basin exposure in the Texas Panhandle, east Texas and south Texas.

**Ohio River System.** In August 2014, we entered into a joint venture with American Energy - Midstream, LLC ("AEM"). We and AEM own a 75% and 25% membership interest, respectively, in the new joint venture, ORS. On behalf of ORS, we are constructing and will operate our Ohio Utica River System, (the "ORS System") which consists of a 52-mile, 36-inch gathering trunkline that will be capable of delivering up to 2.1 bcf/d to Rockies Express Pipeline ("REX"), Texas Eastern Transmission, and potentially others, and the construction of 25,000 horsepower of compression at the REX interconnect. This project will also include the construction of a 12-mile, 30-inch lateral that

will initially connect to the tailgate of the Cadiz processing plant and Harrison County wellhead production. Phase I and Phase II are expected to be completed in the second and third quarters of 2015, respectively. Total costs for the ORS System are expected to be approximately \$500 million; 75% contributed from us and 25% contributed from AEM, which will be reflected on our consolidated balance sheet as a noncontrolling interest. Additionally, we and American Energy - Utica, LLC (“AEU”), an affiliate of AEM, entered into a gathering agreement for gas produced from the Utica Shale in eastern Ohio by AEU.

Mi Vida JV. In October 2014, our wholly-owned subsidiary, Regency Mi Vida LLC (“Regency Mi Vida”), entered into a joint venture with Anadarko Mi Vida LLC (“Anadarko”). Anadarko and Regency Mi Vida each own a 50% membership interest in the new joint venture, Mi Vida JV. We are constructing and will operate a 200 MMcf/d cryogenic processing plant and related facilities, in west Texas, on behalf of Mi Vida JV.

Table of Contents

Lone Star Frac III. On November 5, 2014, Lone Star announced that it will construct a third natural gas liquids fractionator at its facility in Mont Belvieu, Texas, which will bring Lone Star's total fractionation capacity at Mont Belvieu to 300,000 Bbls/d. Lone Star's third fractionator is expected to be operational by December 2015.

Lone Star NGL Pipeline and Conversion Project. In November 2014, Lone Star announced that it will construct a 533 mile, 24- and 30-inch NGL pipeline from the Permian Basin to Mont Belvieu, Texas, and convert Lone Star's existing West Texas 12-inch NGL pipeline into crude oil/condensate service. The new pipeline and conversion projects, estimated to cost aggregately between \$1.5 billion and \$1.8 billion, are expected to be operational by the third quarter of 2016 and the first quarter of 2017, respectively.

Table of Contents

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended December 31, 2014 vs. Year Ended December 31, 2013

(Tabular dollar amounts are in millions)

	Years Ended December 31,		Change	Percent	
	2014	2013			%
Total revenues	\$4,951	\$2,521	\$2,430	96	
Cost of sales	3,452	1,793	1,659	93	
Total segment margin <sup>(1)</sup>	1,499	728	771	106	
Operation and maintenance	448	296	152	51	
General and administrative	158	88	70	80	
(Gain) loss on asset sales, net	(1	) 2	(3	) 150	
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	541	287	254	89	
Goodwill impairment	370	—	370	100	
Operating (loss) income	(17	) 55	(72	) 131	
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	195	135	60	44	
Interest expense, net	(304	) (164	) (140	) 85	
Loss on debt refinancing, net	(25	) (7	) (18	) 257	
Other income and deductions, net	12	7	5	71	
(Loss) income from continuing operations before income taxes	(139	) 26	(165	) 635	
Income tax expense (benefit)	3	(1	) 4	400	
Net (loss) income	\$(142	) \$27	\$(169	) 626	
Net income attributable to the noncontrolling interest	(15	) (8	) (7	) 88	
Net (loss) income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	\$(157	) \$19	\$(176	) 926	
Gathering and processing segment margin	\$1,189	\$520	\$669	129	
Non-cash (gain) loss from commodity derivatives	(89	) 9	(98	) 1,089	
Segment margin related to noncontrolling interest of ELG	(25	) (13	) (12	) 92	
Segment margin related to our ownership percentage in Ranch JV	14	5	9	180	
Adjusted gathering and processing segment margin	\$1,089	\$521	\$568	109	
Natural gas transportation segment margin	—	1	(1	) 100	
Contract services segment margin <sup>(2)</sup>	254	204	50	25	
Natural resources segment margin	58	—	58	100	
Corporate segment margin	12	18	(6	) 33	
Intersegment eliminations <sup>(2)</sup>	(14	) (15	) 1	7	
Adjusted total segment margin	\$1,399	\$729	\$670	92	%

(1) For reconciliation of segment margin to the most directly comparable financial measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP, read "Item 6. Selected Financial Data."

Contract Services segment margin includes intersegment revenues of \$14 million and \$15 million for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. These intersegment revenues were eliminated upon consolidation.

Net (Loss) Income Attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP. Net (loss) income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP decreased to a \$157 million net loss in the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$19 million net income in the year ended December 31, 2013. The major components of this change were as follows:

\$771 million increase in total segment margin due to \$495 million contribution in segment margin from the PVR, Eagle Rock and Hoover acquisitions and increased volumes in south and west Texas and north Louisiana in our



Gathering and Processing segment;

\$60 million increase in income from unconsolidated affiliates related to an increase in volumes fractionated at Lone Star Fractionator II which was commissioned in late 2013 and an increase in volumes transported from west Texas; offset by

## Table of Contents

\$370 million goodwill impairment charge related to the Permian reporting unit within the Gathering and Processing segment;

\$254 million increase in depreciation, depletion, and amortization primarily due to the completion of various organic growth projects and assets acquired in the PVR, Eagle Rock and Hoover acquisitions;

\$152 million increase in operations and maintenance expense related to organic growth in south and west Texas, including \$109 million related to the PVR, Eagle Rock and Hoover acquisitions;

\$140 million increase in interest expense, net related to the interest associated with our \$600 million 4.5% senior notes issued in April 2013, our \$400 million 5.75% senior notes issued in September 2013, \$900 million 5.875% senior notes issued in February 2014, \$700 million 5% senior notes issued in July 2014, \$46 million in interest expense related to the senior notes assumed in the PVR Acquisition, and \$20 million in interest expense related to the senior notes assumed in the Eagle Rock acquisition;

- \$70 million increase in general and administrative expenses due to higher acquisition and employee costs; and

\$18 million increase in loss on debt financing related to the December 2014 redemption of the \$600 million 2018 Notes, for a total price of 103.438%.

**Adjusted Total Segment Margin.** Adjusted total segment margin increased to \$1.4 billion in the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$729 million in the year ended December 31, 2013. The major components of this change were as follows:

Adjusted Gathering and Processing segment margin increased to \$1.1 billion for the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$521 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, due to volume growth in south and west Texas and north Louisiana, and a \$434 million contribution from the PVR, Eagle Rock and Hoover acquisitions. Total Gathering and Processing segment throughput increased to 4,800,000 MMBtu/d during the year ended December 31, 2014, including 2,252,000 MMBtu/d from the PVR, Eagle Rock and Hoover acquisitions, from 2,141,000 MMBtu/d during the year ended December 31, 2013. Total NGL gross production increased to 149,000 Bbls/d during the year ended December 31, 2014 from 90,000 Bbls/d during the year ended December 31, 2013;

Contract Services segment margin increased to \$254 million in the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$204 million in the year ended December 31, 2013. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, total revenue generating horsepower was 1,303,000 and 1,049,000, inclusive of 28,000 and 44,000, respectively of revenue generating horsepower utilized by our Gathering and Processing segment; and

Natural Resources segment margin was \$58 million from March 21, 2014 (the date of acquisition) to December 31 2014. Coal royalty tonnage for the same period was 11,265, for an average royalty per ton of \$3.91.

**Operation and Maintenance.** Operation and maintenance expense increased to \$448 million in the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$296 million in the year ended December 31, 2013. The change was primarily due to the following:

- \$76 million increase in pipeline and plant maintenance and materials due to organic growth in south and west Texas as well as the PVR, Eagle Rock and Hoover acquisitions;

- \$44 million increase in employee expenses related to an increase in headcount related to the PVR, Eagle Rock and Hoover acquisitions;

- \$15 million increase in ad valorem taxes due to higher taxable values of assets related to the assets acquired from PVR, Eagle Rock and Hoover; and

- \$9 million increase in insurance, professional fees and communications expenses due to organic growth and the PVR, Eagle Rock and Hoover Acquisitions.

**General and Administrative.** General and administrative expense increased to \$158 million in the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$88 million in the year ended December 31, 2013. The change was due to \$33 million increase in acquisitions costs and \$30 million increase in employee expenses related to the PVR Eagle Rock and Hoover acquisitions

**Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization.** Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense increased to \$541 million in the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$287 million in the year ended December 31, 2013. This increase was the result of the completion of various organic growth projects since December 2013 and assets acquired from

PVR, Eagle Rock and Hoover.

Goodwill Impairment. In 2014, a \$370 million goodwill impairment charge was recorded related to the Permian reporting unit within the Gathering and Processing segment. The decline in estimated fair value of that reporting unit is primarily driven by the significant decline in commodity prices in the fourth quarter of 2014, and the resulting impact to future commodity prices as well as increases in future estimated operations and maintenance expenses.

Table of Contents

Income from Unconsolidated Affiliates. Income from unconsolidated affiliates increased to \$195 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$135 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. The schedule summarizes the components of income from unconsolidated affiliates and our ownership interest for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively:

Year Ended December 31, 2014									
	HPC		MEP		Lone Star		Ranch JV	Aqua - PVR	Others <sup>(2)</sup> Total
Net income (loss)	\$67		\$89		\$387		\$29	\$(7 )	\$4
Ownership interest	49.99	%	50	%	30	%	33.33	% 51	% 50 %
Share of unconsolidated affiliates' net income (loss)	33		45		116		9	(4 )	2
Less: Amortization of excess fair value of unconsolidated affiliates	(6 )		—		—		—	—	—
Income (loss) from unconsolidated affiliates	\$27		\$45		\$116		\$9	\$(4 )	\$2 \$195
Year Ended December 31, 2013									
	HPC		MEP		Lone Star		Ranch JV	Grey Ranch <sup>(1)</sup>	Total
Net income (loss)	\$72		\$80		\$214		\$4	\$(1 )	
Ownership interest	49.99	%	50	%	30	%	33.33	% 50	%
Share of unconsolidated affiliates' net income	36		40		64		1	—	
Less: Amortization of excess fair value of unconsolidated affiliates	(6 )		—		—		—	—	
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	\$30		\$40		\$64		\$1	\$—	\$135

(1) Grey Ranch was acquired as part of the SUGS Acquisition.

(2) Others includes Coal Handling, Sweeny JV and Grey Ranch.

HPC's net income decreased to \$67 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$72 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, primarily due to the expiration of certain contracts that were not renewed as well as a customer declaring bankruptcy on April 1, 2013. MEP's net income increased to \$89 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$80 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 due to a reduction in interest expense related to the September payoff of their \$350 million debt. Lone Star's net income increased to \$387 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$214 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, due to the startup of our second fractionator at Mont Belvieu, Texas in November 2013 and an increase in transportation volumes on our pipeline system primarily from west Texas. Ranch JV's net income increased to \$29 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$4 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 primarily due to an increase in throughput volumes and condensate sales.

The following table presents operational data for each of our unconsolidated affiliates for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

		Years Ended December 31,	
		2014	2013
HPC	Throughput (MMBtu/d)	662,000	648,000
MEP	Throughput (MMBtu/d)	1,205,000	1,315,000
Lone Star	West Texas Pipeline – Total Volumes (Bbls/d)	211,000	164,000
	Refinery Services – Geismar Throughput (Bbls/d)	14,000	13,000
	Fractionation – Throughput (Bbls/d)	179,000	78,000
Ranch JV	Throughput (MMBtu/d)	136,000	73,000

Interest Expense, Net. Interest expense, net increased to \$304 million in the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$164 million in the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase was primarily attributable to the interest associated with our \$600 million 4.5% senior notes issued in April 2013, our \$400 million 5.75% senior notes issued in September 2013, \$900 million 5.875% senior notes issued in February 2014, \$700 million 5% senior notes issued in July 2014, \$46 million in interest expense related to the

Table of Contents

senior notes assumed in the PVR Acquisition, and \$20 million in interest expense related to the senior notes assumed in the Eagle Rock acquisition.

Other Income and Deductions, net. Other income and deductions, net increased to a \$12 million gain in the year ended December 31, 2014 from a \$7 million gain in the year ended December 31, 2013, due to a \$6 million non-cash gain on the revaluation of our previously held 50% membership interest in Coal Handling related to the purchase of the remaining 50% membership interest.

Year Ended December 31, 2013 vs. Year Ended December 31, 2012

(Tabular dollar amounts are in millions)

	Years Ended December 31,		Change	Percent	
	2013	2012			%
Total revenues	\$2,521	\$2,000	\$521	26	%
Cost of sales	1,793	1,387	406	29	
Total segment margin <sup>(1)</sup>	728	613	115	19	
Operation and maintenance	296	228	68	30	
General and administrative	88	100	(12)	) 12	
Loss on asset sales, net	2	3	(1)	) 33	
Depreciation and amortization	287	252	35	14	
Operating income	55	30	25	83	
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	135	105	30	29	
Interest expense, net	(164)	) (122)	) (42)	) 34	
Loss on debt refinancing, net	(7)	) (8)	) 1	13	
Other income and deductions, net	7	29	(22)	) 76	
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	26	34	(8)	) 24	
Income tax benefit	(1)	) —	(1)	) 100	
Net income	\$27	\$34	\$(7)	) 21	
Net income attributable to the noncontrolling interest	(8)	) (2)	) (6)	) 300	
Net income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	\$19	\$32	\$(13)	) 41	
Gathering and processing segment margin	\$520	\$423	\$97	23	
Non-cash loss (gain) from commodity derivatives	9	(5)	) 14	280	
Segment margin related to noncontrolling interest of ELG	(13)	) (6)	) (7)	) 117	
Segment margin related to our ownership percentage in Ranch JV	5	—	5	100	
Adjusted gathering and processing segment margin	\$521	\$412	\$109	26	
Natural gas transportation segment margin	1	2	(1)	) 50	
Contract services segment margin <sup>(2)</sup>	204	189	15	8	
Corporate segment margin	18	20	(2)	) 10	
Intersegment eliminations <sup>(2)</sup>	(15)	) (21)	) 6	29	
Adjusted total segment margin	\$729	\$602	\$127	21	%

(1) For reconciliation of segment margin to the most directly comparable financial measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP, read “Item 6. Selected Financial Data.”

Contract Services segment margin includes intersegment revenues of \$15 million and \$21 million for the years (2) ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. These intersegment revenues were eliminated upon consolidation.

Net Income Attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP. Net income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP decreased to \$19 million in the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$32 million in the year ended December 31, 2012. The major components of this change were as follows:

\$115 million increase in total segment margin, mainly due to increased volumes in south and west Texas in our Gathering and Processing segment; offset by



## Table of Contents

\$68 million increase in operations and maintenance expense primarily related to a full year of SUGS operations in 2013 and organic growth;

\$42 million increase in interest expense, net primarily related to the interest associated with our \$600 million 4.5% senior notes issued in April 2013 and our \$400 million 5.75% senior notes issued in September 2013, as well as a full year of interest associated with our \$700 million 5.5% senior notes issued in October 2012; and

\$22 million decrease in other income and deductions, net primarily related to an \$8 million decrease in the non-cash mark-to-market gain on the embedded derivative related to the Series A preferred units and the absence of a \$16 million one-time producer payment received in March 2012 related to an assignment of certain contracts.

**Adjusted Total Segment Margin.** Adjusted total segment margin increased to \$729 million in the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$602 million in the year ended December 31, 2012. The major components of this increase were as follows:

**Adjusted Gathering and Processing segment margin** increased to \$521 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$412 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, primarily due to volume growth in south and west Texas and north Louisiana and a full year of contribution from the SUGS assets in 2013 versus nine months contribution in 2012. Total Gathering and Processing segment throughput increased to 2,141,000 MMBtu/d during the year ended December 31, 2013 from 1,793,000 MMBtu/d during the year ended December 31, 2012. Total NGL gross production increased to 90,000 Bbls/d during the year ended December 31, 2013 from 69,000 Bbls/d during the year ended December 31, 2012;

**Contract Services segment margin** increased to \$204 million in the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$189 million in the year ended December 31, 2012. As of December 31, 2013 and 2012, total revenue generating horsepower was 1,049,000 and 884,000, inclusive of 44,000 and 96,000, respectively of revenue generating horsepower utilized by our Gathering and Processing segment; and

**Intersegment eliminations** decreased to \$15 million in the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$21 million in the year ended December 31, 2012. The decrease was due to a decrease in intersegment revenue between the Gathering and Processing segment and the Contract Services segment associated with certain assets in south Texas.

**Operation and Maintenance.** Operation and maintenance expense increased to \$296 million in the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$228 million in the year ended December 31, 2012. The change was primarily due to a full year of activity from the SUGS assets in 2013 versus nine months in 2012, which resulted in \$46 million of the increase, with the remaining increase attributable to organic growth in south and west Texas, offset by a decrease in property taxes.

**General and Administrative.** General and administrative expense decreased to \$88 million in the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$100 million in the year ended December 31, 2012. The change was primarily due to the elimination of the amount allocated to the SUGS assets by the previous owner and the decrease in the management fee paid to ETE, offset by an increase in legal and consulting fees.

**Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization.** Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense increased to \$287 million in the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$252 million in the year ended December 31, 2012. This increase was the result of \$42 million of additional depreciation, depletion and amortization expense due to the completion of various organic growth projects since December 2012, and 2012 only included nine months of depreciation expense for the SUGS assets, offset by the absence of \$7 million related to an “out-of-period” adjustment in 2012 related to our Contract Services segment to adjust the estimated useful lives of certain assets to comply with our policy. Had these amounts been recorded in their respective period, the depreciation, depletion and amortization expense for the year ended December 31, 2012 would have been \$245 million.





# Table of Contents

Income from Unconsolidated Affiliates. Income from unconsolidated affiliates increased to \$135 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$105 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. The schedule summarizes the components of income from unconsolidated affiliates and our ownership interest for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively:

	Year Ended December 31, 2013						Total
	HPC	MEP	Lone Star	Ranch JV	Grey Ranch		
Net income (loss)	\$72	\$80	\$214	\$4	\$(1	)	
Ownership interest	49.99	% 50	% 30	% 33.33	% 50	%	
Share of unconsolidated affiliates' net income	36	40	64	1	—		
Less: Amortization of excess fair value of unconsolidated affiliates	(6	) —	—	—	—		
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	\$30	\$40	\$64	\$1	\$—		\$135
	Year Ended December 31, 2012						Total
	HPC	MEP	Lone Star	Ranch JV	Grey Ranch		
Net income (loss)	\$70	\$83	\$147	\$(2	) \$(18	)	
Ownership interest	49.99	% 50	% 30	% 33.33	% 50	%	
Share of unconsolidated affiliates' net income (loss)	35	42	44	(1	) (9	)	
Less: Amortization of excess fair value of unconsolidated affiliates	(6	) —	—	—	—		
Income (loss) from unconsolidated affiliates	\$29	\$42	\$44	\$(1	) \$(9	)	\$105

(1) Grey Ranch was acquired as part of the SUGS Acquisition.

HPC's net income increased to \$72 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$70 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, primarily due to the absence of a non-cash asset impairment charge related to its surplus equipment in the year ended December 2013, offset by the expiration of certain contracts that were not renewed as well as a customer declaring bankruptcy on April 1, 2013. We expect that the annual impact resulting from the loss of this customer, if we were unable to replace the firm commitment contract, would be a reduction of \$5 million in net income. MEP's net income decreased to \$80 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$83 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. Lone Star's net income increased to \$214 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$147 million for the year ended December 31, 2012 primarily due to the addition of the West Texas Gateway NGL Pipeline and Lone Star Fractionator I placed into service in December 2012.

The following table presents operational data for each of our unconsolidated affiliates for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012:

		Years Ended December 31,	
		2013	2012
HPC	Throughput (MMBtu/d)	648,000	854,000
MEP	Throughput (MMBtu/d)	1,315,000	1,409,000
Lone Star	West Texas Pipeline – Total Volumes (Bbls/d)	164,000	134,000
	Refinery Services – Geismar Throughput (Bbls/d)	13,000	17,000
	Fractionation – Throughput (Bbls/d) <sup>(2)</sup>	78,000	—
Ranch JV	Throughput (MMBtu/d) <sup>(1)</sup>	73,000	3,000

(1) Ranch JV began operations in June 2012.

(2) Fractionator I began operations in December 2012.

Interest Expense, Net. Interest expense, net increased to \$164 million in the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$122 million in the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase was primarily attributable to our \$600 million 4.5% senior notes issued in April 2013 and our \$400 million 5.75% senior notes issued in September 2013, as well as a full year of interest associated with our \$700 million 5.5% senior notes issued in October 2012.

Table of Contents

Other Income and Deductions, net. Other income and deductions, net decreased to a \$7 million gain in the year ended December 31, 2013 from a \$29 million gain in the year ended December 31, 2012 primarily due to an \$8 million decrease in the non-cash mark to-market gain on the embedded derivative related to the Series A preferred units and the absence of a \$16 million one-time producer payment received in March 2012 related to an assignment of certain contracts.

**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES****Liquidity**

We expect our sources of liquidity will include:

- cash generated from operations and occasional asset sales;
- borrowings under our revolving credit facility;
- distributions received from unconsolidated affiliates;
- debt offerings; and
- issuance of additional partnership units.

We expect our 2015 capital expenditures, including capital contributions to our unconsolidated affiliates, to be as follows (in millions):

	2015
Growth Capital Expenditures	
Gathering and Processing segment	\$ 1,000
NGL Services segment	400
Contract Services segment	200
Total	\$ 1,600

Maintenance Capital Expenditures, including our proportionate share related to our unconsolidated affiliates \$ 100

We may revise the timing of these expenditures as necessary to adapt to economic conditions. We expect to fund our growth capital expenditures with borrowings under our revolving credit facility and a combination of debt and equity issuances.

**Working Capital (Deficit) Surplus.** Working capital is the amount by which current assets exceed current liabilities and is a measure of our ability to pay our obligations as they become due. When we incur growth capital expenditures, we may experience working capital deficits as we fund construction expenditures out of working capital until they are permanently financed. Our working capital is also influenced by the fair value changes of current derivative assets and liabilities. These derivative assets and liabilities represent our expectations for the settlement of derivative rights and obligations over the next 12 months, and should be viewed differently from trade accounts receivable and accounts payable, which settle over a shorter span of time. When our derivative positions are settled, we expect an offsetting physical transaction, and, as a result, we do not expect derivative assets and liabilities to affect our ability to pay expenditures and obligations as they come due. Our Contract Services segment records deferred revenue as a current liability. The deferred revenue represents billings in advance of services performed. As the revenues associated with the deferred revenue are earned, the liability is reduced.

We had a working capital deficit of \$53 million at December 31, 2014 compared to a working capital deficit of \$75 million at December 31, 2013. The decrease in the working capital deficit was primarily due to a \$16 million increase in cash and cash equivalents, net of drafts payable.

**Cash Flows from Operating Activities.** Net cash flows provided by operating activities increased to \$719 million in the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$436 million in the year ended December 31, 2013. This increase was due to an increase in segment margin due to volume growth in south and west Texas and the PVR, Hoover, and Eagle Rock Midstream acquisitions.

Net cash flows provided by operating activities increased to \$436 million in the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$324 million in the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase was due to an increase in distributions from unconsolidated affiliates and an increase in segment margin.

For all periods, we used our cash flows from operating activities together with borrowings under our credit facility to fund our working capital requirements, which include operation and maintenance expenses, maintenance capital expenditures and repayment

## Table of Contents

of working capital borrowings. From time to time during each period, the timing of receipts and disbursements require us to borrow under our revolving credit facility.

**Cash Flows used in Investing Activities.** Net cash flows used in investing activities increased to \$2.17 billion in the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$1.39 billion in the year ended December 31, 2013, which was due to an increase in cash spent on acquisitions related to the PVR, Eagle Rock Midstream and Hoover acquisitions, as well as an increase in capital contributions to unconsolidated affiliates, primarily Lone Star and Mi Vida JV.

Net cash flows used in investing activities increased to \$1.39 billion in the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$807 million in the year ended December 31, 2012, which was due to an increase in capital expenditures related to our organic growth projects and the acquisition of SUGS, offset by a decrease in contributions to Lone Star and an increase in distributions in excess of earnings of unconsolidated affiliates.

**Growth Capital Expenditures.** Growth capital expenditures are capital expenditures made to acquire additional assets to increase our business, to expand and upgrade existing systems and facilities or to construct or acquire similar systems or facilities. In the year ended December 31, 2014, we incurred \$1.2 billion of growth capital expenditures, inclusive of contributions to unconsolidated affiliates. Growth capital expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2014 consisted of \$749 million for our Gathering and Processing segment; \$99 million for our NGL Services segment; \$325 million for our Contract Services segment; and \$4 million for our Natural Gas Transportation segment.

In the year ended December 31, 2013, we incurred \$948 million of growth capital expenditures inclusive of contributions to unconsolidated affiliates. Growth capital expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2013 consisted of \$550 million for our Gathering and Processing segment; \$123 million for our NGL Services segment; \$270 million for our Contract Services segment; and \$5 million for our Corporate segment.

**Maintenance Capital Expenditures.** Maintenance capital expenditures are capital expenditures made to replace partially or fully depreciated assets or to maintain the existing operating capacity of our assets and extend their useful lives. In the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, we incurred \$98 million and \$48 million, respectively, of maintenance capital expenditures.

**Cash Flows from Financing Activities.** Net cash flows provided by financing activities increased to \$1.46 billion in the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$923 million in the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase was due to an increase in proceeds from the issuance of senior notes and an increase in proceeds received from common unit offerings and offerings under our ATM program, offset by an increase in the redemptions of senior notes and an increase in partner distributions.

Net cash flows provided by financing activities increased to \$923 million in the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$535 million in the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase was primarily due to an additional \$300 million in proceeds from the issuance of senior notes, and a \$458 million increase in borrowings under our revolving credit facility, offset by an increase in the redemption of outstanding senior notes and an increase in partner distributions.

### **Capital Resources**

**Description of Our Indebtedness.** As of December 31, 2014, our aggregate outstanding indebtedness totaled \$6.64 billion and mainly consisted of \$1.50 billion borrowings under our revolving credit facility and \$5.09 billion of Senior Notes as compared to our aggregate outstanding indebtedness as of December 31, 2013, which totaled \$3.31 billion and consisted of \$510 million in borrowings under our revolving credit facility and \$2.80 billion of outstanding senior notes.

**Revolving Credit Facility.** In February 2014, RGS entered into the First Amendment (the "First Amendment") to the Sixth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the "Credit Agreement") to, among other things, expressly permit the pending PVR and Eagle Rock Midstream acquisitions, and to increase the commitment base to \$1.5 billion and increase the uncommitted incremental facility to \$500 million. The First Amendment allowed us to assume the legacy PVR senior notes that mature prior to the Credit Agreement.

In September 2014, RGS entered into the Second Amendment to the Credit Agreement to, among other things, increase the letter of credit sublimit from \$50 million to \$100 million, with none of the four individual issuing banks being required to issue letters of credit in excess of \$25 million; increase in the general basket of permitted investments from \$300 million to \$500 million; add provisions permitting investments in ORS, affording it similar treatment to our existing joint ventures; and update various swap agreement provisions to conform to current market

standards.

68

---

## Table of Contents

In November 2014, RGS entered into the Seventh Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the "New Credit Agreement") to increase the commitment to \$2 billion and extended the maturity date to November 25, 2019. The material differences between the Credit Agreement and the New Credit Agreement include:

- the addition of provisions permitting investments in Mi Vida JV affording it similar treatment to the Partnership's existing joint ventures;

- an increase in certain permitted covenant baskets; and

- updates to various pricing terms and the permitted maximum total leverage ratio to reflect the Partnership's growth. In connection with the New Credit Agreement, we capitalized \$5 million of net loan fees related to the amendments completed in the year ended December 31, 2014, which are being amortized over the remaining term.

In May 2013, RGS entered into the Credit Agreement to increase the commitment to \$1.2 billion with a \$300 million uncommitted incremental facility and extended the maturity date to May 21, 2018. The material differences between the Fifth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement and the Credit Agreement include:

- A 75 bps decrease in pricing, with an additional 50 bps decrease upon the achievement of an investment grade rating;

- No limitation on the maximum amount that the loan parties may invest in joint ventures existing on the date of the credit agreement so long as the Partnership is in pro forma compliance with the financial covenants;

- The addition of a "Restricted Subsidiary" structure such that certain designated subsidiaries are not subject to the credit facility covenants and do not guarantee the obligations thereunder or pledge their assets in support thereof;

- The addition of provisions such that upon the achievement of an investment grade rating by the Partnership, the collateral package will be released; the facility will become unsecured; and the covenant package will be significantly reduced;

- An eight-quarter increase in the permitted Total Leverage Ratio; and

- After March 2015, an increase in the permitted total leverage ratio for the two fiscal quarters following any \$50 million or greater acquisition.

In connection with the Credit Agreement, we capitalized \$6 million of net loan fees related to this amendment which are being amortized over the remaining term.

Borrowings under the New Credit Agreement are secured by substantially all of our assets and are guaranteed by us and our consolidated subsidiaries, except for ELG and ORS. The New Credit Agreement and the guarantees thereunder are senior to ours and the guarantors' unsecured obligations.

In February 2015, RGS exercised the accordion feature of the New Credit Agreement to increase commitments under the revolving credit facility by \$500 million to a total of \$2.5 billion. The increased commitments will be available pursuant to the same terms and subject to the same interest rates and fees as the existing commitments under the New Credit Agreement.

The outstanding balance under the New Credit Agreement bears interest at LIBOR plus a margin or alternate base rate (equivalent to the U.S. prime lending rate) plus a margin, or a combination of both. The alternate base rate used to calculate interest on base rate loans will be calculated based on the greatest to occur of a base rate, a federal funds effective rate plus 0.50% and an adjusted one-month LIBOR rate plus 1.00%. The applicable margin shall range from 0.50% to 1.25% for base rate loans, 1.50% to 2.25% for Eurodollar loans.

We pay (i) a commitment fee ranging from 0.25% to 0.375% per annum of the unused portion of the revolving loan commitments, (ii) a participation fee for each revolving lender participating in letters of credit ranging from 1.50% to 2.25% per annum of the average daily amount of such lender's letter of credit exposure and (iii) a fronting fee to the issuing bank of letters of credit equal to 0.20% per annum of the average daily amount of the letter of credit exposure. The New Credit Agreement contains financial covenants requiring RGS and its subsidiaries to maintain a debt to consolidated EBITDA (as defined in the credit agreement) ratio less than 5.50, a consolidated EBITDA to consolidated interest expense ratio greater than 2.50 and a secured debt to consolidated EBITDA ratio less than 3.25. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, RGS and its subsidiaries were in compliance with these covenants.

The New Credit Agreement restricts the ability of RGS to pay dividends and distributions other than reimbursements to us for expenses and payment of dividends to us for the amount of available cash (as defined) so long as no default



or event of default has occurred or is continuing. The New Credit Agreement also contains various covenants that limit (subject to certain exceptions), among other things, the ability of RGS to:

incur indebtedness;

grant liens;

## Table of Contents

enter into sale and leaseback transactions;  
 make certain investments, loans and advances;  
 dissolve or enter into a merger or consolidation;  
 enter into asset sales or make acquisitions;  
 enter into transactions with affiliates;  
 prepay other indebtedness or amend organizational documents or transactions documents (as defined in the New Credit Agreement);  
 issue capital stock or create subsidiaries; or  
 engage in any business other than those businesses in which it was engaged at the time of the effectiveness of the New Credit Agreement or reasonable extension thereof.

Senior Notes. We and Finance Corp. have outstanding the following series of senior notes (collectively “Senior Notes”):

- \$400 million in aggregate principal amount of our 5.75% senior notes due September 1, 2020 (the “2020 Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on March 1 and September 1;
- \$500 million in aggregate principal amount of our 6.5% senior notes due July 15, 2021 (the “2021 Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on January 15 and July 15;
- \$900 million in aggregate principal of our 5.875% senior notes due March 1, 2022 (the “2022 Notes”), issued in February 2014, with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on March 1 and September 1;
- \$700 million in aggregate principal amount of our 5.5% senior notes due April 15, 2023 (the “2023 5.5% Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on April 15 and October 15;
- \$600 million in aggregate principal amount of our 4.5% senior notes due November 1, 2023 (the “2023 4.5% Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on May 1 and November 1;
- \$390 million, after partial redemption, in aggregate principal amount of our 8.375% senior notes due June 1, 2020 (the “2020 PVR Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on June 1 and December 1;
- \$400 million in aggregate principal amount of our 6.5% senior notes due May 15, 2021 (the “2021 PVR Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on May 15 and November 15;
- \$499 million in aggregate principal amount of our 8.375% senior notes due June 1, 2019 (the “2019 Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on June 1 and December 1; and
- \$700 million in aggregate principal amount of our 5% senior notes due October 1, 2022 (the “October 2022 Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on April 1 and October 1.

In May 2009, we and Finance Corp. issued \$250 million of senior notes with a maturity of June 1, 2016 (the “2016 Notes”). The 2016 Notes bore interest at 9.375% with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on June 1 and December 1. In May 2012, we redeemed 35%, or \$88 million, of the 2016 Notes, bringing the total outstanding principal amount to \$163 million. A redemption premium of \$8 million was charged to loss on debt refinancing, net in the consolidated statements of operations and \$4 million of accrued interest was paid. We also wrote off the unamortized loan fee of \$1 million and unamortized bond premium of \$2 million to loss on debt refinancing, net in the consolidated statement of operations. In June 2013, we redeemed all amounts outstanding 2016 Notes for \$178 million cash, inclusive of accrued and unpaid interest of \$7 million and other fees and expenses.

In February 2014, we and Finance Corp. issued \$900 million of senior notes that mature on March 1, 2022 (the “2022 Notes”). The 2022 Notes bear interest at 5.875% with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on September 1 and March 1. At any time prior to December 1, 2021, we may redeem some or all of the notes at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus a “make-whole” redemption price and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. On or after December 1, 2021, we may redeem some or all of the 2022 Notes at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. The 2022 Notes rank equally with our other Senior Notes.

In March 2014, in connection with the PVR Acquisition, we assumed \$1.2 billion in aggregate principal amount of PVR’s outstanding senior notes, consisting of \$300 million of 8.25% senior notes that mature on April 15, 2018 (the “2018 PVR Notes”), \$400 million of 6.5% senior notes that mature on May 15, 2021 (the “2021 PVR Notes”), and \$473 million of 8.375% senior notes that mature on June 1, 2020 (the “2020 PVR Notes”, and together with the 2021 PVR

Notes, the "PVR Notes"). In April 2014, we redeemed all of the 2018 PVR Notes for \$313 million at a price of 104.125% plus accrued and unpaid interest paid to the redemption date. Interest on the 2021 PVR Notes and the 2020 PVR Notes accrue semi-annually on May 15 and November 15 and June 1 and December 1, respectively. The PVR Notes rank equally with our other Senior Notes.

On March 24, 2014, in accordance with our obligations under the indentures governing the PVR Notes, we commenced change of control offers pursuant to which holders of such notes were entitled to require us to repurchase all or a portion of its PVR Notes at a purchase price of 101% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the repurchase date. The change of control offers for the PVR Notes expired on April 22, 2014 and, on April 23, 2014, we accepted for purchase less than \$1 million in aggregate principal amount of 2021 PVR Notes.

## Table of Contents

In July 2014, in connection with the Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition, we exchanged \$499 million of 8.375% Senior Notes due 2019 of Eagle Rock and Eagle Rock Energy Finance Corp. for 8.375% Senior Notes due 2019 issued by us and Finance Corp. (the “New Partnership Notes”). The New Partnership Notes rank equally with our other Senior Notes.

In July 2014, we and Finance Corp. issued \$700 million of senior notes that mature on October 1, 2022 (the “October 2022 Notes”). The October 2022 Notes bear interest at 5% with interest payable semi-annual in arrears on October 1 and April 1, beginning April 1, 2015. At any time prior to July 1, 2022, we may redeem some or all of the October 2022 Notes at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus a “make-whole” redemption price and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. On or after, July 1, 2022, we may redeem some or all of the October 2022 Notes at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. The October 2022 Notes rank equally with our other Senior Notes.

In July 2014, we redeemed \$83 million of the \$473 million outstanding 2020 PVR Notes for \$91 million, including \$8 million of accrued interest and redemption premium.

In December 2014, we redeemed all of the outstanding \$600 million 2018 Notes, for a total price of 103.438% or \$621 million.

The Senior Notes issued by us and Finance Corp. are fully and unconditionally guaranteed, on a joint and several basis, by all of the Partnership’s consolidated subsidiaries, except for ELG and ORS.

The Senior Notes are redeemable at any time prior to the dates specified below at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the applicable series, plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date:

2020 Notes - Redeemable, in whole or in part, prior to June 1, 2020 at 100% of the principal amount plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date; redeemable, in whole or in part, on or after June 1, 2020 at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2021 Notes - Any time prior to July 15, 2014, up to 35% may be redeemed at a price of 106.5% plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any; beginning July 15, 2016, 100% may be redeemed at fixed redemption price of 103.25% (July 15, 2017 - 102.167%, July 15, 2018 - 101.083% and July 15, 2019 and thereafter - 100%) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2022 Notes - Redeemable, in whole or in part, prior to December 1, 2021 at 100% at the principal amount plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date; redeemable, in whole or in part, on or after December 1, 2021 at 100% at the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2023 5.5% Notes - Any time prior to October 15, 2015, up to 35% may be redeemed at a price of 105.5% plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any; beginning October 15, 2017, 100% may be redeemed at fixed redemption price of 102.75% (October 15, 2018 - 101.833%, October 15, 2019 - 100.917% and October 15, 2020 and thereafter - 100%) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2023 4.5% Notes - Redeemable, in whole or in part, prior to August 1, 2023 at 100% of the principal amount plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date; redeemable, in whole or in part, on or after August 1, 2023 at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2020 PVR Notes - Any time prior to June 1, 2015, up to 35% may be redeemed at a price of 108.375% plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any; beginning June 1, 2016, 100% may be redeemed at fixed redemption price of 104.188%

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

(June 1, 2017 - 102.094%, June 1, 2018 and thereafter - 100%) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2021 PVR Notes - Any time prior to May 15, 2016, up to 35% may be redeemed at a price of 106.5% plus accrued and unpaid interest and liquidated damages, if any; beginning May 15, 2016, 100% may be redeemed at a fixed redemption price of 104.875% (May 15, 2017 - 103.250%, May 15, 2018 - 101.625% and May 15, 2019 and thereafter - 100%) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2019 Notes - Redeemable, in whole or in part, prior to June 1, 2015 at 100% at the principal amount plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date; beginning June 1, 2015, 100% may be redeemed at a fixed redemption price of 104.188% (June 1, 2016 - 102.094% and June 1, 2017 and thereafter - 100%) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

October 2022 Notes - Redeemable, in whole or in part, prior to July 1, 2022 at 100% of the principal amount plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date; redeemable, in whole or in part, on or after July 1, 2022 at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

## Table of Contents

Upon a change of control followed by a ratings downgrade within 90 days of a change of control, each holder of our Senior Notes, other than the PVR Notes, will be entitled to require us to repurchase all or a portion of its notes at a purchase price of 101% plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any. Upon a change of control, the indenture governing the PVR Notes requires us to make an offer to repurchase all outstanding notes at 101% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest (and additional interest, if any) to the date of repurchase. Our ability to repurchase the Senior Notes upon a change of control will be limited by the terms of our debt agreements, including our revolving credit facility.

The Senior Notes contain various covenants that limit, among other things, our ability, and the ability of certain of our subsidiaries, to:

- incur additional indebtedness;
- pay distributions on, or repurchase or redeem our equity interests;
- make certain investments;
- incur liens;
- enter into certain types of transactions with affiliates; and
- sell assets or consolidate or merge with or into other companies.

If the Senior Notes achieve investment grade ratings by both Moody's and Standard & Poor's and no default or event of default has occurred and is continuing, we will no longer be subject to many of the foregoing covenants. At December 31, 2014, we were in compliance with these covenants.

**Equity Offerings.** In April 2013, we issued 31,372,419 and 6,274,483 common and Class F units, respectively, to a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP as part of the SUGS Acquisition. In March 2012, we issued 12,650,000 common units in a public offering at a price of \$24.47 per common unit, resulting in net proceeds of \$297 million. In May 2012, we used the net proceeds from this offering to redeem 35% of our outstanding senior notes due 2016; pay related premium, expenses and accrued interest; and repay outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility.

**Common Units Sold.** In June 2014, we sold 14.4 million common units to ETE Common Holdings for proceeds of \$400 million. Proceeds from the issuance were used to pay down borrowings on our revolving credit facility, to redeem certain senior notes of the Partnership and for general partnership purposes. In July 2014, we sold 16.5 million common units to ETE Common Holdings for proceeds of \$400 million. Proceeds from the issuance were used to fund a portion of the cash consideration paid to Eagle Rock in connection with the Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition.

**Equity Distribution Agreement.** In June 2012, we entered into an equity distribution agreement with Citi under which we offered and sold common units for an aggregate offering price of \$200 million, from time to time through Citi, as sales agent for us. Sales of these common units made from time to time under the equity distribution agreement were made by means of ordinary brokers' transactions on the New York Stock Exchange at market prices, in block transactions, or as otherwise agreed upon by us and Citi. We used the net proceeds from the sale of these common units for general partnership purposes. For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, we received net proceeds of \$34 million and \$149 million, respectively, from common units sold pursuant to this equity distribution agreement. No amounts remain available to be issued under this agreement and it is no longer effective.

In May 2014, we entered into an equity distribution agreement with a group of banks and investment companies (the "Managers") under which we offered and sold common units for an aggregate offering price of \$400 million, from time to time through the Managers, as sales agent for us. Sales of these common units made from time to time under the equity distribution agreement were made by means of ordinary brokers' transactions on the New York Stock Exchange at market prices, in block transactions, or as otherwise agreed upon by us and the Managers. We used the net proceeds from the sale of these units for general partnership purposes. For the year ended December 31, 2014, we received net proceeds of \$395 million from common units sold pursuant to this equity distribution agreement. No amounts remained available to be issued under this agreement and it is no longer effective.

In January 2015, we entered into an equity distribution agreement with another group of banks and investment companies (the "2015 Managers") under which we may offer and sell common units for an aggregate offering price of

up to \$1 billion, from time to time through the 2015 Managers, as sales agent for us. Sales of these common units made from time to time under the equity distribution agreement will be made by means of ordinary brokers' transactions on the New York Stock Exchange at market prices, in block transactions, or as otherwise agreed upon by us and the 2015 Managers. We may also sell common units to the 2015 Managers as principal for their own accounts at a price agreed upon at the time of sale. Any sale of common units to the 2015 Managers as principal would be pursuant to the terms of a separate agreement between us and the 2015 Managers. We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of these common units for general partnership purposes.

Table of Contents

Cash Distributions from Unconsolidated Affiliates. The following table summarizes the cash distributions from unconsolidated affiliates for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
HPC	\$48	\$238	\$61
MEP	73	72	75
Lone Star	137	79	68
Ranch JV	8	2	—
Aqua - PVR	1	—	—
Others <sup>(1)</sup>	4	—	—

<sup>(1)</sup> Others includes Coal Handling, Sweeny JV and Grey Ranch

Contractual Obligations. The following table summarizes our total contractual cash obligations as of December 31, 2014:

Contractual Obligations	Payments Due By Period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Long-term debt (including interest) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$8,900	\$357	\$715	\$2,638	\$5,190
Operating leases <sup>(5)</sup>	45	5	9	5	26
Purchase obligations <sup>(2)</sup>	428	428	—	—	—
Natural gas and midstream activities <sup>(4)</sup>	3	3	—	—	—
Distributions and redemption of Series A Preferred Units <sup>(3)</sup>	96	3	7	7	79
Related party cash obligations	86	5	11	11	59
Contingency payments <sup>(6)</sup>	3	—	2	1	—
Asset retirement obligations	14	—	—	—	14
Total <sup>(7)</sup>	\$9,575	\$801	\$744	\$2,662	\$5,368

Assumes a constant LIBOR interest rate of 0.628% plus applicable margin (2.50% as of December 31, 2014) for (1) our revolving credit facility. The principal of our outstanding senior notes (\$5.1 billion) bears a weighted average fixed rate of 6.08%.

Represents purchases for materials and equipment not yet received to be used in capital projects. Excludes physical and financial purchases of natural gas, NGLs, and other commodities due to the nature of both the price and volume components of such purchases, which vary on a daily and monthly basis. Additionally, we do not have contractual commitments for fixed price and/or fixed quantities of any material amount.

(3) Assumes that the Series A Preferred Units are redeemed for cash on September 2, 2029, and an annual distribution of \$3 million.

(4) Commitments for natural gas midstream activities related to firm transportation agreements.

(5) Primarily relates to equipment, building leases, and leases of coal reserve-based properties which we sublease, or intend to sublease, to third parties.

(6) Represent the accreted contingency payments related to the purchase price for coal reserves in Northern Appalachia. The undiscounted contingency payments are \$5.2 million.

(7) Excludes deferred tax liabilities of \$20 million as the amount payable by period cannot be readily estimated in light of future business plans for the entity that generated the deferred tax liability.

#### OTHER MATTERS

Legal. We are involved in various claims, proceedings, lawsuits and audits by taxing authorities incidental to our business. These claims and lawsuits in the aggregate are not expected to have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.



Environmental Matters. For information regarding environmental matters, please read “Item 1.

Business-Regulation-Environmental Matters,” as well as “Footnote 12. Commitments and Contingencies.”

IRS Audits. The Partnership has its 2007 and 2008 tax years under audit by the IRS. Until this matter is fully resolved, we do not know whether any amounts ultimately recorded would be material, or how such adjustments would affect unitholders. The statute of limitations for these audits has been extended to December 31, 2015.

## Table of Contents

### CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and notes. Although these estimates are based on management's best available knowledge of current and expected future events, actual results could be different from those estimates.

The critical judgment areas in the application of our accounting policies that currently affect our financial condition and results of operations are as follows:

**Revenue and Cost of Sales Recognition.** We record revenue and cost of gas and NGLs on the gross basis for those transactions where we act as the principal and take title to gas that we purchase for resale. When our customers pay us a fee for providing a service such as gathering or transportation we record the fees separately in revenues. We estimate certain revenue and expenses since actual amounts are not confirmed until after the financial closing process due to the standard settlement dates in the gas industry. We calculate estimated revenues using actual pricing and measured volumes. In the subsequent production month, we reverse the accrual and record the actual results. Prior to the settlement date, we record actual operating data to the extent available, such as actual operating and maintenance and other expenses. We do not expect actual results to differ materially from our estimates.

**Coal Royalties Revenues and Deferred Income.** The Partnership recognizes coal royalties revenues on the basis of tons of coal sold by its lessees and the corresponding revenues from those sales. The Partnership does not have access to actual production and revenues information until 30 days following the month of production. Therefore, financial results include estimated revenues and accounts receivable for the month of production. The Partnership records any differences between the actual amounts ultimately received or paid and the original estimates in the period they become finalized. Most lessees must make minimum monthly or annual payments that are generally recoverable over certain time periods. These minimum payments are recorded as deferred income. If the lessee recovers a minimum payment through production, the deferred income attributable to the minimum payment is recognized as coal royalties revenues. If a lessee fails to meet its minimum production for certain pre-determined time periods, the deferred income attributable to the minimum payment is recognized as minimum rental revenues, which is a component of other revenues on our consolidated statements of operations. Other liabilities on the balance sheet also include deferred unearned income from a coal services facility lease, which is recognized as other income as it is earned.

**Purchase Method of Accounting.** We make various assumptions in developing models for determining the fair values of assets and liabilities associated with business acquisitions. These fair value models, developed with the assistance of outside consultants, apply discounted cash flow approaches to expected future operating results, considering expected growth rates, development opportunities, and future pricing assumptions, to arrive at an economic value for the business acquired. We then determine the fair value of the tangible assets based on estimates of replacement costs less obsolescence. Identifiable intangible assets acquired consist primarily of customer relations and trade names. We value customer relations as the fair value of avoided customer churn costs compared to industry norms. We value trade names using the avoided royalty payment approach. We determine the value of liabilities assumed based on the expected future cash outflows required to satisfy the obligation. We record goodwill as the excess of the purchase price of each business unit over the sum of amounts allocated to the tangible assets and separately measurable intangible assets acquired, less liabilities assumed by the business unit.

**Common Control Transactions.** Entities and assets acquired from ETE and its affiliates are accounted for as common control transactions whereby the net assets acquired are combined with our net assets at their historical amounts. If consideration transferred differs from the carrying value of the net assets acquired, the excess or deficiency is treated as a capital transaction similar to a dividend or capital contribution. To the extent that such transactions require prior periods to be recast, historical net equity amounts prior to the transaction date are reflected as predecessor equity.

**Goodwill.** We review the carrying value of goodwill on an annual basis or on an as needed basis, for indicators of impairment at each reporting unit that has recorded goodwill. We determine our reporting units based on the presence of separately identifiable cash flows and by how management evaluates the results of operations of the entity.

Impairment is indicated whenever the carrying value of a reporting unit exceeds the estimated fair value of a reporting unit. We first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether further impairment testing is necessary. For purposes of evaluating impairment of goodwill, we estimate the fair value of a reporting unit based upon future net

discounted cash flows. In calculating these estimates, historical operating results and anticipated future economic factors, such as estimated volumes and demand for services, commodity prices, and operating costs are considered as a component of the calculation of future discounted cash flows. Further, the discount rate requires estimates of the cost of equity and debt financing. The estimates of fair value of these reporting units could change if actual volumes, prices, costs or discount rates vary from these estimates.

Equity Method Investments. The equity method of accounting is used to account for our interest in investments of greater than 20% voting stock or where we exert significant influence over an investee and lack control over the investee.

## Table of Contents

Depreciation and Depletion Expense, Cost Capitalization and Impairment. Our assets consist primarily of natural gas gathering pipelines, processing plants, transmission pipelines, treating equipment, natural gas compression equipment, and coal, timber, and oil & gas reserves. We capitalize all construction-related direct labor and material costs, as well as indirect construction costs. Indirect construction costs include general engineering costs and the costs of funds used in construction. Capitalized interest represents the cost of funds used to finance the construction of new facilities and is expensed over the life of the constructed asset through the recording of depreciation expense. We capitalize the costs of renewals and betterments that extend the useful life, while we expense the costs of repairs, replacements and maintenance projects as incurred.

We generally compute depreciation using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the assets. Certain assets such as land, NGL line pack and natural gas line pack are non-depreciable. The computation of depreciation expense requires judgments regarding the estimated useful lives and salvage value of assets. As circumstances warrant, we review depreciation estimates to determine if any changes are needed. Such changes could involve an increase or decrease in estimated useful lives or salvage values, which would impact future depreciation expense. Coal properties are depleted on an area-by-area basis at a rate based on the cost of the mineral properties and the number of tons of estimated proven and probable coal reserves contained therein. Proven and probable coal reserves have been estimated by the our own geologists and are updated periodically, which may result in adjustments to coal reserves and depletion rates that are recognized prospectively. Timber is depleted using a methodology consistent with the units-of-production method, which is based on the quantity of timber harvested. We determine depletion of oil and gas royalty interests by the units-of-production method and these amounts could change with revisions to estimated proved recoverable reserves.

We review long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the related carrying amounts may not be recoverable. Determining whether an impairment has occurred typically requires various estimates and assumptions, including determining which undiscounted cash flows are directly related to the potentially impaired asset, the useful life over which cash flows will occur, their amount, and the asset's residual value, if any. In turn, measurement of an impairment loss requires a determination of fair value, which is based on the best information available. We derive the required undiscounted cash flow estimates from our historical experience and our internal business plans. To determine fair value, we use our internal cash flow estimates discounted at an appropriate interest rate, quoted market prices when available and independent appraisals, as appropriate.

Fair Value Measurements. Financial assets and liabilities, goodwill, indefinite-lived intangible assets, property, plant and equipment and asset retirement obligations are valued using a three-tiered fair value hierarchy that prioritizes inputs to valuation techniques used in fair value calculations. The three levels of inputs are defined as follows:

- Level 1- unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active accessible markets;
- Level 2- inputs that are observable in the marketplace other than those classified as Level 1; and
- Level 3- inputs that are unobservable in the marketplace and significant to the valuation.

Entities are encouraged to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. If a financial instrument uses inputs that fall in different levels of the hierarchy, the instrument will be categorized based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value calculation.

Our financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are derivatives related to commodity swaps and embedded derivatives in the Series A Preferred Units. Derivatives related to commodity swaps are valued using discounted cash flow techniques. These techniques incorporate Level 1 and Level 2 inputs. These market inputs are utilized in the discounted cash flow calculation considering the instrument's term, notional amount, discount rate and credit risk and are classified as Level 2. Embedded derivatives are valued using a binomial lattice model. The market inputs utilized in the model include credit spread, probabilities of the occurrence of certain events, common unit price, distribution yield and expected volatility, and are classified as Level 3.

### RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

See discussion of new accounting pronouncements in Note 2 in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

### Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk

Risk and Accounting Policies. We are exposed to market risks associated with commodity prices, counterparty credit, and interest rates. Our management and the board of directors of our General Partner have established comprehensive

risk management policies and procedures to monitor and manage these market risks. Our General Partner is responsible for delegation of transaction authority levels, and the Audit and Risk Committee of our General Partner is responsible for the overall management of credit risk and commodity price risk, including monitoring exposure limits. The Audit and Risk Committee receives regular briefings on positions and exposures, credit exposures and overall risk management in the context of market activities.

Table of Contents

**Commodity Price Risk.** We are a net seller of NGLs, condensate and natural gas as a result of our gathering and processing operations. The prices of these commodities are impacted by changes in supply and demand as well as market forces. Our profitability and cash flow are affected by the inherent volatility of these commodities, which could adversely affect our ability to make distributions to our unitholders. We manage this commodity price exposure through an integrated strategy that includes management of our contract portfolio, matching sales prices of commodities with purchases, optimization of our portfolio by monitoring basis and other price differentials in operating areas, and the use of derivative contracts. In some cases, we may not be able to match pricing terms or to cover our risk to price exposure with financial hedges, and we may be exposed to commodity price risk. Speculative positions with derivative contracts are prohibited under our risk management policy.

We have swap contracts that settle against certain NGLs, condensate and natural gas market prices.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding our hedges outstanding at December 31, 2014. The relevant index price that we pay for NGLs is the monthly average of the daily closing price for deliveries of commodities into Mont Belvieu, Texas, as reported by the Oil Price Information Service (OPIS). The relevant index price for natural gas is NYMEX on the pricing dates as defined by the swap contracts. The relevant index for WTI is the monthly average of the daily price of WTI as reported by the NYMEX.

December 31, 2014

Period	Underlying	Notional Volume/ Amount		We Pay	We Receive Weighted Average Price		Fair Value Asset/(Liability) (in millions)	Effect of Hypothetical Change in Index*
January 2015 - December 2015	Propane	694	(MBbls)	Index	\$ 1.05	(\$/gallon)	\$ 17	\$ 1
January 2015 - December 2015	Normal Butane	292	(MBbls)	Index	1.19	(\$/gallon)	6	1
January 2015 - December 2016	West Texas Intermediate Crude	1,252	(MBbls)	Index	87.94	(\$/Bbl)	36	7
January 2015 - December 2015	Natural Gas	25,525,000	(MMBtu)	Index	3.91	(\$/MMBtu)	26	8
Total Fair Value							\$ 85	

Price risk sensitivities were calculated assuming a theoretical 10% change in prices regardless of term or historical relationships between the contractual price of the instrument and the underlying commodity price. Interest rate sensitivity assumes a 100 basis point increase or decrease in the LIBOR yield curve. The price sensitivity results are presented in absolute terms.

**Credit Risk.** Our business operations expose us to credit risk, as the margin on any sale is generally a very small percentage of the total sale price. Therefore, a credit loss can be very large relative to our overall profitability. We monitor credit exposure and attempt to ensure that we issue credit only to creditworthy counterparties and that in appropriate circumstances any such extension of credit is backed by adequate collateral such as a letter of credit or a parent company guarantee.

#### Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

The financial statements set forth starting on page F-1 of this report are incorporated by reference.

#### Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

None.

#### Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures.** An evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of our General Partner, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as such are defined

in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Exchange Act). Based on management's evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective in achieving that level of reasonable assurance as of December 31, 2014.

Table of Contents

Internal Control over Financial Reporting.

(a) Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Management of our General Partner is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting and for the assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting for the Partnership as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) as promulgated under the Exchange Act.

Management of our General Partner assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014. In making this assessment, management used the criteria established in the 2013 Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The evaluation included an evaluation of the design of our internal control over financial reporting and testing of the operating effectiveness of those controls.

We closed the Hoover Acquisition on February 3, 2014, the PVR Acquisition on March 21, 2014 and the Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition on July 1, 2014. Management has acknowledged that it is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal controls over financial reporting for the acquired businesses. As part of the post-closing integration, we are refining the internal controls and processes of the acquired businesses with those of the Partnership, and as a result of these integration activities, certain controls will be evaluated and may be changed. We believe, however, that we will be able to maintain sufficient controls over the substantive results of our financial reporting throughout this integration process.

Management excluded the internal controls related to Eagle Rock midstream operations from its annual assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 for 2014. This exclusion is in accordance with the general guidance issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission that an assessment of a recent business combination may be omitted from management's report on internal control over financial reporting in the year of acquisition. The Eagle Rock midstream operations had total assets of \$1.9 billion at December 31, 2014 and third party revenue of \$903 million from July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

We also made certain changes to the internal controls over financial reporting related to Hoover and PVR; none of which were in response to any identified significant deficiency or weakness in our internal control over financial reporting.

Based on its assessment, management has concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2014.

(b) Audit Report of the Registered Public Accounting Firm. Grant Thornton LLP, the independent registered public accounting firm that audited our consolidated financial statements included in this report, has issued an audit report on the Partnership's internal control over financial reporting, which report is included herein on page F-3.

(c) Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting. As required by Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f), management of our General Partner, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, also conducted an evaluation of our internal control over financial reporting to determine whether any change occurred during the last fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. Based on that evaluation, there has been no change in our internal control over financial reporting during the last fiscal quarter covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Item 9B. Other Information

None.



## Table of Contents

### PART III

#### Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

**Board of Directors.** The activities of our General Partner, Regency GP LP, are managed and directed by its general partner, Regency GP LLC, which we refer to in these Items 10-14 as our “General Partner”. ETE GP Acquirer LLC, as the sole member of Regency GP LLC may appoint up to 12 persons to serve on the board of directors of Regency GP LLC (our “Board of Directors” or “Board”). Our officers and directors are officers and directors of our General Partner. Our General Partner and its board members are not elected by our unitholders and are not subject to re-election on a regular basis in the future. Our Board of Directors currently consists of six members, three of whom qualify as independent under the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) corporate governance standards. The directors who qualify as independent under NYSE corporate governance standards are James W. Bryant, Richard D. Brannon and Matthew S. Ramsey. Our directors who are not independent consist of Rodney L. Gray, Michael J. Bradley, Regency GP LLC’s President and Chief Executive Officer and John W. McReynolds, President of Energy Transfer Equity, L.P. The Board of Directors has established standing committees to consider designated matters. The standing committees of the Board of Directors are: the Audit and Risk Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Conflicts Committee. The listing standards of the NYSE do not require boards of directors of publicly-traded master limited partnerships to be composed of a majority of independent directors nor are they required to have a standing compensation or nominating committee. Notwithstanding, the Board of Directors has elected to have standing compensation and nominating committees.

**Board Leadership Structure.** We have no policy requiring either that the positions of the Chairman of the Board and the President and Chief Executive Officer, or CEO, be separate or that they be occupied by the same individual. The Board of Directors believes that this issue is properly addressed as part of the succession planning process and that a determination on this subject should be made when it elects a new chief executive officer or at such other times as when consideration of the matter is warranted by circumstances. The Board is structured to promote independence whether or not its Chairman is a member of the executive management. Currently, the Board has a divided leadership structure. The Chairman of the Board, Mr. Bryant, is an independent, non-employee director elected by the Board to serve until he resigns. Our CEO, Mr. Bradley, is a full time officer and employee of the General Partner, who is appointed by the Board.

**Corporate Governance.** The Board of Directors has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines to assist it in the exercise of its responsibilities to provide effective governance over our affairs for the benefit of our unitholders. In addition, we have adopted a Code of Business Conduct, which sets forth legal and ethical standards of conduct for all of our officers, directors and employees. Specific provisions are applicable to the principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer and controller, or those persons performing similar functions, of our General Partner. The Corporate Governance Guidelines, the Code of Business Conduct, Code of Conduct for Senior Financial Officers, and the charters of our Audit and Risk, Compensation, and Nominating committees are available on our website at [www.regencyenergy.com](http://www.regencyenergy.com). You may also contact our investor relations department at (214) 840-5477 for printed copies of these documents free of charge. Amendments to, or waivers from, the Code of Business Conduct will also be available on our website and reported as may be required under SEC rules; however, any technical, administrative or other non-substantive amendments to the Code of Business Conduct may not be posted. Note that the preceding Internet address is for information purposes only and is not intended to be a hyperlink. Accordingly, no information found or provided at that Internet address or at our website in general is intended or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein.

**Audit and Risk Committee.** The Board of Directors has established an Audit and Risk Committee in accordance with Exchange Act rules. The Board of Directors appointed three directors, Matthew S. Ramsey, James W. Bryant, and Richard D. Brannon, who are independent under the NYSE’s standards and SEC’s rules for audit committee members, to serve on its Audit and Risk Committee. In addition, the Board of Directors determined that Mr. Ramsey, the chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee, has such accounting or related financial management expertise sufficient to qualify such person as an audit committee financial expert in accordance with Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K. Mr. Ramsey currently serves as a member or chairman of the audit committee of three other publicly traded companies, in addition to his service as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee. As required by Rule 303A.07 of

the NYSE Listed Company Manual, the Board of Directors has determined that such simultaneous service does not impair Mr. Ramsey's ability to effectively serve on our Audit and Risk Committee.

The Audit and Risk Committee meets on a regularly-scheduled basis with our independent accountants at least four times each year and is available to meet at their request. The Audit and Risk Committee has the authority and responsibility to review our external financial reporting, to review our procedures for internal auditing and the adequacy of our internal accounting controls, to consider the qualifications and independence of our independent accountants, to engage and resolve disputes with our independent accountants, including the letter of engagement and statement of fees relating to the scope of the annual audit work and special audit work that may be recommended or required by the independent accountants, and to engage the services of any other advisors

## Table of Contents

and accountants as the Audit and Risk Committee deems advisable. The Audit and Risk Committee reviews and discusses the audited financial statements with management, discusses with our independent auditors matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standard 61 (Communications with Audit and Risk Committees), and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors for inclusion in our audited financial statements on this Form 10-K. The Audit and Risk Committee is authorized to recommend to the Board of Directors any changes or modifications to its charter that the Audit and Risk Committee believes may be required.

**Conflicts Committee.** The Board of Directors appoints independent directors as members of the Board to serve on the Conflicts Committee with the authority to review specific matters for which the Board of Directors believes there may be a conflict of interest in order to determine if the resolution of such conflict proposed by the General Partner is fair and reasonable to us and our common unitholders. As a policy matter, the Conflicts Committee generally reviews any proposed related-party transaction that may be material to us to determine whether the transaction is fair and reasonable to us. Our partnership agreement provides that any matter approved by the Conflicts Committee will be deemed approved by all partners of us and not a breach by the General Partner or its affiliates of the partnership agreement or of any duty they may owe us or our unitholders. The Conflicts Committee is currently composed of Messrs. Bryant and Brannon.

### **Compensation Committee**

Although the rules of the NYSE do not require publicly traded limited partnerships to have a compensation committee, the Board of Directors has established a Compensation Committee to establish standards and make recommendations concerning the compensation of our executive officers. In addition, the Compensation Committee determines and establishes the standards for any awards to our employees and officers under our compensation plans, including the performance standards or other restrictions pertaining to the vesting of any such awards. The Compensation Committee is composed of one director of our General Partner (Mr. Ramsey) who our Board of Directors has determined to be independent (under NYSE standards) and two directors (Messrs. Gray and McReynolds) who are not independent under the NYSE standards.

The Compensation Committee is directly responsible for establishing annual and long-term performance goals and objectives for our executive officers. The responsibilities of the Compensation Committee are, among other duties:

- to set the compensation of the CEO and the other named executive officers based upon the evaluation of the performance of the CEO and other elected officers;
- to evaluate the performance of the CEO and other named executive officers in light of the Partnership's approved performance goals and objectives;
- to make awards under existing incentive-based compensation plans; and
- to prepare an annual performance self-evaluation of the Compensation Committee.

**Nominating Committee.** Although the rules of the NYSE do not require publicly traded limited partnerships to have a nominating committee, the Board of Directors has established a Nominating Committee to assist, as necessary, the Board and the sole member of our General Partner in identifying and recommending to the Board of Directors individuals qualified to become Board members. The current members of the Nominating Committee are Mr. Bryant, Mr. Ramsey, and Mr. Gray. In considering whether to recommend any candidate for consideration, the Nominating Committee will apply the criteria set forth in the Corporate Governance Guidelines to assess candidates. The Corporate Governance Guidelines include the following as part of that assessment: an individual's background, ability, judgment, diversity, age, skill, experience in the context of the needs of the Board and whether the individual would qualify as an independent director under the independence rules of NYSE. The Nominating Committee seeks candidates with a broad diversity of experience, professions, skills and backgrounds. The Nominating Committee does not assign specific weights to particular criteria and no particular criterion is necessarily applicable to all prospective candidates. Directors are expected to exemplify the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and to constructively challenge management through their active participation and questioning. In particular, the Nominating Committee seeks directors with established strong professional reputations and expertise in areas relevant to the strategy and operation of the Partnership's business. The Board does not have a formal diversity policy or set of guidelines with respect to director diversity but considers it important to have diversity of backgrounds and professional experiences so that the directors, considered as a group, should provide a significant composite mix of

experience, knowledge and abilities that will allow the Board to fulfill its duties and responsibilities.

**The Board's Role in Risk Oversight.** The Board of Directors performs oversight functions to protect our unitholders' and other stakeholders' interest in the long-term health and the overall success of the Partnership and its financial strength. The full Board of Directors is actively involved in overseeing risk management for the Partnership. It does so in part through discussion and review of our business, financial and corporate governance practices and procedures.

Table of Contents

The Audit and Risk Committee identifies and reviews the risks confronted by the Partnership with respect to its operations and financial condition, establishes limits of risk tolerance with respect to the Partnership's hedging activities and exposure to customers' credit risk and ensures adequate property and liability insurance coverage. In addition, our other Board committees consider the risks within their respective areas of responsibilities. For example, the Audit and Risk Committee reviews risks related to financial reporting. The Audit and Risk Committee discusses policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management, reviews contingent liabilities and risks that may be material to the Partnership and assesses major legislative and regulatory developments that could materially impact the Partnership's contingent liabilities and risks. The Audit and Risk Committee is required to discuss any material violations of our policies brought to its attention on an ad hoc basis. Additionally, the outcome of the audit risk assessment is presented to the Audit and Risk Committee annually; this assessment identifies internal control risks and drives the internal audit plan for the coming year. Material violations of our Code of Business Conduct and related corporate policies are reported to the Audit and Risk Committee and, as required, are reported to the full Board. The Compensation Committee reviews our overall compensation program and its effectiveness at both linking executive pay to performance and aligning the interests of our executives and our unitholders.

Meetings of Non-Management Directors and Communication with Directors. Our non-management directors are required by NYSE rules to meet regularly in executive session. In practice, they meet in executive session at most meetings of the Board. The presiding director at these executive sessions is rotated among the independent directors, Messrs. Bryant, Brannon and Ramsey.

Unitholders and interested parties may communicate with the independent directors directly and anonymously by writing to the Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee, Regency GP LLC, 2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700, Dallas, Texas 75201.

Directors and Executive Officers of the General Partner. The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the executive officers and members of the Board of Directors of our General Partner as of February 26, 2015. Executive officers and directors are elected for indefinite terms.

Name	Age	Position with Regency GP LLC
Michael J. Bradley	60	Director, President and Chief Executive Officer
Todd Carpenter	54	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Jim S. Holotik	62	Executive Vice President, Chief Commercial Officer
Thomas E. Long	58	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Richard S. Rehm	56	Executive Vice President of Operations
A. Troy Sturrock	44	Vice President and Controller
Richard D. Brannon	56	Director
James W. Bryant	81	Director and Chairman of the Board
Rodney L. Gray	62	Director
John W. McReynolds	64	Director
Matthew S. Ramsey	59	Director

Set forth below is biographical information regarding the foregoing executive officers and directors of our General Partner:

Michael J. Bradley was elected to the Board of Directors of Regency GP LLC in January 2008. In November 2010, he was also elected president and chief executive officer of Regency. Prior to joining Regency, he served as president, chief executive officer and a director of Matrix Service Company since November 2006. Prior to joining Matrix Service Company, Mr. Bradley served as President and CEO of DCP Midstream Partners and was a member of the board of its general partner. Mr. Bradley was named Group Vice President of Gathering and Processing for Duke Energy Field Services (DEFS) in 2004 and served as Executive Vice President (DEFS) from 2002 to 2004. From 1994 to 2002, he served as Senior Vice President (DEFS) and was responsible for business development and commercial activities. Mr. Bradley graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He also completed the Duke University Executive Management Program. Mr. Bradley is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He also serves on the advisory board for the University of Kansas, School of Engineering.

Todd Carpenter was elected senior vice president, general counsel and secretary of Regency GP LLC in March 2014. Mr. Carpenter has a diverse background that includes more than 20 years of legal experience in the areas of commercial, transactional and corporate law. His areas of specialization include oil and gas, mergers and acquisitions, commercial transactions, financial transactions and compliance. Prior to joining Regency, Mr. Carpenter served as Associate General Counsel for ETP from 2012 to 2014. He joined ETP in connection with its acquisition of Southern Union Company in 2012. Prior to working for ETP, Mr.

## Table of Contents

Carpenter served as Vice President, Assistant General Counsel for Southern Union from 2008 to 2011, as Senior Counsel in the Corporate Law Section for Cooper Industries plc from 2000 to 2008, and as Associate General Counsel and General Counsel for GGS co., Ltd from 1990 to 2000. He received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from The University of Texas at Austin and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from The University of Texas School of Law. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Jim S. Holotik was elected executive vice president and chief commercial officer of Regency GP LLC in October 2010. From 2004 to October 2010, Mr. Holotik served in various positions at ETP, most recently serving as president of Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC and leading the mergers and acquisition efforts for Energy Transfer. Mr. Holotik began his career in 1976 in exploration and moved to the natural gas industry in 1986 when he joined Endeavor Oil and Gas. He later held positions as executive vice president of Cornerstone Natural Gas and was director of the East and West regions for El Paso Field Services. He joined Energy Transfer in 2004 as commercial vice president of project development, and later became president of Transwestern following its acquisition by Energy Transfer. Mr. Holotik has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Stephen F. Austin University.

Thomas E. Long was elected executive vice president and chief financial officer of Regency GP LLC in November 2010. From May 2008 to November 2010, Mr. Long served as vice president and chief financial officer of Matrix Service Company. Prior to joining Matrix, he served as vice president and chief financial officer of DCP Midstream Partners, LP, a publicly traded natural gas and natural gas liquids midstream business company located in Denver, CO. In that position, he was responsible for all financial aspects of the company since its formation in December 2005. From 1998 to 2005, Mr. Long served in several executive positions with subsidiaries of Duke Energy Corp., one of the nation's largest electric power companies.

Richard S. Rehm was elected executive vice president of operations of Regency GP LLC in April 2013. From 2012 to 2013, he served as Executive Vice President, Permian Basin Commercial Supply and Marketing for Energy Transfer Company. That role included Gas Supply, Business Development and Marketing for the Permian Basin Assets in West Texas and New Mexico. From 2010 to 2012, Mr. Rehm was employed by Southern Union Gas Services as Vice President of Commercial and Marketing. That role included responsibility for all commercial gas supply for Southern Union Gas Services' Permian Basin Operations and all Marketing related functions associated with plant tailgate residue gas and NGL sales. Prior to that, Mr. Rehm held various positions at DCP Midstream and its legacy companies where responsibilities included Engineering, Operations, Environmental Health and Safety and Commercial and Business Development.

A. Troy Sturrock was elected vice president and controller of Regency GP LLC in February 2008, and in November 2010 was appointed as the principal accounting officer. From June 2006 to February 2008, Mr. Sturrock served as the assistant controller and director of financial reporting and tax for Regency GP LLC. From January 2004 to June 2006, Mr. Sturrock was associated with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, where he was an inspection specialist in the division of registration and inspections. Mr. Sturrock served in various roles at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP from 1995 to 2004, most recently as a senior manager in the audit practice specializing in the transportation and energy industries. Mr. Sturrock is a Certified Public Accountant.

Richard D. Brannon was appointed to the Board of Directors of Regency GP LLC in January 2015. Mr. Brannon is President of CH4 Energy II, LLC and CH4 Energy III, LLC, both independent companies focused on horizontal development of oil and gas. Previously he was President of CH4 Energy Corp. from 2001 to 2006, when the company was sold to Bill Barrett Corp. (NYSE: BBG). From 1984 to 2005 Mr. Brannon was President of Brannon Oil & Gas, Inc. and Brannon & Murray Drilling Co. Previously he was a drilling and completion engineer for Texas Oil & Gas Corp. Mr. Brannon has previously served on the Boards of Directors of Cornerstone Natural Gas Corp., which was purchased by El Paso Corp. in 1996, and OEC Compression Corp., acquired by Hanover Compressor Company in 2001. He holds a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin and is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Fort Worth Wildcatters and the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers. He is also a Certified Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. Among the reasons for Mr. Brannon's appointment as a director are his extensive experience in the energy industry, including his past experiences as an executive with energy companies, and his current position as a member of the board of directors of other energy companies.

James W. Bryant was elected to the Board of Directors of Regency GP LLC in July 2010 and was appointed Chairman of the Board in April 2014. Mr. Bryant is a chemical engineer and has more than 40 years of experience in all phases of the natural gas business, specifically in the engineering and management of midstream facilities. Mr. Bryant served as a partner and member of the Board of Directors for Cardinal Midstream, LLC from September 2008 until April 2013. Since then, Mr. Bryant formed JWB Cardinal Investments. Prior to that, he was a co-founder of Cardinal Gas Solutions LP, a contract gas treating company that was later sold to Crosstex Energy Services, L.P. In 2003, Mr. Bryant co-founded Regency Gas Services, LLC, the predecessor to Regency, and served as president of Regency Gas Services, LLC, until December 2004, when it was sold to Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Inc. He has been instrumental in the formation, development and growth of numerous other companies in the midstream sector, including those specializing in natural gas treating. Mr. Bryant has previously served on the Board of Directors for Gulf Energy & Development, Endevco, Inc., Oachita Energy Company, and Regency Gas Services, LLC. Mr. Bryant received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Louisiana Tech University. Among the reasons for Mr. Bryant's appointment as



## Table of Contents

a director are his more than 40 years of experience in the midstream natural gas business as well as his experience as a director on the boards of several other public companies.

Rodney L. Gray was elected to the Board of Directors of Regency GP LLC in February 2008. Mr. Gray is currently the Chief Financial Officer of Inflection Energy LLC, an exploration and production company. Mr. Gray co-founded TerraHaven Holdings Ltd. Co, a manager and aggregator of renewable natural resources focused on forestry and agricultural business in June 2010. From June 2009 to June 2010, Mr. Gray served as Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President of Cobalt International Energy, Inc. From 2003 to April 2009, Mr. Gray served as chief financial officer of Colonial Pipeline, an interstate carrier of petroleum products. Mr. Gray currently serves on the Board of Directors of Rose Rock Midstream GP, LLC, the general partner of Rose Rock Midstream, L.P. Mr. Gray received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Wyoming and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Economics from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana. Among the reasons for Mr. Gray's appointment as a director are his more than 30 years of experience in the energy industry, his past experiences as an executive with financial leadership responsibility at energy companies, and his current position as a member of the board of directors of another master limited partnership.

John W. McReynolds was elected to the Board of Directors of Regency GP LLC in May 2010. Mr. McReynolds is a Director and the President of ETE. Mr. McReynolds has served as the President of ETE since March 2005 and as a Director and the Chief Financial Officer of ETE since August 2005. He has previously served as a Director of ETP from August 2001 through May 2010. Prior to becoming President of ETE, Mr. McReynolds was a partner with the international law firm of Hunton & Williams LLP for over 20 years. As a lawyer, he specialized in energy related finance securities, partnerships, mergers and acquisitions, syndication and litigation matters, and served as an expert in special projects for Board of Directors of public companies. Mr. McReynolds has served as a Director of ETE's General Partner since August 2004. Among the reasons for Mr. McReynolds' appointment as a director are his legal background and his extensive experience in energy-related corporate finance. Mr. McReynolds has relationships with executives and senior management at several companies in the energy sector, as well as with investment bankers who cover the industry.

Matthew S. Ramsey was appointed to the Board of Directors of Regency GP LLC in April 2014. Mr. Ramsey is presently President of RPM Exploration, Ltd., a private oil and gas exploration partnership generating and drilling 3-D seismic prospects on the Gulf Coast of Texas. Mr. Ramsey is also President of Ramsey Energy Management, LLC, the General Partner of Ramsey Energy Partners, I, Ltd., a private oil and gas partnership, and as President of Dollarhide Management, LLC, the General Partner of Deerwood Investments, Ltd., a private oil and gas partnership. Additionally, Mr. Ramsey is President of Gateshead Oil, LLC, a private oil and gas partnership. He also serves as Manager of MSR Energy, LLC, the general partner of Shafter Lake Energy Partners, Ltd., a private oil and gas exploration limited partnership. In 2014, Mr. Ramsey joined the board of directors of RSP Permian, Inc., where he serves as chairman of the compensation committee and as a member of the audit committee. Mr. Ramsey serves as a director, chairman of the audit committee and member of the compensation committee of Energy Transfer Equity, L.P. In addition, Mr. Ramsey serves as a director, chairman of the audit committee and member of the compensation committee at Sunoco, L.P. Mr. Ramsey formerly served as President of DDD Energy, Inc. until its sale in 2002. From 1996 to 2000, Mr. Ramsey served as President and Chief Executive Officer of OEC Compression Corporation, Inc., a publicly traded oil field service company, providing gas compression services to a variety of energy clients. Previously, Mr. Ramsey served as Vice President of Nuevo Energy Company, an independent energy company. Additionally, he was employed by Torch Energy Advisors, Inc., a company providing management and operations services to energy companies including Nuevo Energy, last serving as Executive Vice President. Mr. Ramsey joined Torch Energy as Vice President of Land and was named Senior Vice President of Land in 1992. Prior to joining Torch Energy Advisors, Inc., Mr. Ramsey was self-employed for eleven years. Mr. Ramsey holds a B.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from South Texas College of Law. Mr. Ramsey is a graduate of Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program. Mr. Ramsey is licensed to practice law in the State of Texas. He is qualified to practice in the Western District of Texas and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Mr. Ramsey formerly served as a director of Southern Union Company. Among the reasons for Mr. Ramsey's appointment are his vast experience in the oil and gas space and his valuable industry insight.

#### Compensation of the General Partner

We will reimburse our General Partner and its affiliates for all expenses they incur on our behalf. These expenses will include all costs incurred by our General Partner and its affiliates in managing and operating us, including costs for rendering corporate staff and support services to us. While we are responsible for the direct payment of the compensation of our named executive officers as employees of the Partnership, the Partnership does not participate or have any input in any decisions as to the compensation policies of our General Partner or the compensation levels of the executive officers of our General Partner. The compensation committee of the board of directors of our General Partner (the “Compensation Committee”) is responsible for the approval of the compensation policies and the compensation levels of these executive officers. We directly pay these executive officers in lieu of receiving an allocation of overhead related to executive compensation from our General Partner. For the year ended December 31,

## Table of Contents

2014, we paid 100% of the compensation of the executive officers of our General Partner as we represent the only business currently managed by our General Partner.

Our General Partner is ultimately controlled by the general partner of ETE. In accordance with our partnership agreement, we pay quarterly distributions to our General Partner with respect to its ownership of its general partner interest and its incentive distribution rights. The amount of each quarterly distribution that we must pay to our General Partner is based solely on the provisions of our partnership agreement. Accordingly, the cash distributions we make to our General Partner bear no relationship to the level or components of compensation of our General Partner's executive officers. Our General Partner's incentive distribution rights are described in detail in "Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Unitholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities." Our named executive officers also own directly and indirectly certain of our limited partner interests and, accordingly, receive quarterly distributions. Such per unit distributions equal the per unit distributions made to all our limited partners and bear no relationship to the level of compensation of the named executive officers.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance. Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires executive officers, directors and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of a security registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act to file initial reports of ownership and reports of changes of ownership of such security with the SEC. Copies of such reports are required to be furnished to the issuer. Based solely on a review of reports furnished to our General Partner, or written representations from reporting persons that all reportable transactions were reported, we believe that, during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, our General Partner's executive officers, directors and greater than 10% common unitholders filed all reports they were required to file under Section 16(a), except that a Form 4 was inadvertently filed late for each of Richard S. Rehm and James W. Bryant.

### Item 11. Executive Compensation

#### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

##### Named Executive Officers

We do not have officers or directors. Instead, as a limited partnership, we are managed by the board of directors of our General Partner, and the executive officers of our General Partner perform all of our management functions. As a result, the executive officers of our General Partner are essentially our executive officers, and their compensation is administered by our General Partner. This Compensation Discussion and Analysis is, therefore, focused on the total compensation of the executive officers of our General Partner as set forth below. The executive officers we refer to in this discussion as our "named executive officers" are the following officers of our General Partner:

- Michael J. Bradley, President and Chief Executive Officer;
- Thomas E. Long, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer;
- Jim S. Holotik, Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer;
- Richard S. Rehm, Executive Vice President of Operations; and
- Todd Carpenter, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary.

##### Our General Partner's Philosophy for Compensation of Executives

In general, our General Partner's philosophy for executive compensation is based on the premise that a significant portion of each executive's compensation should be incentive-based or "at-risk" compensation and that executives' compensation levels should be highly competitive in the marketplace for executive talent and abilities. Our General Partner seeks a total compensation program that provides for a slightly below median market annual base compensation rate but incentive-based compensation composed of a combination of compensation vehicles to reward both short and long-term performance that are both targeted to pay-out at approximately the top-quartile of the market. Our General Partner believes the incentive-based balance is achieved by (i) the payment of annual discretionary cash bonuses that consider the achievement of the Partnership's financial performance objectives for a fiscal year set at the beginning of such fiscal year and the individual contributions of our named executive officers to the success of the Partnership and the achievement of the annual financial performance objectives and (ii) the annual grant of time-based phantom units under our equity incentive plan(s), which awards are intended to provide a longer term incentive and retention value to our key employees to focus their efforts on increasing the market price of our publicly traded units and to increase the cash distribution we pay to our unitholders. We refer to these awards as "phantom units," consistent with the use of such term in our long-term incentive plans. Our General Partner believes that these equity-based

incentive arrangements are important in attracting and retaining our executive officers and key employees as well as motivating these individuals to achieve our business objectives. The equity-based compensation also reflects the importance we place on aligning the interests of our named executive officers with those of our unitholders by motivating our executive officers to achieve strong financial and operational results, which we believe closely correlate to long-term unitholder value.

## Table of Contents

Prior to December 2012, our equity-based awards were primarily in the form of phantom units that vest over a specified time period, with substantially all of these awards vesting over a five-year period at 20% per year based on continued employment through each specified vesting date. Beginning in December 2012, we began granting equity-based unit awards in the form of phantom units that vest, based upon continued employment, at a rate of 60% after the third year of continued employment and the remaining 40% after the fifth year of continued employment. For a more detailed description of the compensation of our named executive officers, please see “—Compensation Tables” below.

### Compensation Philosophy

Our compensation program is structured to provide the following benefits:

- reward executives with an industry-competitive total compensation package of competitive base salaries and significant incentive opportunities yielding a total compensation package approaching the top-quartile of the market;
- attract, retain and reward talented executive officers and key management employees by providing total compensation competitive with that of other executive officers and key management employees employed by publicly traded limited partnerships of similar size and in similar lines of business;
- motivate executive officers and key employees to achieve strong financial and operational performance;
- emphasize performance-based or “at-risk” compensation; and
- reward individual performance.

### Components of Executive Compensation

For the year ended December 31, 2014, the compensation paid to our named executive officers consisted of the following components:

- annual base salary;
- non-equity incentive plan compensation consisting solely of discretionary cash bonuses;
- time-vested phantom unit awards under the equity incentive plan(s);
- payment of distribution equivalent rights (“DERs”) on unvested time-based phantom unit awards under our equity incentive plan;
- vesting of previously issued time-based phantom unit awards issued pursuant to our equity incentive plans; and
- 401(k) plan employer contributions.

### Methodology

The Compensation Committee considers relevant data available to it to assess the competitive position with respect to base salary, annual short-term incentives and long-term incentive compensation for our executive officers. The Compensation Committee also considers individual performance, levels of responsibility, skills and experience. Periodically, the Compensation Committee of our affiliate, Energy Transfer Partners, L.L.C., engages a third-party consultant to provide market information for compensation levels at peer companies in order to assist the Compensation Committee in its determination of compensation levels for our executive officers. Most recently, Mercer (US) Inc. (“Mercer”) was engaged during the year ended December 31, 2013 to evaluate the market competitiveness of total compensation levels of a number of officers of all the partnerships under ETE to provide market information with respect to compensation of officers. In particular, the review by Mercer was designed to (i) evaluate the market competitiveness of total compensation levels for certain members of senior management, including our named executive officers; (ii) assist in the determination of appropriate compensation levels for our senior management, including the named executive officers; and (iii) confirm that our compensation programs were yielding compensation packages consistent with our overall compensation philosophy.

In respect of the Partnership, we were reviewed by Mercer as a significant operational division and benchmarked based on that status and consistent with our annual revenues and market capitalization levels. In light of this review, Mercer did not specifically benchmark the Partnership against any particular set of peer companies.

The compensation analysis provided by Mercer covered all major components of total compensation, including annual base salary, annual short-term cash bonus and long-term incentive awards for our named executive officers as compared to officers of companies similarly situated in terms of structure, annual revenues and market capitalization. The Compensation Committee utilized the information provided by Mercer to determine whether the levels of annual base salary, annual short-term cash bonus and long-



## Table of Contents

term equity incentive awards offered to our named executive officers is both competitive with the market information received and consistent with our compensation philosophy. Mercer did not provide any non-executive compensation services for the Partnership during 2013.

In addition to the information received as a result of a periodic engagement of a third-party consultant, the Compensation Committee also utilizes information obtained from other sources, such as third-party surveys, for comparison purposes in its determination of compensation levels for our named executive officers.

For 2014, the Compensation Committee continued to use the results of the 2013 Mercer compensation analysis aged to account for general inflation, as well as the 2014 third-party survey results.

**Annual Base Salary.** As discussed above, the base salaries of our named executive officers are targeted to yield an annual base salary slightly below median level of market and are determined by the Compensation Committee after taking into account the recommendations of our CEO. For 2014, the Compensation Committee approved an increase of 3% to each of Messrs. Bradley, Long, Holotik and Rehm. The Compensation Committee did not increase the base salary of Mr. Carpenter given his employment with the Partnership began in March 2014. The Compensation Committee determined that such increases in annual base salary were warranted in light of the results of the Mercer study and the individual performance and levels of responsibility related to management of the Partnership and its subsidiaries.

**Annual Cash Bonus.** In addition to base salary, the Compensation Committee makes a determination whether to award our named executive officers discretionary annual cash bonuses following the end of the year. These discretionary bonuses, if awarded, are intended to reward our named executive officers for the achievement of financial performance objectives during the year for which the bonuses are awarded in light of the contribution of each individual to our profitability and success during such year. In previous years, the Compensation Committee has taken into account whether the Partnership achieved or exceeded its internal EBITDA budget for the year. The Compensation Committee also considered the recommendation of our CEO in determining the specific annual cash bonus amounts for each of the other named executive officers.

In 2014, the Board, upon a recommendation by the Compensation Committee, approved the Regency GP LLC Annual Bonus Plan (the “New Bonus Plan”), which replaced the prior bonus plan. The New Bonus Plan, which became effective for calendar year 2014, is substantially similar to the prior bonus plan, except that the New Bonus Plan includes an additional performance criteria related to Partnership’s internal department financial budget in addition to the previous performance measure of internal EBITDA budget. Under the New Bonus Plan, the Compensation Committee’s evaluation of performance and determination of an overall available bonus pool is based on the Partnership’s EBITDA and the performance of each department compared to the applicable departmental budget (with such performance measured based on the specific dollar amount of general and administrative expenses set for each department). The two performance criteria are weighted 75% on internal EBITDA budget criteria and 25% on internal department financial budget criteria.

In adopting the New Bonus Plan, the Board and the Compensation Committee reaffirmed internal EBITDA as the primary performance factor in determining annual bonuses. The addition of the internal department financial budget criteria is designed to ensure that the Partnership is effectively managing general and administrative costs in a prudent manner.

The Partnership’s internal financial budgets are generally developed for each business segment, and then aggregated with appropriate corporate level adjustments, to reflect an overall performance objective that is reasonable in light of market conditions and opportunities based on a high level of effort and dedication across all segments of the Partnership’s business. The evaluation of the Partnership’s performance versus its internal financial budget is based on the Partnership’s EBITDA for a calendar year. In general, the Compensation Committee believes that Partnership performance at or above the internal EBITDA budget and at or below internal department financial budgets would support bonuses to our named executive officers ranging from 75% to 120% of their annual salary. For 2014, the Compensation Committee approved a short-term annual cash bonus target for Mr. Bradley of 125% of his annual base salary, 120% of annual base salary for Mr. Long and a 100% of annual base salary for each of Messrs. Holotik, Rehm and Carpenter. The increases in targets for Messrs. Bradley and Long reflected the desire to account for the increase in the size of the organization during 2014 and normalization of their targets with other similarly situated executives

within ETE's affiliated partnerships.

In respect of 2014 performance, in February 2015, the Compensation Committee approved cash bonuses relating to the 2014 calendar year to Messrs. Bradley, Long, Holotik, Rehm and Carpenter of \$773,921, \$391,465, \$306,885, \$287,499 and \$288,321, respectively. The individual bonus amounts for each named executive officer reflect the Compensation Committee's view of the impact of such individual's efforts and contributions towards (i) achievement of the Partnership's success in exceeding its internal financial budget, (ii) the development of new projects that are expected to result in increased cash flows from operations in future years, (iii) the completion of mergers, acquisitions or similar transactions that are expected to be accretive to the Partnership and increase distributable cash flow, (iv) the overall management of the Partnership's business, and (v) the individual performances



Table of Contents

of these individuals with respect to promoting the Partnership's financial, strategic and operating objectives for 2014. The cash bonuses awarded to each of the named executive officers for 2014 were consistent with their individual targets.

**Equity-Based Awards.** Each of the Regency GP LLC Long-Term Incentive Plan dated February 3, 2006 (the "2006 Plan") and the Regency Energy Partners LP 2011 Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "2011 Plan") authorizes the Compensation Committee, in its discretion, to grant awards of phantom units, common units, restricted units, unit options and other unit-based awards to employees, directors and consultants of the Partnership and its affiliates and subsidiaries. The Compensation Committee determined and/or approved the terms of the unit grants awarded to our named executive officers, including the number of phantom units subject to the unit award and the vesting structure of those unit awards. All of the awards granted to the named executive officers under these equity incentive plans have consisted of phantom unit awards that are subject to vesting over a specified time period. Upon vesting of any unit award, Regency Common Units are issued.

In December 2014, the Compensation Committee approved grants of time-based phantom unit awards under the 2011 Plan to Messrs. Bradley, Long, Holotik, Rehm and Carpenter of 83,800 units, 33,100 units, 20,760 units, 19,450 units, and 17,000 units, respectively. These phantom unit awards provide for vesting in Regency Common Units of 60% at the end of the third year and vesting of the remaining 40% at the end of the fifth year, subject to continued employment through each specified vesting date. These phantom unit awards entitle the recipients of the unit awards to receive, with respect to each Regency Common Unit subject to such phantom unit award that has not either vested or been forfeited, a DER cash payment promptly following each such distribution by us to our unitholders. In approving the grant of such unit awards, the Compensation Committee took into account the same factors as discussed above under the caption "Annual Cash Bonus," the long-term objective of retaining such individuals as key drivers of the Partnership's future success, the existing level of equity ownership of such individuals and the previous awards to such individuals of equity awards subject to vesting.

The issuance of phantom units pursuant to our equity incentive plans is intended to serve as a means of incentive compensation; therefore, no consideration will be payable by the plan participants upon vesting and issuance of the Common Units.

The unit awards under our equity incentive plans generally require the continued employment of the recipient during the entire vesting period, provided however, the unvested awards will be accelerated in the event of the death or disability of the award recipient prior to the applicable vesting period being satisfied. Beginning in December 2013, the Compensation Committee approved a partial acceleration of vesting for qualified retirement, whereby a recipient who voluntarily retires after at least ten years of service would be eligible for (i) vesting of 40% of the outstanding award, if the recipient retires at age 65 to 68, or (ii) vesting of 50% of the outstanding award, if the recipient is over the age of 68 upon retirement. In addition, Mr. Bradley's December 2014 award includes a provision for acceleration of the unvested portion of his phantom unit award upon the termination of his employment by the General Partner or the Partnership without cause.

The Compensation Committee may, but is not required to, accelerate the vesting of unvested unit awards in the event of the termination or retirement of an executive officer. The Compensation Committee did not accelerate the vesting of unit awards in 2014.

Equity awards under our 2006 Plan and certain equity awards under our 2011 Plan automatically accelerate upon a change in control event, which means vesting automatically accelerates upon a change of control irrespective of whether the officer is terminated. We believe that permitting the accelerated vesting of equity awards upon a change in control creates an important retention tool for us by enabling employees to realize value from these awards in the event that we undergo a change in control transaction. In addition, we believe that it is important to provide the named executive officers with a sense of stability in the course of transactions that could create uncertainty regarding their future employment and encourage these officers to remain focused on their job responsibilities. Certain equity awards under our 2011 Plan contain a discretionary acceleration feature, which permits acceleration of vesting upon a change of control at the discretion of the Compensation Committee, and allows for greater flexibility to respond to the specific circumstances at the time of the change in control transaction.

Unit Ownership Guidelines. In December 2013, the Board of Directors adopted the executive unit ownership guidelines (the “Guidelines”) which set forth minimum ownership guidelines applicable to certain executives of the Partnership with respect to Common Units representing limited partnership interests in the Partnership. The applicable unit ownership guidelines are denominated as a multiple of base salary, and the amount of Common Units required to be owned increases with the level of responsibility. Under these guidelines, the President and Chief Executive Officer is expected to own Common Units having a minimum value of five times his base salary, and all other covered executives (including the remaining named executive officers) expected to own Common Units having a minimum value range of two to four times, as applicable, their respective base salary.

Our General Partner and the Compensation Committee believe that the ownership of our Common Units, as reflected in the Guidelines, is an important means of tying the financial risks and rewards for our executives to our total unitholder return, aligning the interests of such executives with those of our unitholders, and promoting the Partnership’s interest in good corporate governance.

## Table of Contents

Covered executives are required to achieve their ownership level within five years of becoming subject to the guidelines. Thus, compliance with the guidelines will be required for all of the covered executives (including the named executive officers) beginning December 2018.

Covered executives may satisfy the guidelines through direct ownership of Common Units or indirect ownership by certain immediate family members. Direct or indirect ownership of ETE common units shall count on a one to one ratio for purposes of satisfying minimum ownership requirements; however, unvested unit awards may not be used to satisfy the minimum ownership requirements.

Executive officers who have not yet met their respective guideline must retain and hold all Common Units (less Common Units sold to cover the executive's applicable taxes and withholding obligation) received in connection with long-term incentive awards. Once the required ownership level is achieved, ownership of the required Common Units must be maintained for as long as the covered executive is subject to the guidelines. However, those individuals who have met or exceeded their applicable ownership guideline may dispose of our Common Units in a manner consistent with applicable laws, rules and regulations, including regulations of the SEC and our internal policies, but only to the extent that such individual's remaining ownership of Common Units would continue to exceed the applicable ownership guideline.

**Qualified Retirement Plan Benefits.** We participate in our affiliates' 401(k) plan, which covers substantially all of our employees, including our named executive officers. The plan is subject to the provisions of ERISA. Employees who have completed one hour of service and have attained age 18 years of age (age 21 for certain union workers) are eligible to participate. Employees may elect to defer up to 100% of their eligible compensation after applicable taxes, as limited under the IRC. We are required to make a matching contribution that is not less than the aggregate amount of matching contributions that would be credited to a participant's account based on a rate of match equal to 100% of each participant's elective deferrals up to 5% of covered compensation. The amounts deferred by the participant are fully vested at all times and the amounts contributed by the Partnership become vested based on years of service. All amounts contributed by the Partnership to the 401(k) plan accounts of our named executive officers are fully vested. We provide this benefit as a means to incentivize employees and provide them with an opportunity to save for their retirement.

Beginning January 1, 2013, the Partnership provides a 3% profit sharing contribution to employee 401(k) accounts for all employees with base compensation below a specified threshold. The contribution is in addition to the 401(k) matching contribution and employees become vested based on years of service.

**Health and Welfare Benefits.** All full-time employees, including our named executive officers, may participate in our affiliate's health and welfare benefit programs including medical, dental, vision, flexible spending, life insurance and disability insurance.

**Termination Benefits.** Our named executive officers do not have any employment agreements that call for payments of termination or severance benefits or that provide for any payments in the event of a change in control of our General Partner. Awards granted under our 2006 Plan provide for immediate vesting of all unvested awards in the event of a change in control, as defined in the 2006 Plan. Certain awards granted under our 2011 Plan provide for immediate vesting of all unvested awards in the event of a change in control, as defined in the 2011 Plan, and other awards provide the Compensation Committee with the discretion to accelerate the vesting of all unvested unit awards in the event of a change in control, as defined in the 2011 Plan. In addition, Mr. Bradley's December 2014 phantom unit award provides for acceleration of any unvested units granted under that award in the event of a not for cause termination (as defined in the award agreement).

No such accelerated vesting occurred in 2014. Please refer to "Potential Payments Upon a Termination or Change of Control" for additional information.

In addition, our affiliates adopted the Energy Transfer Partners GP, L.P. Severance Plan and Summary Plan Description effective as of June 12, 2013 (the "Severance Plan"), and our employees are covered by this Severance Plan. The Severance Plan provides for payment of certain severance benefits in the event of Qualifying Termination (as that term is defined in the Severance Plan). In general the Severance Plan provides payment of two weeks of annual base salary for each year or partial year of employment service with the Partnership up to a maximum of fifty-two weeks or one year of annual base salary (with a minimum of four weeks of annual base salary) and up to three months

continued group health insurance coverage. The Severance Plan also provides that the Partnership may determine to pay benefits in addition to those provided under the Severance Plan based on special circumstances, which additional benefits shall be unique and non-precedent setting. The Severance Plan is available to all salaried employees on a nondiscriminatory basis; therefore, amounts that would be payable to our named executive officers upon a Qualifying Termination have been excluded from “Compensation Tables – Potential Payments Upon a Termination or Change of Control” below.

## Table of Contents

**Deferred Compensation Plan.** Employees earning more than a specified threshold have the option to participate in a deferred compensation plan (“DC Plan”) offered by one of our affiliates. The DC Plan permits eligible highly compensated employees to defer a portion of their salary and/or bonus until retirement or termination of employment or other designated distribution.

Under the DC Plan, each year eligible employees are permitted to make an irrevocable election to defer up to 50% of their annual base salary, 50% of their quarterly non-vested unit distribution income, and/or 50% of their discretionary performance bonus compensation to be earned for services performed during the following year. Pursuant to the DC Plan, we may make annual discretionary matching contributions to participants’ accounts; however, we have not made any discretionary contributions to participants’ accounts and currently have no plans to make any discretionary contributions to participants’ accounts. All amounts credited under the DC Plan (other than discretionary credits) are immediately 100% vested. Participant accounts are credited with deemed earnings (or losses) based on hypothetical investment fund choices made by the participants among available funds.

Participants may also elect to have their accounts distributed in one lump sum payment or in annual installments over a period of three or five years upon retirement, and in a lump sum upon other termination. Participants may also elect to take lump-sum-in-service withdrawals five years or longer in the future, and such scheduled in-service withdrawals may be further deferred prior to the withdrawal date. Upon a change in control (as defined in the DC Plan) of Regency, all DC Plan accounts are immediately vested in full. However, distributions are not accelerated and, instead, are made in accordance with the DC Plan’s normal distribution provisions unless a participant has elected to receive a change of control distribution pursuant to his deferral agreement.

**Risk Assessment Related to our Compensation Structure.** We believe our compensation plans and programs for our named executive officers, as well as our other employees, are appropriately structured and are not reasonably likely to result in material risk to the Partnership. We believe our compensation plans and programs are structured in a manner that does not promote excessive risk-taking that could harm our value or reward poor judgment. We also believe we have allocated our compensation among base salary and short and long-term compensation in such a way as to not encourage excessive risk-taking. In particular, we generally do not adjust base annual salaries for the executive officers and other employees significantly from year to year, and therefore the annual base salary of our employees is not generally impacted by our overall financial performance or the financial performance of an operating segment. We generally determine whether, and to what extent, our named executive officers receive a cash bonus based on our achievement of specified financial performance objectives as well as the individual contributions of our named executive officers to the Partnership’s success. We use phantom units rather than unit options for equity awards because phantom units retain value even in a depressed market so that employees are less likely to take unreasonable risks to get, or keep, options “in-the-money.” Finally, the time-based vesting over five years for our long-term incentive awards ensures that our employees’ interests align with those of our Unitholders for the long-term performance of the Partnership.

### **Recoupment Policy**

We currently do not have a recovery policy applicable to annual incentive bonuses or equity awards. The Compensation Committee will continue to evaluate the need to adopt such a policy.

### **Tax and Accounting Implications of Equity-Based Compensation Arrangements**

#### **Deductibility of Executive Compensation**

We are a limited partnership and not a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Therefore, we believe that the compensation paid to the named executive officers is not subject to the deduction limitations under section 162(m) of the IRC and therefore is generally fully deductible for federal income tax purposes.

#### **Accounting for Unit-Based Compensation**

For our unit-based compensation arrangements, including equity-based awards issued to certain of our named executive officers by an affiliate (as discussed above), we record compensation expense over the vesting period of the awards, as discussed further in Note 17 in the Notes to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

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

Messrs. Gray, McReynolds and Ramsey served on the Compensation Committee during 2014. In addition, Mr. John D. Harkey, Jr. served on the Compensation Committee until his resignation in March 2014. During 2014, none of the

members of the committee was an officer or employee of us or any of our subsidiaries or served as an officer of any company with respect to which any of our executive officers served on such company's board of directors. In addition, none of the members of the Compensation Committee are former employees of ours or any of our subsidiaries.

The Compensation Committee of the board of directors of our General Partner has reviewed and discussed the section entitled “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” with the management of Regency Energy Partners LP. Based on this review and discussion, we have recommended to the board of directors of our General Partner that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this annual report on Form 10-K.

## Rodney L. Gray

John W. McReynolds

Matthew S. Ramsey

The foregoing report shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference by any general statement or reference to this annual report on Form 10-K into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under those Acts.

## COMPENSATION TABLES AND NARRATIVES

## Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Position	Year <sup>(1)</sup> (#)	Salary (\$)	Bonus <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	Equity Awards <sup>(3)</sup> (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)	All Other Compensation <sup>(4)</sup> (\$)	Total (\$)
Michael J. Bradley President and Chief Executive Officer	2014	\$619,137	\$773,921	\$1,969,300	\$—	\$14,584	\$3,376,942
	2013	612,523	735,028	1,943,248	—	13,901	3,304,700
	2012	592,250	600,000	1,054,000	—	41,322	2,287,572
Thomas E. Long Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2014	326,221	391,465	777,850	—	14,032	1,509,568
	2013	322,700	322,700	682,551	—	13,822	1,341,773
	2012	312,000	305,000	527,000	—	20,297	1,164,297
Jim S. Holotik Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer	2014	306,885	306,885	487,860	—	11,538	1,113,168
	2013	303,595	303,595	642,116	—	14,456	1,263,762
	2012	293,550	275,000	474,300	—	13,322	1,056,172
Richard S. Rehm <sup>(5)</sup> Executive Vice President of Operations	2014	287,499	287,499	457,075	14,017	13,194	1,059,284
	2013	279,125	279,125	451,164	10,535	14,623	1,034,572
Todd Carpenter <sup>(6)</sup> Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary	2014	288,321	288,321	399,500	—	13,853	989,995

(1) The information provided in the Summary Compensation Table reflects full-year information for each individual for the years in which such individuals are considered Named Executive Officers.

(2) The bonus amounts reflect discretionary cash bonuses for our named executive officers for 2014 approved by the Compensation Committee in February 2015, which are expected to be paid in March 2015.

(3)

Equity award amounts reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of unit awards granted for the periods presented, computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. See Note 17 in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional assumptions underlying the value of the equity awards.

- (4) The amounts reflected in “All Other Compensation” for 2014 include (i) contributions to the 401(k) plan on behalf of the named executive officer of \$13,000 each for Messrs. Bradley, Long and Carpenter, \$9,954 for Mr. Holotik and \$11,321 for Mr. Rehm, and (ii) the dollar value of life insurance premiums paid for the benefit of the named executive officers. Vesting in 401(k) contributions occurs immediately.
- (5) Mr. Rehm was appointed Executive Vice President of Operations in May 2013. The 2013 amounts reflect compensation by the Partnership and its affiliates for the entire year.



Table of Contents

(6) Mr. Carpenter was appointed Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary in March 2014. The 2014 amounts reflect compensation by the Partnership and its affiliates for the entire year.

## Grant of Plan-Based Awards for the Year Ended December 31, 2014

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards			All Other Unit Awards: Number of Units (#)	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh)	Grant Date Fair Value of Unit Awards <sup>(1)</sup>
		Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)				
Michael J. Bradley	12/19/2014	—	—	—	83,800	—	\$—	\$1,969,300
Thomas E. Long	12/19/2014	—	—	—	33,100	—	—	777,850
Jim S. Holotik	12/19/2014	—	—	—	20,760	—	—	487,860
Richard S. Rehm	12/19/2014	—	—	—	19,450	—	—	457,075
Todd Carpenter	12/19/2014	—	—	—	17,000	—	—	399,500

(1) We have computed the grant date fair value of these phantom unit awards in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, as further described below and in Note 17 in the Notes to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

## Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of the Plan-Based Awards Table

A description of material factors necessary to understand the information disclosed in the tables above with respect to salaries, bonuses, equity awards, nonqualified deferred compensation earnings, and 401(k) plan contributions can be found in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis that precedes these tables.

Table of Contents

## Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2014

Unit Awards					
Name	Grant Date	Number of Units that have not Vested <sup>(1)</sup> (#)	Market Value of Units That Have Not Vested <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Units That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Units That Have Not Vested (2) (\$)
Michael J. Bradley	12/19/2014	83,800	\$ 2,011,200	—	\$ —
	1/3/2014	74,971	1,799,304	—	—
	12/17/2012	50,000	1,200,000	—	—
	12/21/2011	20,000	480,000	—	—
	12/17/2010	10,000	240,000	—	—
	11/22/2010	10,000	240,000	—	—
Thomas E. Long	12/19/2014	33,100	794,400	—	—
	1/3/2014	26,333	631,992	—	—
	12/17/2012	25,000	600,000	—	—
	12/21/2011	9,000	216,000	—	—
	12/17/2010	4,700	112,800	—	—
	12/1/2010	3,000	72,000	—	—
Jim S. Holotik	12/19/2014	20,760	498,240	—	—
	1/3/2014	24,773	594,552	—	—
	12/17/2012	22,500	540,000	—	—
	12/21/2011	9,000	216,000	—	—
	12/17/2010	4,700	112,800	—	—
Richard S. Rehm	12/19/2014	19,450	466,800	—	—
	1/3/2014	17,406	417,744	—	—
Todd Carpenter	12/19/2014	17,000	408,000	—	—

Phantom unit awards outstanding as of December 31, 2014 reflected in the table above vest (i) at a rate of 60% in 2017 and 40% in 2019 for awards granted in December 2014, (ii) at a rate of 60% in 2016 and 40% in 2018 for (1) awards granted in January 2014, (iii) at a rate of 60% in 2015 and 40% in 2017 for awards granted in 2012, and (iv) ratably on each anniversary of the grant date through 2016 for awards granted in 2011 and through 2015 for awards granted in 2010.

(2) Market value was computed as the number of unvested awards as of December 31, 2014 multiplied by the closing price of our common units on December 31, 2014.

## Option Exercises and Stock Vested for the Year Ended December 31, 2014

Unit Awards		
Name	Number of Units Acquired on Vesting <sup>(1)</sup> (#)	Value Realized on Vesting <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)
Michael J. Bradley	30,000	\$838,600
Thomas E. Long	12,200	330,354
Jim S. Holotik	9,200	249,504
Richard S. Rehm	—	—

Todd Carpenter

---

Amounts presented represent the number of phantom units vested during 2014 and the value realized upon vesting (1) of these awards, which is calculated as the number of units vested multiplied by the closing price of our common units upon the vesting date.

91

---

Table of Contents

## Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

Name	Executive Contributions in Last FY <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Registrant Contributions in Last FY (\$)	Aggregate Earnings in Last FY <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Aggregate Withdrawals/Distributions (\$)	Aggregate Balance at Last FYE <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)
Michael J. Bradley	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$ —	\$—
Thomas E. Long	—	—	—	—	—
Jim S. Holotik	—	—	—	—	—
Richard S. Rehm	59,270	—	14,017	—	153,977
Todd Carpenter	—	—	—	—	—

The executive contribution and aggregate earnings reflected above for Mr. Rehm are included in his total (1) compensation for 2014 in the “Summary Compensation Table;” the remainder of the aggregate balance at last fiscal year end was reported as compensation in the previous fiscal years.

A description of the key provisions of the DC Plan can be found in the compensation discussion and analysis above. Potential Payments Upon a Termination or Change of Control

As discussed within the “Equity-Based Awards” and “Termination Benefits” sections of the Compensation Discussion and Analysis above, various equity incentive plan awards would vest upon a change of control or other termination event. Such awards are reflected in the Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table above at 100% of the fair value of the award upon the grant date. To the extent such awards were not already vested as of December 31, 2014, the fair value of the unvested awards at the date are reflected in the Outstanding Equity Awards at Year-End Table above.

Equity Compensation Awards Granted under the 2006 Plan. As discussed in “Termination Benefits” within the Compensation Discussion and Analysis above, any unvested time-based phantom unit awards granted to a named executive officer under the 2006 Plan would automatically vest upon a change of control. Additionally, the unvested time-based phantom unit awards held by each named executive officer under the 2006 Plan would also receive automatic vesting acceleration upon a termination of employment due to the executive’s death or disability. In the event that (i) a change of control had occurred on December 31, 2014, whether or not the executive also incurred a termination of employment, or (ii) the executive’s termination of employment with us had terminated due to his death or disability, the value of the accelerated vesting for outstanding phantom unit awards would have been as follows: Mr. Bradley, \$480,000; Mr. Long, \$184,800; and Mr. Holotik \$112,800. These amounts were calculated by multiplying the number of phantom unit awards granted under the 2006 Plan and still held by each named executive officer as of December 31, 2014, and multiplying that number by the closing price of our common units on that date. While any individual award agreement under the 2006 Plan may contain a modified definition of a “change of control,” the term is generally defined pursuant to our 2006 Plan as the occurrence of one or more of the following events: (1) any person or group becomes the beneficial owner of 50 percent or more of our voting power or voting securities, unless such person or group is the initial entity controlling the General Partner or an affiliate, (2) the complete liquidation of either the general partner of our General Partner, our General Partner, or us; or (3) the sale of all or substantially all of our General Partner’s, or our assets to anyone other than an entity that is wholly-owned by one or more of the General Partner, or us. Additionally, an executive’s “disability” will have occurred at the point that the executive would be entitled to receive benefits under our long-term disability plan.

Equity Compensation Awards Granted under the 2011 Plan. The time-based phantom unit awards granted to certain of our named executive officers subsequent to 2010 were granted under the 2011 Plan. The phantom unit awards under the 2011 Plan will receive accelerated vesting upon a holder’s termination of employment for death or a disability and, in the case of the phantom unit awards granted in December 2014, upon a change of control. The value of the accelerated vesting for outstanding phantom unit awards under the 2011 Plan in the event of a termination of employment for death or disability as of December 31, 2014, would have been as follows: Mr. Bradley, \$5,490,504; Mr. Long, \$2,242,392; Mr. Holotik, \$1,848,792; Mr. Rehm \$884,544 and Mr. Carpenter \$408,000. Although any

unvested phantom unit awards granted under the 2011 Plan prior to December 2014 may also become vested upon a change of control at the discretion of the Compensation Committee, the discussion below assumes a scenario in which the Compensation Committee does not exercise such discretion. Accordingly, the value of the accelerated vesting for outstanding phantom unit awards under the 2011 Plan in the event of a change of control, as of December 31, 2014, would have been as follows: Mr. Bradley, \$2,011,200; Mr. Long, \$794,400; Mr. Holotik, \$498,240; Mr. Rehm \$466,800 and Mr. Carpenter \$408,000. In addition, Mr. Bradley's December 2014 award provides for acceleration of any unvested units granted under that award in the event of a not for cause termination. In such event, value of the accelerated vesting for Mr. Bradley's December 2014 phantom unit awards would have been \$2,011,200. These above amounts were calculated by multiplying the total number of phantom unit awards granted under the 2011 Plan (or in the case of a change in control or not for cause termination, phantom

## Table of Contents

unit awards granted in December 2014) and held by each named executive officer as of December 31, 2014, by the closing price of our common units on that date, \$24.00.

Under our 2011 Plan phantom unit award agreements and the 2011 Plan document, the vesting event terms are generally defined as follows. A “change of control” generally will occur if (i) any person or group, other than an affiliate of our General Partner, shall become the beneficial owner, by way of merger, consolidation, recapitalization, reorganization or otherwise, of 50% or more of the combined voting power of the equity interests in our General Partner; (ii) the members of the General Partner approve, in one or a series of transactions, a plan of complete liquidation of the General Partner; (iii) the sale or other disposition by the General Partner of all or substantially all of its assets in one or more transactions to any person other than the General Partner or an affiliate of the General Partner; or (iv) a person other than the General Partner, Regency GP LP or an affiliate of Regency GP LP or the General Partner becomes the general partner of the Partnership; however, if a phantom unit award is designed to be subject to Section 409A of the Code, the term “change of control” shall mean a “change of control event” as defined in the regulations under Section 409A of the Code. A “disability” is an illness or injury that lasts at least six continuous months, is expected to be permanent and renders the individual unable to carry out his or her duties to the Board, our General Partner, Regency GP LP, the Partnership or an affiliate of any of the applicable entities.

For Mr. Bradley’s December 2014 phantom unit award, a termination for “cause” is defined as (i) a conviction (treating a nolo contendere plea as a conviction) of a felony (whether or not any right to appeal has been or may be exercised), (ii) willful refusal without proper cause by Mr. Bradley to perform duties (other than any such refusal resulting from incapacity due to physical or mental impairment), (iii) misappropriation, embezzlement or reckless or willful destruction of property of the General Partner, the Partnership or any of its affiliates by Mr. Bradley, (iv) knowing breach of any statutory or common law duty of loyalty to the General Partner, the Partnership, or any of its or their affiliates by Mr. Bradley, (v) improper conduct materially prejudicial to the business of the General Partner, the Partnership or any of its or their affiliates by Mr. Bradley, (vi) material breach by Mr. Bradley of the provisions of any agreement regarding confidential information entered into with the General Partner, the Partnership or any of its or their affiliates or (vii) the continuing failure or refusal by Mr. Bradley to satisfactorily perform his essential duties to the General Partner, the Partnership or any of its or their affiliates (for the avoidance of doubt, repeated failures to achieve budgetary targets, including general and administrative cost targets, operating cost targets, capital expenditures targets and/or earnings targets shall be considered a failure to satisfactorily perform essential duties).

As discussed within the compensation discussion and analysis above, certain phantom unit awards may also be subject to partial accelerated vesting upon the retirement of the recipient. Beginning with the phantom unit awards granted in December 2014, the award agreements now provide for qualified retirement, whereby a recipient who voluntarily retires after at least ten years of service would be eligible for (i) vesting of 40% of the outstanding award, if the recipient retires at age 65 to 68, or (ii) vesting of 50% of the outstanding award, if the recipient is over the age of 68 upon retirement. Currently, none of our named executive officers would be eligible for accelerated vesting of their phantom unit awards upon their retirement.

**Deferred Compensation Plan.** As discussed in “Deferred Compensation Plan” within the compensation discussion and analysis above, all amounts under the DC Plan (other than discretionary credits) are immediately 100% vested. Upon a change of control, distributions from the DC Plan would be made in accordance with the DC Plan’s normal distribution provisions.

### **Non-Employee Director Compensation Table for the Year Ended December 31, 2014**

Our Board of Directors periodically reviews and determines the amounts payable to the members of our Board of Directors. In 2014, the directors of the General Partner who were not employees of the General Partner received, as applicable: an annual cash retainer of \$50,000; an annual cash retainer of \$10,000 (\$15,000 for the chair) for serving on our Audit and Risk Committee; an annual cash retainer of \$5,000 (\$7,500 for the chair) for serving on our Compensation Committee; a flat fee of \$1,200 for each committee meeting attended; and a cash fee for the engagement of the Conflicts Committee, as determined by the Board at the time of such engagement. In addition, the Chairman of our Board of Directors received an additional annual cash retainer of \$5,000. Such directors also received

an annual grant of \$100,000 of units under the LTIP. Directors appointed during the year, or who cease to be directors during a year, receive a pro-rated portion of any cash retainers. In addition, each non-employee director who is appointed to the Board for the first time is entitled to receive an award of 2,500 units under the LTIP. Unit awards granted to non-employee directors will vest 60% after the third year and the remaining 40% after the fifth year after the grant date.

Table of Contents

Name	Fees Paid in Cash <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Unit Awards <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	Total (\$)
James W. Bryant	\$74,750	\$100,000	\$174,750
Rodney L. Gray	76,000	100,000	176,000
John D. Harkey <sup>(3)</sup>	19,325	140,000	159,325
Matthew S. Ramsey <sup>(4)</sup>	52,350	72,950	125,300

(1) Fees paid in cash are based on amounts paid for services rendered during 2014.

(2) Unit award amounts reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of awards granted based on the market price of Common Units as of the grant date.

(3) Mr. Harkey resigned from the Board of Directors in March 2014.

(4) Mr. Ramsey was appointed to the Board of Directors in April 2014.

As of December 31, 2014, Messrs. Bryant and Gray each had 9,233 unit awards outstanding and Mr. Ramsey had 2,500 unit awards outstanding.



Table of Contents

## Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Unitholder Matters

The following table sets forth, as of February 19, 2015, the beneficial ownership of our units by:

• each person who then owned beneficially 5% or more of our common units;

• each member of the Board of Directors;

• each named executive officer; and

• all directors and executive officers, as a group.

The amounts and percentage of units beneficially owned are reported on the basis of regulations of the SEC governing the determination of beneficial ownership of securities. Under the rules of the SEC, a person is deemed to be a “beneficial owner” of a security if that person has or shares “voting power,” which includes the power to vote or to direct the voting of such security, or “investment power,” which includes the power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of such security. A person is also deemed to be a beneficial owner of any securities with respect to which that person has a right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days. Under these rules, more than one person may be deemed a beneficial owner of the same securities and a person may be deemed a beneficial owner of securities as to which he has no economic interest.

Name of Beneficial Owners	Business Address	Common Units	Percentage of Outstanding Common Units
Energy Transfer Equity, L.P., LE GP, LLC, Kelcy L. Warren, ETE Common Holdings, LLC, Energy Transfer Partners, L.P., Heritage ETC, L.P., Heritage ETC GP, L.L.C., Energy Transfer Partners GP, L.P., Energy Transfer Partners, L.L.C., Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company, LP <sup>(1)</sup>	3738 Oak Lawn Avenue, Dallas, Texas, 75219	88,529,775	21.5%
Neuberger Berman Group LLC <sup>(2)</sup>	605 Third Avenue New York, NY 10158	41,362,223	10.1%
Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. <sup>(3)</sup>	1800 Avenue of the Stars Second Floor Los Angeles, CA 90067	37,887,529	9.2%
OppenheimerFunds, Inc. <sup>(4)</sup>	225 Liberty Street New York, NY 10281	31,136,234	7.6%
Michael J. Bradley	2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700 Dallas, TX 75219	74,817	*
Thomas E. Long	2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700 Dallas, TX 75219	32,357	*
Jim Holotik	2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700 Dallas, TX 75219	24,516	*
Richard S. Rehm	2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700 Dallas, TX 75219	—	*
Todd Carpenter	2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700 Dallas, TX 75219	—	*
James W. Bryant	2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700 Dallas, TX 75219	8,061	*

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

Rodney L. Gray	2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700 Dallas, TX 75219	13,061	*
John W. McReynolds	2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700 Dallas, TX 75219	—	*
Matthew S. Ramsey	2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700 Dallas, TX 75219	—	*
Richard D. Brannon	2001 Bryan Street, Suite 3700 Dallas, TX 75219	—	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (11 persons)		188,570	*
Total number of units as of February 19, 2015		410,927,131	

Table of Contents

Based solely on the Schedule 13D/A filed with the SEC on February 20, 2015, ETE, LE GP, LLC ("LE GP"), and Kelcy L. Warren are the beneficial owners of 88,529,775 common units. ETE Common Holdings is the beneficial owner of 30,890,565 common units. ETP, Heritage ETC, L.P. ("Heritage"), Heritage ETC GP, L.L.C. ("Heritage GP"), Energy Transfer Partners GP, L.P. ("ETP GP"), Energy Transfer Partners, L.L.C. ("ETP LLC"), and PEPL, are the beneficial owners of 31,372,419 common units. All parties above, except for ETE Common Holdings, also

(1) beneficially own 6,274,483 Class F units, which vote as a single class with the Common Units other than with respect to matters adversely affecting any rights, preferences, and privileges of the Class F units. ETE, LE GP and Mr. Warren have shared power to vote and dispose of 26,266,791 common units. ETE, LE GP, Mr. Warren, ETP, Heritage, Heritage GP, ETP GP and ETP LLC have shared power to vote and dispose of 31,372,419 common units and 6,274,483 Class F units. In connection with the proposed Merger, each of ETE and ETP have pledged to vote any limited partner interests of the Partnership owned by it or its subsidiaries in favor of approval of the Merger and the approval of any actions required in furtherance thereof.

Based solely on the Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 12, 2015. Neuberger Berman Group LLC ("Neuberger") and its affiliates may be deemed to be beneficial owners of securities for purposes of Exchange Act Rule 13d-3 because they or certain affiliated persons have shared power to retain, dispose of or vote the securities of unrelated clients. Neuberger or its affiliated persons do not, however, have any economic interests in the securities of those clients. The clients have the sole right to receive and the power to direct the receipt of dividends from or proceeds from the sale of such securities. No one client has an interest of more than 5%. With regard to the shares set forth, Neuberger may be deemed to be the beneficial owner for purposes of Rule 13d-3 because certain affiliated persons have shared power to retain, dispose of and vote the securities. In addition to the holdings of individual advisory clients, each of Neuberger Berman LLC and Neuberger Berman Management LLC serve as a

(2) sub-adviser and investment manager, respectively, of Neuberger various registered mutual funds which hold such shares. The holdings belonging to clients of Neuberger Berman Trust Co N.A., Neuberger Berman Trust Co of Delaware N.A., NB Alternatives Advisers LLC and Neuberger Berman Fixed Income LLC, affiliates of Neuberger Berman LLC, are also aggregated to comprise the holdings referenced. In addition to the shares set forth for which Neuberger entities also have shared power to dispose of the shares, item 4(c)(iv) also includes shares from individual client accounts over which Neuberger Berman LLC has shared power to dispose but does not have voting power over these shares. The holdings of Neuberger Berman Trust Co N.A., Neuberger Berman Trust Co of Delaware N.A., NB Alternatives Advisers LLC and Neuberger Berman Fixed Income LLC, affiliates of Neuberger Berman LLC, are also aggregated to comprise the holdings referenced. Of the 41,362,223 common units reported as beneficially owned by Neuberger, Neuberger has reported that it has shared voting power with respect to 39,928,848 of these common units and shared dispositive power with respect to all of these common units.

Based solely on the Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on January 14, 2015. The reported units are owned by investment accounts (investment limited partnerships, a registered investment company and institutional accounts) managed, with discretion to purchase or sell securities, by Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. ("Kayne"), as a registered investment adviser. Kayne is the general partner (or general partner of the general partner) of the limited partnerships and investment adviser to the other accounts. Richard A. Kayne is the controlling shareholder of the corporate owner of Kayne Anderson Investment Management, Inc., the general partner of Kayne. Mr. Kayne is

(3) also a limited partner of each of the limited partnerships and a shareholder of the registered investment company. Kayne disclaims beneficial ownership of the units reported, except those units attributable to it by virtue of its general partner interests in the limited partnerships. Mr. Kayne disclaims beneficial ownership of the units reported, except those units held by him or attributable to him by virtue of his limited partnership interests in the limited partnerships, his indirect interest in the interest of Kayne in the limited partnerships, and his ownership of common stock of the registered investment company.

(4) Based solely on the Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 9, 2015.

\* Less than 1.0%

Our General Partner's Board of Directors, or its Compensation Committee, in its discretion may terminate, suspend or discontinue the LTIPs at any time with respect to any award that has not yet been granted. Our General Partner's Board

of Directors, or its Compensation Committee, also has the right to alter or amend the LTIPs or any part of the plan from time to time, including increasing the number of units that may be granted subject to any unitholder approval as required by the exchange upon which the common units are listed at that time. However, no change in any outstanding grant may be made that would materially impair the rights of the participant without the consent of the participant.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes the number of securities remaining available for future issuance under our LTIPs as of December 31, 2014:

Plan Category	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column(a))
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders:			
2011 Long-Term Incentive Plan	2,167,719	\$ —	567,504
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders:			
2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan	107,650	22.68	—
Total	2,275,369	\$ 22.68	567,504

### Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence

For a discussion of director independence, see Item 10. "Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance." For a discussion of our related party transaction approval process, see Item 10. "Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance - Conflicts Committee."

ETE owns all of the limited partnership interest in the General Partner, all of the membership interest in the general partner of the General Partner and 100% of the IDRs. Two of the six current directors of the General Partner are also directors of LE GP, LLC, which is the general partner of ETE. As of December 31, 2014, ETE directly owned 6% of our outstanding common units, and ETE Common Holdings, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETE, owned 8% of our outstanding common units. In addition, PEPL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP owned 8% of our outstanding common units and all of our 6,274,483 Class F units as of December 31, 2014 (as discussed below). In conjunction with our distributions to the limited and general partner interests, ETE and its consolidated subsidiaries collectively received cash distributions, including IDRs, of \$175 million in 2014.

On January 25, 2015, we and ETP entered into the Merger Agreement pursuant to which the Partnership will merge with a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP, with the Partnership continuing as the surviving entity and becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP (the "Merger"). At the effective time of the Merger (the "Effective Time"), each Partnership common unit and Class F unit will be converted into the right to receive 0.4066 ETP common units, plus a number of additional ETP common units equal to \$0.32 per Partnership unit divided by the lesser of (i) the volume weighted average price of ETP common units for the five trading days ending on the third trading day immediately preceding the Effective Time and (ii) the closing price of ETP common units on the third trading day immediately preceding the Effective Time, rounded to the nearest ten thousandth of a unit. Each Series A Preferred Unit will be converted into the right to receive a preferred unit representing a limited partner interest in ETP, a new class of units in ETP to be established at the Effective Time. Early termination of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, for the Merger was granted by the United States Federal Trade Commission on February 24, 2015. The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2015 and is subject to other customary closing conditions including approval by the Partnership's unitholders. In connection with the proposed Merger, each of ETE and ETP have pledged to vote any limited partner interests of the Partnership owned by it or its subsidiaries in favor of approval of the Merger and the approval of any actions required in furtherance thereof.

In April 2013, the Partnership and Regency Western acquired SUGS from Southern Union, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Holdco, for \$1.5 billion (the “SUGS Acquisition”). The Partnership financed the acquisition by issuing 31,372,419 of common units and 6,274,483 Class F units to a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP. The Class F units are not entitled to participate in the Partnership’s distributions for twenty-four months post-transaction closing. The remaining \$600 million, less \$107 million of closing adjustments, was paid in cash. In addition, ETE agreed to forgo IDR payments on the Partnership common units issued with this transaction for the twenty-four months post-transaction closing and to suspend the \$10 million annual management fee paid by the Partnership for two years post-transaction close.

We have a services agreement with ETE and Services Co., in which Services Co. performs certain general and administrative services for us. We also have an operating and service agreement with ETC, in which ETC provides certain operations, maintenance and related services for us. We incurred \$6 million of total service fees in 2014.

Table of Contents

Our Gathering and Processing segment, in the normal course of business, sells natural gas and NGLs to, and purchases natural gas and NGLs from, subsidiaries of ETE. In 2014, our Gathering and Processing segment recorded revenues from subsidiaries of ETE of \$351 million and cost of sales to subsidiaries of ETE of \$52 million.

Our Contract Services segment provides contract compression services to a subsidiary of ETE and recorded \$1 million in revenues in 2014 in gathering, transportation and other fees on the statement of operations. In addition, during 2014, our Contract Services segment purchased property, plant and equipment of \$67 million from a subsidiary of ETE.

Table of Contents

## Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accountant. The Audit and Risk Committee retained Grant Thornton LLP as our principal accountant to conduct the audit of our financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Audit Fees. The following table sets forth fees billed by Grant Thornton LLP for the professional services rendered for the audits of our annual financial statements and other services rendered for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

	December 31, 2014	2013
Audit fees <sup>(1)</sup>	\$2,169,000	\$1,597,500
Audit related fees <sup>(2)</sup>	400,000	—

(1) Includes fees for audits of annual financial statements, including the audit of internal control over financial reporting, reviews of related quarterly financial statements, and services that are normally provided by independent accountants in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements, including reviews of documents filed with the SEC.

(2) Audit-related fees were incurred in connection with subsidiary (or carve-out) audits for the three years ended December 31, 2013 performed during 2014.

Procedures for Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Permissible Non-Audit Services of Independent Registered Public Accountant. Pursuant to the charter of the Audit and Risk Committee, the Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for the oversight of our accounting, reporting and financial practices. The Audit and Risk Committee has the responsibility to select, appoint, engage, oversee, retain, evaluate and terminate our external auditors; pre-approve all audit and non-audit services to be provided, consistent with all applicable laws, to us by our external auditors; and to establish the fees and other compensation to be paid to our external auditors. The Audit and Risk Committee also oversees and directs our internal auditing program and reviews our internal controls. The Audit and Risk Committee has adopted a policy for the pre-approval of audit and permitted non-audit services provided by our principal independent accountant.

The Audit and Risk Committee reviews the external auditors' proposed scope and approach as well as the performance of the external auditors. It also has direct responsibility for and sole authority to resolve any disagreements between our management and our external auditors regarding financial reporting, regularly reviews with the external auditors any problems or difficulties the auditors encountered in the course of their audit work, and, at least annually, uses its reasonable efforts to obtain and review a report from the external auditors addressing the following (among other items):

- the auditors' internal quality-control procedures;
- any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the external auditors;
- the independence of the external auditors;
- the aggregate fees billed by our external auditors for each of the previous two fiscal years; and
- the rotation of the lead partner.

## PART IV

## Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

(a)1. Financial Statements. See "Index to Financial Statements" set forth on page F-1.

(a)2. Financial Statement Schedules. Other schedules are omitted because they are not required or applicable, or the required information is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements or related notes.

(a)3. Exhibits. See "Index to Exhibits."



Table of Contents

## Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP

By: REGENCY GP LP, its general partner

By: REGENCY GP LLC, its general partner

By: /s/ MICHAEL J. BRADLEY

Michael J. Bradley

President and Chief Executive Officer and officer  
duly authorized to sign on behalf of the registrant

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ MICHAEL J. BRADLEY Michael J. Bradley	President, Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) and Director	February 26, 2015
/s/ THOMAS E. LONG Thomas E. Long	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	February 26, 2015
/s/ A. TROY STURROCK A. Troy Sturrock	Vice President, Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)	February 26, 2015
/s/ JAMES W. BRYANT James W. Bryant	Chairman of the Board of Directors	February 26, 2015
/s/ RODNEY L. GRAY Rodney L. Gray	Director	February 26, 2015
/s/ MATTHEW S. RAMSEY Matthew S. Ramsey	Director	February 26, 2015
/s/ JOHN W. MCREYNOLDS John W. McReynolds	Director	February 26, 2015
/s/ RICHARD D. BRANNON Richard D. Brannon	Director	February 26, 2015

Table of Contents

## Index to Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Description	Incorporated by Reference from Form	Date Filed or File No.
2.1	Contribution Agreement dated of February 27, 2013	8-K	February 28, 2013
2.1.1	Amendment No. 1 to Contribution Agreement dated as of April 16, 2013, with the related Form of Guarantee Collection	8-K	April 16, 2013
2.2	Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of October 9, 2013, by and among Regency Energy Partners LP, PVR LLC, Regency GP LP, PVR	8-K	October 10, 2013
2.2.1	Amendment No. 1 to Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 7, 2013, by and among Regency Energy Partners LP, PVR LLC, Regency GP LP, PVR Partners, L.P. and PVR GP, LLC	8-K	November 8, 2013
2.3	Contribution Agreement, dated as of December 22, 2013, by and among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency HEP LLC, and Hoover Energy Partners, L.P., together with related exhibits	8-K	December 23, 2013
2.4	Contribution Agreement, dated as of December 23, 2013, by and among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regal Midstream LLC, and Eagle Rock Energy Partners, L.P., together with related Form of Assignment of Assumption Agreement, Form of Registration Rights Agreement, Form of Opinion of Counsel of the Partnership, Transition Services Term Sheet, Form of Escrow Agreement, Form of Debt Assumption Agreement and Terms of Exchange Notes	8-K	December 24, 2013
2.5	Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of January 25, 2015, by and among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency GP LP, Energy Transfer Partners, L.P., Energy Transfer Partners, GP, L.P., Energy Transfer Equity, L.P.	8-K	January 26, 2015
2.6	Amendment No. 1 to Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of February 18, 2015, by and among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency GP LP, Energy Transfer Partners, L.P., Energy Transfer Partners, GP, L.P., Energy Transfer Equity, L.P.	8-K	February 19, 2015
3.1	Certificate of Limited Partnership of Regency Energy Partners LP	S-1	333-128332
3.2	Form of Amended and Restated Limited Partnership Agreement of Regency Energy Partners LP (included as Appendix A to the Prospectus and including specimen unit certificate for the common units)	S-1	333-128332
3.2.1	Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	August 14, 2006

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

3.2.2	Amendment No. 2 to Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	September 21, 2006
3.2.3	Amendment No. 3 to Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	January 8, 2008
3.2.4	Amendment No. 4 to Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	January 16, 2008
3.2.5	Amendment No. 5 to Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	August 28, 2008
3.2.6	Amendment No. 6 to Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	February 27, 2009
3.2.7	Amendment No. 7 to Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	September 4, 2009
3.2.8	Amendment No. 8 to Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	April 30, 2013
3.3	Certificate of Formation of Regency GP LLC	S-1	333-128332

# Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

## Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description	Incorporated by Reference from Form	Date Filed or File No.
3.4	Form of Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Regency GP LLC	8-K	February 9, 2006
3.4.1	First Amendment to Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Regency GP LLC	10-K	March 1, 2010
3.4.2	Second Amendment to Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Regency GP LLC	8-K	August 10, 2010
3.4.3	Third Amendment to Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Regency GP LLC	8-K	January 6, 2011
3.5	Certificate of Limited Partnership of Regency GP LP	S-1	333-128332
3.6	Form of Amended and Restated Limited Partnership Agreement of Regency GP LP	S-1	333-128332
3.7	Second Amended and Restated General Partnership Agreement of RIGS Haynesville Partnership Co. dated as of December 18, 2009	10-K	March 1, 2010
3.7.1	First Amendment to Second Amended and Restated General Partnership Agreement of RIGS Haynesville Partnership Co. dated as of March 9, 2010	10-Q	May 7, 2010
4.1	Form of Common Unit Certificate	S-1	333-128332
4.2	Indenture dated as of October 27, 2010 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee	8-K	October 27, 2010
4.3	Second Supplemental Indenture dated May 24, 2011, to Indenture dated as of October 27, 2010 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (addition of guarantors)	8-K	May 26, 2011
4.4	Third Supplemental Indenture dated May 26, 2011, to Indenture dated as of October 27, 2010 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (issuance of \$500 million 6 ½% Senior Notes due 2021)	8-K	May 26, 2011
4.5	Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated May 22, 2012, to Indenture dated as of October 27, 2010 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (addition of guarantors)	POSASR	333-169901

4.6	Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated October 2, 2012, to Indenture dated as of October 27, 2010 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (issuance of \$700 million 5 1/2% Senior Notes due 2023)	8-K	October 2, 2012
4.7	Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated August 15, 2013, to Indenture dated as of October 27, 2010 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (addition of guarantors)	POSASR	333-185179
4.8	Seventh Supplemental Indenture, dated February 10, 2014, to Indenture dated as of October 27, 2010 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (addition of guarantors)	8-K	February 10, 2014
4.9	Indenture dated as of April 30, 2013 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (issuance of \$600 million 4 1/2% Senior Notes due 2023)	8-K	April 30, 2013

# Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description	Incorporated by Reference from Form	Date Filed or File No.
4.10	First Supplemental Indenture, dated August 15, 2013, to Indenture dated as of April 30, 2013 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (addition of guarantors)	POSASR	333-185179
4.11	Second Supplemental Indenture, dated February 10, 2014, to Indenture dated as of April 30, 2013 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (addition of guarantors)	8-K	February 10, 2014
4.12	Indenture dated as of September 11, 2013 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee	8-K	September 11, 2013
4.13	First Supplemental Indenture, dated September 11, 2013, to Indenture dated as of September 11, 2013 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (issuance of \$400 million 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> % Senior Notes due 2020)	8-K	September 11, 2013
4.14	Second Supplemental Indenture, dated February 10, 2014, to Indenture dated as of September 11, 2013 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (addition of guarantors)	8-K	February 10, 2014
4.15	Third Supplemental Indenture, dated February 10, 2014, to Indenture dated as of September 11, 2013 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (issuance of \$900 million 5 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> % Senior Notes due 2022)	8-K	February 10, 2014
4.16	Registration Rights Agreement dated May 26, 2010 by and among Regency LP Acquirer, L.P. and Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	May 28, 2010
4.17	Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of April 30, 2013, by and between Southern Union Company and Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	April 30, 2013
4.18	Indenture, dated as of April 27, 2010, by and among PVR Partners, L.P., Penn Virginia Resource Finance Corporation, the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee.	(1)	

- |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |      |  |                |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--|----------------|
| 4.19 | Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 17, 2012, by and among PVR Partners, L.P., Penn Virginia Resource Finance Corporation II, the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. | (2)  |  |                |
| 4.20 | Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 9, 2013, by and among PVR Partners, L.P., Penn Virginia Resource Finance Corporation II, the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee.  | (3)  |  |                |
| 4.21 | Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of March 21, 2014, by and among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee.         | 8-K  |  | March 24, 2014 |
| 4.22 | Third Supplemental Indenture dated March 28, 2014 among RHEP Crude LLC, Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee.               | 10-Q |  | May 8, 2014    |

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description	Incorporated by Reference from Form	Date Filed or File No.
4.23	Fourth Supplemental Indenture dated April 18, 2014 among PVR Midstream JV Holdings LLC, Regency Hydrocarbons LLC, Regency Laverne LLC, Connect Gas Pipeline LLC, Regency Pipeline LLC, Regency Utica Gas Gathering LLC, Regency Marcellus Gas Gathering LLC, Regency NEPA Gas Gathering LLC, Penn Virginia Operating Co., LLC, Dulcet Acquisition LLC, Fieldcrest Resources LLC, K Rail LLC, Kanawha Rail LLC, LJI, LLC, Loadout LLC, Suncrest Resources LLC, Toney Fork LLC, Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., guarantors party thereto, and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee.	10-Q	May 8, 2014
4.24	Fourth Supplemental Indenture dated March 28, 2014 among RHEP Crude LLC, Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee.	10-Q	May 8, 2014
4.25	Fifth Supplemental Indenture dated April 18, 2014 among PVR Midstream JV Holdings LLC, Regency Hydrocarbons LLC, Regency Laverne LLC, Connect Gas Pipeline LLC, Regency Pipeline LLC, Regency Utica Gas Gathering LLC, Regency Marcellus Gas Gathering LLC, Regency NEPA Gas Gathering LLC, Penn Virginia Operating Co., LLC, Dulcet Acquisition LLC, Fieldcrest Resources LLC, K Rail LLC, Kanawha Rail LLC, LJI, LLC, Loadout LLC, Suncrest Resources LLC, Toney Fork LLC, Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., guarantors party thereto, and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee.	10-Q	May 8, 2014
4.26	Sixth Supplemental Indenture dated April 18, 2014 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Finance Corp., Subsidiary Guarantors and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee.	10-Q	May 8, 2014
4.27	Eighth Supplemental Indenture dated March 28, 2014 among RHEP Crude LLC, Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee.	10-Q	May 8, 2014
4.28	Ninth Supplemental Indenture dated April 18, 2014 among PVR Midstream JV Holdings LLC, Regency Hydrocarbons LLC, Regency Laverne LLC, Connect Gas Pipeline LLC, Regency Pipeline LLC, Regency Utica Gas Gathering LLC, Regency Marcellus Gas Gathering LLC, Regency NEPA Gas Gathering LLC, Penn Virginia Operating Co., LLC, Dulcet Acquisition LLC, Fieldcrest Resources LLC, K Rail LLC, Kanawha Rail LLC, LJI, LLC, Loadout LLC, Suncrest Resources LLC, Toney Fork LLC, Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., guarantors party thereto, and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee.	10-Q	May 8, 2014



Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

LLC, Loadout LLC, Suncrest Resources LLC, Toney Fork LLC, Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., guarantors party thereto, and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee.

4.29	Indenture dated as of July 1, 2014 by and among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee.	8-K	July 8, 2014
4.30	Sixth Supplemental Indenture dated as of July 25, 2014 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (including the form of the notes).	8-K	July 2, 2014
4.31	Seventh Supplemental Indenture dated as of July 25, 2014 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto, and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee.	8-K	July 2, 2014
4.32	Tenth Supplemental Indenture dated as of November 24, 2014 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee.	8-K	November 28, 2014

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description	Incorporated by Reference from Form	Date Filed or File No.
4.33	Eighth Supplemental Indenture dated as of November 24, 2014 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank National Association, as trustee.	8-K	November 28, 2014
4.34	Seventh Supplemental Indenture dated as of November 24, 2014 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank National Association, as trustee.	8-K	November 28, 2014
4.35	Fifth Supplemental Indenture dated as of November 24, 2014 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank National Association, as trustee.	8-K	November 28, 2014
4.36	First Supplemental Indenture dated as of November 24, 2014 among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency Energy Finance Corp., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank National Association, as trustee.	8-K	November 28, 2014
10.1	Regency GP LLC Long-Term Incentive Plan	S-1	333-128332
10.1.1	Form of Grant Agreement for the Regency GP LLC Long-Term Incentive Plan—Unit Option Grant	S-1	333-128332
10.1.2	Form of Grant Agreement for the Regency GP LLC Long-Term Incentive Plan-Phantom Unit Grant (With DERs)	10-K	February 18, 2011
10.2	Regency Energy Partners LP 2011 Long-Term Incentive Plan	8-K	December 20, 2011
10.2.1	Form of Grant of Phantom Units with DERs	8-K	December 20, 2011
10.2.2	Form of Grant of Phantom Units with DERs	10-K	March 1, 2013
10.2.3	Form of Time-Vested Phantom Unit Agreement	10-Q	May 9, 2013
10.2.4	Form of Time-Vested Phantom Unit Agreement	10-Q	May 9, 2013
10.2.5	Form of Restricted Common Unit Agreement	10-Q	May 9, 2013
10.3	Area of Mutual Interest Agreement, dated as of March 17, 2009, by and among Regency Energy Partners LP, a Delaware limited partnership, RIGS Haynesville Partnership Co., a Delaware general partnership, Regency Haynesville Intrastate Gas LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Alinda Gas Pipeline I, L.P., a Delaware	8-K	March 18, 2009

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

limited partnership, and Alinda Gas Pipeline II, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership

10.4	Voting Agreement, dated April 30, 2010, by and between EFS Haynesville, LLC and Regency Haynesville Intrastate Gas LLC	8-K	April 30, 2010
10.5	Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of ETP-Regency Midstream Holdings, LLC, dated May 2, 2011	8-K	May 2, 2011
10.6	Services Agreement dated May 26, 2010 by and among ETE Services Company, LLC, Energy Transfer Equity, L.P. and Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	May 28, 2010
10.6.1	First Amendment to Services Agreement, dated April 30, 2013, by and among ETE Services Company, LLC, Energy Transfer Equity, L.P. and Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	April 30, 2013
10.7	Operation and Service Agreement by and between La Grange Acquisition, L.P., Regency GP LP, Regency Energy Partners LP and Regency Gas Services LP, dated May 19, 2011	8-K	May 19, 2011

105

---

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description	Incorporated by Reference from Form	Date Filed or File No.
10.7.1	First Amendment to Operation and Service Agreement, dated November 1, 2011, by and among La Grange Acquisition, L.P. d/b/a Energy Transfer Company, Regency GP LP, Regency Energy Partners LP and Regency Gas Services LP	S-4	November 8, 2013
10.7.2	Second Amendment to Operation and Service Agreement, dated April 30, 2013, by and among La Grange Acquisition, L.P. d/b/a Energy Transfer Company, Regency GP LP, Regency Energy Partners LP and Regency Gas Services LP	8-K	April 30, 2013
10.8	Voting and Support Agreement, entered into as of December 23, 2013, by and among Natural Gas Partners VIII, L.P. and Regency Energy Partners LP	8-K	December 24, 2013
10.9	Seventh Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of November 25, 2014	8-K	December 2, 2014
10.10	Non-Competition Agreement, dated as of February 3, 2014, by and among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency HEP LLC and Hoover Energy Partners LP.	8-K	February 5, 2014
10.11	Escrow Agreement, dated as of February 3, 2014, by and among Regency Energy Partners LP, Regency HEP LLC, Hoover Energy Partners LP and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as escrow agent.	8-K	February 5, 2014
10.12	Common Unit Purchase Agreement, dated June 4, 2014, by and between Regency Energy Partners LP and ETE Common Holdings, LLC.	8-K	June 5, 2014
10.13	Registration Rights Agreement, dated June 4, 2014, by and between Regency Energy Partners LP and ETE Common Holdings, LLC.	8-K	June 5, 2014
10.14	Common Unit Purchase Agreement dated as of July 1, 2014 by and between Regency Energy Partners LP and ETE Common Holdings, LLC.	8-K	July 8, 2014
10.15	Registration Rights Agreement dated as of July 1, 2014 by and between Regency Energy Partners LP and ETE Common Holdings, LLC.	8-K	July 8, 2014
10.16	Regency GP LLC Annual Bonus Plan	10-Q	November 6, 2014
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	*	

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

21.1	List of Subsidiaries of Regency Energy Partners LP	*	
23.1	Consent of Grant Thornton LLP (Regency Energy Partners LP)	*	
23.2	Consent of Grant Thornton LLP (RIGS Haynesville Partnership Co.)	*	
23.3	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (Midcontinent Express Pipeline LLC)	*	
23.4	Consent of Grant Thornton LLP (Lone Star NGL LLC)	*	
23.5	Consent of KPMG LLP (Midstream Assets of Eagle Rock Energy Partners, L.P.)	*	
31.1	Certifications pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)	*	
31.2	Certifications pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)	*	
32.1	Certifications pursuant to Section 1350	**	
32.2	Certifications pursuant to Section 1350	**	
99.1	Statement of Policies Relating to Potential Conflicts among Energy Transfer Partners, L.P., Energy Transfer Equity, L.P., and Regency Energy Partners LP dated as of April 26, 2011	10-Q	August 8, 2011

# Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description	Incorporated by Reference from Form	Date Filed or File No.
99.2	Audited Financial Statements of RIGS Haynesville Partnership Co. as of December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 and for the years then ended	*	
99.3	Audited Financial Statements of Midcontinent Express Pipeline LLC as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 and for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	*	
99.4	Audited Financial Statements of Lone Star NGL LLC as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	*	
99.5	Audited Financial Statements of the Midstream Assets of Eagle Rock Energy Partners, L.P. as of December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012 and for the three years ended December 31, 2013	*	
99.6	Regency Energy Partner LP Notice of Beginning of Administrative Proceedings for Tax Year December 31, 2008	10-K	March 1, 2010
99.7	Regency Energy Partner LP Notice of Beginning of Administrative Proceedings for Tax Year December 31, 2007	10-K	March 1, 2010
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document		
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema		
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase		
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase		
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase		
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase		

\* Filed herewith

\*\*Furnished herewith

(1) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to PVR Partners, L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 27, 2010

(2) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to PVR Partners, L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 23, 2012

(3) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to PVR Partners, L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 10, 2013

Table of Contents

INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Page
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>F- 2</u>
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>F- 3</u>
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013</u>	<u>F- 4</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three years ended December 31, 2014</u>	<u>F- 6</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive (Loss) Income for the three years ended December 31, 2014</u>	<u>F- 7</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the three years ended December 31, 2014</u>	<u>F- 8</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Partners' Capital and Noncontrolling Interest for the three years ended December 31, 2014</u>	<u>F- 10</u>
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	<u>F- 12</u>

F- 1

---

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Partners

Regency Energy Partners LP

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Regency Energy Partners LP (a Delaware limited partnership) and subsidiaries (the “Partnership”) as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, cash flows, and partners’ capital and noncontrolling interest for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Partnership’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We did not audit the financial statements of Midcontinent Express Pipeline LLC, a 50 percent owned investee company, the Partnership’s investment in which is accounted for under the equity method of accounting. The Partnership’s investment in Midcontinent Express Pipeline LLC as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 was \$695 million and \$549 million, respectively, and its equity in the earnings of Midcontinent Express Pipeline LLC was \$45 million, \$40 million, and \$42 million, respectively, for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014. Those statements were audited by other auditors, whose report has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for Midcontinent Express Pipeline LLC, is based solely on the report of the other auditors.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits and the report of the other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, based on our audits and the report of the other auditors, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Regency Energy Partners LP and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Partnership’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in the 2013 Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated February 26, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Dallas, Texas

February 26, 2015



Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Partners

Regency Energy Partners LP

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Regency Energy Partners LP (a Delaware limited partnership) and subsidiaries (the “Partnership”) as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in the 2013 Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Partnership’s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Partnership’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. Our audit of, and opinion on, the Partnership’s internal control over financial reporting does not include the internal control over financial reporting of Eagle Rock Energy Partners, L.P.’s midstream business, whose financial statements reflect total assets and revenues constituting 11 and 18 percent, respectively, of the related consolidated financial statement amounts as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014. As indicated in Management’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting, Eagle Rock Energy Partners, L.P.’s midstream business was acquired during 2014. Management’s assertion on the effectiveness of the Partnership’s internal control over financial reporting excluded internal control over financial reporting of Eagle Rock Energy Partners, L.P.’s midstream business.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Partnership maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in the 2013 Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by COSO.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements of the Partnership as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and our report dated February 26, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Dallas, Texas

February 26, 2015

F- 3

---

Table of Contents

REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(Dollars in millions)

	December 31, 2014	2013
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$24	\$19
Trade accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$7 and \$14	83	292
Related party receivables	45	28
Inventories	67	42
Derivative assets	75	3
Other current assets	9	16
Total current assets	703	400
Property, Plant and Equipment:		
Gathering and transmission systems	5,207	1,671
Compression equipment	2,378	1,627
Gas plants and buildings	386	825
Other property, plant and equipment	679	414
Natural resources	454	—
Construction-in-progress	1,156	513
Total property, plant and equipment	10,260	5,050
Less accumulated depreciation and depletion	(1,043	) (632
Property, plant and equipment, net	9,217	4,418
Other Assets:		
Investments in unconsolidated affiliates	2,418	2,097
Other, net of accumulated amortization of debt issuance costs of \$28 and \$24	103	57
Total other assets	2,521	2,154
Intangible Assets and Goodwill:		
Intangible assets, net of accumulated amortization of \$212 and \$107	3,439	682
Goodwill	1,223	1,128
Total intangible assets and goodwill	4,662	1,810
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$17,103</b>	<b>\$8,782</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.  
F- 4

---

Table of Contents

REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(Dollars in millions)

	December 31, 2014	2013
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL AND NONCONTROLLING INTEREST		
Current Liabilities:		
Drafts payable	\$ 15	\$ 26
Trade accounts payable	529	291
Related party payables	64	69
Accrued expenses	43	25
Accrued interest	81	38
Other current liabilities	24	26
Total current liabilities	756	475
Long-term derivative liabilities	16	19
Other long-term liabilities	72	30
Long-term debt, net	6,641	3,310
Commitments and contingencies		
Series A Preferred Units, redemption amount of \$38 and \$38	33	32
Partners' Capital and Noncontrolling Interest:		
Common units (412,681,151 and 214,287,955 units authorized; 409,406,482 and 210,850,232 units issued and outstanding at December 31, 2014 and 2013)	8,531	3,886
Class F units (6,274,483 units authorized, issued and outstanding at December 31, 2014 and 2013)	153	146
General partner interest	781	782
Total partners' capital	9,465	4,814
Noncontrolling interest	120	102
Total partners' capital and noncontrolling interest	9,585	4,916
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL AND NONCONTROLLING INTEREST	\$ 17,103	\$ 8,782

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.  
F- 5

Table of Contents

REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
(Dollars in millions, except unit data and per unit data)

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
REVENUES			
Gas sales, including related party amounts of \$80, \$71, and \$42	\$1,903	\$826	\$508
NGL sales, including related party amounts of \$282, \$81, and \$28	1,741	1,053	991
Gathering, transportation and other fees, including related party amounts of \$23, \$26, and \$29	989	545	401
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) from derivatives	93	(8	) 23
Other	225	105	77
Total revenues	4,951	2,521	2,000
OPERATING COSTS AND EXPENSES			
Cost of sales, including related party amounts of \$66, \$56, and \$35	3,452	1,793	1,387
Operation and maintenance	448	296	228
General and administrative	158	88	100
(Gain) loss on asset sales, net	(1	) 2	3
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	541	287	252
Goodwill impairment	370	—	—
Total operating costs and expenses	4,968	2,466	1,970
OPERATING (LOSS) INCOME	(17	) 55	30
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	195	135	105
Interest expense, net	(304	) (164	) (122
Loss on debt refinancing, net	(25	) (7	) (8
Other income and deductions, net	12	7	29
(LOSS) INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	(139	) 26	34
Income tax expense (benefit)	3	(1	) —
NET (LOSS) INCOME	\$(142	) \$27	\$34
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest	(15	) (8	) (2
NET (LOSS) INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP	\$(157	) \$19	\$32
Amounts attributable to Series A preferred units	4	6	10
General partner's interest, including IDRs	31	11	9
Beneficial conversion feature for Class F units	7	4	—
Pre-acquisition loss from SUGS allocated to predecessor equity	—	(36	) (14
Limited partners' interest in net (loss) income	\$(199	) \$34	\$27
Basic and diluted (loss) income per common unit:			
Limited partners' interest in net (loss) income	\$(199	) \$34	\$27
Weighted average number of common units outstanding	348,070,121	196,227,348	167,492,735
Basic (loss) income per common unit	\$(0.57	) \$0.17	\$0.16
Diluted (loss) income per common unit	\$(0.57	) \$0.17	\$0.13
Distributions per common unit	\$1.975	\$1.87	\$1.84
Amount allocated to beneficial conversion feature for Class F units	\$7	\$4	\$—
Total number of Class F units outstanding	6,274,483	6,274,483	—

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

Income per Class F unit due to beneficial conversion feature	\$ 1.08	\$ 0.72	\$ —
--------------------------------------------------------------	---------	---------	------

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

F- 6

---

Table of Contents

## REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) INCOME

(Dollars in millions)

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Net (loss) income	\$(142	) \$27	\$34
Other comprehensive income:			
Net cash flow hedge amounts reclassified to earnings	—	—	6
Change in fair value of cash flow hedges	—	—	(4
Total other comprehensive income	\$—	\$—	\$2
Comprehensive (loss) income	\$(142	) \$27	\$36
Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interest	15	8	2
Comprehensive (loss) income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	\$(157	) \$19	\$34



The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.  
F- 7

---

Table of Contents

REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(Dollars in millions)

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net (loss) income	\$(142	) \$27	\$34
Reconciliation of net (loss) income to net cash flows provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation, depletion and amortization, including debt issuance cost amortization and bond premium write-off and amortization	525	293	259
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	(195	) (135	) (105
Derivative valuation changes	(93	) 6	(12
(Gain) loss on asset sales, net	(1	) 2	3
Unit-based compensation expenses	10	7	5
Revaluation of unconsolidated affiliate upon acquisition	(6	) —	—
Goodwill impairment	370	—	—
Cash flow changes in current assets and liabilities:			
Trade accounts receivable and related party receivables	28	(96	) —
Other current assets and other current liabilities	34	(54	) 10
Trade accounts payable and related party payables	(16	) 119	18
Distributions of earnings received from unconsolidated affiliates	204	142	121
Cash flow changes in other assets and liabilities	1	125	(9
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	719	436	324
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Capital expenditures	(1,088	) (1,034	) (560
Contributions to unconsolidated affiliates	(355	) (148	) (356
Distributions in excess of earnings of unconsolidated affiliates	68	249	83
Acquisitions, net of cash received	(805	) (475	) —
Proceeds from asset sales	11	15	26
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(2,169	) (1,393	) (807
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Borrowings (repayments) under revolving credit facility, net	380	318	(140
Proceeds from issuance of senior notes	1,580	1,000	700
Redemptions of senior notes	(983	) (163	) (88
Debt issuance costs	(31	) (24	) (15
Partner distributions and distributions on unvested unit awards	(706	) (386	) (322
Noncontrolling interest contributions, net of distributions	3	17	42
Contributions from previous parent	—	—	51
Drafts payable	(11	) 18	4
Common units issued under unit offerings, equity distribution program and LTIP, net of issuance costs, forfeitures and tax withholding	1,227	149	311
Distributions to Series A Preferred Units	(4	) (6	) (8
Net cash flows provided by financing activities	1,455	923	535

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

F- 8

---

Table of Contents

REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(Dollars in millions)

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	5	(34	) 52
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	19	53	1
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$24	\$19	\$53
Supplemental cash flow information:			
Accrued capital expenditures	\$102	\$60	\$136
Issuance of Class F and common units in connection with SUGS Acquisition	—	961	—
Issuance of common units in connection with PVR, Hoover, and Eagle Rock acquisitions	4,281	—	—
Long-term debt assumed in PVR Acquisition	1,887	—	—
Long-term debt exchanged in connection with the Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition	499	—	—
Interest paid, net of amounts capitalized	303	146	112
Accrued capital contribution to unconsolidated affiliate	—	13	23

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

F- 9

---

Table of Contents

REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF PARTNERS' CAPITAL  
AND NONCONTROLLING INTEREST  
(Dollars in millions)

	Regency Energy Partners LP						Total
	Common Units	Class F Units	General Partner Interest	Predecessor Equity	AOCI	Non-controlling Interest	
Balance - December 31, 2011	\$3,173	\$—	\$330	\$—	\$(5 )	\$ 33	\$3,531
Common unit offerings, net of costs	297	—	—	—	—	—	297
Issuance of common units under equity distribution program, net of costs	15	—	—	—	—	—	15
Common units issued under LTIP, net of forfeitures and tax withholding	(1 )	—	—	—	—	—	(1 )
Unit-based compensation expenses	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Partner distributions	(309 )	—	(13 )	—	—	—	(322 )
Net income (loss)	37	—	9	(14 )	—	2	34
Noncontrolling interest contributions, net of distributions	—	—	—	—	—	42	42
Distributions to Series A Preferred Units	(8 )	—	—	—	—	—	(8 )
Accretion of Series A Preferred Units	(2 )	—	—	—	—	—	(2 )
Net cash flow hedge amounts reclassified to earnings	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Contribution of net investment to unitholders	—	—	—	1,747	(3 )	—	1,744
Balance - December 31, 2012	\$3,207	\$—	\$326	\$1,733	\$(3 )	\$ 77	\$5,340
Contribution of net investment to the Partnership	—	—	1,925	(1,928 )	3	—	—
Issuance of common units in connection with the SUGS Acquisition, net of costs	819	—	(819 )	—	—	—	—
Issuance of Class F units in connection with the SUGS Acquisition, net of costs	—	142	(142 )	—	—	—	—
Contribution of assets between entities under common control below historical cost	—	—	(504 )	231	—	—	(273 )
Issuance of common units under equity distribution program, net of costs	149	—	—	—	—	—	149
Conversion of Series A Preferred Units for common units	41	—	—	—	—	—	41
Unit-based compensation expenses	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
	(371 )	—	(15 )	—	—	—	(386 )

Partner distributions and  
distributions on unvested unit  
awards

Noncontrolling interest contributions, net of distributions	—	—	—	—	—	17	17	
Net income (loss)	40	4	11	(36	) —	8	27	
Distributions to Series A Preferred Units	(6	) —	—	—	—	—	(6	)
Balance - December 31, 2013	\$3,886	\$146	\$782	\$—	\$—	\$ 102	\$4,916	

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

F- 10

---

Table of Contents

REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF PARTNERS' CAPITAL  
AND NONCONTROLLING INTEREST  
(Dollars in millions)

	Regency Energy Partners LP					
	Common Units	Class F Units	General Partner Interest	Noncontrolling Interest	Total	
Balance - December 31, 2013	\$3,886	\$146	\$782	\$102	\$4,916	
Issuance of common units under equity distribution program, net of costs	428	—	—	—	428	
Issuance of common units to ETE Common Holdings	800	—	—	—	800	
Issuance of common units in connection with Hoover Acquisition	109	—	—	—	109	
Issuance of common units in connection with PVR Acquisition	3,906	—	—	—	3,906	
Issuance of common units in connection with Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition	266	—	—	—	266	
Common units issued under LTIP, net of forfeitures and tax withholding	(1	) —	—	—	(1	)
Unit-based compensation expenses	10	—	—	—	10	
Partner distributions and distributions on unvested unit awards	(674	) —	(32	) —	(706	)
Noncontrolling interest contributions, net of distributions	—	—	—	3	3	
Net (loss) income	(195	) 7	31	15	(142	)
Distributions to Series A Preferred Units	(4	) —	—	—	(4	)
Balance - December 31, 2014	\$8,531	\$153	\$781	\$120	\$9,585	

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

F- 11

## Table of Contents

### REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS LP

#### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Tabular dollar amounts, except unit and per unit data, are in millions)

#### 1. ORGANIZATION AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION

**Organization.** The consolidated financial statements presented herein contain the results of Regency Energy Partners LP and its subsidiaries (the “Partnership”), a Delaware limited partnership. The Partnership was formed on September 8, 2005, and completed its IPO on February 3, 2006. The Partnership and its subsidiaries are engaged in the business of gathering and processing, compression, treating and transportation of natural gas; the transportation, fractionation and storage of NGLs; the gathering, transportation and terminaling of oil (crude and/or condensate, a lighter oil) received from producers; natural gas and NGL marketing and trading; and the management of coal and natural resource properties in the United States. Regency GP LP is the Partnership’s general partner and Regency GP LLC (collectively the “General Partner”) is the managing general partner of the Partnership and the general partner of Regency GP LP. Pending Merger with ETP. On January 25, 2015, the Partnership and ETP entered into the Merger Agreement pursuant to which the Partnership will merge with a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP, with the Partnership continuing as the surviving entity and becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of ETP (the “Merger”). At the effective time of the Merger (the “Effective Time”), each Partnership common unit and Class F unit will be converted into the right to receive 0.4066 ETP common units, plus a number of additional ETP common units equal to \$0.32 per Partnership unit divided by the lesser of (i) the volume weighted average price of ETP common units for the five trading days ending on the third trading day immediately preceding the Effective Time and (ii) the closing price of ETP common units on the third trading day immediately preceding the Effective Time, rounded to the nearest ten thousandth of a unit. Each Series A Preferred Unit will be converted into the right to receive a preferred unit representing a limited partner interest in ETP, a new class of units in ETP to be established at the Effective Time. Early termination of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, for the Merger was granted by the United States Federal Trade Commission on February 24, 2015. The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2015 and is subject to other customary closing conditions including approval by the Partnership’s unitholders.

**Basis of presentation.** The consolidated financial statements of the Partnership have been prepared in accordance with GAAP and include the accounts of all controlled subsidiaries after the elimination of all intercompany accounts and transactions. Certain prior year numbers have been conformed to the current year presentation.

**Reclassifications.** During 2014, the Partnership reclassified amounts within property, plant and equipment asset categories. These reclassifications did not have any impact on amounts recorded for depreciation, depletion or amortization in 2014, and because the reclassified amounts have no significant effect on our consolidated balance sheets, prior period balances have not been adjusted for comparability purposes.

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Use of Estimates.** These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GAAP, which includes the use of estimates and assumptions by management that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities that exist at the date of the financial statements. Although these estimates are based on management’s available knowledge of current and expected future events, actual results could be different from those estimates.

**Common Control Transactions.** Entities and assets acquired from ETE and its affiliates are accounted for as common control transactions whereby the net assets acquired are combined with the Partnership’s net assets at their historical amounts. If consideration transferred differs from the carrying value of the net assets acquired, the excess or deficiency is treated as a capital transaction similar to a dividend or capital contribution. To the extent that such transactions require prior periods to be recast, historical net equity amounts prior to the transaction date are reflected in predecessor equity.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents.** Cash and cash equivalents include temporary cash investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**Equity Method Investments.** The equity method of accounting is used to account for the Partnership’s interest in investments of greater than 20% voting interest or where the Partnership exerts significant influence over an investee



but lacks control over the investee. Even though there is a presumption of a controlling financial interest in Aqua - PVR (because of our 51% ownership), our partner in this joint venture has substantive participating rights and management authority that preclude us from controlling the joint venture. Therefore, it is accounted for as an equity method investment. The Partnership acquired a 50% interest in Coal Handling as part of the PVR Acquisition and purchased the remaining 50% interest effective December 31, 2014 for \$16 million, resulting in a gain on the purchase due to the revaluation of the Partnership's previously held non-controlling interest.

F- 12

---

Table of Contents

Inventories. Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or market and include materials and parts primarily utilized by the Contract Services and Gathering & Processing segments.

Property, Plant and Equipment. Property, plant and equipment is recorded at historical cost of construction or, upon acquisition, the fair value of the assets acquired. Gains or losses on sales or retirements of assets are included in operating income unless the disposition is treated as discontinued operations. Natural gas and NGLs used to maintain pipeline minimum pressures is classified as property, plant and equipment. Financing costs associated with the construction of larger assets requiring ongoing efforts over a period of time are capitalized. For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, the Partnership capitalized interest of \$14 million, \$2 million and \$1 million, respectively. The costs of maintenance and repairs, which are not significant improvements, are expensed when incurred. Expenditures to extend the useful lives of the assets are capitalized.

Depreciation expense related to property, plant and equipment was \$418 million, \$258 million, and \$219 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. In March 2012, the Partnership recorded a \$7 million “out-of-period” adjustment to depreciation expense to correct the estimated useful lives of certain assets to comply with its policy.

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment is recorded on a straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Functional Class of Property	Useful Lives (Years)
Gathering and Transmission Systems	20 - 40
Compression Equipment	2 - 30
Gas Plants and Buildings	5 - 20
Other Property, Plant and Equipment	3 - 15

Depletion expense related to the Natural Resources segment was \$11 million for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Coal properties are depleted on an area-by-area basis at a rate based on the cost of the mineral properties and the number of tons of estimated proven and probable coal reserves contained therein. Proven and probable coal reserves have been estimated by the Partnership’s own geologists. The Partnership’s estimates of coal reserves are updated periodically and may result in adjustments to coal reserves and depletion rates that are recognized prospectively. From time to time, the Partnership carries out core-hole drilling activities on coal properties in order to ascertain the quality and quantity of the coal contained in those properties. These core-hole drilling activities are expensed as incurred. The Partnership depletes timber using a methodology consistent with the units-of-production method, which is based on the quantity of timber harvested. The Partnership determines depletion of oil and gas royalty interests by the units-of-production method and these amounts could change with revisions to estimated proved recoverable reserves.

Intangible Assets. As of December 31, 2014, intangible assets consisted of trade names and customer relations, and are amortized on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives, which is the period over which the assets are expected to contribute directly or indirectly to the Partnership’s future cash flows. The estimated useful lives range from 8 to 30 years.

The Partnership assesses long-lived assets, including property, plant and equipment and intangible assets, for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability is assessed by comparing the carrying amount of an asset to undiscounted future net cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If such assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured as the amount by which the carrying amounts exceed the fair value of the assets. The Partnership did not record any impairment in 2014, 2013, or 2012.

Goodwill. Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of identifiable net assets acquired in a business combination. Goodwill is not amortized, but is tested for impairment annually based on the carrying values as of November 30 or December 31 depending upon the reporting unit, or more frequently if impairment indicators arise that suggest the carrying value of goodwill may not be recovered. The Partnership has the option to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of the reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether further impairment testing is necessary. Impairment is indicated when the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeds its fair value. To estimate the fair value of the reporting units, the Partnership makes estimates and judgments about future cash flows, as well as revenues, cost of sales, operating

expenses, capital expenditures and net working capital based on assumptions that are consistent with the Partnership's most recent forecast. At the time it is determined that an impairment has occurred, the carrying value of the goodwill is written down to its fair value.

In 2014, a \$370 million goodwill impairment charge was recorded related to the Permian reporting unit within the Gathering and Processing segment. The decline in estimated fair value of that reporting unit is primarily driven by the significant decline in commodity prices in the fourth quarter of 2014, and the resulting impact to future commodity prices as well as increases in future estimated operations and maintenance expenses. As a result of the Partnership's determination that the estimated fair value of the reporting unit was less than the carrying value, the Partnership performed the second step of the goodwill impairment assessment,

## Table of Contents

which requires the assets and liabilities of the reporting unit to be fair valued on a hypothetical basis. Any excess value over the estimated fair value of the reporting unit, determined in this case through established valuation techniques such as discounted cash flow methods and market comparable analyses, compared to the hypothetical fair value of all assets and liabilities of the reporting unit is the implied fair value of goodwill. To the extent that the implied fair value of goodwill is less than the carrying value of goodwill, an impairment is recognized to eliminate any excess carrying amounts.

No other goodwill impairments were identified or recorded for the Partnership's other reporting units in 2014. No goodwill impairment charges were incurred in 2013 or 2012.

**Other Assets, net.** Other assets, net primarily consists of debt issuance costs, which are capitalized and amortized to interest expense, net over the life of the related debt.

**Gas Imbalances.** Quantities of natural gas or NGLs over-delivered or under-delivered related to imbalance agreements are recorded monthly as other current assets or other current liabilities using then current market prices or the weighted average prices of natural gas or NGLs at the plant or system pursuant to imbalance agreements for which settlement prices are not contractually established.

Within certain volumetric limits determined at the sole discretion of the creditor, these imbalances are generally settled by deliveries of natural gas. Imbalance receivables and payables as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 were immaterial.

**Asset Retirement Obligations.** Legal obligations associated with the retirement of long-lived assets are recorded at fair value at the time the obligations are incurred, if a reasonable estimate of fair value can be made. Present value techniques are used which reflect assumptions such as removal and remediation costs, inflation, and profit margins that third parties would demand to settle the amount of the future obligation. The Partnership does not include a market risk premium for unforeseeable circumstances in its fair value estimates because such a premium cannot be reliably estimated. Upon initial recognition of the liability, costs are capitalized as a part of the long-lived asset and allocated to expense over the useful life of the related asset. The liability is accreted to its present value each period with accretion being recorded to operating expense with a corresponding increase in the carrying amount of the liability. The ARO assets and liabilities were immaterial as of December 31, 2014.

**Environmental.** The Partnership's operations are subject to federal, state and local laws and rules and regulations regarding water quality, hazardous and solid waste management, air quality control and other environmental matters. These laws, rules and regulations require the Partnership to conduct its operations in a specified manner and to obtain and comply with a wide variety of environmental registrations, licenses, permits, inspections and other approvals. Failure to comply with applicable environmental laws, rules and regulations may expose the Partnership to significant fines, penalties and/or interruptions in operations. The Partnership's environmental policies and procedures are designed to achieve compliance with such applicable laws and regulations. These evolving laws and regulations and claims for damages to property, employees, other persons and the environment resulting from current or past operations may result in significant expenditures and liabilities in the future.

**Predecessor Equity.** Predecessor equity included on the consolidated statements of partners' capital and noncontrolling interest represents SUGS member's capital prior to the acquisition date (April 30, 2013).

**Revenue Recognition.** The Partnership earns revenue from (i) domestic sales of natural gas, NGLs and condensate, (ii) natural gas, NGL, condensate, and salt water gathering, processing and transportation, (iii) contract compression and treating services, and (iv) coal royalties. Revenue associated with sales of natural gas, NGLs and condensate are recognized when title passes to the customer, which is when the risk of ownership passes to the purchaser and physical delivery occurs. Revenue associated with transportation and processing fees are recognized when the service is provided. For contract compression and contract treating services, revenue is recognized when the service is performed. For gathering and processing services, the Partnership receives either fees or commodities from natural gas producers depending on the type of contract. Commodities received are in turn sold and recognized as revenue in accordance with the criteria outlined above. Under the percentage-of-proceeds contract type, the Partnership is paid for its services by keeping a percentage of the NGLs produced and a percentage of the residue gas resulting from processing the natural gas. Under the percentage-of-index contract type, the Partnership earns revenue by purchasing wellhead natural gas at a percentage of the index price and selling processed natural gas and NGLs at a price

approximating the index price to third parties. The Partnership generally reports revenue gross in the consolidated statements of operations when it acts as the principal, takes title to the product, and incurs the risks and rewards of ownership. Revenue for fee-based arrangements is presented net, because the Partnership takes the role of an agent for the producers. Allowance for doubtful accounts is determined based on historical write-off experience and specific identification.

Coal Royalties Revenues and Deferred Income. The Partnership recognizes coal royalties revenues on the basis of tons of coal sold by its lessees and the corresponding revenues from those sales. The Partnership does not have access to actual production and revenues information until 30 days following the month of production. Therefore, financial results include estimated revenues and accounts receivable for the month of production. The Partnership records any differences between the actual amounts ultimately received or paid and the original estimates in the period they become finalized. Most lessees must make minimum monthly or

## Table of Contents

annual payments that are generally recoverable over certain time periods. These minimum payments are recorded as deferred income. If the lessee recovers a minimum payment through production, the deferred income attributable to the minimum payment is recognized as coal royalties revenues. If a lessee fails to meet its minimum production for certain pre-determined time periods, the deferred income attributable to the minimum payment is recognized as minimum rental revenues, which is a component of other revenues on our consolidated statements of operations. Other liabilities on the balance sheet also include deferred unearned income from a coal services facility lease, which is recognized in other income as it is earned.

**Derivative Instruments.** The Partnership's net income and cash flows are subject to volatility stemming from changes in market prices such as natural gas prices, NGLs prices, processing margins and interest rates. The Partnership uses product-specific swaps to create offsetting positions to specific commodity price exposures, and uses interest rate swap contracts to create offsetting positions to specific interest rate exposures. Derivative financial instruments are recorded on the balance sheet at their fair value based on their settlement date. The Partnership employs derivative financial instruments in connection with an underlying asset, liability and/or anticipated transaction and not for speculative purposes. Furthermore, the Partnership regularly assesses the creditworthiness of counterparties to manage the risk of default. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, no derivative financial instruments were designated as hedges. In the statement of cash flows, the effects of settlements of derivative instruments are classified consistent with the related hedged transactions.

**Benefits.** The Partnership provides medical, dental, and other healthcare benefits to employees. The total amount incurred by the Partnership for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, was \$17 million, \$9 million and \$9 million, respectively, in operation and maintenance and general and administrative expenses, as appropriate. The Partnership also provides a matching contribution to its employee's 401(k) accounts which vest immediately upon contribution. The total amount of matching contributions for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 was \$9 million, \$7 million and \$4 million, respectively, and were recorded in operation and maintenance and general and administrative expenses, as appropriate. The Partnership has no pension obligations or other post-employment benefits. Beginning January 1, 2013, the Partnership provides a 3% profit sharing contribution to employee 401(k) accounts for all employees with base compensation below a specified threshold. The contribution is in addition to the 401(k) matching contribution and employees become vested based on years of service.

**Income Taxes.** The Partnership is generally not subject to income taxes, except as discussed below, because its income is taxed directly to its partners. The Partnership is subject to the gross margins tax enacted by the state of Texas. The Partnership has one wholly-owned subsidiary that is subject to income tax and provides for deferred income taxes using the asset and liability method. Accordingly, deferred taxes are recorded for differences between the tax and book basis that will reverse in future periods. The Partnership has deferred tax liabilities of \$20 million and \$22 million as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively, related to the difference between the book and tax basis of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets and they are included in other long-term liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. The Partnership follows the guidance for uncertainties in income taxes where a liability for an unrecognized tax benefit is recorded for a tax position that does not meet the "more likely than not" criteria. The Partnership has not recorded any uncertain tax positions meeting the more likely than not criteria as of December 31, 2014 and 2013. The Partnership recognized \$3 million for current and deferred federal and state income tax for the year ended December 31, 2014 and an immaterial amount for current and deferred federal and state income tax benefit for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012.

Effective with the Partnership's acquisition of SUGS on April 30, 2013, SUGS is generally no longer subject to federal income taxes and subject only to gross margins tax in the state of Texas. Substantially all previously recorded current and deferred tax liabilities were settled with Southern Union, along with all other intercompany receivables and payables at the date of acquisition.

The Partnership has its 2007 and 2008 tax years under audit by the IRS. Until this matter is fully resolved, it is not known whether any amounts ultimately recorded would be material, or how such adjustments would affect unitholders. The statute of limitations for these audits has been extended to December 31, 2015.

**Equity-Based Compensation.** The Partnership accounts for common unit options and phantom units by recognizing the grant-date fair value of awards into expense as they are earned, using an estimated forfeiture rate. The forfeiture

rate assumption is reviewed annually to determine whether any adjustments to expense are required. Cash restricted units are recorded in other long-term liabilities on our consolidated balance sheet. The fair value of cash restricted units is remeasured at the end of each reporting period, based on the trading price of our common units, and compensation expense is recorded using the straight-line method over the vesting period.

Earnings per Unit. Basic net income per common unit is computed through the use of the two-class method, which allocates earnings to each class of equity security based on their participation in distributions and deemed distributions. Accretion of the Series A Preferred Units is considered as deemed distributions. Distributions and deemed distributions to the Series A Preferred Units reduce the amount of net income available to the general partner and limited partner interests. The general partners' interest in net income or loss consists of its respective percentage interest, make-whole allocations for any losses allocated in a prior tax year and IDRs. After deducting the General Partner's interest, the limited partners' interest in the remaining net income or loss is

F- 15

---

Table of Contents

allocated to each class of equity units based on distributions and beneficial conversion feature amounts, if applicable, then divided by the weighted average number of common and subordinated units outstanding in each class of security. Diluted net income per common unit is computed by dividing limited partners' interest in net income, after deducting the General Partner's interest, by the weighted average number of units outstanding and the effect of non-vested phantom units, Series A Preferred Units and unit options. For special classes of common units, such as the Class F units issued with a beneficial conversion feature, the amount of the benefit associated with the period is added back to net income and the unconverted class is added to the denominator.

New Accounting Pronouncement. In May 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606) ("ASU 2014-09"), which clarifies the principles for recognizing revenue based on the core principle that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. ASU 2014-09 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, including interim periods within that reporting period, with earlier adoption not permitted. ASU 2014-09 can be adopted either retrospectively to each prior reporting period presented or as a cumulative-effect adjustment as of the date of adoption. The Partnership is currently evaluating the impact, if any, that adopting this new accounting standard will have on our revenue recognition policies.

### 3. PARTNERS' CAPITAL AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Units Activity. The changes in common and Class F units were as follows:

	Common	Class F
Balance - December 31, 2011	157,437,608	—
Common unit offerings, net of costs	12,650,000	—
Issuance of common units under the equity distribution agreement, net of cost	691,129	—
Issuance of common units under LTIP, net of forfeitures and tax withholding	172,720	—
Balance - December 31, 2012	170,951,457	—
Issuance of common units under LTIP, net of forfeitures and tax withholding	184,995	—
Issuance of common units under the equity distribution agreement, net of cost	5,712,138	—
Conversion of Series A preferred units for common units	2,629,223	—
Issuance of common units and Class F units in connection with SUGS Acquisition	31,372,419	(1) 6,274,483 (2)
Balance - December 31, 2013	210,850,232	6,274,483
Issuance of common units under LTIP, net of forfeitures and tax withholding	163,054	—
Issuance of common units under the equity distribution agreements	14,827,919	—
Issuance of common units in connection with Hoover Acquisition	4,040,471	—
Issuance of common units in connection with PVR Acquisition	140,388,382	—
Issuance of common units in connection with Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition	8,245,859	—
Issuance of common units to ETE Common Holdings	30,890,565	—
Balance - December 31, 2014	409,406,482	6,274,483

(1) ETE has agreed to forgo IDR payments on the Partnership common units issued with the SUGS Acquisition for twenty-four months post-transaction closing.

(2) The Class F units are not entitled to participate in the Partnership's distributions or earnings for twenty-four months post-transaction closing.

Equity Distribution Agreement. In June 2012, the Partnership entered into an equity distribution agreement with Citi under which the Partnership offered and sold common units for an aggregate offering price of \$200 million, from time to time through Citi, as sales agent for the Partnership. Sales of these common units made from time to time under the equity distribution agreement were made by means of ordinary brokers' transactions on the New York Stock Exchange at market prices, in block transactions, or as otherwise agreed upon by the Partnership and Citi. The Partnership used the net proceeds from the sale of these common units for general partnership purposes. For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Partnership received net proceeds of \$34 million and \$149 million, respectively, from common units sold pursuant to this equity distribution agreement. No amounts remain available to be issued



under this agreement and it is no longer effective.

In May 2014, the Partnership entered into an equity distribution agreement with a group of banks and investment companies (the “Managers”) under which the Partnership offered and sold common units for an aggregate offering price of \$400 million, from time to time through the Managers, as sales agent for the Partnership. Sales of these units made from time to time under the equity distribution agreement were made by means of ordinary brokers’ transactions on the New York Stock Exchange at market prices, in block transactions, or as otherwise agreed upon by the Partnership and the Managers. The Partnership used the net proceeds

F- 16

---

## Table of Contents

from the sale of these units for general partnership purposes. For the year ended December 31, 2014, the Partnership received net proceeds of \$395 million from common units sold pursuant to this equity distribution agreement. No amounts remained available to be issues under this agreement and it is no longer effective.

In January 2015, the Partnership entered into an equity distribution agreement with another group of banks and investment companies (the "2015 Managers") under which the Partnership may offer and sell common units for an aggregate offering price of up to \$1 billion, from time to time through the 2015 Managers, as sales agent for the Partnership. Sales of these common units made from time to time under the equity distribution agreement will be made by means of ordinary brokers' transactions on the New York Stock Exchange at market prices, in block transactions, or as otherwise agreed upon by the Partnership and the 2015 Managers. The Partnership may also sell common units to the 2015 Managers as principal for their own accounts at a price agreed upon at the time of sale. Any sale of common units to the 2015 Managers as principal would be pursuant to the terms of a separate agreement between the Partnership and the 2015 Managers. The Partnership intends to use the net proceeds from the sale of these common units for general partnership purposes.

**Common Units Sold.** In June 2014, the Partnership sold 14.4 million common units to ETE Common Holdings for proceeds of \$400 million. Proceeds from the issuance were used to pay down borrowings on the Partnership's revolving credit facility, to redeem certain senior notes of the Partnership and for general partnership purposes. In July 2014, the Partnership sold 16.5 million common units to ETE Common Holdings for proceeds of \$400 million. Proceeds from the issuance were used to fund a portion of the cash consideration paid to Eagle Rock in connection with the Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition.

**Public Common Unit Offerings.** In March 2012, the Partnership issued 12,650,000 common units representing limited partner interests in a public offering at a price of \$24.47 per common unit, resulting in net proceeds of \$297 million. In May 2012, the Partnership used the net proceeds from this offering to redeem 35%, or \$88 million, in aggregate principal amounts of its outstanding senior notes due 2016; pay related premium, expenses and accrued interest; and repay outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility.

**Beneficial Conversion Feature.** The Partnership issued 6,274,483 Class F units in connection with the SUGS Acquisition. At the commitment date (February 27, 2013), the sales price of \$23.91 per unit represented a \$2.19 per unit discount from the fair value of the Partnership's common units as of April 30, 2013. Under FASB ASC 470-20, "Debt with Conversion and Other Options," the discount represents a beneficial conversion feature that is treated as a non-cash distribution for purposes of calculating earnings per unit. The beneficial conversion feature is reflected in income per unit using the effective yield method over the period the Class F units are outstanding, as indicated on the statement of operations in the line item entitled "beneficial conversion feature for Class F units." The Class F units are convertible to common units on a one-for-one basis on May 8, 2015.

**Noncontrolling Interest.** The Partnership operates ELG, a gas gathering joint venture in south Texas in which other third party companies own a 40% interest, and ORS, a gathering joint venture in Ohio in which a third party company owns a 25% interest, which are reflected on the Partnership's consolidated balance sheet as noncontrolling interest.

**Distributions.** The partnership agreement requires the distribution of all of the Partnership's Available Cash (defined below) within 45 days after the end of each quarter to unitholders of record on the applicable record date, as determined by the General Partner.

**Available Cash.** Available Cash, for any quarter, generally consists of all cash and cash equivalents on hand at the end of that quarter less the amount of cash reserves established by the general partner to: (i) provide for the proper conduct of the Partnership's business; (ii) comply with applicable law, any debt instruments or other agreements; or (iii) provide funds for distributions to the unitholders and to the General Partner for any one or more of the next four quarters and plus, all cash on hand on that date of determination of available cash for the quarter resulting from working capital borrowings made after the end of the quarter for which the determination is being made.

**General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights.** The General Partner is entitled to its proportionate share of all quarterly distributions that the Partnership makes prior to its liquidation. The General Partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to the Partnership to maintain its current general partner interest. The General Partner's initial 2% interest in these distributions has been reduced since the Partnership has issued additional units and the General Partner has not contributed a proportionate amount of capital to the Partnership

to maintain its General Partner interest. The General Partner ownership interest as of December 31, 2014 was 0.69%. This General Partner interest is represented by 2,834,381 equivalent units as of December 31, 2014. The IDRs held by the General Partner entitle it to receive an increasing share of Available Cash when pre-defined distribution targets are achieved. The General Partner's IDRs are not reduced if the Partnership issues additional units in the future and the general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to the Partnership to maintain its general partner interest.

F- 17

---

Table of Contents

In connection with the SUGS Acquisition, ETE agreed to forgo IDR payments on the Partnership common units issued with this transaction for the twenty-four months post-transaction closing.

Distributions. The Partnership made the following cash distributions per unit during the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

Distribution Date	Cash Distribution (per common unit)
November 14, 2014	0.5025
August 14, 2014	0.490
May 15, 2014	0.480
February 14, 2014	0.475
November 14, 2013	\$0.470
August 14, 2013	0.465
May 13, 2013	0.460
February 14, 2013	0.460

The Partnership paid a cash distribution of \$0.5025 per common unit on February 13, 2015.

#### 4. (LOSS) INCOME PER LIMITED PARTNER UNIT

The following table provides a reconciliation of the numerator and denominator of the basic and diluted (loss) earnings per unit computations for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012.

	Years Ended December 31,								
	2014			2013			2012		
	Loss	Units	Per-Unit	Income	Units	Per-Unit	Income	Units	Per-Unit
	(Numerator)	(Denominator)	Amount	(Numerator)	(Denominator)	Amount	(Numerator)	(Denominator)	Amount
Basic									
(loss)									
income per									
unit									
Limited									
Partners'									
interest in	\$(199	) 348,070,121	\$(0.57	) \$34	196,227,348	\$0.17	\$27	167,492,735	\$0.16
net (loss)									
income									
Effect of									
Dilutive									
Securities:									
Common									
unit	—	—	—	—	22,714	—	—	10,854	
options									
Phantom									
units *	—	—	—	—	357,230	—	—	223,325	
Series A									
Preferred	—	—	—	—	2,050,854	(5	) 4,658,700		
Units									
Diluted									
(loss)									
income per	\$(199	) 348,070,121	\$(0.57	) \$34	198,658,146	\$0.17	\$22	172,385,614	\$0.13
unit									

\* Amount assumes maximum conversion rate for market condition awards.

F- 18

---

Table of Contents

The following data show securities that could potentially dilute earnings per unit in the future that were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per unit because to do so would have been antidilutive for the period presented:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014
Common unit options	25,959
Phantom units	469,264
Series A Preferred Units	2,059,503

The partnership agreement requires that the General Partner shall receive a 100% allocation of income until its capital account is made whole for all of the net losses allocated to it in prior years.

**5. ACQUISITIONS****2014**

**Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition.** On July 1, 2014, the Partnership acquired Eagle Rock's midstream business (the "Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition") for \$1.3 billion, including the issuance of 8.2 million Regency common units to Eagle Rock and the assumption of \$499 million of Eagle Rock's 8.375% Senior Notes due 2019. The remainder of the purchase price was funded by \$400 million in common units issued to ETE Common Holdings and borrowings under the Partnership's revolving credit facility. The Partnership accounted for the Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition using the acquisition method of accounting, which requires, among other things, that assets acquired and liabilities assumed be recognized on the balance sheet at their fair values as of the acquisition date. This acquisition complemented the Partnership's core gathering and processing business and further diversified the Partnership's geographic presence in the mid-continent region, east Texas and south Texas. Revenues and net income attributable to Eagle Rock's operations included in the statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2014 were \$903 million and \$30 million, respectively.

Management's evaluation of the assigned fair values is ongoing. The table below represents a preliminary allocation of the total purchase price:

	At July 1, 2014
<b>Assets</b>	
Current assets	\$ 120
Property, plant and equipment	1,295
Other long-term assets	4
Goodwill <sup>(1)</sup>	49
<b>Total Assets Acquired</b>	<b>\$ 1,468</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current liabilities	\$ 116
Long-term debt	499
Long-term liabilities	12
<b>Total Liabilities Assumed</b>	<b>\$ 627</b>
<b>Net Assets Acquired</b>	<b>\$ 841</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Goodwill is reported in the Gathering and Processing segment.

The fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed is being determined using various valuation techniques, including the income and market approaches.

**PVR Acquisition.** On March 21, 2014, the Partnership acquired PVR for a total purchase price of \$5.7 billion, including \$1.8 billion principal amount of assumed debt ("PVR Acquisition"). PVR unitholders received (on a per unit basis) 1.02 Partnership common units and a one-time cash payment of \$36 million, which was funded through borrowings under the Partnership's revolving credit facility. The PVR Acquisition enhanced the Partnership's geographic diversity by adding a strategic presence in the Marcellus and Utica shales in the Appalachian Basin and the Granite Wash in the Mid-Continent region. The Partnership accounted for the acquisition of PVR using the

acquisition method of accounting, which requires, among other things, that assets acquired and liabilities assumed be recognized on the balance sheet at their fair values as of the acquisition date. Revenues and net income

F- 19

---

Table of Contents

attributable to PVR's operations included in the statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2014 were \$956 million and \$166 million, respectively.

Management completed the evaluation of the assigned fair values to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. The total purchase price was allocated as follows:

Assets	At March 21, 2014
Current assets	\$ 149
Gathering and transmission systems	1,396
Compression equipment	342
Gas plants and buildings	110
Natural resources	454
Other property, plant and equipment	229
Construction in process	185
Investments in unconsolidated affiliates	62
Intangible assets	2,717
Goodwill <sup>(1)</sup>	370
Other long-term assets	18
Total Assets Acquired	\$6,032
Liabilities	
Current liabilities	\$ 168
Long-term debt	1,788
Premium related to senior notes	99
Long-term liabilities	30
Total Liabilities Assumed	\$2,085
Net Assets Acquired	\$3,947

<sup>(1)</sup> Goodwill is reported in the Gathering and Processing segment.

The fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed were determined using various valuation techniques, including the income and market approaches.

**Assets.** Cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, net, other current assets, and construction in process, were valued using a cost basis as this basis approximates fair value due to the current nature of these items. Real property, including gathering and transmission systems, compression equipment, gas plants and buildings, and other property, plant and equipment, were valued based on a combination of the income, market and cost approaches, depending on the type of asset. Coal and timber reserves were valued using the income approach for active coal and timber reserves. The investments in unconsolidated affiliates were valued using the income approach. Intangible assets, other than goodwill, are customer contract related intangibles, which have an average useful life of 30 years, and have been valued using the income approach. The goodwill is the excess of the consideration transferred over the net assets recognized and represents the future economic benefits arising from other assets acquired that could not be individually identified and separately recognized.

**Liabilities.** The Partnership assumed accounts payable, accrued liabilities, deferred income, and other long-term liabilities as part of the PVR Acquisition. The Partnership determined that the historical cost basis of these liabilities approximated fair value as they comprise normal operating liabilities. The Partnership assumed long-term debt as part of the acquisition, consisting of amounts outstanding under PVR's revolving credit facility and PVR's outstanding senior notes. The amount related to the revolving credit facility was valued at historical book value while the senior notes were valued using quoted market prices, which are considered Level 1 inputs.



Change in Control. The PVR Acquisition constituted a change of control for certain PVR employment agreements. Pursuant to the terms of those agreements, certain payments and benefits, including severance payments, were triggered by the PVR Acquisition. The Partnership recorded \$10 million of severance payments due to the change in control and recorded \$2 million in retention bonuses that were paid to various retained PVR employees upon the expiration of their retention period.

F- 20

---

Table of Contents

Hoover Energy Acquisition. On February 3, 2014, the Partnership acquired certain subsidiaries of Hoover for a total purchase price of \$293 million, consisting of (i) 4,040,471 common units issued to Hoover and (ii) \$184 million in cash, and (iii) \$2 million in asset retirement obligations assumed (the “Hoover Acquisition”). The Hoover Acquisition increased the Partnership’s fee-based revenue, expanding its existing footprint in the southern portion of the Delaware Basin in west Texas, and its services to producers into crude and water gathering. A portion of the consideration is in escrow as security for certain indemnification claims. The Partnership financed the cash portion of the purchase price through borrowings under its revolving credit facility. The Partnership accounted for the Hoover Acquisition using the acquisition method of accounting, which requires, among other things, that assets acquired and liabilities assumed be recognized on the balance sheet at their fair values as of the acquisition date. Revenues and net income attributable to Hoover’s operations included in the statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2014 were \$35 million and less than \$1 million, respectively.

Management completed the evaluation of the assigned fair values to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. The total purchase price was allocated as follows:

Assets	At February 3, 2014
Accounts receivable, net	\$5
Gathering and transmission systems	60
Compression equipment	16
Gas plants and buildings	12
Other property, plant, and equipment	23
Construction in process	6
Intangible assets	148
Goodwill <sup>(1)</sup>	30
Total Assets Acquired	\$300
Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$5
Asset retirement obligation	2
Total Liabilities Assumed	\$7
Net Assets Acquired	\$293

<sup>(1)</sup> Goodwill is reported in the Gathering and Processing segment.

The fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed were determined using various valuation techniques, including the income and market approaches.

Assets. Accounts receivable, net, other current assets, and construction in process were valued using a cost basis as this basis approximates fair value due to the current nature of these items. Real property, including gathering and transmission systems, compression equipment, and other property, plant and equipment, were valued based on a combination of the income, market and cost approaches, depending on the type of asset. Intangible assets, other than goodwill, are customer contract related intangibles, which have an average useful life of 30 years, and have been valued using the income approach. The goodwill is the excess of the consideration transferred over the net assets recognized and represents the future economic benefits arising from other assets acquired that could not be individually identified and separately recognized.

Liabilities. The Partnership assumed accounts payable, accrued liabilities, and an asset retirement obligation as part of the Hoover Acquisition. The Partnership determined that the historical cost basis of the accounts payable and the accrued liabilities approximated fair value as they comprise normal operating liabilities. The asset retirement obligation was valued based on estimates prepared by an independent environmental consulting firm.



Table of Contents

## Pro Forma Results of Operations

The following unaudited pro forma consolidated results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 are presented as if the PVR, Hoover and Eagle Rock Midstream acquisitions had been completed on January 1, 2013. The pro forma information includes adjustments to reflect incremental expenses associated with the fair value adjustments recorded as a result of applying the acquisition method of accounting and incremental interest expense related to the financing of a portion of the purchase price. This pro forma information is not necessarily indicative of the results that would have occurred had the acquisitions occurred on January 1, 2013, nor is it indicative of future results of operations. Actual results for the year ended December 31, 2014 include PVR, Hoover, and the Eagle Rock midstream business from their respective dates of acquisition.

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
Revenues	\$5,780	\$4,695
Net loss attributable to the Partnership	(252)	(195)
Basic net loss per Limited Partner unit	\$(0.76)	\$(0.50)
Diluted net loss per Limited Partner unit	\$(0.76)	\$(0.50)

2013

SUGS Acquisition. In April 2013, the Partnership acquired SUGS from Southern Union, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Holdco, for \$1.5 billion (the "SUGS Acquisition").

The Partnership accounted for the SUGS Acquisition in a manner similar to the pooling of interest method of accounting as it was a transaction between commonly controlled entities. The Partnership retrospectively adjusted its financial statements to include the balances and operations of SUGS for periods March 26, 2012 to April 30, 2013.

The SUGS Acquisition did not impact historical earnings per unit as pre-acquisition earnings were allocated to predecessor equity.

The assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the SUGS Acquisition were as follows:

	April 30, 2013
Current assets	\$113
Property, plant and equipment, net	1,608
Goodwill	337
Other non-current assets	1
Total Assets Acquired	\$2,059
Less:	
Current liabilities	(93)
Non-current liabilities	(36)
Net Assets Acquired	\$1,930

Table of Contents

The following table presents the revenues and net income (loss) for the previously separate entities and combined amounts presented herein:

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2013 <sup>(1)</sup>	2012
Revenues:		
Partnership	\$2,253	\$1,339
SUGS <sup>(1)</sup>	268	661
Combined	\$2,521	\$2,000
Net income (loss):		
Partnership	\$63	\$48
SUGS <sup>(1)</sup>	(36	) (14
Combined	\$27	\$34

Combined amounts attributable to SUGS include the period from March 26, 2012 to December 31, 2012 for the year ended December 31, 2012, and the period from January 1, 2013 to April 30, 2013 for the year ended December 31, 2013. Subsequent to the closing of the SUGS Acquisition on April 30, 2013, the results of SUGS were attributable to the Partnership.

## 6. INVESTMENTS IN UNCONSOLIDATED AFFILIATES

The carrying value of the Partnership's investment in each of the unconsolidated affiliates as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 is as follows:

	Ownership	Type	December 31,	
			2014	2013
HPC	49.99%	General Partner	\$422	\$442
MEP	50.00%	Membership Interest	695	549
Lone Star	30.00%	Membership Interest	1,162	1,070
Ranch JV	33.33%	Membership Interest	38	36
Aqua - PVR	51.00%	Membership Interest	46	—
Mi Vida JV	50.00%	Membership Interest	54	—
Others <sup>(1)</sup>			1	—
			\$2,418	\$2,097

<sup>(1)</sup> Others includes Coal Handling, Sweeny JV and Grey Ranch

The Partnership's interests in the Aqua - PVR joint venture was acquired in the PVR Acquisition. In March 2014, the Partnership entered into an agreement, whereby the Partnership's 50% interest in Grey Ranch was assigned to SandRidge Midstream, Inc., resulting in a cash settlement of \$4 million and a loss of \$1 million recorded to income from unconsolidated affiliates.

The following tables summarize the changes in the Partnership's investment activities in each of the unconsolidated affiliates for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014						
	HPC	MEP <sup>(2)</sup>	Lone Star	Ranch JV	Aqua - PVR	Mi Vida JV	Others <sup>(4)</sup>
Contributions to unconsolidated affiliates	\$—	\$175	\$114	\$—	\$—	\$54	\$—
Distributions from unconsolidated affiliates	(48	) (73	) (137	) (8	) (1	) —	(4
Share of earnings of unconsolidated affiliates' net income (loss)	33	45	116	9	(4	) —	2
Amortization of excess fair value of investment <sup>(1)</sup>	(6	) —	—	—	—	—	—

Table of Contents

	Year Ended December 31, 2013				
	HPC <sup>(3)</sup>	MEP	Lone Star	Ranch JV	Others <sup>(4)</sup>
Contributions to unconsolidated affiliates	\$—	\$—	\$137	\$2	\$—
Distributions from unconsolidated affiliates	(238)	(72)	(79)	(2)	—
Share of earnings of unconsolidated affiliates' net income	36	40	64	1	—
Amortization of excess fair value of investment <sup>(1)</sup>	(6)	—	—	—	—
	Year Ended December 31, 2012				
	HPC	MEP	Lone Star	Ranch JV	Others <sup>(4)</sup>
Contributions to unconsolidated affiliates	\$—	\$—	\$343	\$36	\$—
Distributions from unconsolidated affiliates	(61)	(75)	(68)	—	—
Share of earnings of unconsolidated affiliates' net income (loss)	35	42	44	(1)	(9)
Amortization of excess fair value of investment <sup>(1)</sup>	(6)	—	—	—	—

The Partnership's investment in HPC was adjusted to its fair value on May 26, 2010 and the excess fair value over net book value was comprised of two components: (1) \$155 million was attributed to HPC's long-lived assets and is being amortized as a reduction of income from unconsolidated affiliates over the useful lives of the respective assets, which vary from 15 to 30 years, and (2) \$32 million could not be attributed to a specific asset and therefore will not be amortized in future periods.

(2) The Partnership contributed \$175 million to MEP in September 2014 for the repayment of MEP's debt.

HPC entered into a \$500 million 5-year revolving credit facility in September 2013, pursuant to which the Partnership pledged its 49.99% equity interest in HPC. Upon closing such credit facility, HPC borrowed \$370 million to fund a non-recurring return of investment to its partners of which the Partnership received \$185 million.

The amount outstanding under this facility was \$450 million as of December 31, 2014. The Partnership's contingent obligation with respect to the outstanding borrowings under this facility was \$225 million at December 31, 2014.

(4) Includes Coal Handling, Grey Ranch, and Sweeny JV.

## Summarized Financial Information

Consolidated financial statements for HPC, MEP, and Lone Star are filed as exhibits to this Form 10-K. The following tables present aggregated selected balance sheet and income statement data for Ranch JV (on a 100% basis) for all periods presented:

	December 31,		
	2014	2013	
Current assets	\$16	\$7	
Property, plant and equipment, net	95	100	
Other assets	4	4	
Total assets	\$115	\$111	
Current liabilities	\$2	\$3	
Equity	113	108	
Total liabilities and equity	\$115	\$111	
	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Revenue	\$41	\$16	\$1
Operating income (loss)	29	4	(2)
Net income (loss)	29	4	(2)



## Table of Contents

### 7. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

Policies. The Partnership established comprehensive risk management policies and procedures to monitor and manage the market risks associated with commodity prices, counterparty credit and interest rates. The General Partner is responsible for delegation of transaction authority levels, and the Audit and Risk Committee of the General Partner is responsible for overseeing the management of these risks, including monitoring exposure limits. The Audit and Risk Committee receives regular briefings on exposures and overall risk management in the context of market activities.

Commodity Price Risk. The Partnership is a net seller of NGLs, condensate and natural gas as a result of its gathering and processing operations. The prices of these commodities are impacted by changes in supply and demand as well as market forces. Both the Partnership's profitability and cash flow are affected by the inherent volatility of these commodities which could adversely affect its ability to make distributions to its unitholders. The Partnership manages this commodity price exposure through an integrated strategy that includes management of its contract portfolio, matching sales prices of commodities with purchases, optimization of its portfolio by monitoring basis and other price differentials in operating areas, and the use of derivative contracts. In some cases, the Partnership may not be able to match pricing terms or cover its risk to price exposure with financial hedges, and it may be exposed to commodity price risk.

The Partnership has swap contracts settled against certain NGLs, condensate and natural gas market prices.

Marketing & Trading. The Partnership conducts natural gas marketing and trading activities intended to capitalize on favorable price differentials between various receipt and delivery locations. The Partnership enters into both financial derivatives and physical contracts. These financial derivatives, primarily basis swaps, are transacted: (i) to economically hedge subscribed capacity exposed to market rate fluctuations and (ii) to mitigate the price risk related to other purchases and sales of natural gas. By entering into a basis swap, one pricing index is exchanged for another, effectively locking in the margin between the natural gas purchase and sale by removing index spread risk on the combined physical and financial transaction. Changes in the fair value of these financial and physical contracts are recorded as adjustments to natural gas sales and realized (unrealized) gain (loss) from derivatives, as appropriate.

The Partnership has credit exposure to additional counterparties. The Partnership monitors its exposure to any single counterparty and the creditworthiness of its counterparties on an ongoing basis. In addition, the Partnership's natural gas purchase and sale contracts, for certain counterparties, are subject to counterparty netting agreements governing settlement under such natural gas purchase and sales contracts, and when possible, the Partnership nets the open positions of each counterparty.

Interest Rate Risk. The Partnership is exposed to variable interest rate risk as a result of borrowings under its revolving credit facility. As of December 31, 2014, the Partnership had \$1.5 billion of outstanding borrowings exposed to variable interest rate risk.

Credit Risk. The Partnership's resale of NGLs, condensate and natural gas exposes it to credit risk, as the margin on any sale is generally a very small percentage of the total sales price. Therefore, a credit loss can be very large relative to overall profitability on these transactions. The Partnership attempts to ensure that it issues credit only to credit-worthy counterparties and that in appropriate circumstances any such extension of credit is backed by adequate collateral, such as a letter of credit or parental guarantee from a parent company with potentially better credit.

The Partnership is exposed to credit risk from its derivative contract counterparties. The Partnership does not require collateral from these counterparties. The Partnership deals primarily with financial institutions when entering into financial derivatives, and utilizes master netting agreements that allow for netting of swap contract receivables and payables in the event of default by either party. If the Partnership's counterparties failed to perform under existing swap contracts, the Partnership's maximum loss as of December 31, 2014 was \$82 million, which would be reduced by less than \$1 million due to the netting feature. The Partnership has elected to present assets and liabilities under master netting agreements gross on the consolidated balance sheets.

Embedded Derivatives. The Series A Preferred Units contain embedded derivatives which are required to be bifurcated and accounted for separately, such as the holders' conversion option and the Partnership's call option. These embedded derivatives are accounted for using mark-to-market accounting. The Partnership does not expect the embedded derivatives to affect its cash flows.



F- 25

---

# Table of Contents

The Partnership's derivative assets and liabilities, including credit risk adjustments, as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 are detailed below:

	Assets December 31,		Liabilities December 31,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Derivatives not designated as cash flow hedges				
Current amounts				
Commodity contracts	\$75	\$3	\$—	\$9
Long-term amounts				
Commodity contracts	10	1	—	—
Embedded derivatives in Series A Preferred Units	—	—	16	19
Total derivatives	\$85	\$4	\$16	\$28

The Partnership's statements of operations for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 were impacted by derivative instruments activities as detailed below:

		Years Ended December 31,		
		2014	2013	2012
Derivatives in cash flow hedging relationships:		Change in Value Recognized in AOCI on Derivatives (Effective Portion)		
Commodity derivatives		\$—	\$—	\$(4 )
Derivatives in cash flow hedging relationships:	Location of Gain/(Loss) Recognized in Income	Amount of Gain/(Loss) Reclassified from AOCI into Income (Effective Portion)		
Commodity derivatives	Revenue	\$—	\$—	\$6
		Years Ended December 31,		
		2014	2013	2012
Derivatives not designated in a hedging relationship:	Location of Gain/(Loss) Recognized in Income	Amount of Gain/(Loss) from De-designation Amortized from AOCI into Income		
Commodity derivatives	Revenue	\$—	\$—	\$(5 )
Derivatives not designated in a hedging relationship:	Location of Gain/(Loss) Recognized in Income	Amount of Gain/(Loss) Recognized in Income from Derivatives		
Commodity derivatives	Revenue	\$93	\$(9 )	\$16
Embedded derivatives	Other income & deductions	3	6	14
		\$96	\$(3 )	\$30

Table of Contents

## 8. LONG-TERM DEBT

Obligations in the form of senior notes and borrowings under the credit facilities are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Senior notes	\$5,089	\$2,800
Revolving loans	1,504	510
Unamortized premiums and discounts	48	—
Long-term debt	\$6,641	\$3,310
Availability under revolving credit facility:		
Total credit facility limit	\$2,000	\$1,200
Revolving loans	(1,504)	(510)
Letters of credit	(23)	(14)
Total available	\$473	\$676

Long-term debt maturities as of December 31, 2014 for each of the next five years are as follows:

Year Ended December 31,	Amount
2015	\$—
2016	—
2017	—
2018	—
2019	2,003
Thereafter	4,590
Total *	\$6,593

\* Excludes a \$67 million unamortized premium on the 2020 PVR Notes and the 2021 PVR Notes assumed by the Partnership and a \$19 million unamortized discount on the combined 2022 Notes.

**Revolving Credit Facility**

In the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 the Partnership borrowed \$3.86 billion, \$1.83 billion and \$1.56 billion, respectively, under its revolving credit facility; these borrowings were to fund capital expenditures and acquisitions. During the same periods, the Partnership repaid \$3.48 billion, \$1.52 billion and \$1.70 billion, respectively, with proceeds from equity offerings and issuances of senior notes.

In February 2014, RGS entered into the First Amendment (the "First Amendment") to the Sixth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the "Credit Agreement") to, among other things, expressly permit the pending PVR and Eagle Rock Midstream acquisitions, and to increase the commitment base to \$1.5 billion and increase the uncommitted incremental facility to \$500 million. The First Amendment allowed the Partnership to assume the legacy PVR senior notes that mature prior to the Credit Agreement.

In September 2014, RGS entered into the Second Amendment to the Credit Agreement to, among other things, increase the letter of credit sublimit from \$50 million to \$100 million, with none of the four individual issuing banks being required to issue letters of credit in excess of \$25 million; increase in the general basket of permitted investments from \$300 million to \$500 million; add provisions permitting investments in ORS, affording it similar treatment to the Partnership's existing joint ventures; and update various swap agreement provisions to conform to current market standards.

In November 2014, RGS entered into the Seventh Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the "New Credit Agreement") to increase the commitment to \$2 billion and extended the maturity date to November 25, 2019. The material differences between the Credit Agreement and the New Credit Agreement include:

- the addition of provisions permitting investments in Mi Vida JV affording it similar treatment to the Partnership's existing joint ventures;
- an increase in certain permitted covenant baskets; and
- updates to various pricing terms and the permitted maximum total leverage ratio to reflect the Partnership's growth.

F- 27

---

## Table of Contents

In connection with the New Credit Agreement, the Partnership capitalized \$5 million of net loan fees related to the amendments completed in the year ended December 31, 2014, which are being amortized over the remaining term. In May 2013, RGS entered into the Credit Agreement to increase the commitment to \$1.2 billion with a \$300 million uncommitted incremental facility and extended the maturity date to May 21, 2018. The material differences between the Fifth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement and the Credit Agreement include:

- A 75 bps decrease in pricing, with an additional 50 bps decrease upon the achievement of an investment grade rating;
- No limitation on the maximum amount that the loan parties may invest in joint ventures existing on the date of the credit agreement so long as the Partnership is in pro forma compliance with the financial covenants;
- The addition of a “Restricted Subsidiary” structure such that certain designated subsidiaries are not subject to the credit facility covenants and do not guarantee the obligations thereunder or pledge their assets in support thereof;
- The addition of provisions such that upon the achievement of an investment grade rating by the Partnership, the collateral package will be released; the facility will become unsecured; and the covenant package will be significantly reduced;
- An eight-quarter increase in the permitted Total Leverage Ratio; and
- After March 2015, an increase in the permitted total leverage ratio for the two fiscal quarters following any \$50 million or greater acquisition.

In connection with the Credit Agreement, the Partnership capitalized \$6 million of net loan fees related to this amendment which are being amortized over the remaining term.

Borrowings under the New Credit Agreement are secured by substantially all of the Partnership’s assets and are guaranteed by the Partnership and its consolidated subsidiaries, except for ELG and ORS. The New Credit Agreement and the guarantees thereunder are senior to the Partnership’s and the guarantors’ unsecured obligations.

The outstanding balance under the New Credit Agreement bears interest at LIBOR plus a margin or alternate base rate (equivalent to the U.S. prime lending rate) plus a margin, or a combination of both. The alternate base rate used to calculate interest on base rate loans will be calculated based on the greatest to occur of a base rate, a federal funds effective rate plus 0.50% and an adjusted one-month LIBOR rate plus 1.00%. The applicable margin shall range from 0.50% to 1.25% for base rate loans, 1.50% to 2.25% for Eurodollar loans. The weighted average interest rate on the amounts outstanding under the Partnership’s Credit Agreement was 2.17% as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

RGS must pay (i) a commitment fee ranging from 0.25% to 0.375% per annum of the unused portion of the revolving loan commitments, (ii) a participation fee for each revolving lender participating in letters of credit ranging from 1.5% to 2.25% per annum of the average daily amount of such lender’s letter of credit exposure and (iii) a fronting fee to the issuing bank of letters of credit equal to 0.20% per annum of the average daily amount of the letter of credit exposure. These fees are included in interest expense, net in the consolidated statement of operations.

The New Credit Agreement contains financial covenants requiring RGS and its subsidiaries to maintain a debt to consolidated EBITDA (as defined in the credit agreement) ratio less than 5.50, a consolidated EBITDA to consolidated interest expense ratio greater than 2.50 and a secured debt to consolidated EBITDA ratio less than 3.25. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, RGS and its subsidiaries were in compliance with these covenants.

The New Credit Agreement restricts the ability of RGS to pay dividends and distributions other than reimbursements to the Partnership for expenses and payment of dividends to the Partnership for the amount of available cash (as defined) so long as no default or event of default has occurred or is continuing. The New Credit Agreement also contains various covenants that limit (subject to certain exceptions), among other things, the ability of RGS to:

- incur indebtedness;
- grant liens;
- enter into sale and leaseback transactions;
- make certain investments, loans and advances;
- dissolve or enter into a merger or consolidation;
- enter into asset sales or make acquisitions;

- enter into transactions with affiliates;
- prepay other indebtedness or amend organizational documents or transactions documents (as defined in the New Credit Agreement);
- issue capital stock or create subsidiaries; or
- engage in any business other than those businesses in which it was engaged at the time of the effectiveness of the New Credit Agreement or reasonable extension thereof.

F- 28

---

## Table of Contents

In February 2015, RGS exercised the accordion feature of the New Credit Agreement to increase commitments under the revolving credit facility by \$500 million to a total of \$2.5 billion. The increased commitments will be available pursuant to the same terms and subject to the same interest rates and fees as the existing commitments under the New Credit Agreement.

### Senior Notes

The Partnership and Finance Corp. have the following series of senior notes (collectively “Senior Notes”):

- \$400 million in aggregate principal amount of our 5.75% senior notes due September 1, 2020 (the “2020 Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on March 1 and September 1;
- \$500 million in aggregate principal amount of our 6.5% senior notes due July 15, 2021 (the “2021 Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on January 15 and July 15;
- \$900 million in aggregate principal of our 5.875% senior notes due March 1, 2022 (the “2022 Notes”), issued in February 2014, with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on March 1 and September 1;
- \$700 million in aggregate principal amount of our 5.5% senior notes due April 15, 2023 (the “2023 5.5% Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on April 15 and October 15;
- \$600 million in aggregate principal amount of our 4.5% senior notes due November 1, 2023 (the “2023 4.5% Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on May 1 and November 1;
- \$390 million, after partial redemption, in aggregate principal amount of our 8.375% senior notes due June 1, 2020 (the “2020 PVR Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on June 1 and December 1;
- \$400 million in aggregate principal amount of our 6.5% senior notes due May 15, 2021 (the “2021 PVR Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on May 15 and November 15;
- \$499 million in aggregate principal amount of our 8.375% senior notes due June 1, 2019 (the “2019 Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on June 1 and December 1; and
- \$700 million in aggregate principal amount of our 5% senior notes due October 1, 2022 (the “October 2022 Notes”) with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on April 1 and October 1.

In May 2009, the Partnership and Finance Corp. issued \$250 million of senior notes with a maturity of June 1, 2016 (the “2016 Notes”). The 2016 Notes bore interest at 9.375% with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on June 1 and December 1. In May 2012, the Partnership redeemed 35%, or \$88 million, of the 2016 Notes, bringing the total outstanding principal amount to \$163 million. A redemption premium of \$8 million was charged to loss on debt refinancing, net in the consolidated statements of operations and \$4 million of accrued interest was paid. The Partnership also wrote off the unamortized loan fee of \$1 million and unamortized bond premium of \$2 million to loss on debt refinancing, net in the consolidated statement of operations. In June 2013, the Partnership redeemed all amounts outstanding 2016 Notes for \$178 million cash, inclusive of accrued and unpaid interest of \$7 million and other fees and expenses.

In February 2014, the Partnership and Finance Corp. issued \$900 million of senior notes that mature on March 1, 2022 (the “2022 Notes”). The 2022 Notes bear interest at 5.875% with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on September 1 and March 1. At any time prior to December 1, 2021, the Partnership may redeem some or all of the notes at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus a “make-whole” redemption price and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. On or after December 1, 2021, the Partnership may redeem some or all of the 2022 Notes at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. The 2022 Notes rank equally with the Partnership’s other Senior Notes.

In March 2014, in connection with the PVR Acquisition, the Partnership assumed \$1.2 billion in aggregate principal amount of PVR’s outstanding senior notes, consisting of \$300 million of 8.25% senior notes that mature on April 15, 2018 (the “2018 PVR Notes”), \$400 million of 6.5% senior notes that mature on May 15, 2021 (the “2021 PVR Notes”),

and \$473 million of 8.375% senior notes that mature on June 1, 2020 (the "2020 PVR Notes", and together with the 2021 PVR Notes, the "PVR Notes"). In April 2014, the Partnership redeemed all of the 2018 PVR Notes for \$313 million at a price of 104.125% plus accrued and unpaid interest paid to the redemption date. Interest on the 2021 PVR Notes and the 2020 PVR Notes accrue semi-annually on May 15 and November 15 and June 1 and December 1, respectively. The PVR Notes rank equally with the Partnership's other Senior Notes.

On March 24, 2014, in accordance with the Partnership's obligations under the indentures governing the PVR Notes, the Partnership commenced change of control offers pursuant to which holders of such notes were entitled to require the Partnership to repurchase all or a portion of its PVR Notes at a purchase price of 101% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the repurchase date. The change of control offers for the PVR Notes expired on April 22, 2014 and, on April 23, 2014, the Partnership accepted for purchase less than \$1 million in aggregate principal amount of 2021 PVR Notes.

F- 29

---



## Table of Contents

In July 2014, in connection with the Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition, the Partnership exchanged \$499 million of 8.375% Senior Notes due 2019 of Eagle Rock and Eagle Rock Energy Finance Corp. for 8.375% Senior Notes due 2019 issued by the Partnership and Finance Corp. (the “New Partnership Notes”). The New Partnership Notes rank equally with the Partnership’s other Senior Notes.

In July 2014, the Partnership and Finance Corp. issued \$700 million of senior notes that mature on October 1, 2022 (the “October 2022 Notes”). The October 2022 Notes bear interest at 5% with interest payable semi-annual in arrears on October 1 and April 1, beginning April 1, 2015. At any time prior to July 1, 2022, the Partnership may redeem some or all of the October 2022 Notes at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus a “make-whole” redemption price and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. On or after, July 1, 2022, the Partnership may redeem some or all of the October 2022 Notes at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. The October 2022 Notes rank equally with the Partnership’s other Senior Notes.

In July 2014, the Partnership redeemed \$83 million of the \$473 million outstanding 2020 PVR Notes for \$91 million, including \$8 million of accrued interest and redemption premium.

In December 2014, the Partnership redeemed all of the outstanding \$600 million 2018 Notes, for a total price of 103.438% or \$621 million.

The Senior Notes issued by the Partnership and Finance Corp. are fully and unconditionally guaranteed, on a joint and several basis, by all of the Partnership’s consolidated subsidiaries, except for ELG and ORS.

The Senior Notes are redeemable at any time prior to the dates specified below at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the applicable series, plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date:

2020 Notes - Redeemable, in whole or in part, prior to June 1, 2020 at 100% of the principal amount plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date; redeemable, in whole or in part, on or after June 1, 2020 at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2021 Notes - Any time prior to July 15, 2014, up to 35% may be redeemed at a price of 106.5% plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any; beginning July 15, 2016, 100% may be redeemed at fixed redemption price of 103.25% (July 15, 2017 - 102.167%, July 15, 2018 - 101.083% and July 15, 2019 and thereafter - 100%) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2022 Notes - Redeemable, in whole or in part, prior to December 1, 2021 at 100% at the principal amount plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date; redeemable, in whole or in part, on or after December 1, 2021 at 100% at the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2023 5.5% Notes - Any time prior to October 15, 2015, up to 35% may be redeemed at a price of 105.5% plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any; beginning October 15, 2017, 100% may be redeemed at fixed redemption price of 102.75% (October 15, 2018 - 101.833%, October 15, 2019 - 100.917% and October 15, 2020 and thereafter - 100%) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2023 4.5% Notes - Redeemable, in whole or in part, prior to August 1, 2023 at 100% of the principal amount plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date; redeemable, in whole or in part, on or after August 1, 2023 at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

Edgar Filing: Regency Energy Partners LP - Form 10-K

2020 PVR Notes - Any time prior to June 1, 2015, up to 35% may be redeemed at a price of 108.375% plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any; beginning June 1, 2016, 100% may be redeemed at fixed redemption price of 104.188% (June 1, 2017 - 102.094%, June 1, 2018 and thereafter - 100%) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2021 PVR Notes - Any time prior to May 15, 2016, up to 35% may be redeemed at a price of 106.5% plus accrued and unpaid interest and liquidated damages, if any; beginning May 15, 2016, 100% may be redeemed at a fixed redemption price of 104.875% (May 15, 2017 - 103.250%, May 15, 2018 - 101.625% and May 15, 2019 and thereafter - 100%) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

2019 Notes - Redeemable, in whole or in part, prior to June 1, 2015 at 100% at the principal amount plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date; beginning June 1, 2015, 100% may be redeemed at a fixed redemption price of 104.188% (June 1, 2016 - 102.094% and June 1, 2017 and thereafter - 100%) plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

October 2022 Notes - Redeemable, in whole or in part, prior to July 1, 2022 at 100% of the principal amount plus a make-whole premium and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date; redeemable, in whole or in part, on or

F- 30

---

Table of Contents

after July 1, 2022 at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date

Upon a change of control followed by a ratings downgrade within 90 days of a change of control, each holder of the Partnership's Senior Notes, other than the PVR Notes, will be entitled to require the Partnership to repurchase all or a portion of its notes at a purchase price of 101% plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any. Upon a change of control, the indenture governing the PVR Notes requires the Partnership to make an offer to repurchase all outstanding notes at 101% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest (and additional interest, if any) to the date of repurchase. The Partnership's ability to repurchase the Senior Notes upon a change of control will be limited by the terms of our debt agreements, including the Partnership's revolving credit facility.

The Senior Notes contain various covenants that limit, among other things, the Partnership's ability, and the ability of certain of the Partnership's subsidiaries, to:

- incur additional indebtedness;
- pay distributions on, or repurchase or redeem our equity interests;
- make certain investments;
- incur liens;
- enter into certain types of transactions with affiliates; and
- sell assets or consolidate or merge with or into other companies.

If the Senior Notes achieve investment grade ratings by both Moody's and Standard & Poor's and no default or event of default has occurred and is continuing, the Partnership will no longer be subject to many of the foregoing covenants. At December 31, 2014, the Partnership was in compliance with these covenants.

## 9. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Activity related to intangible assets, net consisted of the following:

	Customer Relations	Trade Names	Total
Balance at January 1, 2013	\$655	\$57	\$712
Amortization	(26	) (4	) (30
Balance at December 31, 2013	629	53	682
Amortization	(105	) (3	) (108
Intangible assets acquired	2,865	—	2,865
Balance at December 31, 2014	\$3,389	\$50	\$3,439

The average remaining amortization periods for customer relations and trade names are 28 and 15 years, respectively. The expected amortization of the intangible assets for each of the five succeeding years is \$135 million.

## 10. FAIR VALUE MEASURES

The fair value measurement provisions establish a three-tiered fair value hierarchy that prioritizes inputs to valuation techniques used in fair value calculations. The three levels of inputs are defined as follows:

- Level 1—unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active accessible markets;
- Level 2—inputs that are observable in the marketplace other than those classified as Level 1; and
- Level 3—inputs that are unobservable in the marketplace and significant to the valuation.

Entities are encouraged to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. If a financial instrument uses inputs that fall in different levels of the hierarchy, the instrument will be categorized based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value calculation.

The Partnership's financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are derivatives related to commodity

swaps and embedded derivatives in the Series A Preferred Units. Derivatives related to commodity swaps are valued using discounted cash flow techniques. These techniques incorporate Level 1 and Level 2 inputs such as commodity

prices. These market inputs are utilized in the discounted cash flow calculation considering the instrument's term, notional amount, discount rate and credit risk and are classified as Level 2 in the hierarchy. Embedded derivatives related to Series A Preferred Units are valued using

F- 31

---

Table of Contents

a binomial lattice model. The inputs utilized in the model include credit spread, probabilities of the occurrence of certain events, common unit price, dividend yield, and expected volatility, and are classified as Level 3 in the hierarchy.

The following table presents the Partnership's derivative assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

	Fair Value Measurement at December 31, 2014			2013		
	Fair Value Total	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value Total	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Assets</b>						
Commodity Derivatives:						
Natural Gas	\$26	\$26	\$—	\$2	\$2	\$—
Natural Gas Liquids	23	23	—	2	2	—
Condensate	36	36	—	—	—	—
Total Assets	\$85	\$85	\$—	\$4	\$4	\$—
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Commodity Derivatives:						
Natural Gas	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$4	\$4	\$—
Natural Gas Liquids	—	—	—	4	4	—
Condensate	—	—	—	1	1	—
Embedded Derivatives in Series A Preferred Units	16	—	16	19	—	19
Total Liabilities	\$16	\$—	\$16	\$28	\$9	\$19

The following table presents the material unobservable inputs used to estimate the fair value of the embedded derivatives in the Series A Preferred Units:

Unobservable Input	December 31, 2014	
Credit Spread	4.76	%
Volatility	35.8	%

Changes in the Partnership's cost of equity and U.S. Treasury yields would cause a change in the credit spread used to value the embedded derivatives.

The following table presents the changes in Level 3 derivatives measured on a recurring basis for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013. There were no transfers between Level 2 and Level 3 derivatives for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

	Embedded Derivatives in Series A Preferred Units
Balance at January 1, 2013	\$ 25
Change in fair value, net of gain at conversion of \$26 million	(6 )
Balance at December 31, 2013	19
Change in fair value	(3 )
Balance at December 31, 2014	\$ 16

The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximates fair value due to their short-term maturities. Long-term debt, other than the Senior Notes, is comprised of borrowings under which interest accrues under a floating interest rate structure. Accordingly, the carrying value approximates fair value. The aggregate fair value and carrying amount of the Senior Notes at December 31, 2014 and 2013 was \$5.1 billion and \$2.8 billion, respectively. The fair value of the Senior Notes is a Level 1 valuation based on third party market value quotations.



Table of Contents

## 11. LEASES

The following table is a schedule of future minimum lease payments for office space and certain equipment leased by the Partnership, that had initial or remaining non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year as of December 31, 2014:

For the year ending December 31,	Operating Lease
2015	\$5
2016	5
2017	4
2018	3
2019	2
Thereafter	26
Total minimum lease payments	\$45

Total rent expense for operating leases, including those leases with terms of less than one year, was \$20 million, \$11 million and \$11 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

## 12. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

**Legal.** The Partnership is involved in various claims, lawsuits and audits by taxing authorities incidental to its business. These claims and lawsuits in the aggregate are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Partnership's business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

**ETP Merger Shareholder Litigation.** Following the January 26, 2015 announcement of the definitive merger agreement with ETP, purported Partnership unitholders filed lawsuits in state and federal courts in Dallas, Texas asserting claims relating to the proposed transaction.

On February 3, 2015, William Engel and Enno Seago, purported Partnership unitholders, filed a class action petition on behalf of the Partnership's common unitholders and a derivative suit on behalf of the Partnership in the 162nd Judicial District Court of Dallas County, Texas (the "Engel Lawsuit"). The lawsuit names as defendants the General Partner, the members of the General Partner's board of directors, ETP, ETP GP, ETE, and, as a nominal party, the Partnership. The Engel Lawsuit alleges that (1) the General Partner's directors breached duties to the Partnership and the Partnership's unitholders by employing a conflicted and unfair process and failing to maximize the merger consideration; (2) the General Partner's directors breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing by engaging in a flawed merger process; and (3) the non-director defendants aided and abetted in these claimed breaches. The plaintiffs seek an injunction preventing the defendants from closing the proposed transaction or an order rescinding the transaction if it has already been completed. The plaintiffs also seek money damages and court costs, including attorney's fees.

On February 9, 2015, Stuart Yeager, a purported Partnership unitholder, filed a class action petition on behalf of the Partnership's common unitholders and a derivative suit on behalf of the Partnership in the 134th Judicial District Court of Dallas County, Texas (the "Yeager Lawsuit"). The allegations, claims, and relief sought in the Yeager Lawsuit are nearly identical to those in the Engel Lawsuit.

On February 10, 2015, Lucien Coggia a purported Partnership unitholder, filed a class action petition on behalf of the Partnership's common unitholders and a derivative suit on behalf of the Partnership in the 192nd Judicial District Court of Dallas County, Texas (the "Coggia Lawsuit"). The allegations, claims, and relief sought in the Coggia Lawsuit are nearly identical to those in the Engel Lawsuit.

On February 3, 2015, Linda Blankman, a purported Partnership unitholder, filed a class action complaint on behalf of the Partnership's common unitholders in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Blankman Lawsuit"). The allegations and claims in the Blankman Lawsuit are similar to those in the Engel Lawsuit. However, the Blankman Lawsuit does not allege any derivative claims and includes the Partnership as a defendant rather than a nominal party. The lawsuit also omits one of the General Partner's directors, Richard Brannon, who was named in the Engel Lawsuit. The Blankman Lawsuit alleges that the General Partner's directors breached their fiduciary duties to the unitholders by failing to maximize the value of the Partnership, failing to properly value the Partnership, and ignoring conflicts of interest. The plaintiff also asserts a claim against the non-director defendants for

aiding and abetting the directors' alleged breach of fiduciary duty. The Blankman Lawsuit seeks the same relief that the plaintiffs seek in the Engel Lawsuit.

F- 33

---



## Table of Contents

On February 6, 2015, Edwin Bazini, a purported Partnership unitholder, filed a class action complaint on behalf of the Partnership's common unitholders in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Bazini Lawsuit"). The allegations, claims, and relief sought in the Bazini Lawsuit are nearly identical to those in the Blankman Lawsuit.

On February 11, 2015, Mark Hinnau, a purported Partnership unitholder, filed a class action complaint on behalf of the Partnership's common unitholders in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Hinnau Lawsuit"). The allegations, claims, and relief sought in the Hinnau Lawsuit are nearly identical to those in the Blankman Lawsuit.

On February 11, 2015, Stephen Weaver, a purported Partnership unitholder, filed a class action complaint on behalf of the Partnership's common unitholders in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Weaver Lawsuit"). The allegations, claims, and relief sought in the Weaver Lawsuit are nearly identical to those in the Blankman Lawsuit.

On February 11, 2015, Adrian Dieckman, a purported Partnership unitholder, filed a class action complaint on behalf of the Partnership's common unitholders in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Dieckman Lawsuit"). The allegations, claims, and relief sought in the Dieckman Lawsuit are similar to those in the Blankman Lawsuit, except that the Dieckman Lawsuit does not assert an aiding and abetting claim.

On February 13, 2015, Irwin Berlin, a purported Partnership unitholder, filed a class action complaint on behalf of the Partnership's common unitholders in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Dieckman Lawsuit"). The allegations, claims, and relief sought in the Berlin Lawsuit are similar to those in the Blankman Lawsuit.

Each of these lawsuits is at a preliminary stage. We cannot predict the outcome of these or any other lawsuits that might be filed, nor can we predict the amount of time and expense that will be required to resolve these lawsuits. The Partnership and the other defendants named in the lawsuits intend to defend vigorously against these and any other actions.

PVR Shareholder Litigation. Five putative class action lawsuits challenging the PVR Acquisition are currently pending. All of the cases name PVR, PVR GP and the then-incumbent directors of PVR GP, as well as the Partnership and the General Partner (collectively, the "Regency Defendants"), as defendants. Each of the lawsuits has been brought by a purported unitholder of PVR, both individually and on behalf of a putative class consisting of public unitholders of PVR. The lawsuits generally allege, among other things, that the directors of PVR GP breached their fiduciary duties to unitholders of PVR, that PVR GP, PVR and the Regency Defendants aided and abetted the directors of PVR GP in the alleged breach of these fiduciary duties, and, as to the actions in federal court, that some or all of PVR, PVR GP, and the directors of PVR GP violated Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 14a-9 promulgated thereunder and Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. The lawsuits purport to seek, in general, (i) injunctive relief, (ii) disclosure of certain additional information concerning the transaction, (iii) rescission or an award of rescissory damages, (iv) an award of plaintiffs' costs and (v) the accounting for damages allegedly caused by the defendants to these actions, and, (vi) such further relief as the court deems just and proper. The styles of the pending cases are as follows: David Naiditch v. PVR Partners, L.P., et al. in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware); Charles Monatt v. PVR Partners, LP, et al. and Saul Srour v. PVR Partners, L.P., et al., each pending in the Court of Common Pleas for Delaware County, Pennsylvania; Stephen Bushansky v. PVR Partners, L.P., et al.; and Mark Hinnau v. PVR Partners, L.P., et al., pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

On January 28, 2014, the defendants entered into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with Monatt, Srour, Bushansky, Naiditch and Hinnau pursuant to which defendants and the referenced plaintiffs agreed in principle to a settlement of their lawsuits ("Settled Lawsuits"), which will be memorialized in a separate settlement agreement, subject to customary conditions, including consummation of the PVR Acquisition, which occurred on March 21, 2014, completion of certain confirmatory discovery (which was completed as of September 5, 2014), class certification and final approval by the Court of Common Pleas for Delaware County, Pennsylvania. If the Court approves the settlement, the Settled Lawsuits will be dismissed with prejudice and all defendants will be released from any and all claims relating to the Settled Lawsuits.

The settlement did not affect any provisions of the merger agreement or the form or amount of consideration received by PVR unitholders in the PVR Acquisition. The defendants have denied and continue to deny any wrongdoing or liability with respect to the plaintiffs' claims in the aforementioned litigation and have entered into the settlement to eliminate the uncertainty, burden, risk, expense, and distraction of further litigation.

Eagle Rock Shareholder Litigation. Three putative class action lawsuits challenging the Eagle Rock Midstream Acquisition were previously filed in federal district court in Houston, Texas. All cases name Eagle Rock and its current directors, as well as the Partnership and a subsidiary, as defendants. One of the lawsuits also names additional Eagle Rock entities as defendants. Each of the lawsuits has been brought by a purported unitholder of Eagle Rock (collectively, the "Plaintiffs"), both individually and on behalf of a putative class consisting of public unitholders of Eagle Rock. The Plaintiffs in each case seek to rescind the transaction,

F- 34

---

Table of Contents

claiming, among other things, that it yields inadequate consideration, was tainted by conflict and constitutes breaches of common law fiduciary duties or contractually imposed duties to the shareholders. Plaintiffs also seek monetary damages and attorneys' fees. The Partnership and its subsidiary are named as "aiders and abettors" of the allegedly wrongful actions of Eagle Rock and its board. In November 2014, the US District Court issued a Notice of Voluntary Dismissal without Prejudice of all claims in this matter.

**PADEP Consent Assessment.** On November 21, 2014, our subsidiary, Regency Marcellus Gas Gathering LLC ("Regency Marcellus"), received a Notice of Violation ("NOV") from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ("PADEP") relating to unpermitted wetlands and streams along the second phase of construction of the Canton Pipeline Project with proposed civil penalties potentially in excess of \$100,000. Regency Marcellus has submitted amended permit applications for this phase of construction and is working with the PADEP to acquire amended permits for the proposed crossings of the wetland resources. Regency Marcellus is in discussions with the PADEP regarding the aforementioned NOV. The timing or outcome of this matter cannot reasonably be determined at this time, however we do not expect there to be a material impact on our business or results of operations.

**CDM Sales Tax Audit.** CDM Resource Management LLC ("CDM"), a subsidiary of the Partnership, has historically claimed the manufacturing exemption from sales tax in Texas, as is common in the industry. The exemption is based on the fact that CDM's natural gas compression equipment is used in the process of treating natural gas for ultimate use and sale. In a recent audit by the Texas Comptroller's office, the Comptroller has challenged the applicability of the manufacturing exemption to CDM. The period being audited is from August 2006 to August 2007, and liability for that period is potentially covered by an indemnity obligation from CDM's prior owners. CDM may also have liability for periods since 2008, and prospectively, if the Comptroller's challenge is ultimately successful. An audit of the 2008 period has commenced. In April 2013, an independent audit review agreed with the Comptroller's position. While CDM continues to disagree with this position and intends to seek redetermination and other relief, we are unable to predict the final outcome of this matter.

**Environmental.** The Partnership is responsible for environmental remediation at certain sites on its gathering and processing systems, resulting primarily from releases of hydrocarbons. The Partnership's remediation program typically involves the management of contaminated soils and may involve remediation of groundwater. Activities vary with site conditions and locations, the extent and nature of the contamination, remedial requirements and complexity. The ultimate liability and total costs associated with these sites will depend upon many factors. In addition, the Partnership has reclamation and bonding requirements with respect to certain un-leased and inactive coal properties. The table below reflects the undiscounted environmental liabilities recorded in the consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2014 and 2013 where management believes a loss is probable and reasonably estimable. The Partnership does not have any material environmental remediation matters assessed as reasonably possible that would require disclosure in the financial statements.

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Current	\$2	\$2
Noncurrent	8	6
Total environmental liabilities	\$10	\$8

The Partnership made expenditures related to environmental remediation of \$2 million for the year ended December 31, 2014.

**Air Quality Control.** The Partnership is currently negotiating settlements to certain enforcement actions by the NMED and the TCEQ. The TCEQ recently initiated a state-wide emissions inventory for the sulfur dioxide emissions from sites with reported emissions of 10 tons per year or more. If this data demonstrates that any source or group of sources may cause or contribute to a violation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, they must be sufficiently controlled to ensure timely attainment of the standard. This may potentially affect three recovery units in Texas. It is unclear at this time how the NMED will address the sulfur dioxide standard.

**Compliance Orders from the NMED.** The Partnership has been in discussions with the NMED concerning allegations of violations of New Mexico air regulations related to the Jal #3 and Jal #4 facilities. Hearings on the compliance orders were delayed until May 2015 to allow the parties to pursue substantive settlement discussions. The Partnership

has meritorious defenses to the NMED claims and can offer significant mitigating factors to the claimed violations. The Partnership has recorded a liability of less than \$1 million related to the claims and will continue to assess its potential exposure to the allegations as the matters progress.

F- 35

---

## Table of Contents

Mine Health and Safety Laws. There are numerous mine health and safety laws and regulations applicable to the coal mining industry. However, since the Partnership does not operate any mines and does not employ any coal miners, it is not subject to such laws and regulations. Accordingly, the Partnership has not accrued any related liabilities. In addition to the matters discussed above, the Partnership is involved in legal, tax and regulatory proceedings before various courts, regulatory commissions and governmental agencies regarding matters arising in the ordinary course of business.

### 13. SERIES A PREFERRED UNITS

On September 2, 2009, the Partnership issued 4,371,586 Series A Preferred Units for net proceeds of \$79 million, inclusive of the General Partner's contribution of \$2 million.

Holders may elect to convert Series A Preferred Units to common units at any time. In July 2013, certain holders of Series A Preferred Units exercised their right to convert 2,459,017 Series A Preferred Units into common units.

Concurrent with this transaction, the Partnership recognized a \$26 million gain in other income and deductions, net, related to the embedded derivative and reclassified \$41 million from the Series A Preferred Units into common units. As of December 31, 2014, the remaining Series A Preferred Units were convertible into 2,064,805 common units, and if outstanding, are mandatorily redeemable on September 2, 2029 for \$35 million plus all accrued but unpaid distributions and interest thereon (the "Series A Liquidation Value"). The Series A Preferred Units receive fixed quarterly cash distributions of \$0.445 per unit if outstanding on the record dates of the Partnership's common unit distributions.

Distributions on the Series A Preferred Units were accrued for the first two quarters (and not paid in cash) and will result in an increase in the number of common units issuable upon conversion. If on any distribution payment date beginning March 31, 2010, the Partnership (1) fails to pay distributions on the Series A Preferred Units, (2) reduces the distributions on the common units to zero and (3) is prohibited by its material financing agreements from paying cash distributions, such distributions shall automatically accrue and accumulate until paid in cash. If the Partnership has failed to pay cash distributions in full for two quarters (whether or not consecutive) from and including the quarter ended on March 31, 2010, then if the Partnership fails to pay cash distributions on the Series A Preferred Units, all future distributions on the Series A Preferred Units that are accrued rather than being paid in cash by the Partnership will consist of the following: (1) \$0.35375 per Series A Preferred Unit per quarter, (2) \$0.09125 per Series A Preferred Unit per quarter (the "Common Unit Distribution Amount"), payable solely in common units, and (3) \$0.09125 per Series A Preferred Unit per quarter (the "PIK Distribution Additional Amount"), payable solely in common units. The total number of common units payable in connection with the Common Unit Distribution Amount or the PIK Distribution Additional Amount cannot exceed \$2 million in any period of 20 consecutive fiscal quarters. Upon the Partnership's breach of certain covenants (a "Covenant Default"), the holders of the Series A Preferred Units will be entitled to an increase of \$0.1825 per quarterly distribution, payable solely in common units (the "Covenant Default Additional Amount"). All accumulated and unpaid distributions will accrue interest (i) at a rate of 2.432% per quarter, or (ii) if the Partnership has failed to pay all PIK Distribution Additional Amounts or Covenant Default Additional Amounts or any Covenant Default has occurred and is continuing, at a rate of 3.429% per quarter while such failure to pay or such Covenant Default continues.

The Series A Preferred Units are convertible, at the holder's option, into common units, provided that the holder must request conversion of at least 375,000 Series A Preferred Units. The conversion price will initially be \$18.30, subject to adjustment for customary events (such as unit splits). The number of common units issuable is equal to the issue price of the Series A Preferred Units (i.e. \$18.30) being converted plus all accrued but unpaid distributions and accrued but unpaid interest thereon (the "Redeemable Face Amount"), divided by the applicable conversion price. If at any time the volume-weighted average trading price of the common units over the trailing 20-trading day period (the "VWAP Price") is less than the then-applicable conversion price, the conversion ratio is increased to: the quotient of (1) the Redeemable Face Amount on the date that the holder's conversion notice is delivered, divided by (2) the product of (x) the VWAP Price set forth in the applicable conversion notice and (y) 91%, but will not be less than \$10. The Partnership has the right at any time to convert all or part of the Series A Preferred Units into common units, if (1) the daily volume-weighted average trading price of the common units is greater than 150% of the then-applicable conversion price for 20 out of the trailing 30 trading days, and (2) certain minimum public float and trading volume

requirements are satisfied.

In the event of a change of control, the Partnership will be required to make an offer to the holders of the Series A Preferred Units to purchase their Series A Preferred Units for an amount equal to 101% of their Series A Liquidation Value. In addition, in the event of certain business combinations or other transactions involving the Partnership in which the holders of common units receive cash consideration exclusively in exchange for their common units (a “Cash Event”), the Partnership must use commercially reasonable efforts to ensure that the holders of the Series A Preferred Units will be entitled to receive a security issued by the surviving entity in the Cash Event with comparable powers, preferences and rights to the Series A Preferred Units. If the Partnership

F- 36

---

Table of Contents

is unable to ensure that the holders of the Series A Preferred Units will be entitled to receive such a security, then the Partnership will be required to make an offer to the holders of the Series A Preferred Units to purchase their Series A Preferred Units for an amount equal to 120% of their Series A Liquidation Value. If the Partnership enters into any recapitalization, reorganization, consolidation, merger, spin-off that is not a Cash Event, the Partnership will make appropriate provisions to ensure that the holders of the Series A Preferred Units receive a security with comparable powers, preferences and rights to the Series A Preferred Units upon consummation of such transaction. Subsequent to the ETE Acquisition, no unitholder exercised this option.

As of December 31, 2014, the Series A Preferred Units were convertible to 2,064,805 common units.

The following table provides a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances of the Series A Preferred Units for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	Units	Amount	
Balance at January 1, 2013	4,371,586	\$73	
Series A Preferred Units converted to common units	(2,459,017	) (41	)
Balance at January 1, 2014	1,912,569	32	
Accretion to redemption value	N/A	1	
Balance at December 31, 2014	1,912,569	\$33	*

\* This amount will be accreted to \$35 million plus any accrued but unpaid distributions and interest by deducting amounts from partners' capital over the remaining periods until the mandatory redemption date of September 2, 2029. Accretion during 2013 was immaterial.

**14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, details of the Partnership's related party receivables and related party payables were as follows:

	December 31, 2014	2013
Related party receivables		
ETE and its subsidiaries	\$43	\$25
HPC	1	1
Ranch JV	1	2
Total related party receivables	\$45	\$28
Related party payables		
ETE and its subsidiaries	\$50	\$68
HPC	3	1
Mi Vida JV	11	—
Total related party payables	\$64	\$69

Transactions with ETE and its subsidiaries. Under the service agreement with Services Co., the Partnership paid Services Co.'s direct expenses for services performed, plus an annual fee of \$10 million, and received the benefit of any cost savings recognized for these services. The services agreement has a five year term ending May 26, 2015, subject to earlier termination rights in the event of a change in control, the failure to achieve certain cost savings for the Partnership or upon an event of default. On April 30, 2013, this agreement was amended to provide for a waiver of the \$10 million annual fee effective as of May 1, 2013 through and including April 30, 2015 and to clarify the scope and expenses chargeable as direct expenses thereunder.

On April 30, 2013, the Partnership entered into the second amendment (the "Operation and Service Amendment") to the Operation and Service Agreement (the "Operation and Service Agreement"), by and among the Partnership, ETC, the General Partner and RGS. Under the Operation and Service Agreement, ETC performs certain operations, maintenance and related services reasonably required to operate and maintain certain facilities owned by the Partnership, and the Partnership reimburses ETC for actual costs and expenses incurred in connection with the

provision of these services based on an annual budget agreed upon by both parties.

The Partnership incurred total service fees related to the agreements described above from ETE and its subsidiaries of \$6 million, \$11 million and \$17 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

F- 37

---



Table of Contents

In conjunction with distributions made by the Partnership to the limited and general partner interests, ETE and its subsidiaries received cash distributions of \$175 million, \$107 million and \$62 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

The General Partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to the Partnership to maintain its general partner interest. No capital contributions were contributed during the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

The Partnership's Gathering and Processing segment, in the ordinary course of business, sells natural gas and NGLs to subsidiaries of ETE and records the revenue in gas sales and NGL sales. The Partnership's Contract Services segment provides contract compression services to a subsidiary of ETE and records revenue in gathering, transportation and other fees on the statement of operations. As these transactions are between entities under common control, partners' capital was increased, which represented a deemed contribution of the excess sales price over the carrying amounts.

The Partnership's Gathering and Processing segment recorded revenues from subsidiaries of ETE of \$351 million and cost of sales to subsidiaries of ETE of \$52 million for the year ended December 31, 2014. The Partnership's Contract Services segment recorded revenues from a subsidiary of ETE of \$1 million for the year ended December 31, 2014.

The Partnership's Contract Services segment purchased \$67 million and \$95 million of compression equipment from a subsidiary of ETE during the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Prior to April 30, 2013, Southern Union provided certain administrative services for SUGS that were either based on SUGS's pro-rata share of combined net investment, margin and certain expenses or direct costs incurred by Southern Union on the behalf of SUGS. Southern Union also charged a management and royalty fee to SUGS for certain management support services provided by Southern Union on the behalf of SUGS and for the use of certain Southern Union trademarks, trade names and service marks by SUGS. The amounts were \$21 million and \$1 million for the period from March 26, 2012 to December 31, 2012. These administrative services were no longer being provided subsequent to the SUGS Acquisition.

Transactions with Lone Star. The Partnership entered into various agreements to sell NGLs to Lone Star. For the year ended December 31, 2014, the Partnership had recorded \$257 million in NGL sales under these contracts.

Transactions with HPC. Under a Master Services Agreement with HPC, the Partnership operates and provides all employees and services for the operation and management of HPC. For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, the related party general and administrative expenses reimbursed to the Partnership were \$14 million, \$18 million, and \$20 million, respectively, which is recorded in gathering, transportation and other fees.

The Partnership's Contract Services segment provides compression services to HPC and records revenue in gathering, transportation and other fees. The Partnership also receives transportation services from HPC and records it as cost of sales.

**15. CONCENTRATION RISK**

The following table provides information about the extent of reliance on major customers and gas suppliers. Total revenues and cost of sales from transactions with an external customer or supplier amounting to 10% or more of revenue or cost of gas and liquids are disclosed below, together with the identity of the reportable segment.

		Years Ended December 31,		
	Reportable Segment	2014	2013	2012
Customer				
Customer A	Gathering and Processing	\$—	\$381	\$367
Customer B	Gathering and Processing	780	362	451
Supplier				
Supplier A	Gathering and Processing	—	164	171
Supplier B	Gathering and Processing	—	185	—

The Partnership is a party to various commercial netting agreements that allow it and contractual counterparties to net receivable and payable obligations. These agreements are customary and the terms follow standard industry practice. In the opinion of management, these agreements reduce the overall counterparty risk exposure.

F- 38

---

## Table of Contents

### 16. SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Partnership has six reportable segments: Gathering and Processing, Natural Gas Transportation, NGL Services, Contract Services, Natural Resources and Corporate. The reportable segments are as described below:

**Gathering and Processing.** The Partnership provides “wellhead-to-market” services to producers of natural gas, which include transporting raw natural gas from the wellhead through gathering systems, processing raw natural gas to separate NGLs from the raw natural gas and selling or delivering pipeline-quality natural gas and NGLs to various markets and pipeline systems, the gathering of oil (crude and/or condensate, a lighter oil) received from producers, the gathering and disposing of salt water, and natural gas and NGL marketing and trading. This segment also includes the Partnership’s 60% membership interest in ELG, which operates natural gas gathering, oil pipeline, and oil stabilization facilities in south Texas, the Partnership’s 33.33% membership interest in Ranch JV, which processes natural gas delivered from NGL-rich shale formations in west Texas, the Partnership’s 50% interest in Sweeny JV, which operates a natural gas gathering facility in south Texas, the Partnership’s 51% membership interest in Aqua - PVR, which transports and supplies fresh water to natural gas producers in the Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania, the Partnership’s 75% membership interest in ORS, which will operate a natural gas gathering system in the Utica shale in Ohio, and the Partnership’s 50% interest in Mi Vida JV, which will operate a cryogenic processing plant and related facilities in west Texas.

**Natural Gas Transportation.** The Partnership owns a 49.99% general partner interest in HPC, which owns RIGS, a 450-mile intrastate pipeline that delivers natural gas from northwest Louisiana to downstream pipelines and markets, and a 50% membership interest in MEP, which owns a 500-mile interstate natural gas pipeline stretching from southeast Oklahoma through northeast Texas, northern Louisiana and central Mississippi to an interconnect with the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line system in Butler, Alabama. This segment also includes Gulf States, which owns a 10-mile interstate pipeline that extends from Harrison County, Texas to Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

**NGL Services.** The Partnership owns a 30% membership interest in Lone Star, an entity owning a diverse set of midstream energy assets including NGL pipelines, storage, fractionation and processing facilities located in Texas, New Mexico, Mississippi and Louisiana.

**Contract Services.** The Partnership owns and operates a fleet of compressors used to provide turn-key natural gas compression services for customer specific systems. The Partnership also owns and operates a fleet of equipment used to provide treating services, such as carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide removal, natural gas cooling, dehydration and BTU management.

**Natural Resources.** The Partnership is involved in the management of coal and natural resources properties and the related collection of royalties. The Partnership also earns revenues from other land management activities, such as selling standing timber, leasing coal-related infrastructure facilities, and collecting oil and gas royalties. This segment also included the Partnership’s 50% interest in Coal Handling, which owns and operates end-user coal handling facilities. The Partnership purchased the remaining 50% interest in these companies effective December 31, 2014.

**Corporate.** The Corporate segment comprises the Partnership’s corporate assets.

The Partnership accounts for intersegment revenues as if the revenues were to third parties, exclusive of certain cost of capital charges.

Management evaluates the performance of each segment and makes capital allocation decisions through the separate consideration of segment margin and operation and maintenance expenses. Segment margin, for the Gathering and Processing and the Natural Gas Transportation segments is defined as total revenues, including service fees, less cost of sales. In the Contract Services segment, segment margin is defined as revenues less direct costs. The Natural Resources segment margin is generally equal to total revenues

as there is typically minimal cost of sales associated with the management and leasing of properties.

Management believes segment margin is an important measure because it directly relates to volume, commodity price changes, and revenue generating horsepower. Operation and maintenance expenses are a separate measure used by management to evaluate performance of field operations. Direct labor, insurance, property taxes, repair and maintenance, utilities and contract services comprise the most significant portion of operation and maintenance expenses. These expenses fluctuate depending on the activities performed during a specific period. The Partnership does not deduct operation and maintenance expenses from total revenues in calculating segment margin because

management separately evaluates commodity volume and price changes in segment margin. The Partnership does not record segment margin for its investments in unconsolidated affiliates (HPC, MEP, Lone Star, Ranch JV, Aqua - PVR, Mi Vida JV and Sweeny JV) because it records its ownership percentages of their net income as income from unconsolidated affiliates in accordance with the equity method of accounting.

F- 39

---

Table of Contents

Results for each period, together with amounts related to each segment are shown below:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
External Revenue			
Gathering and Processing	\$4,570	\$2,287	\$1,797
Natural Gas Transportation	—	1	1
NGL Services	—	—	—
Contract Services	307	215	183
Natural Resources	58	—	—
Corporate	16	18	19
Eliminations	—	—	—
Total	\$4,951	\$2,521	\$2,000
Intersegment Revenue			
Gathering and Processing	\$—	\$—	\$—
Natural Gas Transportation	—	—	—
NGL Services	—	—	—
Contract Services	14	15	21
Natural Resources	—	—	—
Corporate	—	—	—
Eliminations	(14	) (15	) (21
Total	\$—	\$—	\$—
Cost of Sales			
Gathering and Processing	\$3,381	\$1,767	\$1,373
Natural Gas Transportation	—	—	(1
NGL Services	—	—	—
Contract Services	67	26	15
Natural Resources	—	—	—
Corporate	4	—	—
Eliminations	—	—	—
Total	\$3,452	\$1,793	\$1,387
Segment Margin			
Gathering and Processing	\$1,189	\$520	\$423
Natural Gas Transportation	—	1	2
NGL Services	—	—	—
Contract Services	254	204	189
Natural Resources	58	—	—
Corporate	12	18	20
Eliminations	(14	) (15	) (21
Total	\$1,499	\$728	\$613

Table of Contents

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Operation and Maintenance			
Gathering and Processing	\$360	\$237	\$183
Natural Gas Transportation	—	—	—
NGL Services	—	—	—
Contract Services	86	72	66
Natural Resources	12	—	—
Corporate	3	1	—
Eliminations	(13	) (14	) (21
Total	\$448	\$296	\$228
Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization			
Gathering and Processing	\$385	\$186	\$159
Natural Gas Transportation	—	—	—
NGL Services	—	—	—
Contract Services	134	98	86
Natural Resources	14	—	—
Corporate	8	3	7
Eliminations	—	—	—
Total	\$541	\$287	\$252
Income from Unconsolidated Affiliates			
Gathering and Processing	\$5	\$1	\$(10
Natural Gas Transportation	72	70	71
NGL Services	116	64	44
Contract Services	—	—	—
Natural Resources	2	—	—
Corporate	—	—	—
Eliminations	—	—	—
Total	\$195	\$135	\$105
Expenditures for Long-Lived Assets			
Gathering and Processing	\$700	\$721	\$395
Natural Gas Transportation	—	—	—
NGL Services	—	—	—
Contract Services	371	311	164
Natural Resources	—	—	—
Corporate	17	2	1
Eliminations	—	—	—
Total	\$1,088	\$1,034	\$560

Table of Contents

	December 31, 2014	2013	2012
Assets			
Gathering and Processing	\$12,069	\$4,748	\$4,210
Natural Gas Transportation	1,119	991	1,232
NGL Services	1,162	1,070	948
Contract Services	2,035	1,897	1,672
Natural Resources	529	—	—
Corporate	189	76	61
Eliminations	—	—	—
Total	\$17,103	\$8,782	\$8,123
Investments in Unconsolidated Affiliates			
Gathering and Processing	\$139	\$36	\$35
Natural Gas Transportation	1,117	991	1,231
NGL Services	1,162	1,070	948
Contract Services	—	—	—
Natural Resources	—	—	—
Corporate	—	—	—
Eliminations	—	—	—
Total	\$2,418	\$2,097	\$2,214
Goodwill			
Gathering and Processing <sup>(1)</sup>	\$732	\$651	\$651
Natural Gas Transportation	—	—	—
NGL Services	—	—	—
Contract Services	476	477	477
Natural Resources	15	—	—
Corporate	—	—	—
Eliminations	—	—	—
Total	\$1,223	\$1,128	\$1,128

(1) In 2014, the Partnership recorded a \$370 million impairment charge at the Permian reporting unit within this segment.

Table of Contents

The table below provides a reconciliation of total segment margin to (loss) income before income taxes:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Total segment margin	\$1,499	\$728	\$613
Operation and maintenance	(448)	) (296	) (228)
General and administrative	(158)	) (88	) (100)
Gain (loss) on assets sales, net	1	(2	) (3)
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	(541)	) (287	) (252)
Goodwill impairment	(370)	) —	—
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	195	135	105
Interest expense, net	(304)	) (164	) (122)
Loss on debt refinancing, net	(25)	) (7	) (8)
Other income and deductions, net	12	7	29
(Loss) income before income taxes	\$(139	) \$26	\$34

\* Other income and deductions, net for the year ended December 31, 2012, included a one-time producer payment of \$16 million related to an assignment of certain contracts.

#### 17. EQUITY-BASED COMPENSATION

In December 2011, the Partnership's unitholders approved the Regency Energy Partners LP 2011 Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "2011 Incentive Plan"), which provides for awards of options to purchase the Partnership's common units; awards of the Partnership's restricted units, phantom units and common units; awards of distribution equivalent rights; awards of common unit appreciation rights; and other unit-based awards to employees, directors and consultants of the Partnership and its affiliates and subsidiaries. The 2011 Incentive Plan will be administered by the Compensation Committee of the board of directors, which may, in its sole discretion, delegate its powers and duties under the 2011 Incentive Plan to the Chief Executive Officer. Up to 3,000,000 of the Partnership's common units may be granted as awards under the 2011 Incentive Plan, with such amount subject to adjustment as provided for under the terms of the 2011 Incentive Plan.

The 2011 Incentive Plan may be amended or terminated at any time by the board of directors or the Compensation Committee without the consent of any participant or unitholder, including an amendment to increase the number of common units available for awards under the plan; however, any material amendment, such as a change in the types of awards available under the plan, would require the approval of the unitholders of the Partnership. The Compensation Committee is also authorized to make adjustments in the terms and conditions of, and the criteria included in awards under the 2011 Incentive Plan in specified circumstances. The 2011 Incentive Plan is effective until December 19, 2021 or, if earlier, the time at which all available units under the 2011 Incentive Plan have been issued to participants or the time of termination of the plan by the board of directors.

Unit-based compensation expense of \$10 million, \$7 million, and \$5 million is recorded in general and administrative expense in the statement of operations for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

**Common Unit Options.** The fair value of each option award is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes Option Pricing Model. Upon the exercise of the common unit options, the Partnership intends to settle these obligations with new issues of common units on a net basis. The common unit options activity for the year ended December 31, 2014 is as follows:

Common Unit Options	Units	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Outstanding at the beginning of period	142,550	\$22.04
Exercised	(34,900	) 20.03
Outstanding at end of period	107,650	22.68
Exercisable at the end of the period	107,650	

The common unit options have an intrinsic value of less than \$1 million related to non-vested units with a weighted average contractual term of 1.5 years. Intrinsic value is the closing market price of a common unit less the option



strike price, multiplied by the number of unit options outstanding as of the end of the period presented. Unit options with an exercise price greater than the end of the period closing market price are excluded.

F- 43

---

Table of Contents

Phantom Units. During 2014, the Partnership awarded 1,450,230 phantom units to senior management and certain key employees. These awards are service condition (time-based) grants that vest 60% after the third year of continued employment and 40% after the fifth year of continued employment. Distributions on the phantom units will be paid concurrent with the Partnership's distribution for common units.

During 2013, the Partnership awarded 62,360 phantom units to senior management and certain key employees. These awards are service condition (time-based) grants that generally vest 60% after the third year of continued employment and 40% after the fifth year of continued employment. Distributions on the phantom units will be paid concurrent with the Partnership's distribution for common units.

In December 2012, the Partnership awarded 495,375 phantom units to senior management and certain key employees. These awards are service condition (time-based) grants that vest 60% after the third year of continued employment and 40% after the fifth year of continued employment. Also during 2012, 8,250 phantom units were awarded to senior management and key employees as service condition (time-based) grants that generally vest ratably over a 5 year period. Distributions on the phantom units will be paid concurrent with the Partnership's distribution for common units.

The following table presents phantom unit activity for the year ended December 31, 2014:

Phantom Units	Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Outstanding at the beginning of the period	982,242	\$23.16
Service condition grants	1,450,230	25.24
Vested service condition	(183,380	) 25.25
Forfeited service condition	(81,373	) 24.83
Total outstanding at end of period	2,167,719	24.31

During the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, the weighted average grant date fair value per phantom unit granted was \$25.24, \$25.44, and \$21.39, respectively. The total fair value of awards vested was \$5 million, \$6 million, and \$5 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively, based on the market price of Regency common units as of the vesting date.

The Partnership expects to recognize \$42 million of unit-based compensation expense related to non-vested phantom units over a period of 3.9 years.

Cash Restricted Units. The Partnership began granting cash restricted units in 2014. These awards are service condition (time-based) grants of notional units that vest 100% after the third year of continued employment. A cash restricted unit entitles the award recipient to receive cash equal to the market price of one Regency common unit as of the vesting date.

The following table presents cash restricted unit activity for the year ended December 31, 2014:

Cash Restricted Units	Units
Outstanding at the beginning of the period	—
Service condition grants	400,928
Vested service condition	(500
Forfeited service condition	(21,100
Total outstanding at end of period	379,328

Based on the trading price of Regency common units at December 31, 2014, the Partnership expects to recognize \$7 million of unit-based compensation expense related to non-vested cash restricted units over a period of 2.5 years.



Table of Contents**18. CONSOLIDATING GUARANTOR FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

ELG, Aqua - PVR, and ORS do not fully and unconditionally guarantee, on a joint and several basis, the Senior Notes issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2014, by the Partnership and Finance Corp. Included in the Parent financial statements are the Partnership's intercompany investments in all consolidated subsidiaries and the Partnership's investments in unconsolidated affiliates. ELG, Aqua - PVR, and ORS are included in the non-guarantor subsidiaries.

The consolidating financial information for the Parent, Guarantor Subsidiaries, and Non Guarantor Subsidiaries are as follows:

	December 31, 2014				
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated Partnership
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Cash	\$—	\$—	\$ 32	\$(8 )	\$24
All other current assets	—	667	13	(1 )	679
Property, plant, and equipment, net	—	8,948	353	(84 )	9,217
Investments in subsidiaries	19,829	—	—	(19,829 )	—
Investments in unconsolidated affiliates	—	2,252	—	166	2,418
All other assets	—	4,765	—	—	4,765
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$19,829</b>	<b>\$16,632</b>	<b>\$ 398</b>	<b>\$(19,756 )</b>	<b>\$17,103</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL AND NONCONTROLLING INTEREST</b>					
All other current liabilities	—	723	34	(1 )	756
Long-term liabilities	5,185	1,575	6	(4 )	6,762
Noncontrolling interest	—	—	—	120	120
Total partners' capital and noncontrolling interest	14,644	14,334	358	(19,871 )	9,465
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL AND NONCONTROLLING INTEREST</b>	<b>\$19,829</b>	<b>\$16,632</b>	<b>\$ 398</b>	<b>\$(19,756 )</b>	<b>\$17,103</b>

Table of Contents

	December 31, 2013				
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated Partnership
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Cash	\$—	\$—	\$ 19	\$—	\$19
All other current assets	—	366	15	—	381
Property, plant, and equipment, net	—	4,244	174	—	4,418
Investments in subsidiaries	10,446	—	—	(10,446 )	—
Investments in unconsolidated affiliates	—	1,995	—	102	2,097
All other assets	—	1,867	—	—	1,867
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$10,446</b>	<b>\$8,472</b>	<b>\$ 208</b>	<b>\$(10,344 )</b>	<b>\$8,782</b>

**LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL  
AND NONCONTROLLING INTEREST**

All other current liabilities	—	466	9	—	475
Long-term liabilities	2,832	559	—	—	3,391
Noncontrolling interest	—	—	—	102	102
Total partners' capital and noncontrolling interest	7,614	7,447	199	(10,446 )	4,814
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL AND NONCONTROLLING INTEREST</b>	<b>\$10,446</b>	<b>\$8,472</b>	<b>\$ 208</b>	<b>\$(10,344 )</b>	<b>\$8,782</b>

	For the year ended December 31, 2014				
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated Partnership
Revenues	\$—	\$4,888	\$ 66	\$(3 )	\$4,951
Operating costs, expenses, and other	—	4,942	35	(9 )	4,968
Operating (loss) income	—	(54 )	31	6	(17 )
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	—	195	—	—	195
Interest expense, net	(290 )	(14 )	—	—	(304 )
Loss on debt refinancing, net	(24 )	(1 )	—	—	(25 )
Equity in consolidated subsidiaries	166	—	—	(166 )	—
Other income and deductions, net	3	9	—	—	12
(Loss) income before income taxes	(145 )	135	31	(160 )	(139 )
Income tax expense (benefit)	4	(2 )	1	—	3
Net (loss) income	(149 )	137	30	(160 )	(142 )
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest	—	—	—	(15 )	(15 )
Net (loss) income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	\$(149 )	\$137	\$ 30	\$(175 )	\$(157 )
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>
Comprehensive (loss) income	(149 )	137	30	(160 )	(142 )
Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interest	—	—	—	15	15
Comprehensive (loss) income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	\$(149 )	\$137	\$ 30	\$(175 )	\$(157 )

F- 46

---

Table of Contents

	For the year ended December 31, 2013				
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated Partnership
Revenues	\$—	\$2,489	\$ 32	\$—	\$2,521
Operating costs, expenses, and other	3	2,448	15	—	2,466
Operating (loss) income	(3	) 41	17	—	55
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	—	135	—	—	135
Interest expense, net	(148	) (16	) —	—	(164
Loss on debt refinancing, net	(7	) —	—	—	(7
Equity in consolidated subsidiaries	172	—	—	(172	) —
Other income and deductions, net	7	—	—	—	7
Income before income taxes	21	160	17	(172	) 26
Income tax expense (benefit)	1	(2	) —	—	(1
Net income	20	162	17	(172	) 27
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest	—	(8	) —	—	(8
Net income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	\$20	\$154	\$ 17	\$(172	) \$19
Total other comprehensive income	\$—	\$—	\$ —	\$—	\$—
Comprehensive income	20	162	17	(172	) 27
Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interest	—	8	—	—	8
Comprehensive income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	\$20	\$154	\$ 17	\$(172	) \$19

Table of Contents

	For the year ended December 31, 2012					
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated Partnership	
Revenues	\$—	\$1,985	\$ 15	\$—	\$2,000	
Operating costs, expenses, and other	10	1,951	9	—	1,970	
Operating (loss) income	(10	) 34	6	—	30	
Income from unconsolidated affiliates	—	105	—	—	105	
Interest expense, net	(104	) (18	) —	—	(122	)
Gain (loss) on debt refinancing, net	(8	) —	—	—	(8	)
Equity in consolidated subsidiaries	141	—	—	(141	) —	
Other income and deductions, net	14	15	—	—	29	
Income before income taxes	33	136	6	(141	) 34	
Income tax expense (benefit)	1	(1	) —	—	—	
Net income	32	137	6	(141	) 34	
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest	—	(2	) —	—	(2	)
Net income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	\$32	\$135	\$ 6	\$(141	) \$32	
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	\$—	\$2	\$ —	\$—	\$2	
Comprehensive income	32	139	6	(141	) 36	
Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interest	—	2	—	—	2	
Comprehensive income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	\$32	\$137	\$ 6	\$(141	) \$34	
	For the year ended December 31, 2014					
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated Partnership	
Cash flows from operating activities	\$—	\$664	\$ 56	\$(1	) \$719	
Cash flows from investing activities	—	(2,130	) (30	) (9	) (2,169	)
Cash flows from financing activities	—	1,466	(13	) 2	1,455	
Change in cash	—	—	13	(8	) 5	
Cash at beginning of period	—	—	19	—	19	
Cash at end of period	\$—	\$—	\$ 32	\$(8	) \$24	
	For the year ended December 31, 2013					
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated Partnership	
Cash flows from operating activities	\$—	\$424	\$ 12	\$—	\$436	
Cash flows from investing activities	—	(1,303	) (90	) —	(1,393	)
Cash flows from financing activities	—	879	44	—	923	
Change in cash	—	—	(34	) —	(34	)
Cash at beginning of period	—	—	53	—	53	
Cash at end of period	\$—	\$—	\$ 19	\$—	\$19	



Table of Contents

	For the year ended December 31, 2012				
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated Partnership
Cash flows from operating activities	\$—	\$316	\$ 8	\$—	\$324
Cash flows from investing activities	—	(746 )	(61 )	—	(807 )
Cash flows from financing activities	—	430	105	—	535
Change in cash	—	—	52	—	52
Cash at beginning of period	—	—	1	—	1
Cash at end of period	\$—	\$—	\$ 53	\$—	\$53

## 19. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)

	Quarter Ended			
	December 31	September 30	June 30	March 31
2014				
Operating revenues	\$1,427	\$1,483	\$1,178	\$863
Operating (loss) income	(218 )	144	35	22
Net (loss) income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	(261 )	103	(8 )	9
Earnings per common units:				
Basic net (loss) income per common unit	(0.67 )	0.23	(0.05 )	0.00
Diluted net (loss) income per common unit	(0.67 )	0.23	(0.05 )	0.00
	Quarter Ended			
	December 31	September 30	June 30	March 31
2013				
Operating revenues	\$677	\$665	\$639	\$540
Operating income (loss)	12	24	34	(15 )
Net (loss) income attributable to Regency Energy Partners LP	(1 )	39	10	(29 )
Earnings per common units:				
Basic net (loss) income per common unit	(0.03 )	0.16	0.07	(0.06 )
Diluted net (loss) income per common unit	(0.03 )	0.05	0.07	(0.06 )
The three months ended December 31, 2014 includes a \$370 million goodwill impairment charge recorded related to the Permian reporting unit within the Gathering and Processing segment.				