

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT  
(TO PROSPECTUS DATED JUNE 30, 2000)

LOGO  
4,000,000 COMMON UNITS

EL PASO ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.  
REPRESENTING LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS  
\$23.00 PER UNIT  
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We are selling 4,000,000 common units with this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The underwriters named in this prospectus supplement may purchase up to 600,000 additional common units from us under certain circumstances.

The common units are listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "EPN." The last reported sale price of the common units on the New York Stock Exchange on July 24, 2000, was \$23.00 per unit.

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INVESTING IN THE COMMON UNITS INVOLVES CERTAIN RISKS. LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS ARE INHERENTLY DIFFERENT FROM CAPITAL STOCK OF A CORPORATION. SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 1 OF THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS.

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

	PER UNIT	TOTAL
	-----	-----
Public Offering Price	\$23.00	\$92,000,000
Underwriting Discount	\$ 0.98	\$ 3,910,000
Proceeds to El Paso Energy Partners, L.P. (before expenses)	\$22.02	\$88,090,000

The underwriters are offering the common units subject to various conditions. The underwriters expect to deliver the common units to purchasers on or about July 28, 2000.

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SALOMON SMITH BARNEY  
GOLDMAN, SACHS & CO.  
PAINWEBBER INCORPORATED  
DONALDSON, LUFKIN & JENRETTE

July 25, 2000

[SYSTEM MAP/GRAPHICS]

[Note: Prospectus supplement cover to be a foldout -- Double page will be map and single page will be selected photographs with captions.]

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YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT, THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS AND THE DOCUMENTS WE HAVE INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE. WE HAVE NOT AUTHORIZED ANYONE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DIFFERENT INFORMATION. WE ARE NOT MAKING AN OFFER OF THESE SECURITIES IN ANY STATE WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED. YOU SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT OR THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS, AS WELL AS THE INFORMATION WE PREVIOUSLY FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION THAT IS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE HEREIN, IS ACCURATE AS OF ANY DATE OTHER THAN ITS RESPECTIVE DATE.

## PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights some basic information from this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to help you understand the common units. It likely does not contain all the information that is important to you. You should carefully read the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the other documents incorporated by reference to understand fully the terms of the common units, as well as the tax and other considerations that are important to you in making your investment decision. You should pay special attention to the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page 1 of the accompanying prospectus to determine whether an investment in the common units is appropriate for you. For purposes of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, unless the context otherwise indicates, when we refer to "us," "we," "our," "ours" or the "Partnership," we are describing ourselves, El Paso Energy Partners, L.P., together with our subsidiaries.

## EL PASO ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

## WHO WE ARE

We are one of the largest publicly-traded master limited partnerships. Formed in 1993, we provide midstream energy services, including gathering, transportation and other related activities, for producers of natural gas and oil. We are a leading independent provider of gathering, transportation and other related midstream energy services in the deeper water regions of the Gulf of Mexico, one of the world's fastest growing natural gas producing regions. According to the Minerals Management Service, the Gulf of Mexico accounted for more than 25% of domestic natural gas production during 1999. In addition, we have recently begun acquiring onshore midstream assets and operations, and expect to acquire similar assets and operations in the future. Strategically, we focus on acquiring and developing midstream assets that exhibit stable cash flows, offer high growth potential and can benefit from synergies with our general partner. Our investment objective is to increase the value of our limited and general partnership interests by acquiring and developing a diversified set of offshore and onshore midstream energy assets in order to consistently grow our cash flow and increase distributions to our unitholders.

We believe our Gulf of Mexico assets are well-positioned to maintain a stable base of operations and will continue to provide significant internal growth opportunities. These assets should allow us to compete for the gathering and transportation of newly discovered natural gas and oil production in our areas of service, especially in the deeper water regions, regions with water depths in excess of 600 feet. Either directly or through joint ventures, we own interests in operating natural gas and oil pipelines, platforms and other energy-related infrastructure assets, including:

- nine offshore and one onshore natural gas pipeline systems;
- two offshore crude oil systems;
- six multi-purpose fixed leg offshore platforms; and
- producing and non-producing oil and natural gas properties.

In November 1999, we announced a new strategy to acquire a diversified set of onshore midstream assets to complement the growth in our core offshore pipeline and platform business. As a result, we have begun acquiring onshore assets that fit our investment profile of stable cash flows and expansion potential. These transactions include the March 2000 acquisition of a 450-mile natural gas pipeline system located in Alabama and the proposed acquisition of natural gas storage facilities located in Mississippi. In addition to these acquisitions, we are constructing and installing a multi-purpose tension leg platform, or TLP, including production processing, handling and transportation facilities in the Prince Field, and an offshore natural gas pipeline system in the Green Canyon area.

## OUR GENERAL PARTNER

El Paso Energy Corporation, the largest natural gas pipeline company in North America in terms of throughput and miles of pipeline, holds an effective 34.5% interest in us and manages our day-to-day operations and our strategic direction through its indirect ownership of our general partner. El Paso Energy acquired its interest in us in August 1998 to strategically access the new natural gas reserves being developed in the deeper water regions of the Gulf of Mexico and to use us as a growth vehicle for its offshore midstream energy operations. We are now one of El Paso Energy's primary growth vehicles for acquiring and developing midstream offshore and onshore energy infrastructure assets and providing related services and solutions. We expect our growth to occur through the construction of new facilities and the acquisition of existing facilities, including through additional contributions and acquisitions from El Paso Energy and its affiliates. We also believe that, through our affiliation with El Paso Energy, we have realized substantial synergies that have improved our profitability and broadened our strategic growth opportunities.

With over \$19 billion in assets, El Paso Energy is engaged through its subsidiaries and affiliates in the interstate and intrastate transportation, gathering, processing and storage of natural gas; the marketing of natural gas, power and other energy-related commodities; the generation of power; the development and operation of energy infrastructure facilities worldwide; and the domestic exploration and production of oil and natural gas. El Paso Energy has a substantial and diverse nationwide portfolio of energy assets and operations, including the only integrated coast-to-coast natural gas pipeline system in the U.S. and El Paso Field Services Company, one of the largest transporters, gatherers and processors of natural gas in the U.S. With interests in over 40,000 miles of intrastate and interstate pipelines, this network connects the nation's principal natural gas supply regions to the five largest consuming regions in the U.S.: the Gulf Coast, California, the Northeast, the Midwest and the Southeast. In May 2000, the stockholders of both El Paso Energy and The Coastal Corporation overwhelmingly voted in favor of matters relating to merging the two organizations to form one of the world's leading integrated energy companies, with total assets in excess of \$35 billion. The completion of that merger is subject to the satisfaction of customary conditions to closing, including regulatory approvals.

Our principal executive office is located at the El Paso Energy Building, 1001 Louisiana Street, 26th Floor, Houston, Texas, 77002. Our telephone number is (713) 420-2131.

## BUSINESS STRATEGY

## OVERVIEW

Our objective is to operate as a growth-oriented master limited partnership with a focus on increasing our cash flow and distributions to our partners. Our strategy is to combine our position as a leading independent provider of midstream services in the deeper water regions of the Gulf of Mexico with an aggressive effort to acquire and develop diversified onshore midstream energy assets. We intend to deemphasize our commodity-based activities, such as exploration and production operations, in the future and concentrate on fee-based operations, which provide more stable cash flows. We will continue to pursue opportunities in the deeper water regions of the Gulf of Mexico as a key component of our business strategy; however, we also expect a substantial portion of our growth to relate to onshore activities and operations. We intend to execute our business strategy by:

- expanding our existing Gulf of Mexico assets further into the deeper water regions through projects supported by new discoveries and long-term commitments, by:
  - constructing new pipelines and gathering systems, as well as expanding the capacity of our existing infrastructure;
  - constructing platforms at strategically located points to act as multi-purpose hubs and to attract incremental supplies to our network of pipelines; and
  - using excess capacity in our offshore assets to attract new throughput at low incremental costs;

- purchasing or constructing onshore pipelines, gathering systems, storage facilities and other midstream assets to provide a broad range of fee-based services to producers, marketers and users of energy products; and
- leveraging the significant nationwide asset base and operational expertise of El Paso Energy.

#### RECENT OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

As part of our business strategy we have taken the following recent actions:

Proposed \$170 million acquisition of strategically located natural gas storage facilities from an affiliate of El Paso Energy

In July 2000, we entered into a letter of intent to acquire the salt dome natural gas storage businesses of Crystal Gas Storage, Inc., a subsidiary of El Paso Energy. In exchange for the contribution of these businesses to us, we would issue to Crystal \$170.0 million, subject to adjustment, of a new series of non-voting, perpetual limited partner interests that do not obligate us to pay cash distributions until 2010. These businesses, the Petal and Hattiesburg natural gas storage facilities located in Mississippi, are well situated to serve the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast natural gas markets. On a combined basis, these storage facilities currently have a working gas capacity of 6.7 billion cubic feet, or Bcf, that delivers in excess of 670.0 million cubic feet, or Mmcf, per day of natural gas into three interstate pipelines, including pipelines owned by Koch Gateway Pipeline, Transco and an affiliate of El Paso Energy, Tennessee Gas Pipeline. A 6.8 Bcf expansion is underway at these facilities, all of which is contractually dedicated for the next 20 years to a subsidiary of Southern Company, the largest producer of electricity in the U.S. If we complete the acquisition, we plan to expand these facilities by an additional 11.3 Bcf, for a total of 24.8 Bcf, of working gas capacity. Additional expansions could increase the working gas capacity of these facilities to 66.7 Bcf. Each of the Petal and Hattiesburg facilities is capable of making deliveries at the high rates necessary to satisfy peaking requirements in the electric generation industry, an industry whose natural gas demand is projected to grow at a faster rate than any other gas consuming group over the next 15 years. The consummation of this acquisition is subject to customary conditions, including negotiating definitive agreements and obtaining approval from third parties and applicable governmental authorities. We expect this acquisition to be accretive to our distributable cash flow per unit.

Commitment of Prince Field production to platform and facilities under construction

In October 1999, we farmed out our interest in the Prince Field to El Paso Production GOM, Inc., an indirect subsidiary of El Paso Energy, which has expanded the size and scope of its development plan for the Prince Field based on information obtained from four successful delineation wells. Under the farmout agreement, we own an approximate 9.0% net overriding royalty interest in the Prince Field. In March 2000, we entered into a letter of intent with El Paso Production covering production from the Prince Field. As contemplated by the letter of intent, El Paso Production would commit all of the natural gas and oil it produces from the Prince Field to a TLP and the related pipelines and separating and handling facilities that we would install by July 2001 in the Ewing Bank 958 Unit. El Paso Production would pay us a fixed monthly demand charge beginning upon installation of our TLP, as well as a commodity charge for the natural gas, oil and water produced from the Prince Field. In addition, El Paso Production would use other existing pipelines, including our Poseidon and Manta Ray Offshore joint venture systems, to transport the Prince Field production from our TLP to shore. The TLP and its related facilities, which together may be moved to alternate locations in water depths up to 6,000 feet, initially will be capable of handling up to 50,000 barrels per day of oil and 80.0 Mmcf per day of natural gas. We estimate the TLP and its related facilities to cost a total of \$140.0 million. We intend to finance \$95.0 million of this amount on a limited recourse basis. The consummation of the transactions contemplated by this letter of intent are subject to the negotiation of definitive agreements.

#### East Breaks pipeline system

In June 2000, we placed our East Breaks joint venture system in service in depths reaching 4,800 feet, making it one of the deepest pipelines in the Gulf of Mexico. This system consists of 85 miles of 18 to 20-inch diameter pipeline with current capacity of 400.0 Mmcf per day and transports natural gas from two new deep water discoveries, the Diana and Hoover Fields (owned by ExxonMobil and BP Amoco PLC), to our HIOS joint venture system. We can expand the capacity of the East Breaks system to accommodate additional production associated with other existing and expected developments in the surrounding deeper water areas.

#### Acquisition of 450-mile natural gas pipeline system in Alabama

In March 2000, we acquired a natural gas pipeline system in the coal seam producing regions of Alabama from a subsidiary of El Paso Energy for \$26.5 million in cash. El Paso Energy acquired this system in its October 1999 merger with Sonat Inc. The system consists of over 450 miles of pipeline and has a current throughput of approximately 160.0 Mmcf per day of natural gas from 27 producers. The largest producer on the system is El Paso Production Company, which is conducting an aggressive coal bed methane development drilling plan. We expect this acquisition to be accretive to our distributable cash flow per unit.

#### RECENT FINANCING DEVELOPMENTS

##### Credit Facilities

In June 2000, we amended our existing senior secured revolving credit facility, increasing the facility to \$500.0 million from \$375.0 million, with availability based upon historical cash flow. This credit facility allows us to pursue the increasing number of internal growth opportunities in the Gulf of Mexico and to implement our acquisition growth strategy. Specifically, the additional borrowing capacity will be used to expand our offshore and onshore infrastructure through acquisitions and construction.

To finance a substantial portion of the estimated \$140.0 million total cost of the TLP, pipelines and other facilities that we plan to install in the Prince Field, we expect to obtain a \$95.0 million limited recourse project finance loan from a group of commercial lenders. Accordingly, we have entered into a commitment letter regarding the syndication of a construction loan that would be convertible into a term loan upon completion of the construction project. The term loan would then be payable in equal quarterly installments and mature five years after completion of the project. The consummation of the financing contemplated by this commitment letter is subject to several conditions, including obtaining third party consents, negotiating definitive agreements and finalizing due diligence.

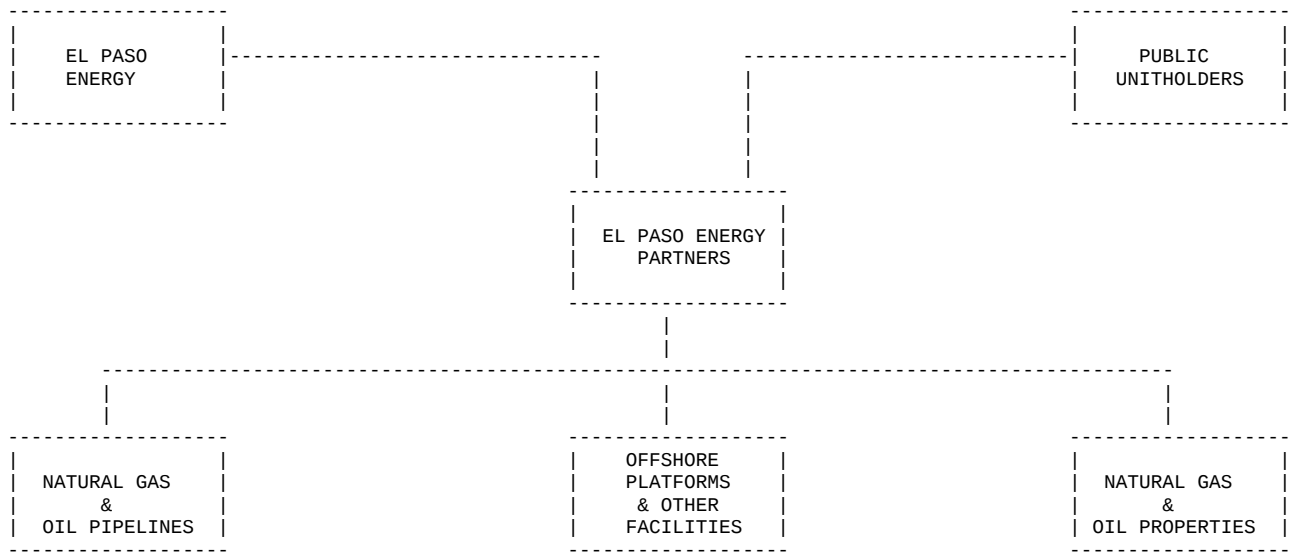
##### Conversion of Preference Units and Intent to Redeem

Until August 7, 2000, the holders of our 289,699 outstanding preference units have the right to convert their preference units into an equal number of common units. This is the third and final conversion opportunity that has been offered to the holders of preference units. After August 7, 2000, we will have the right to redeem all of the outstanding preference units for \$10.25 in cash per unit. We intend to redeem all remaining preference units before December 31, 2000.

## OUR STRUCTURE

El Paso Energy Partners Company, our sole general partner and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of El Paso Energy, manages our activities and conducts our business. Through our general partner, we utilize the employees of, and management services provided by, El Paso Energy and its affiliates under a management agreement. The following chart depicts our ownership structure after giving effect to the transactions described in this prospectus supplement.

[Chart]



## OWNERSHIP

- Allegheny	100.0%
- El Paso Alabama	100.0%
- Green Canyon	100.0%
- Tarpon	100.0%
- Viosca Knoll	99.0%(3)
- East Breaks	50.0%
- HIOS	50.0%
- Stingray	50.0%
- UTOS	50.0%
- Poseidon	36.0%
- Nemo	33.9%(7)
- Manta Ray Offshore	25.7%
- Nautilus	25.7%

## OWNERSHIP

- East Cameron Block 373	100.0%
- Ewing Bank Block 1003	100.0%(4)
- Ship Shoal Block 331	100.0%
- Ship Shoal Block 332	100.0%
- South Timbalier Block 292	100.0%
- Viosca Knoll Block 817	100.0%
- Garden Banks Block 72	50.0%
- West Cameron Dehy	50.0%

## OWNERSHIP

- Viosca Knoll Block 817	100.0%
- Garden Banks Block 72	50.0%
- Garden Banks Block 117	50.0%
- West Delta Block 35	38.8%
- Prince Field	9.0%(5)
- Garden Banks Block 73	2.5%(6)

(1) Represents ownership interest after giving effect to the offering, assuming the underwriters do not exercise their over-allotment option. Prior to the consummation of this offering, El Paso Energy has a 34.5% effective interest in us and 65.5% is held publicly.

(2) El Paso Energy Partners Company, a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of El Paso Energy, is our general partner. El Paso Energy's 30.3% effective interest in us, which is held by our general partner and its affiliates, includes a 1.0% general partner interest, a 28.3% limited partner interest comprised of 8,953,764 common units, and a 1.0% non-managing member interest in substantially all of our subsidiaries. If we consummate the acquisition of the Crystal natural gas storage businesses, we will issue \$170.0 million, subject to adjustment, of a new series of non-voting, perpetual limited partnership interests to Crystal, a subsidiary of El Paso Energy.

(3) The remaining 1.0% interest in Viosca Knoll is held by El Paso Energy. We intend to acquire this remaining 1.0% from El Paso Energy before December 31, 2000.

(4) Currently under construction in the Prince Field.

(5) Overriding royalty interest convertible into a 30% undivided working interest.

(6) Overriding royalty interest.

(7) Currently under construction in the Green Canyon area.



## THE OFFERING

Securities offered..... 4,000,000 common units  
 4,600,000 common units if the underwriters exercise  
 in full their over-allotment option

	NUMBER OF UNITS	PERCENT OF TOTAL
	-----	-----
Units to be outstanding after the offering.....		
Common Units.....	30,739,065	99.1%
Preference Units.....	289,699	0.9%
	-----	-----
	31,028,764	100.0%
	=====	=====

If the underwriters exercise in full their over-allotment option, we will issue an additional 600,000 common units, which will result in 31,339,065 common units outstanding representing a 99.1% interest and 289,699 preference units outstanding representing a 0.9% interest.

Use of proceeds..... We estimate that we will receive approximately \$87.2 million from the sale of the common units, or \$100.5 million if the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full, in each case, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and offering expenses. We plan to use the net proceeds from this offering, including any from the exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option, to temporarily reduce indebtedness under our revolving credit facility. We may reborrow funds available under our revolving credit facility in the future for general business purposes, including expanding our offshore and onshore infrastructure through acquisitions and construction.

New York Stock Exchange  
 symbol..... EPN

## TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The tax consequences to you of an investment in common units will depend in part on your own tax circumstances. For a discussion of the principal federal income tax considerations associated with our operations and the purchase, ownership and disposition of units, see "Income Tax Considerations" beginning on page 30 of the accompanying prospectus. You should consult your own tax advisor about the federal, state and local tax consequences peculiar to your circumstances.

We estimate that if you purchase a common unit in this offering and hold the unit through the record date for the distribution with respect to the final calendar quarter of 2002 (assuming quarterly distributions on the common units with respect to that period are equal to the current quarterly distribution rate of \$0.5375 per common unit), you will be allocated an amount of federal taxable income for that period that is less than or equal to approximately 30% of the amount of cash distributed to you with respect to that period.

This estimate is based upon many assumptions regarding our business and operations, including assumptions as to tariffs, capital expenditures, cash flows and anticipated cash distributions. This estimate and the assumptions are subject to, among other things, numerous business, economic, regulatory and competitive uncertainties beyond our control and to certain tax reporting positions that we have adopted. The Internal Revenue Service could disagree with our tax reporting positions, including estimates of the relative fair market values of our assets and the validity of curative allocations. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that the estimate will be correct. The actual percentage of distributions that will constitute taxable income could be higher or lower, and any differences could be material.

Ownership of common units by tax-exempt entities, regulated investment companies and foreign investors raises issues unique to such persons. See "Income Tax Considerations -- Tax Exempt Organizations and Certain Other Investors" in the accompanying prospectus.

## SUMMARY OF RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the discussion of risks beginning on page 1 of the accompanying prospectus and the other information included in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the other documents incorporated by reference prior to investing in our common units. Some of the risks discussed include:

- Our ability to distribute cash to you depends on factors out of our control, including the continuation of distributions from our joint ventures, declines in the market prices for natural gas and oil, increases in interest rates, the development and production of natural gas and oil reserves, and the rates for, and volume of, production that we handle.
- Our substantial indebtedness could adversely restrict our ability to operate, affect our financial condition and prevent us from making distributions to you.
- Potential future acquisitions and expansions may adversely affect our business by increasing our risks of being unable to effectively integrate these new operations and substantially increasing the level of our indebtedness and contingent liabilities.
- We cannot cause our joint ventures to take or not to take certain actions unless some or all of our joint venture partners agree.
- Our actual project costs could exceed our forecast, and our cash flow from projects may not be immediate.
- You will have limited voting rights and will not control our general partner, we may issue additional securities, diluting your interests, and a change of control of our general partner may adversely affect you.
- El Paso Energy and its affiliates have conflicts of interest with us and, accordingly, you.
- Our partnership agreement purports to limit our general partner's fiduciary duties and certain other obligations relating to us.
- Our general partner and its affiliates may sell units or other limited partner interests in the trading market, which could reduce the market price of your securities.
- Your tax liability resulting from an investment in our limited partner interests could exceed any cash you receive as a distribution from us or the proceeds from dispositions of those securities.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

We expect that we will receive approximately \$87.2 million from the sale of our common units, or \$100.5 million if the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full, in each case, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and offering expenses.

We plan to use the net proceeds from this offering, including any from the exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option, to temporarily reduce indebtedness under our revolving credit facility. We may reborrow funds available under our revolving credit facility in the future for general business purposes, including expanding our offshore and onshore infrastructure through acquisitions and construction.

As of June 30, 2000, we had \$369.0 million outstanding under our revolving credit facility bearing interest at an average floating rate of 9.3% per annum with a final maturity of May 2002. Over the past 12 months, we used proceeds from our revolving credit facility for general business purposes, including acquiring and constructing pipelines, platforms and related infrastructure facilities and funding working capital.

## CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth our unaudited consolidated capitalization on a historical basis as of March 31, 2000, and our unaudited consolidated capitalization as adjusted to reflect (1) the sale of the common units offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the application of the net proceeds (assuming the underwriters' over-allotment option is not exercised) to temporarily repay our indebtedness under our revolving credit facility and (2) the capital contribution by our general partner in order to maintain its 1% general partner interest in us as a result of issuing additional common units. See "Use of Proceeds" above. This table should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the notes to those financial statements that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	AS OF MARCH 31, 2000	
	ACTUAL	AS ADJUSTED
	(IN THOUSANDS)	
Long-term debt:		
Revolving credit facility.....	\$327,000	\$238,879
Senior subordinated notes due 2009.....	175,000	175,000
	-----	-----
Total long-term debt.....	502,000	413,879
Minority interest.....	(654)	(654)
Partners' capital.....	80,954	169,075
	-----	-----
Total capitalization.....	\$582,300	\$582,300
	=====	=====

## SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

The historical financial information for the three months ended March 31, 2000 and 1999, as of March 31, 2000 and 1999, for each of the three years ended December 31, 1999, 1998 and 1997, and as of December 31, 1999, 1998 and 1997, were derived from our historical consolidated financial statements and notes thereto incorporated into this prospectus supplement by reference. The historical financial information for the years ended December 31, 1996 and 1995 and as of December 31, 1996 and 1995, has been derived from our historical consolidated financial statements. We believe that all material adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments necessary for the fair presentation of our interim results, have been included. Results of operations for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations for the entire year due to the seasonal nature of our business.

	THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31,		YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
	2000	1999	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
	(UNAUDITED)						
	(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER UNIT AMOUNTS)						
<b>STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS:</b>							
Gathering, transportation and platform services.....	\$ 13,158	\$ 4,373	\$ 33,694	\$ 17,320	\$ 17,329	\$ 24,005	\$ 20,547
Oil and natural gas sales.....	5,792	6,805	29,965	31,411	58,106	47,068	1,858
Equity investment earnings.....	3,850	10,701	32,814	26,724	29,327	20,434	19,588
Total revenue.....	22,800	21,879	96,473	75,455	104,762	91,507	41,993
Operating expenses.....	3,080	5,724	22,402	27,558	26,013	17,608	11,161
Depreciation, depletion and amortization....	6,476	6,719	30,630	29,267	46,289	31,731	8,290
Impairment, abandonment and other.....	--	--	--	(1,131)	21,222	--	--
Total operating costs.....	9,556	12,443	53,032	55,694	93,524	49,339	19,451
Operating income.....	13,244	9,436	43,441	19,761	11,238	42,168	22,542
Interest income and other(1).....	82	103	10,461	771	1,475	1,710	1,884
Interest and other financing costs.....	(11,380)	(6,102)	(35,323)	(20,242)	(14,169)	(5,560)	(833)
Minority interest in (income) loss.....	(10)	(37)	(197)	(15)	7	(427)	(251)
Income (loss) before income taxes.....	1,936	3,400	18,382	275	(1,449)	37,891	23,342
Income tax benefit.....	3	99	435	471	311	801	603
Net income (loss).....	\$ 1,939	\$ 3,499	\$ 18,817	\$ 746	\$ (1,138)	\$ 38,692	\$ 23,945
Basic and diluted net income (loss) per unit.....	\$ (0.05)	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.02	\$ (0.06)	\$ 1.57	\$ 0.97
<b>CASH DISTRIBUTIONS DECLARED PER UNIT:</b>							
Preference unit.....	\$ 0.275	\$ 0.275	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.20
Common unit.....	\$ 0.525	\$ 0.525	\$ 2.10	\$ 2.10	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.20
<b>BALANCE SHEET DATA (AT END OF PERIOD):</b>							
Property and equipment, net.....	\$397,951	\$240,570	\$373,759	\$241,992	\$200,639	\$286,555	\$285,275
Equity investments.....	183,891	187,563	185,766	186,079	182,301	107,838	82,441
Total assets.....	610,688	443,240	583,585	442,726	409,842	453,526	398,696
Total debt.....	502,000	355,000	465,000	338,000	238,000	227,000	135,780
Partners' capital.....	80,954	70,924	96,489	82,896	143,966	192,023	186,841
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL DATA:</b>							
EBITDA(2).....	19,802	16,258	74,429	48,668	80,224	75,609	32,716
Distributions from equity investments.....	8,740	10,090	46,180	31,171	27,135	36,823	24,642
Non-cash items.....	(364)	364	3,869	--	--	--	--
Adjusted EBITDA(3).....	24,328	16,011	91,664	53,115	78,032	91,998	37,770
Net cash provided by operating activities....	20,453	10,016	50,760	25,677	67,485	50,179	74,886
Net cash used in investing activities.....	35,857	6,857	67,135	65,624	41,769	101,721	172,382
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities.....	19,348	104	17,469	36,625	(35,775)	52,525	95,580
Capital expenditures included in investing activities.....	35,577	6,492	113,579	66,111	41,957	101,721	173,632

(1) Includes, for the year ended December 31, 1999, \$10.1 million gain on sale of assets that is excluded from EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA for the year ended December 31, 1999.

(2) EBITDA is defined for this purpose as net income before depreciation, depletion and amortization, impairment, abandonment and other, interest and other financing costs, minority interests and income tax benefit. EBITDA is used as a supplemental financial measurement in the evaluation of our business and should not be considered as an alternative to net income as an indicator of our operating performance or as an alternative to cash flows from operating activities as a measure of liquidity. EBITDA may not be a comparable measurement among different companies.

(3) Adjusted EBITDA is defined for this purpose as EBITDA, less equity investment earnings, plus cash distributions from equity investments, and, as appropriate, other non-cash items. Because a significant portion of our cash flow comes from distributions from our unconsolidated joint ventures, we believe Adjusted EBITDA provides additional information which may be used

to better understand our operations. Adjusted EBITDA is used as a supplemental financial measurement in the evaluation of our business and should not be considered as an alternative to net income as an indicator of our operating performance or as an alternative to cash flows from operating activities as a measure of liquidity. Adjusted EBITDA may not be a comparable measurement among different companies.

## BUSINESS AND PROPERTIES

## OVERVIEW

We are one of the largest publicly-traded master limited partnerships. Formed in 1993, we provide midstream energy services, including gathering, transportation and other related activities, for producers of natural gas and oil. We are a leading independent provider of gathering, transportation and other related midstream energy services in the deeper water regions of the Gulf of Mexico, one of the world's fastest growing natural gas producing regions. According to the Minerals Management Service, the Gulf of Mexico accounted for more than 25% of domestic natural gas production during 1999. In addition, we have recently begun acquiring onshore midstream assets and operations. Strategically, we focus on acquiring and developing midstream assets that exhibit stable cash flows, offer high growth potential and can benefit from synergies with our general partner. Our investment objective is to increase the value of our limited and general partnership interests by acquiring and developing a diversified set of offshore and onshore midstream energy assets in order to consistently grow our cash flow and increase distributions to our unitholders.

Through our strategically-located network of wholly-owned and joint venture pipelines and other facilities and businesses, we believe we provide customers in our service areas in the Gulf of Mexico with an efficient and cost effective midstream alternative. Today, we offer some of these customers a unique single point of contact through which they may access a wide range of integrated or independent midstream services, including:

- gathering, transportation, production handling, dehydration, compression, pumping and other handling services for both natural gas and oil;
- access to platforms, compression and other infrastructure facilities;
- significant deeper water experience and expertise; and
- other related assets and services.

We also provide natural gas and oil producers operating in certain deeper water areas with relatively low-cost access to numerous onshore long-haul pipelines and, accordingly, multiple end-use markets. Additionally, our deep water experience and specialized expertise allow us to provide operational solutions to producers looking for economic improvements in their development activities. We have recently begun acquiring strategically positioned onshore assets that fit our investment profile of stable cash flows, expansion potential or both, including the March 2000 acquisition of a 450-mile natural gas pipeline system located in Alabama and the proposed acquisition of natural gas storage facilities in Mississippi.

## NATURAL GAS AND OIL PIPELINE SYSTEMS

## Our Pipeline Network

In the Gulf of Mexico, we provide our customers with gathering and transportation services and relatively low-cost access to multiple end-use markets. Our offshore pipeline and infrastructure network currently extends from the shoreline, through the flextrend, and up to and, in some areas, into the deep water in certain areas offshore Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. We conduct a large portion of our business through joint ventures or strategic alliances. We operate all the pipeline systems in which we own an interest except for three of our joint venture systems. Our Poseidon, Nautilus and Manta Ray Offshore systems are operated by unaffiliated companies. In addition, we and a subsidiary of Shell Oil Company are constructing a natural gas pipeline through a newly created joint venture, Nemo Gathering Company, LLC., which Shell will operate.

We believe that our key competitive advantages in the Gulf of Mexico are our integrated pipeline network extending into the deeper water regions, with excess capacity and existing long-term fixed-fee contracts with producers. Our natural gas gathering and transportation systems in the Gulf of Mexico

include almost 1,300 miles of pipeline with a capacity of 6.8 Bcf per day of natural gas and in excess of 100,000 horsepower of compression.

#### Deepwater Holdings Joint Venture

In June 1999, we acquired additional ownership interests in the HIOS, UTOS and East Breaks systems. In September 1999, we and ANR Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of Coastal, reorganized our interests in these and certain other pipeline systems through the formation of Deepwater Holdings, L.L.C. As a result of the reorganization, Deepwater Holdings owns 100 percent of the HIOS, UTOS, East Breaks and Stingray systems, as well as 100 percent of the West Cameron dehydration facility. We have a 50 percent ownership interest in Deepwater Holdings.

Our network of subsidiary and joint venture owned natural gas and crude oil pipelines is described in the following table.

PIPELINE SYSTEM	OWNERSHIP INTEREST	JV PARTNERS	IN-SERVICE DATE	CAPACITY(1)	AGGREGATE MILES OF PIPELINE	AVERAGE THROUGHPUT(1) FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,			
						1999		1998	
						GROSS	NET(2)	GROSS	NET(2)
OPERATED BY US:									
Allegheny.....	100.0%	--	1999	80	43	12	12	--	--
El Paso Alabama(4).....	100.0%	--	1972(5)	200	450	--	--	--	--
Green Canyon.....	100.0%	--	1990	220	68	90	90	139	139
Tarpon.....	100.0%	--	1978	80	40	44	44	66	66
Viosca Knoll(6).....	99.0%	El Paso Energy	1994	1,000	125	709	558	638	319(7)
East Breaks.....	50.0%	ANR Pipeline	2000	400	85	--	--	--	--
HIOS.....	50.0%	ANR Pipeline	1977	1,800	204	792	371	897	359(8)
Stingray.....	50.0%	ANR Pipeline	1975	1,120	417	608	304	691	346
UTOS.....	50.0%	ANR Pipeline	1978	1,200	30	401	186	513	171(9)
NOT OPERATED BY US(10):									
Poseidon.....	36.0%	TEXACO/EQUILON PIPELINE CO., Marathon	1996	400	288	169	61	97	35
Nemo(11).....	33.9%	SHELL/TEJAS ENERGY	--	400	24	--	--	--	--
Manta Ray Offshore.....	25.7%	Marathon, SHELL	1987/88/97	755	225	424	109	311	80
Nautilus.....	25.7%	Marathon, SHELL	1997	600	101	292	75	163	42

PIPELINE SYSTEM	TYPE(3)
OPERATED BY US:	
Allegheny.....	U
El Paso Alabama(4).....	U
Green Canyon.....	U
Tarpon.....	U
Viosca Knoll(6).....	U
East Breaks.....	U
HIOS.....	R
Stingray.....	R
UTOS.....	R
NOT OPERATED BY US(10):	
Poseidon.....	U
Nemo(11).....	U
Manta Ray Offshore.....	U
Nautilus.....	R

- (1) Measured in Mmcft per day except for Poseidon and Allegheny, which are measured in Mbbbls per day.
- (2) Represents throughput net to our interest. Measures are on a thousand dekatherms per day, or Mdth/d, basis except for the Poseidon and Allegheny systems are measured on a Mbbbls per day basis.
- (3) U -- unregulated; R -- regulated. Regulated pipelines are subject to extensive rate regulation by the FERC under the Natural Gas Act.
- (4) Acquired in March 2000.
- (5) Approximately.
- (6) We intend to acquire the remaining 1.0% interest in Viosca Knoll from El Paso Energy before December 31, 2000.
- (7) Represents throughput net to our 50.0% ownership interest during such period.
- (8) Represents throughput net to our 40.0% ownership interest during such period.
- (9) Represents throughput net to our 33.3% ownership interest during such period.
- (10) Operator in bold.
- (11) Expected to be placed in service in the third quarter of 2001.

#### OFFSHORE PLATFORMS AND RELATED FACILITIES

Our offshore platforms play a key role in the development of the natural gas and oil offshore pipeline network. Platforms are used to interconnect the offshore pipeline grid; to provide an efficient means to perform pipeline maintenance; to locate compression, separation, production handling and other

facilities; and during the initial development phase of a natural gas and oil property, to conduct drilling operations. In addition to numerous platforms owned by our joint ventures, we own six multi-purpose fixed leg platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, and we are constructing our TLP in the Prince Field. These multi-



purpose platforms are specifically designed to be used as deeper water hubs and production handling and pipeline maintenance facilities.

In areas we serve or desire to serve, we occasionally pursue opportunistic investments in pipelines, platforms, production handling facilities and other infrastructure assets. By providing infrastructure to previously unserved geographic regions, we try to accelerate the development of natural gas and oil properties in that area. The ability to access common facilities allows producers to share the high fixed costs associated with infrastructure and, in certain circumstances, results in the economic development of otherwise marginal reserves and in an increase in the total reserves produced from that region.

In addition to constructing one of the few natural gas pipelines in an emerging production region in the flextrend area offshore Louisiana and Mississippi, we successfully constructed, marketed and operated our first multi-purpose platform, Viosca Knoll Block 817, which has since been used as a hub and production handling site for deeper water properties in the area, as well as a pipeline maintenance facility and, during the development phase, a drilling facility. Our platforms located in Garden Banks Block 72 and East Cameron Block 373, as well as the platform that we are constructing in the Prince Field, are examples of similar opportunities.

Our Gulf of Mexico platforms are described in the following table.

	OWNERSHIP INTEREST	IN-SERVICE DATE	WATER DEPTH (FEET)	ACQUIRED(A) OR CONSTRUCTED(C)	PRODUCT HANDLING CAPACITY	
					NATURAL GAS (MMCF PER DAY)	OIL AND CONDENSATE (BBLS PER DAY)
East Cameron Block 373.....	100%	1998	441	C	110	5,000
Ewing Bank Block 1003(2)...	100%	N/A	1,500	C	80	50,000
Ship Shoal Block 331.....	100%	1994	376	A	--(1)	--(1)
Ship Shoal Block 332.....	100%	1985	438	A	150(1)	12,000(1)
South Timbalier Block 292.....	100%	1984	283	A	150	2,500
Viosca Knoll Block 817.....	100%	1995	671	C	140	5,000
Garden Banks Block 72.....	50%	1995	518	C	80	55,000

(1) Our Ship Shoal Block 331 platform is currently used as a satellite landing area and all products transported over the platform are processed on our Ship Shoal Block 332 platform.

(2) We plan to place this platform, in the Prince Field, in service by mid-year 2001.

#### NATURAL GAS AND OIL PROPERTIES

The following table sets forth the producing properties in which we owned an interest, as well as the estimates of our total proved developed and proved undeveloped reserves of natural gas and oil for these properties, as of December 31, 1999. Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc., an independent petroleum engineering consulting firm, prepared the related reserve report.

	PRODUCING WELLS	OIL (MBBLS)	NATURAL GAS (MMCF)	
		PROVED DEVELOPED	PROVED DEVELOPED	PROVED UNDEVELOPED
Viosca Knoll Block 817.....	7	170	10,408	2,452
Garden Banks Block 72.....	5	315	2,123	--
Garden Banks Block 117.....	2	978	1,414	--
West Delta Block 35.....	2	9	899	--
Total.....	16	1,472	14,844	2,452

In general, estimates of economically recoverable natural gas and oil reserves and of the future net revenue therefrom are based upon a number of variable factors and assumptions, such as historical production from the subject properties, the assumed effects of regulation by governmental agencies and assumptions concerning future natural gas and oil prices, future operating costs and future plugging and abandonment costs, all of which may vary considerably from actual results. All such estimates are to some degree speculative, and classifications of reserves are only attempts to define the degree of speculation

involved. For these reasons, estimates of the economically recoverable natural gas and oil reserves attributable to any particular group of properties, classifications of such reserves based on risk of recovery and estimates of the future net revenue expected therefrom, prepared by different engineers or by the same engineers at different sites, may vary substantially. The meaningfulness of such estimates is highly dependent upon the assumptions upon which they are based.

Estimates with respect to proved undeveloped reserves that may be developed and produced in the future are often based upon volumetric calculations and upon analogy to similar types of reserves rather than upon actual production history. Estimates based on these methods are generally less reliable than those based on actual production history. Subsequent evaluation of the same reserves based upon production history will result in variations, which may be substantial, in the estimated reserves. A significant portion of our reserves is based upon volumetric calculations.

In addition to our producing properties, we own an approximate 9.0% net overriding royalty interest in the Prince Field, formerly the Ewing Bank 958 Unit. We recently entered into an arrangement with El Paso Production to farmout our working interest in the Prince Field in exchange for an overriding royalty interest. Under the terms of the farmout agreement, we may convert our overriding royalty interest in the Prince Field into a 30% working interest once El Paso Production recoups the costs associated with its drilling and completion activities on the Prince Field. We believe this farmout arrangement provides us with an opportunity to realize cash flow in connection with the Prince Field and benefit from the assets, experience and resources of El Paso Production, while reducing our capital requirements and mitigating our risks associated with the uncertain results of developing this property. Although four successful delineation wells have been drilled in the Prince Field, and El Paso Production has expanded the scope and size of the Prince Field development, there has been no production from the Prince Field to date.

## MANAGEMENT

As is commonly the case with publicly-traded master limited partnerships, we do not employ any of the persons responsible for managing or operating us, but instead reimburse our general partner and its affiliates for their services. The following table sets forth certain information as of June 30, 2000, regarding the executive officers and directors of our general partner. Directors are elected annually by our general partner's sole stockholder, El Paso Energy Partners Holding Company, and hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. Each executive officer named in the following table has been elected to serve until his successor is duly appointed or elected or until his earlier removal or resignation from office.

NAME - - - - -	AGE - - -	POSITION - - - - -
William A. Wise.....	54	Director and Chairman of the Board
Robert G. Phillips.....	45	Director and Chief Executive Officer
James H. Lytal.....	42	Director and President
H. Brent Austin.....	46	Director and Executive Vice President
Keith B. Forman.....	42	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
D. Mark Leland.....	38	Vice President and Controller
Michael B. Bracy.....	58	Director
H. Douglas Church.....	62	Director
Malcolm Wallop.....	67	Director

Mr. Wise has served as Director and Chairman of the Board of our general partner since August 1998. He has served as Chief Executive Officer of El Paso Energy since January 1990 and was Chairman of El Paso Energy's board of directors from January 1994 until October 1999. Mr. Wise was President of El Paso Energy from January 1990 to April 1996 and from July 1998 to present. He served as President and Chief Operating Officer of El Paso Energy from April 1989 to December 1989. From March 1987 until April 1989, Mr. Wise was an Executive Vice President of El Paso Energy and a Senior Vice President of El Paso Energy from January 1984 to February 1987. Mr. Wise is a member of the Board of Directors of Battle Mountain Gold Company and is Chairman of the Board of El Paso Tennessee Pipeline Co.

Mr. Phillips has served as a Director of our general partner since August 1998. He has served as Chief Executive Officer of us and our general partner since November 1999. He served as Executive Vice President of us and our general partner from August 1998 to October 1999. Mr. Phillips has served as President of El Paso Field Services Company since June 1997. He served as President of El Paso Energy Resources Company from December 1996 to June 1997, President of El Paso Field Services Company from April 1996 to December 1996 and Senior Vice President of El Paso Energy from September 1995 to April 1996. For more than five years prior thereto, Mr. Phillips was Chief Executive Officer of Eastex Energy, Inc.

Mr. Lytal has served as a Director of our general partner since August 1994. He has served as President of us and our general partner since July 1995. He served as Senior Vice President of us and our general partner from August 1994 to June 1995. Prior to joining the Partnership, Mr. Lytal was Vice President -- Business Development for American Pipeline Company from December 1992 to August 1994. From March 1991 to December 1992, Mr. Lytal served as Vice President -- Business Development for United Gas Pipe Line Company. Prior to March 1991, Mr. Lytal has served in various capacities in the oil and natural gas exploration and production and natural gas pipeline industries with Texas Oil and Gas, Inc. and American Pipeline Company.

Mr. Austin has served as a Director of our general partner and as Executive Vice President of us and of our general partner since August 1998. Mr. Austin has served as an Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of El Paso Energy since May 1995 and as the Chief Financial Officer of El Paso Energy since April 1992. He served as the Senior Vice President of El Paso Energy from April 1992 to April 1995. He served as the Vice President, Planning and Treasurer of Burlington Resources Inc. from

November 1990 to March 1992 and Assistant Vice President, Planning of Burlington from January 1989 to October 1990. Mr. Austin is a member of the Board of Directors of El Paso Tennessee Pipeline Co.

Mr. Forman has served as the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of us, and the Chief Financial Officer of our general partner, since January 1992 and served as a Director of our general partner from July 1992 to August 1998. Prior to 1992, Mr. Forman served as Vice President of the Natural Gas Pipeline Group of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company.

Mr. Leland has served as our Senior Vice President since October 1999, and our Controller since August 1998. He was our Vice President from August 1998 until October 1999. He has been our general partner's Vice President since August 1998 and its Controller since June 1999. Mr. Leland has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of El Paso Field Services Company since October 1999. He served as Vice President of El Paso Field Services Company from September 1997 until October 1999. He served as Director of Business Development for El Paso Field Services Company from September 1994 to September 1997. For more than five years prior thereto, Mr. Leland served in various capacities in the finance and accounting functions of El Paso Energy.

Mr. Bracy has served as a Director of our general partner since October 1998. From January 1993 to August 1997, Mr. Bracy served as a Director, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of NorAm Energy Corp. And as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of NorAm from December 1991 to January 1993. For seven years prior thereto, Mr. Bracy served in various executive capacities with NorAm. From December 1977 to October 1984, Mr. Bracy held various executive financial positions with El Paso Energy. Prior to December 1977, Mr. Bracy served in various capacities with The Chase Manhattan Bank. Mr. Bracy is a member of the Board of Directors of Itron, Inc.

Mr. Church has served as a Director of our general partner since January 1999. From January 1994 to December 1998, Mr. Church served as the Senior Vice President, Transmission, Engineering and Environmental for a subsidiary of Duke Energy Corporation, Texas Eastern Transmission Company. For thirty-two years prior thereto, Mr. Church served in various engineering and operating capacities with Texas Eastern Transmission Company, Panhandle Eastern Corporation and Transwestern Pipeline Company. Mr. Church is a past member of the Board of Directors of Southern Gas Association and Boys and Girls Country of Houston, Inc. (Chairman).

Mr. Wallop has served as a Director of our general partner since August 1998 and as a Director of El Paso Energy since January 1995. Since January 1995, Mr. Wallop has served as President for Frontiers of Freedom Foundation, a political foundation. For eighteen years prior to 1995, Mr. Wallop was a member of the United States Senate. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Hubbell Inc. and Sheridan State Bank.

## UNDERWRITING

Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the underwriting agreement dated the date hereof, each underwriter named below has severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to such underwriter, the number of units set forth opposite the name of such underwriter.

UNDERWRITERS -----	NUMBER OF COMMON UNITS -----
Salomon Smith Barney Inc.....	1,000,000
Goldman, Sachs & Co.....	1,000,000
PaineWebber Incorporated.....	1,000,000
Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation.....	1,000,000
Total.....	4,000,000 =====

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the several underwriters to purchase the units included in this offering are subject to approval of certain legal matters by counsel and to certain other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all the units (other than those covered by the over-allotment option described below) if they purchase any of the units.

The underwriters, for whom Salomon Smith Barney Inc., Goldman, Sachs & Co., PaineWebber Incorporated and Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation are acting as representatives, propose to offer some of the units directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and some of the units to certain dealers at the public offering price less a concession not in excess of \$0.59 per unit. The underwriters may allow, and such dealers may reallocate, a concession not in excess of \$0.10 per unit on sales to certain other dealers. If all of the units are not sold at the initial offering price, the representatives may change the public offering price and the other selling terms.

We have granted to the underwriters an option, exercisable for 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, to purchase up to 600,000 additional common units at the public offering price less the underwriting discount. The underwriters may exercise such option solely for the purpose of covering over-allotments, if any, in connection with this offering. To the extent such option is exercised, each underwriter will be obligated, subject to certain conditions, to purchase a number of additional units approximately proportionate to such underwriter's initial purchase commitment.

We, our general partner and some affiliates of our general partner have agreed with the underwriters, for a period of 90 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, not to, without the prior written consent of Salomon Smith Barney Inc., dispose of or hedge any common units of El Paso Energy Partners or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for common units, except for pledges of such common units to secure certain loans and the disposition of such common units in connection with the lender exercising its remedies as a secured party. Salomon Smith Barney Inc. in its sole discretion may release any of the securities subject to these lock-up agreements at any time without notice.

The common units are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "EPN." The following table shows the per unit and total underwriting discounts and commissions to be paid to the underwriters by us in connection with this offering. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional units of common stock.

	PAID BY EL PASO ENERGY PARTNERS	
	NO EXERCISE -----	FULL EXERCISE -----
Per unit.....	\$ 0.98	\$ 0.98
Total.....	\$3,910,000	\$4,496,500

In connection with the offering, Salomon Smith Barney Inc., on behalf of the underwriters, may purchase and sell the common units in the open market. These transactions may include over-allotment, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Over-allotment involves syndicate sales of common units in excess of the number of shares to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the common units in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases of common units made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common units while the offering is in progress.

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when Salomon Smith Barney Inc., in covering syndicate short positions or making stabilizing purchases, repurchases shares originally sold by that syndicate member.

Any of these activities by the underwriters may cause the price of the common units to be higher than the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of such transactions. These transactions may be effected on the New York Stock Exchange or in the over-the-counter market, or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued by the underwriters at any time.

We estimate that our portion of the total expenses, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, of this offering will be \$850,000.

The representatives have performed certain investment banking and advisory services for us from time to time for which they have received customary fees and expenses. The representatives may, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for us in the ordinary course of their business.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of any of those liabilities.

#### LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters with respect to the legality of the common units being offered and certain tax matters will be passed upon for us by Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., Houston, Texas. Certain legal matters with respect to the legality of the common units being offered will be passed upon for the underwriters by Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP, Houston, Texas.

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents we have incorporated by reference include and incorporate by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements relate to analyses and other information which are based on forecasts of future results and estimates of amounts not yet determinable. These statements also relate to our future prospects, developments and business strategies. These forward-looking statements are identified by their use of terms and phrases such as "anticipate," "believe," "could," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may," "plan," "predict," "project," "will," and similar terms and phrases, including references to assumptions. These statements are contained in the sections entitled "Prospectus Supplement Summary," "Risk Factors," "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and other sections of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and in the documents we have incorporated by reference. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that may cause our actual future activities and results of operations to be materially different from those suggested or described in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the documents we have incorporated by reference. These risks include the risks that are identified in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, which are primarily listed in the "Risk Factors" section. These risks may also be specifically described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and other documents we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future or otherwise. If one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results may vary materially from those expected, estimated or projected. You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents we have incorporated by reference. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information provided by this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the documents we have incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus supplement. This document is not an offer to sell nor is it seeking an offer to buy these securities in any state or jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

DATED JUNE 30, 2000

PROSPECTUS

LOGO

\$500,000,000

EL PASO ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.  
-----

We may offer and sell from time to time up to \$500,000,000 in one or more classes or series of any limited partnership interests we are authorized by our partnership agreement to issue, including, but not limited to common units, preference units, subordinate units and any other capital or equity securities in one or more separate offerings with this prospectus. We will determine the prices and terms of the sales at the time of each offering and will describe them in a supplement to this prospectus.

This prospectus may only be used to offer or sell securities if it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will contain important information about us and the securities which is not included in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the prospectus supplement carefully.

We may sell these securities to underwriters or dealers, or we may sell them directly to other purchasers. See "Plan of Distribution." The prospectus supplement will list any underwriters and the compensation that they will receive. The prospectus supplement will also show you the total amount of money that we will receive from selling these securities, after we pay certain expenses of the offering.

Our existing common units are listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "EPN" and our existing preference units are listed under the symbol "EPN.P".

INVESTING IN OUR SECURITIES INVOLVES CERTAIN RISKS. LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS ARE INHERENTLY DIFFERENT FROM CAPITAL STOCK OF A CORPORATION. SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 1.

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

The date of this prospectus is June 30, 2000



YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THIS PROSPECTUS. WE HAVE NOT AUTHORIZED ANYONE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DIFFERENT INFORMATION. WE ARE NOT MAKING AN OFFER OF THESE SECURITIES IN ANY STATE WHERE THE OFFER IS NOT PERMITTED. YOU SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THIS PROSPECTUS IS ACCURATE AS OF ANY DATE OTHER THAN THE DATE ON THE FRONT OF THIS PROSPECTUS.

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## EL PASO ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

We are one of the largest publicly-traded limited partnerships. Formed in 1993, we provide integrated energy services, including those relating to gathering, transportation and other midstream activities. We are a leading provider of gathering, transportation and other related midstream energy services in the flextrend and deepwater trends in the Gulf of Mexico, offshore of Louisiana and Texas. In addition, we have onshore assets and operations. Our objective is to increase the value of our limited and general partnership interests by acquiring and developing offshore and onshore midstream energy assets in order to consistently grow cash flow and increase distributions to our unitholders.

El Paso Energy Corporation, which manages our day-to-day operations and our strategic direction through its ownership of our general partner, plans to use us as one of its primary vehicles for acquiring and developing midstream onshore and offshore energy infrastructure assets. With over \$16 billion in assets, El Paso Energy is engaged through its subsidiaries and affiliates in the interstate and intrastate transportation, gathering, processing, and storage of natural gas; the marketing of natural gas, power, and other energy-related commodities; the generation of power; the development and operation of energy infrastructure facilities worldwide; and the domestic exploration and production of oil and natural gas. El Paso Energy also owns the only integrated coast-to-coast natural gas pipeline system in the United States. On May 5, 2000, the stockholders of both El Paso Energy and The Coastal Corporation overwhelmingly voted in favor of matters relating to merging the two organizations to form one of the world's leading integrated energy companies, with total assets in excess of \$32 billion. The completion of that merger is subject to the satisfaction of customary conditions to closing, including regulatory approval.

For purposes of this prospectus, unless the context otherwise indicates, when we refer to "us," "we," "our," "ours" or the "Partnership," we are describing ourselves, El Paso Energy Partners, L.P., together with our subsidiaries.

## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total amount of \$500,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of us and the securities. Each time we sell securities with this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change information in this prospectus. The information in this prospectus is accurate as of June 30, 2000. You should carefully read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page iv.

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

This prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we have incorporated by reference contain forward-looking statements. The words "believe," "expect," "estimate," "could," "intend," "may," "plan," "predict," "project," "will" and "anticipate" and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include those that address activities, events or developments that we expect or anticipate will or may occur in the future. These include the following:

- the amount and nature of future capital expenditures;
- business strategy and measures to carry out strategy;
- competitive strengths;
- goals and plans;
- expansion and growth of our business and operations;

- references to intentions as to future matters; and
- other similar matters.

A forward-looking statement may include a statement of the assumptions or bases underlying the forward-looking statement. We believe we have chosen these assumptions or bases in good faith and that they are reasonable. However, we caution you that assumed facts or bases almost always vary from actual results, and the differences between assumed facts or bases and actual results can be material, depending on the circumstances. When considering forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we have incorporated by reference. We will not update these statements unless the securities laws require us to do so.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state or jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information provided by this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus.

#### WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You can inspect and/or copy these reports and other information at offices maintained by the SEC, including:

- the principal offices of the SEC located at Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Room 1024, Washington, D.C. 20549;
- the Regional Offices of the SEC located at Northwestern Atrium Center, 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois 60661-2511;
- the Regional Offices of the SEC located at 7 World Trade Center, New York, New York 10048; and
- the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

You may obtain information on the operation of the SEC's public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Further, you can inspect similar information at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, located at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

## INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we have filed with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you without actually including the specific information in this prospectus by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and may replace information in this prospectus and information previously filed with the SEC. The documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 are incorporated by reference in this prospectus until we sell all of the limited partner interests offered by this prospectus.

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999;
  - Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2000;
  - Current Report on Form 8-K filed April 4, 2000; and
  - Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed June 5, 2000.
- You may request a copy of any of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address or phone number:

El Paso Energy Partners, L.P.  
El Paso Energy Building  
1001 Louisiana Street, 29th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
(713) 420-2131  
Attention: Investor Relations

## RISK FACTORS

LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS ARE INHERENTLY DIFFERENT FROM CAPITAL STOCK OF A CORPORATION, ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE BUSINESS RISKS TO WHICH WE ARE SUBJECT ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT WOULD BE FACED BY A CORPORATION ENGAGED IN THE SAME BUSINESS. YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RISK FACTORS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS, ANY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE INFORMATION WE HAVE INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE BEFORE INVESTING IN LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS.

This prospectus and any prospectus supplement includes, or may include, "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including, in particular, the statements about our plans, strategies and prospects. Although we believe that our plans, intentions and expectations reflected in or suggested by such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot assure you that we will achieve such plans, intentions or expectations. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements we make in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement are set forth below and elsewhere in this prospectus. All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the following cautionary statements.

## RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS

OUR ABILITY TO DISTRIBUTE CASH TO YOU DEPENDS ON FACTORS OUT OF OUR CONTROL, INCLUDING THE RATES FOR, AND VOLUME OF, PRODUCTION THAT WE HANDLE.

We do not guarantee that we will make cash distributions to you. Our ability to make cash distributions, as well as our ability to make payments on our indebtedness and to fund future working capital, capital expenditures and other general corporate requirements will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future. This, to a certain extent, is subject to economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control.

Our future performance and, therefore, our ability to make cash distributions will largely depend on the volume of, and rates for, the natural gas and oil handled by our pipelines, platforms and other energy infrastructure assets. Many factors outside of our control can affect these volumes and rates. The following factors, among others, affect the rates that our pipelines and other facilities may charge:

- commodity prices for the production handled;
- regional, domestic and international supply and demand;
- energy legislation;
- federal or state taxes, if any, on the sale or transportation of natural gas and natural gas liquids;
- abundance of supplies of alternative energy sources;
- future production and development costs;
- competition from others; and
- the maximum rates established by the FERC for our regulated facilities.

Any decrease in the rates charged or volumes handled by any of our pipelines and other facilities could reduce our available cash. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that we will be able to continue to generate enough cash flow to satisfy our existing commitments, including paying our indebtedness, funding our other liquidity needs, including the purchase, construction or other acquisition of assets or businesses in the future, and making cash distributions to you.

OUR SUBSTANTIAL INDEBTEDNESS COULD ADVERSELY RESTRICT OUR ABILITY TO OPERATE, AFFECT OUR FINANCIAL CONDITION AND PREVENT US FROM MAKING DISTRIBUTIONS TO YOU.

We have a significant amount of indebtedness and the ability to incur more indebtedness. In May 1999, we issued \$175.0 million of 10 3/8% senior subordinated notes due in 2009, which are supported by guarantees of our subsidiaries. We are also party to a \$375.0 million revolving credit facility, which is collateralized by a pledge of the equity of our subsidiaries and substantially all of our other assets and supported by guarantees of our subsidiaries. As of May 31, 2000, we had \$364.0 million outstanding under this revolving credit facility and would have been permitted to borrow up to an additional \$11.0 million.

We must comply with various affirmative and negative covenants contained in the indenture related to our senior subordinated notes and our revolving credit facility. Among other things, these covenants limit our ability to:

- incur additional indebtedness or liens;
- make payments in respect of or redeem or acquire any debt or equity issued by us;
- sell assets;
- make loans or investments;
- acquire or be acquired by other companies; and
- amend some of our contracts.

Our indebtedness also requires us to make mandatory repayments under certain circumstances, including when we sell certain assets, fail to achieve or maintain certain financial targets or experience a change in control. We cannot prepay the balance outstanding under our senior subordinated notes without incurring substantial economic penalties.

The restrictions under our indebtedness may prevent us from engaging in certain transactions which might otherwise be considered beneficial to us. In addition, our substantial indebtedness could have other important consequences to you. For example, it could:

- increase our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions;
- limit our ability to make distributions to you, to fund future working capital, capital expenditures and other general partnership requirements, to engage in future acquisitions, construction or development activities, or to otherwise fully realize 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;
- limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our businesses and the industries in which we operate; and
- place us at a competitive disadvantage as compared to our competitors that have less debt.

We may incur additional indebtedness in the future, either under our existing credit agreement, under joint venture credit agreements, on a project finance or similar basis, or a combination of any of these. If we incur additional indebtedness in the future, it would be under our existing credit agreement or under arrangements which may have terms and conditions at least as restrictive as those contained in our existing credit agreement. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of any existing or future indebtedness would constitute an event of default. If an event of default occurs, the lenders will have the right to accelerate the maturity of such indebtedness and foreclose upon the collateral, if any, securing that indebtedness. Such an event could limit our ability to make cash distributions to you, and could adversely affect the market price of our securities.

POTENTIAL FUTURE ACQUISITIONS AND EXPANSIONS MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR BUSINESS BY SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING THE LEVEL OF OUR INDEBTEDNESS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND INCREASING OUR RISKS OF BEING UNABLE TO EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE THESE NEW OPERATIONS.

Part of our business strategy includes purchasing, constructing and otherwise acquiring assets, including entire businesses, that we believe will present opportunities to realize synergies, expand our role in the energy infrastructure business, increase our market position or ultimately increase distributions to unitholders. Although we intend to continue to expand our business through acquisitions, this strategy may require substantial capital, and we may not be able to raise the necessary funds on satisfactory terms or at all.

We regularly engage in discussions with respect to potential acquisition and investment opportunities. If we consummate any future acquisitions, our capitalization and results of operations may change significantly and you will not have the opportunity to evaluate the economic, financial and other relevant information that we will consider in determining the application of these funds.

We are currently considering some specific future acquisitions or investments, although we cannot assure you that we will be able to reach agreement with respect to any of these opportunities. If consummated, any acquisition or investment would likely result in the incurrence of indebtedness and contingent liabilities and an increase in interest expense and amortization expenses related to goodwill and other intangible assets, which could have a material adverse effect upon our business.

While, historically, our operations have been focused primarily on pipelines, platforms and other energy infrastructure assets in the Gulf of Mexico, our current strategy contemplates substantial growth through the acquisition and development of a wider range of midstream and other energy infrastructure assets, including onshore and offshore, domestic and foreign, and pipeline and non-pipeline assets. Acquisitions and business expansions involve numerous risks, including difficulties in the assimilation of the operations, technologies, services and products of the acquired companies or business segments, inefficiencies and difficulties which arise because of unfamiliarity with new assets and the businesses associated with them and new geographic areas and the diversion of management's attention from other business concerns. Further, unexpected costs and challenges may arise whenever businesses with different operations or management are combined. Management and other personnel must devote substantial time to integrate an acquired business with existing operations, for instance, and these efforts may temporarily distract their attention from day-to-day business, the development or acquisition of new businesses and other business opportunities. For all of these reasons, as acquisitions and expansions occur, our business could be adversely affected.

OUR ACTUAL PROJECT COSTS COULD EXCEED OUR FORECAST, AND OUR CASH FLOW FROM PROJECTS MAY NOT BE IMMEDIATE.

Our forecast contemplates significant expenditures for the purchase, construction or other acquisition of pipelines and related infrastructure, including some projects with significant technological challenges. Underwater operations, especially those in water depths in excess of 600 feet, are very expensive and involve much more uncertainty and risk than other operations. Further, if a problem occurs, the solution, if one exists, may be very expensive and time consuming. Accordingly, there is an increase in the frequency and amount of cost overruns related to underwater operations, especially in depths in excess of 600 feet. We cannot assure you that we will be able to complete our projects at the costs currently estimated. If we experience material cost overruns, we would have to finance these overruns using one or more of the following methods:

- using cash from operations;
- delaying other planned projects; or
- issuing additional debt or equity.

Any or all of these methods may not be available when needed or may adversely affect our future results of operations.

Our revenues and cash flow may not increase immediately upon the expenditure of funds on a particular project. For instance, if we build a new pipeline or platform or expand an existing facility, the construction may occur over an extended period of time and we may not receive any material increase in revenue or cash flow from that project until after it is placed in service and customers enter into binding arrangements. If our revenues and cash flow do not increase at projected levels because of substantial unanticipated delays of any future projects, we might not meet our obligations as they become due.

WE WILL FACE COMPETITION FROM THIRD PARTIES TO HANDLE ANY NEW PRODUCTION.

Even if additional reserves exist in the areas accessed by our pipelines and other facilities and are ultimately produced, we cannot assure you that any of these reserves will be gathered, transported, processed or otherwise handled by us. We would compete with others, including producers of oil and natural gas, for any such production on the basis of many factors, including:

- geographic proximity to the production;
- costs of connection;
- available capacity;
- rates; and
- access to onshore markets.

FERC REGULATION AND A CHANGING REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT COULD AFFECT OUR CASH FLOW.

The FERC extensively regulates certain of our pipelines and other facilities. This regulation extends to such matters as:

- rate structures;
- rates of return on equity;
- the services that our regulated pipelines are permitted to perform;
- our ability to seek recovery of various categories of costs;
- the acquisition, construction and disposition of assets; and
- to an extent, the level of competition in that regulated industry.

Given the extent of this regulation, the extensive changes in FERC policy over the last several years, the evolving nature of regulation and the possibility for additional changes, we cannot assure you that the current regulatory regime will remain unchanged or of the effect any changes in that regime would have on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

All but one of our regulated pipelines is over 20 years old. As a result, each such pipeline has depreciated significant portions of its initial capital expenditures. Unless those pipelines make additional capital expenditures, they could be fully depreciated within a couple of years. This would reduce the rate base and increase the likelihood that FERC would reduce the approved rates for each of those pipelines.

A NATURAL DISASTER, CATASTROPHE OR OTHER INTERRUPTION EVENT COULD DAMAGE PIPELINES AND OTHER FACILITIES THAT ARE OWNED BY US OR THAT DELIVER NATURAL GAS OR OIL TO US, WHICH COULD CURTAIL OUR OPERATIONS AND, POSSIBLY, ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR CASH FLOW.

If one or more pipelines or other facilities that are owned by us or that deliver natural gas or oil to us is damaged by severe weather or any other natural disaster, accident, catastrophe or other event, our operations could be significantly interrupted. Similar interruptions could result from damage to production facilities or other production stoppages arising from factors beyond our control. These interruptions might range from a week or less for a minor incident to six months or a year or more for a major interruption.



Any event that interrupts the fees generated by our pipelines or other income-producing assets, or which causes us to make significant expenditures not covered by insurance, could adversely impact the market price of our limited partner interests and the amount of cash available for distribution to our limited partners. Further, although we carry limited business interruption insurance, which we consider to be appropriate, it would not cover many interruptions that might occur, and in the future we may not be able to obtain other desirable insurance on commercially reasonable terms.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS AND LIABILITIES AND CHANGING ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION COULD AFFECT OUR CASH FLOW.**

Our operations are subject to extensive federal, state and local regulatory requirements relating to environmental affairs, health and safety, waste management and chemical products. Governmental authorities have the power to enforce compliance with applicable regulations and permits and to subject violators to civil and criminal penalties, including civil fines, injunctions or both. Third parties may also have the right to pursue legal actions to enforce compliance. We will probably make expenditures in connection with environmental matters as part of normal capital expenditure programs. However, future environmental law developments, such as stricter laws, regulations or enforcement policies, could significantly increase our cost of handling, manufacture, use, emission or disposal of substances or wastes. Moreover, as with other companies engaged in similar or related businesses, our operations always have some risk of environmental costs and liabilities because we handle petroleum products. We cannot assure you that we will not incur material environmental costs and liabilities.

**THE FUTURE PERFORMANCE OF OUR PRODUCTION HANDLING OPERATIONS, AND THUS OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN OUR CASH DISTRIBUTIONS, DEPENDS ON SUCCESSFUL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL OIL AND NATURAL GAS RESERVES.**

The natural gas and oil reserves available to our pipelines and other production handling infrastructure from existing wells naturally decline over time. In order to offset this natural decline, our pipelines and other infrastructure must access additional reserves. Additionally, some of the projects we have planned or recently completed are dependent on reserves that we expect to be produced from newly discovered properties which producers are currently developing. This means that our long-term prospects depend upon the successful exploration and development of additional reserves in areas accessible to our pipelines and other infrastructure, such as El Paso Energy's Prince Field.

Finding and developing new natural gas and oil reserves from offshore properties is very expensive. The flextrend (water depths of 600 to 1,500 feet) and deepwater (water depths greater than 1,500 feet) areas, especially, will require large capital expenditures by producers for exploration, development drilling, installation of production facilities and pipeline extensions to reach the new wells.

Many economic and business factors out of our control can adversely affect the decision by any producer to explore for and develop new reserves. These factors include relatively low natural gas and oil prices, cost and availability of equipment, capital budget limitations or the lack of available capital. We cannot assure you that additional reserves, if discovered, would be developed in the near future or at all. For example, because of the level to which hydrocarbon prices declined during 1998 and the first quarter of 1999, overall oil and natural gas activity in the Gulf of Mexico declined in relation to prior years. If hydrocarbon prices decline to those levels again or capital spending by the energy industry continues to decrease or remains at low levels for prolonged periods, our results of operations and cash flow could suffer.

**PRICE AND VOLUME VOLATILITY IS SUBSTANTIALLY OUT OF OUR CONTROL AND COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON REVENUES AND CASH FLOW FROM OUR PRODUCING OIL AND NATURAL GAS PROPERTIES.**

Revenues and cash flows from our producing oil and natural gas properties will be substantially affected by our future production from those properties and the prices we receive for that production, both of which are often beyond our ability to control. In 1998, oil and natural gas prices dramatically declined,

and although prices have since improved, we cannot assure you that there will not be future declines in commodity prices.

WE HAVE EXPOSURE TO MOVEMENTS IN INTEREST RATES AND COMMODITY PRICES RELATING TO OUR NATURAL GAS AND OIL PRODUCTION, WHICH WE HEDGE PARTIALLY USING FINANCIAL DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS.

We have exposure to movements in interest rates and commodity prices relating to our natural gas and oil production, which we hedge using financial derivative instruments. Our results of operations, and our cash flows, could be materially adversely affected by significant increases in interest rates or declines in natural gas and oil commodity prices. The interest rate on our senior notes is fixed and the interest rates on our other indebtedness and the indebtedness of our joint ventures are variable. In addition, the prices we receive for natural gas and oil production vary from month to month.

We try to limit a portion of the adverse effects resulting from changes in natural gas and oil commodity prices by using financial derivative instruments and other hedging mechanisms. To the extent we hedge our commodity price exposure, we forego the benefits we would otherwise experience if commodity prices were to increase. In addition, even though our management monitors our hedging activities, we could experience losses resulting from them. Such losses could occur under various circumstances, including if the other party to our hedge does not perform its obligations under the hedge arrangement, our hedge is imperfect, or our hedging policies and procedures are not followed.

RISKS INHERENT IN AN INVESTMENT IN OUR LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS

YOU WILL HAVE LIMITED VOTING RIGHTS AND WILL NOT CONTROL OUR GENERAL PARTNER.

Unlike the holder of capital stock in a corporation, you only have limited voting rights on matters affecting our business. Our general partner, whose directors you do not elect, manages our activities. You will have no right to elect our general partner on an annual or any other continuing basis. If our general partner voluntarily withdraws, however, the holders of a majority of our outstanding limited partner interests (excluding for purposes of such determination interests owned by the withdrawing general partner and its affiliates) may elect its successor.

Our general partner may not be removed as our general partner except upon approval by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 55% of our outstanding limited partner interests (including limited partner interests owned by our general partner and its affiliates), subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions. Any removal of our general partner is not effective until the holders of a majority of our outstanding limited partner interests approve a successor general partner. Before the holders of outstanding limited partner interests may remove our general partner, they must receive an opinion of counsel that:

- such action will not result in the loss of limited liability of any limited partner or of any member of any of our subsidiaries or cause us or any of our subsidiaries to be taxable as a corporation or to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation for federal income tax purposes; and
- all required consents by any regulatory authorities have been obtained.

Our general partner has agreed not to withdraw voluntarily as our general partner on or before December 31, 2002 (with limited exceptions), unless the holders of at least a majority of our outstanding limited partner interests (excluding limited partner interests owned by our general partner and its affiliates) approve the withdrawal. The withdrawal or removal of our general partner as our general partner would effectively result in its concurrent withdrawal or removal as the manager of our subsidiaries.

WE MAY ISSUE ADDITIONAL SECURITIES, DILUTING YOUR INTERESTS.

We can issue additional common units, preference units and other capital securities representing limited partner interests, including securities with rights to distributions and allocations or in liquidation equal or superior to the securities described in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, for any amount and on any terms and conditions established by our general partner. If we issue more limited

partner interests, it will reduce your proportionate ownership interest in us. This could cause the market price of your securities to fall and reduce the cash distributions paid to our limited partners. Further, we have the ability to issue partnership interests with voting rights superior to yours. If we issued any such securities, it could adversely affect your voting power.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE LIMITED LIABILITY IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED BELOW AND MAY BE LIABLE FOR THE RETURN OF DISTRIBUTIONS THAT CAUSE OUR LIABILITIES TO EXCEED OUR ASSETS.

We currently conduct our business in Texas, Alabama and Louisiana, and plan to expand our business into more states. In some states, the limitations on the liability of limited partners for the obligations of a limited partnership have not been clearly established. To the extent we conduct business in one of those states, you might be held liable for our obligations as if you were a general partner if:

- a court or government agency determined that we had not complied with that state's partnership statute; or
- our unitholders' rights to act together to remove or replace our general partner or take other actions under our partnership agreement were to constitute "control" of our business under that state's partnership statute.

In addition, under Delaware law, an assignee who becomes a substitute limited partner of a limited partnership is liable for the obligations of his assignor to make contributions to the partnership, except the assignee is not obligated for liabilities that were unknown to him at the time he became a limited partner and that could not be ascertained from the partnership agreement.

You will not be liable for assessments in addition to your initial capital investment in any of our capital securities representing limited partnership interests. However, you may be required to repay to us amounts wrongfully returned or distributed to you under some circumstances. Under Delaware law, we may not make a distribution to you if the distribution causes our liabilities (other than liabilities to partners on account of their partnership interests and nonrecourse liabilities) to exceed the fair value of our assets. Delaware law provides that a limited partner who receives such a distribution and knew at the time of the distribution that the distribution violated the law will be liable to the limited partnership for the amount of the distribution for three years from the date of the distribution.

OUR GENERAL PARTNER HAS A LIMITED CALL RIGHT THAT MAY REQUIRE YOU TO SELL YOUR LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS AT AN UNDESIRABLE TIME OR PRICE.

If at any time our general partner and its affiliates hold 85% or more of any class or series of our issued and outstanding limited partner interests, our general partner will have the right to purchase all, but not less than all, of the outstanding securities of that class or series held by nonaffiliates. This purchase would take place as of a record date which would be selected by our general partner, on at least 30 but not more than 60 days' notice. Our general partner may assign and transfer this call right to any of its affiliates or to us. If our general partner (or its assignee) exercises this call right, it must purchase the securities at the higher of (1) the highest cash price paid by our general partner or its affiliates for any unit or other limited partner interest purchased within the 90 days preceding the date our general partner mails notice of the election to call the units or other limited partner interests or (2) the average of the last reported sales price per unit or other limited partner interest over the 20 trading days preceding the date five days before our general partner mails such notice. Accordingly, under certain circumstances you may be required to sell your limited partner interests against your will and the price you receive for those securities may be less than you would like to receive.

IF YOU DO NOT DELIVER A TRANSFER APPLICATION TO US IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF OUR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT, OR IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. RESIDENT, OR IF YOU OTHERWISE DO NOT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN OUR TRANSFER APPLICATION, YOU MAY NOT BECOME A LIMITED PARTNER, AND WE MAY REDEEM THE LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS YOU INTENDED TO PURCHASE.

All purchasers of our existing units, and potentially any purchasers of limited partner interests we issue in the future, who wish to become holders of record and receive cash distributions must deliver an executed transfer application in which the purchaser or transferee must certify that, among other things, he, she or it agrees to be bound by our partnership agreement and is eligible to purchase our securities. A person purchasing our existing units, or possibly limited partner interests we issue in the future, who does not execute a transfer application and certify that the purchaser is eligible to purchase those securities acquires no rights in those securities other than the right to resell those securities. Further, our general partner may request each record holder to furnish certain information, including that holder's nationality, citizenship or other related status. An investor who is not a U.S. resident may not be eligible to become a record holder or one of our limited partners if that investor's ownership would subject us to the risk of cancellation or forfeiture of any of our assets under any federal, state or local law or regulation. If the record holder fails to furnish the information or if our general partner determines, on the basis of the information furnished by the holder in response to the request, that such holder is not qualified to become one of our limited partners, our general partner may be substituted as a holder for the record holder, who will then be treated as a non-citizen assignee, and we will have the right to redeem those securities held by the record holder.

#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST RISKS

EL PASO ENERGY AND ITS AFFILIATES HAVE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH US AND, ACCORDINGLY, YOU.

We have potential and existing conflicts of interest with El Paso Energy and its affiliates in four general areas:

- we often enter into transactions with each other, including some relating to operating and managing assets, acquiring and selling assets, and performing services;
- we often share personnel, assets, systems and other resources;
- from time to time, we compete for business and customers; and
- from time to time, we both may have an interest in acquiring the same asset, business or other business opportunity.

Through its ownership of our general partner, El Paso Energy manages our day-to-day operations and strategic direction. Accordingly, it makes the final determination regarding how any particular conflict of interest is resolved.

In the future, we expect to encounter more transactions and other activities in which we have a conflict of interest with El Paso Energy and its affiliates resulting from our growth and our strategic expansion into new businesses and geographic areas. We intend to provide integrated energy services and solutions, without regard to geographic limitations, which may conflict with El Paso Energy's worldwide operations. Some more recent transactions involving us in which El Paso Energy and its affiliates had a conflict of interest include:

- in March 2000, we purchased a natural gas gathering system located in Alabama from a subsidiary of El Paso Energy;
- in March, 2000, we entered into a letter of intent relating to platform construction and processing for the development of El Paso Energy's Prince Field;

- in October 1998, we purchased the Ewing Bank 958 Unit from El Paso Energy, and, in October 1999, we executed an agreement with El Paso Production GOM, Inc. (formerly Sonat Production GOM, Inc.) to farmout our working interest in the Ewing Bank 958 Unit;
- In September 1999, we entered into an agreement with an affiliate of El Paso Energy pursuant to which it operates the facilities of Deepwater Holdings and its subsidiaries on our behalf.
- in June 1999, we purchased substantially all of El Paso Energy's interest in the Viosca Knoll gathering system; and
- pursuant to a management agreement, subsidiaries of El Paso Energy provide us administrative and operational services.

We expect to enter into substantial transactions with El Paso Energy and its affiliates in the future, because of the businesses and areas in which we and El Paso Energy currently operate, as well as those in which we plan to operate in the future. In addition, on May 5, 2000, stockholders of both El Paso Energy and The Coastal Corporation voted in favor of matters related to El Paso Energy's merger with Coastal, subject to obtaining necessary regulatory approvals. If El Paso Energy completes its merger with Coastal, we would anticipate more transactions with El Paso Energy and its affiliates.

In addition, we and our general partner and its affiliates share and, therefore will compete for, the time and effort of general partner personnel who provide services to us. Officers of the general partner and its affiliates do not, and will not be required to, spend any specified percentage or amount of time on our business. Since these shared officers function as both our representatives and those of our general partner and its affiliates, conflicts of interest could arise between our general partner and its affiliates, on the one hand, and us or you, on the other.

In most instances in which an actual or potential conflict of interest arises between us, on the one hand, and our general partner or its affiliates, on the other hand, there will be a benefit to our general partner or its affiliates in which neither we nor you will share. Such conflicts may arise in situations which include:

- compensation paid to the general partner, which includes incentive distributions and reimbursements for reasonable general and administrative expenses;
- payments to the general partner and its affiliates for any services rendered to us or on our behalf;
- our general partner's determination of which direct and indirect costs we must reimburse;
- decisions to enter into and the terms of transactions between us and our general partner or any of its affiliates, including transactions involving joint ventures, acquisitions and gathering and transportation;
- the acquisition or operation of businesses by our general partner or its affiliates that would compete with us; and
- our general partner's determination to establish cash reserves under certain circumstances and thereby decrease cash available for distributions to you.

Through its ownership of our general partner, El Paso Energy manages our day-to-day operations and strategic direction. It elects all of our general partner's directors, who in turn select all of our executive officers and those of the general partner. In addition, El Paso Energy's beneficial ownership interest in our outstanding partnership interests could have a substantial effect on the outcome of some actions requiring partner approval. Accordingly, subject to certain minimum legal requirements, El Paso Energy makes the final determination regarding how any particular conflict of interest is resolved.

We cannot assure you that El Paso Energy and its affiliates will always act in your best interest, even though doing so may appear to:

- protect and enhance El Paso Energy's substantial investment in us;
- generate substantial cash flows to El Paso Energy; and
- provide El Paso Energy with efficiently priced capital for its planned acquisitions.

Although El Paso Energy plans to use us as one of its primary vehicles for acquiring and developing midstream onshore and offshore energy infrastructure assets, it is neither contractually nor legally bound to do so, and it may reconsider at any time, without notice. Further, El Paso Energy is not required to pursue any business strategy that will favor our business opportunities over the business opportunities of El Paso Energy or any of its affiliates (or any of our other competitors acquired by El Paso Energy). In fact, El Paso Energy may have financial motives to favor our competitors. El Paso Energy and its subsidiaries (many of which are wholly owned) operate in some of the same lines of business and in some of the same geographic areas in which we operate.

CASH RESERVES, EXPENDITURES AND OTHER MATTERS WITHIN THE DISCRETION OF OUR GENERAL PARTNER MAY AFFECT DISTRIBUTIONS.

Our general partner has broad discretion to establish and make additions to cash reserves for any proper partnership purpose, including reserves for the purpose of:

- providing for future operating and capital expenditures;
- providing for debt service;
- providing funds for up to the next four quarterly distributions;
- stabilizing distributions of cash to capital security holders;
- complying with the terms of any agreement or obligation of ours; and
- providing for a discretionary reserve amount.

The timing and amount of additions to discretionary reserves could significantly reduce potential distributions that you could receive or ultimately affect who gets the distribution. The reduction or elimination of a previously established reserve in a particular quarter will result in a higher level of cash available for distribution than would otherwise be available in such quarter. Depending upon the resulting level of cash available for distribution, our general partner may receive incentive distributions which it would not have otherwise received. Thus, our general partner could have a conflict of interest in determining the amount and timing of any increases or decreases in reserves. Our general partner receives the following compensation:

- distributions in respect of its general and limited partner interests in us;
- distributions in respect of its 1.01% interest in each of our subsidiaries organized as a limited liability company;
- the incentive distributions described in the section entitled "Description of Limited Partner Interests -- Rights to Cash Distributions" beginning on page 16; and
- reimbursements for reasonable general and administrative expenses, and other reasonable expenses, incurred by our general partner and its affiliates for or on our behalf.

Our partnership agreement was not, and many of the other agreements, contracts and arrangements between us, on the one hand, and our general partner and its affiliates, on the other hand, were not and may not be the result of arm's-length negotiations.

In addition, increases to reserves (other than the discretionary reserve amount provided for in the partnership agreement) will reduce our cash from operations, which under certain limited circumstances could result in certain distributions to be attributable to interim capital transactions rather than to cash from operations. If a cash distribution was attributable to an interim capital transaction, (1) 99% of the distribution would be made pro rata to all limited partners and (2) the distribution would be deemed a return of a portion of an investor's investment in his partnership interest and would reduce each of our general partner's target distribution levels proportionately.

OUR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT PURPORTS TO LIMIT OUR GENERAL PARTNER'S FIDUCIARY DUTIES AND CERTAIN OTHER OBLIGATIONS RELATING TO US.

Although our general partner owes certain fiduciary duties to us and will be liable for all our debts, other than non-recourse debts, to the extent not paid by us, certain provisions of our partnership agreement contain exculpatory language purporting to limit the liability of our general partner to us and you. For example, the partnership agreement provides that:

- borrowings of money by us, or the approval thereof by our general partner, will not constitute a breach of any duty of our general partner to us or you whether or not the purpose or effect of the borrowing is to permit distributions on our limited partner interests or to result in or increase incentive distributions to our general partner;
- any action taken by our general partner consistent with the standards of reasonable discretion set forth in certain definitions in our partnership agreement will be deemed not to breach any duty of our general partner to us or to you; and
- in the absence of bad faith by our general partner, the resolution of conflicts of interest by our general partner will not constitute a breach of the partnership agreement or a breach of any standard of care or duty.

Provisions of the partnership agreement also purport to modify the fiduciary duty standards to which our general partner would otherwise be subject under Delaware law, under which a general partner owes its limited partners the highest duties of good faith, fairness and loyalty. The duty of loyalty would generally prohibit our general partner from taking any action or engaging in any transaction as to which it had a conflict of interest. The partnership agreement permits our general partner to exercise the discretion and authority granted to it in that agreement in managing us and in conducting its retained operations, so long as its actions are not inconsistent with our interests. Our general partner and its officers and directors may not be liable to us or to you for certain actions or omissions which might otherwise be deemed to be a breach of fiduciary duty under Delaware or other applicable state law. Further, the partnership agreement requires us to indemnify our general partner to the fullest extent permitted by law, which indemnification, in light of the exculpatory provisions in the partnership agreement, could result in us indemnifying our general partner for negligent acts. Neither El Paso Energy nor any of its other affiliates, other than our general partner, owes fiduciary duties to us.

OUR GENERAL PARTNER AND ITS AFFILIATES MAY SELL UNITS OR OTHER LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS IN THE TRADING MARKET, WHICH COULD REDUCE THE MARKET PRICE OF YOUR SECURITIES.

As of the date of this prospectus, our general partner and its affiliates own 8,953,764 common units. In the future, they may acquire additional interest or dispose of some or all of their interest. If they were to dispose of a substantial portion of their interest in the trading markets, it could reduce the market price of your securities. Our partnership agreement, and other agreements to which we are party, allow our general partner and certain of its affiliates to cause us to register for sale the units held by such persons. These registration rights allow our general partner and its affiliates to request registration of those common units and to include any of those common units in a registration of other capital securities by us.

## RISKS RELATED TO OUR LEGAL STRUCTURE

THE INTERRUPTION OF DISTRIBUTIONS TO US FROM OUR SUBSIDIARIES AND JOINT VENTURES MAY AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO MAKE CASH DISTRIBUTIONS TO YOU.

El Paso Energy Partners, L.P. is a holding company. As such, our primary assets are the capital stock and other equity interests in our subsidiaries and joint ventures. Consequently, our ability to make cash distributions depends upon the earnings and cash flow of our subsidiaries and joint ventures and the distribution of that cash to us. Distributions from our joint ventures are subject to the discretion of their respective management committees. In addition, several of our joint ventures have credit arrangements that contain various restrictive covenants. Among other things, those covenants limit or restrict each such joint venture's ability to make distributions to us under certain circumstances. Further, the joint venture charter documents typically vest in their management committees sole discretion regarding distributions. We cannot assure you that our joint ventures will continue to make distributions to us at current levels or at all.

Moreover, pursuant to some of the joint venture credit arrangements, we have agreed to return a limited amount of the distributions made to us by the applicable joint venture if certain conditions exist.

WE CANNOT CAUSE OUR JOINT VENTURES TO TAKE OR NOT TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS UNLESS SOME OR ALL OF OUR JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS AGREE.

Due to the nature of joint ventures, each partner (including us) in each of our joint ventures has made substantial investments (including contributions and other commitments) in that joint venture and, accordingly, has required that the relevant charter documents contain certain features designed to provide each partner with the opportunity to protect its investment in that joint venture, as well as any other assets which may be substantially dependent on or otherwise affected by the activities of that joint venture. These protective features include a corporate governance structure which requires at least a majority in interest vote to authorize many basic activities and requires a greater voting interest (sometimes up to 100%) to authorize more significant activities. Depending on the particular joint venture, these more significant activities might involve large expenditures or contractual commitments, the construction or acquisition of assets, borrowing money, transactions with affiliates of a joint venture partner, litigation and transactions not in the ordinary course of business, among others. Thus, without the concurrence of joint venture partners with enough voting interests, we cannot cause any of our joint ventures to take or not to take certain actions, even though such actions may be in the best interest of the particular joint venture or us.

WE DO NOT HAVE THE SAME FLEXIBILITY AS OTHER TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS TO ACCUMULATE CASH AND EQUITY TO PROTECT AGAINST ILLIQUIDITY IN THE FUTURE.

Unlike a corporation, our partnership agreement requires us to make quarterly distributions to our partners of all available cash reduced by any amounts reserved for commitments and contingencies, including capital and operating costs and debt service requirements. The value of our units and other limited partner interests will decrease in direct correlation with decreases in the amount we distribute per such securities. Accordingly, if we experience a liquidity problem in the future, we may not be able to issue more equity to recapitalize.

CHANGES OF CONTROL OF OUR GENERAL PARTNER MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT YOU.

Our results of operations and, thus, our ability to make cash distributions could be adversely affected if there is a change in management resulting from a change of control of our general partner. Although such an action would result in a change of control under the terms of the indenture governing our publicly-held debt, El Paso Energy is not restricted from selling our general partner or any of the common units or other limited partner interests it holds. As a result, El Paso Energy could sell control of our general partner to another company with less familiarity and experience with our businesses and with different business philosophies and objectives. We cannot assure you that any such acquiror would



continue our current business strategy, or even a business strategy economically compatible with our current business strategy.

#### TAX RISKS

For general discussion of the expected federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of our units or other limited partner interests, see "Income Tax Considerations" beginning on page 30.

WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A RULING OR ASSURANCES FROM THE IRS ON ANY MATTERS AFFECTING US.

We have not requested, and will not request, any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service with respect to our classification, or the classification of any of our subsidiaries which are organized as limited liability companies or partnerships, as a partnership for federal income tax purposes or any other matter affecting us or our subsidiaries. Accordingly, the IRS may propose positions that differ from the conclusions expressed by our counsel in this prospectus. It may be necessary to resort to administrative or court proceedings in an effort to sustain some or all of those conclusions, and some or all of those conclusions ultimately may not be sustained. The limited partners and our general partner will bear, directly or indirectly, the costs of any contest with the IRS.

#### OUR TAX TREATMENT DEPENDS ON OUR PARTNERSHIP STATUS.

Based upon the continued accuracy of the representations of our general partner set forth in "Income Tax Considerations--Partnership Status" on page 31, our counsel believes that under current law and regulations we and our subsidiaries which are limited liability companies or partnerships have been and will be classified as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. However, as stated above, we have not requested, and will not request, any ruling from the IRS as to this status, and our counsel's opinion is not binding on the IRS. In addition, you cannot be sure that those representations will continue to be accurate. If the IRS were to challenge our federal income tax status or the status of one of our subsidiaries, such a challenge could result in (1) an audit of your entire tax return and (2) adjustments to items on that return that are unrelated to the ownership of units or other limited partner interests. In addition, you would bear the cost of any expenses incurred in connection with an examination of your personal tax return. Except as specifically noted, this discussion assumes that we and our subsidiaries which are organized as limited liability companies or partnerships have been and are treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes.

If we or any of our subsidiaries which are organized as limited liability companies were taxable as a corporation for federal income tax purposes in any taxable year, its income, gain, losses and deductions would be reflected on its tax return rather than being passed through (proportionately) to you, and its net income would be taxed at corporate rates. In addition, some or all of the distributions made to you would be treated as dividend income and would be reduced as a result of the federal, state and local taxes paid by us or our subsidiaries.

WE MAINTAIN UNIFORMITY OF OUR LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS THROUGH NONCONFORMING DEPRECIATION CONVENTIONS.

Since we cannot match transferors and transferees of our limited partner interests, we must maintain uniformity of the economic and tax characteristics of the limited partner interests to their purchasers. To maintain uniformity and for other reasons, we have adopted certain depreciation conventions which do not conform with all aspects of certain proposed and final Treasury Regulations. The IRS may challenge those conventions and, if such a challenge were sustained, the uniformity or the value of our limited partner interests may be affected. For example, non-uniformity could adversely affect the amount of tax depreciation available to you and could have a negative impact on the value of your limited partner interests.

WE CAN ONLY DEDUCT CERTAIN LOSSES.

Any losses that we generate will be available to offset future income (except certain portfolio net income) that we generate and cannot be used to offset income from any other source, including other passive activities or investments.

YOUR PARTNERSHIP TAX INFORMATION MAY BE AUDITED.

We will furnish you a substitute Schedule K-1 that sets forth your allocable share of income, gains, losses and deductions. In preparing this schedule, we will use various accounting and reporting conventions and various depreciation and amortization methods we have adopted. You cannot be sure that this schedule will yield a result that conforms to statutory or regulatory requirements or to administrative pronouncements of the IRS. Further, our tax return may be audited, and any such audit could result in an audit of your individual tax return as well as increased liabilities for taxes because of adjustments resulting from the audit.

YOUR TAX LIABILITY RESULTING FROM AN INVESTMENT IN OUR LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS COULD EXCEED ANY CASH YOU RECEIVE AS A DISTRIBUTION FROM US OR THE PROCEEDS FROM DISPOSITIONS OF THOSE SECURITIES.

You will be required to pay federal income tax and, in certain cases, state and local income taxes on your allocable share of our income, whether or not you receive any cash distributions from us. You cannot be sure that you will receive cash distributions equal to your allocable share of taxable income from us. In fact, you may incur tax liability in excess of the amount of cash distribution we make to you or the cash you receive on the sale of your units or other limited partner interests.

TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS AND CERTAIN OTHER INVESTORS SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER OWNERSHIP OF OUR SECURITIES.

Investment in our securities by tax-exempt organizations and regulated investment companies raises issues unique to such persons. Virtually all of our income allocated to a tax-exempt organization will be unrelated business taxable income and will be taxable to such tax-exempt organization. Additionally, very little of our income will qualify for purposes of determining whether an investor will qualify as a regulated investment company. Furthermore, an investor who is a nonresident alien, a foreign corporation or other foreign person will be required to file federal income tax returns and to pay taxes on his share of our taxable income because he will be regarded as being engaged in a trade or business in the United States as a result of his ownership of units or other limited partnership units. We have the right to redeem units or other limited partner interests held by certain non-U.S. residents or holders otherwise not qualified to become one of our limited partners.

WE ARE REGISTERED AS A TAX SHELTER. ANY IRS AUDIT WHICH ADJUSTS OUR RETURNS WOULD ALSO ADJUST YOURS.

We have been registered with the IRS as a "tax shelter." The tax shelter registration number is 93084000079. As a result, you cannot be sure that we will not be audited by the IRS or that tax adjustments will not be made. If you own less than a 1% profit interest in us, your right to participate in the income tax audit process is limited. Further, any adjustments in our tax returns will lead to adjustments in your returns and may lead to audits of your returns and adjustments of items unrelated to us. You would bear the cost of any expenses incurred in connection with an examination of your personal tax return.

YOU MAY HAVE NEGATIVE TAX CONSEQUENCES IF WE DEFAULT ON OUR DEBT OR SELL ASSETS.

If we default on any of our debt, the lenders will have the right to sue us for non-payment. Such an action could cause an investment loss and cause negative tax consequences for you through the realization of taxable income by you without a corresponding cash distribution. Likewise, if we were to dispose of assets and realize a taxable gain while there is substantial debt outstanding and proceeds of the sale were applied to the debt, you could have increased taxable income without a corresponding cash distribution.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we specify otherwise in a related prospectus supplement, the net proceeds (after the payment of offering expenses and underwriting discounts or commissions) we receive from the sale of the limited partner interests offered by this prospectus and any prospectus supplement will be used for general partnership purposes, including constructing, purchasing or otherwise acquiring additional assets and repaying indebtedness.

## DESCRIPTION OF LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS

As of May 31, 2000, we had 26,739,065 common units representing limited partner interests and 289,699 preference units representing limited partner interests outstanding. On that date, the public owned an effective 65.5% interest in us, and El Paso Energy, through its subsidiaries, owned an effective 34.5% economic interest in us, consisting of common units representing limited partner interests, its 1% general partner interest and its approximate 1% non-managing member interest in certain of our subsidiaries.

The following description sets forth certain general terms and provisions of capital securities representing limited partner interests we are authorized by our partnership agreement to issue. You should refer to the applicable provisions of our partnership agreement, and the documents we have incorporated by reference for a complete statement of the terms and rights of the securities we are authorized to issue.

The board of directors of our general partner can, without limited partner approval, issue from time to time one or more series or classes of limited partner interest or other capital securities, including capital securities with rights to distributions and allocations or in liquidation equal or superior to the units currently outstanding. The board of directors can also determine the voting powers, designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and qualifications, limitations or restrictions of any series or class and the number of units or other limited partner interests constituting any series or class of capital securities representing limited partner interests.

If we offer a new series or class of capital securities representing limited partner interests, the particular terms of such securities will be described in a prospectus supplement.

## RIGHTS TO CASH DISTRIBUTIONS

**GENERAL.** Our limited partner interests (common units and preference units) are capital securities entitled (1) to participate in distributions of available cash that may be made from time to time and (2) in the event we liquidate or wind-up, to share in any of our assets remaining after satisfaction of our liabilities. Except to the extent our general partner has earned the right to receive any incentive distributions, we will distribute 98% of our available cash constituting cash from operations to our limited partners in respect of their common units and preference units and 2% of such available cash to our general partner in respect of its 1% general partner interest and its 1% non-managing member interest. Our general partner will become entitled, as an incentive, to a greater share of the distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations to the extent that available cash exceeds specified target levels that are above \$0.275 per unit per quarter, as further described below.

Our partnership agreement requires us to distribute all of our "available cash," as such term is defined in our partnership agreement. Generally, "available cash" means, for the applicable quarter, all cash receipts for such quarter and any reductions in reserves established in prior quarters less all cash disbursements made in such quarter and additions to reserves, as determined by our general partner. Our partnership agreement characterizes available cash into two categories--"cash from operations" and "cash from interim capital contributions." This distinction affects the amounts distributed to the unitholders relative to our general partner and the priority of distributions to preference unitholders relative to common unitholders. "Cash from operations," which is determined on a cumulative basis, generally refers to all cash generated by the operations of our business (excluding any cash from interim capital transactions), after deducting related cash operating expenditures, cash debt service payments, cash capital expenditures, reserves and certain other items. "Cash from interim capital transactions" will, generally, be generated only by (1) borrowings and sales of debt securities by us (other than for working capital purposes and other than for goods or services purchased on open account in the ordinary course of business), (2) sales of equity interests in us for cash and (3) sales or other voluntary or involuntary dispositions of any of our assets for cash (other than inventory, accounts receivable and other current assets and assets disposed of in the ordinary course of business).

Amounts of cash distributed by us on any date from any source will be treated as a distribution of cash from operations, until the sum of all amounts so distributed to the unitholders and to our general partner (including any incentive distributions) equals the aggregate amount of all cash from operations from February 19, 1993 through the end of the calendar quarter prior to such distribution. Any amount of such cash (irrespective of its source) distributed on such date which, together with prior distributions of cash from operations, is in excess of the aggregate amount of all cash from operations from February 19, 1993 through the end of the calendar quarter prior to such distribution will be deemed to constitute cash from interim capital transactions and will be distributed accordingly. If cash that is deemed to constitute cash from interim capital transactions is distributed in respect of each preference unit in an aggregate amount per preference unit equal to the unrecovered capital with respect thereto, the distinction between cash from operations and cash from interim capital transactions will cease, and all cash will be distributed as cash from operations.

Capital expenditures that our general partner determines are necessary or desirable to maintain our facilities and operations (as distinguished from capital expenditures made to expand the capacity of such facilities or make strategic acquisitions) will reduce the amount of cash from operations. Therefore, if our general partner were to determine that substantial capital expenditures were necessary or desirable to maintain our facilities, the amount of cash distributions that are deemed to constitute cash from operations would decrease and, if such expenditures were subsequently refinanced and all or a portion of the proceeds distributed to unitholders, the amount of cash distributions deemed to constitute cash from interim capital transactions might increase.

**QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTIONS OF AVAILABLE CASH.** Our partnership agreement requires us to distribute available cash for each calendar quarter within 45 days after the end of such quarter.

**PARTICIPATION IN DISTRIBUTIONS.** The holders of our common units are entitled to fully participate in quarterly distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations, subject to the right of our general partner to receive the incentive distributions described below, the right of holders of our preference units to receive minimum quarterly distributions and any arrearages, and the right of holders of any capital securities we issue in the future to receive any priority distributions attributable to such securities. The holders of our preference units do not have the right to fully participate in distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations. They do not participate in such distributions in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution amount plus arrearages, if any.

**SENIORITY.** The common unit distribution rights with respect to available cash constituting cash from operations (1) are subordinate to the right of preference units to receive the minimum quarterly distribution amount (including arrearages) and (2) until the common units receive an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution amount (excluding arrearages), are senior to the right of any other unit or other limited partner interests to receive a share of distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations.

The holders of our preference units are entitled to receive minimum distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations, for each quarter of \$0.275 per preference unit, aggregating \$1.10 per preference unit on an annualized basis. Such rights are cumulative, and arrearages will accrue.

After the holders of our preference units have received distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations, during any relevant quarter equal to the minimum quarterly distribution amount plus any arrearages, but before any other units may participate in distributions of such available cash during such quarter, the holders of our common units or other limited partner interests are entitled to receive during such quarter distributions of such available cash, if any, in an amount up to the minimum quarterly distribution amount. However, our common units do not have cumulative distribution participation rights, and no arrearages will accrue.

After our preference unit holders and common unitholders are paid the minimum quarterly distribution amount and any arrearages, holders of our common units are entitled to fully participate in

quarterly distributions of available cash, subject to the right of our general partner to receive the incentive distributions described below and the rights of holders of any capital securities we may issue in the future.

In the future, we may issue unlimited amounts of additional capital securities that would participate in, or have preferences with respect to, distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations, whether up to or in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution amount.

The minimum quarterly distribution and the specified target levels relating to incentive distributions may be adjusted under certain circumstances in accordance with our partnership agreement.

DISTRIBUTION OF CASH FROM OPERATIONS, UP TO THE MINIMUM QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTION, ON ALL UNITS. Available cash constituting cash from operations in respect of any calendar quarter will be distributed in the following manner:

first, 98% will be distributed to the preference unitholders, pro rata, and 2% will be distributed to our general partner until there has been distributed in respect of each preference unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for such quarter;

second, 98% will be distributed to the preference unitholders, pro rata, and 2% will be distributed to our general partner until there has been distributed in respect of each preference unit an amount equal to any cumulative arrearages in the minimum quarterly distribution on each preference unit with respect to any prior quarter;

third, 98% will be distributed to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 2% will be distributed to our general partner until there has been distributed in respect of each common unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for such quarter; and

thereafter, in the manner described under "--Incentive Distributions" below.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the minimum quarterly distribution is subject to adjustment as described below.

INCENTIVE DISTRIBUTIONS. Subject to the payment of incentive distributions to our general partner if certain target levels of distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations to preference and common unitholders are achieved, distributions of available cash are effectively made 98% to the limited partners and 2% to our general partner. For any calendar quarter with respect to which available cash constituting cash from operations is distributed in respect of both the preference units and the common units in an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.275 per unit, plus any preference unit arrearages, any additional available cash constituting cash from operations will be allocated between our general partner and the common unitholders at differing percentage rates, which increase the share of such additional available cash allocable to our general partner. As an incentive, in respect of its 2% interest, our general partner's share of such quarterly cash distributions in excess of \$0.325 per common unit will increase depending on the relevant target distribution level achieved.

The following table illustrates the percentage allocation of distributions of available cash among the unitholders and our general partner up to the various target distribution levels.

	QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTION AMOUNT PER UNIT UP TO	PERCENT OF MARGINAL AVAILABLE CASH DISTRIBUTED TO	
		COMMON UNITHOLDERS	GENERAL PARTNER
Minimum Quarterly Distribution.....	\$0.275	98%	2%
First Target Distribution.....	0.325	98%	2%
Second Target Distribution.....	0.375	85%	15%
Third Target Distribution.....	0.425	75%	25%
Thereafter.....	n/a	50%	50%

**DISTRIBUTIONS OF CASH FROM INTERIM CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS.** Distributions on any date by us of available cash constituting cash from interim capital transactions will be distributed 98% to preference and common unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner until a hypothetical holder of a preference unit acquired on February 19, 1993 has received with respect to such preference unit distributions of available cash constituting cash from interim capital transactions in an amount equal to such preference unit's unrecovered capital (being \$10.25 per preference unit less any amounts previously distributed as cash from interim capital transactions) plus accrued arrearages, if any. Thereafter, distributions of available cash that constitute cash from interim capital transactions will be distributed as if they were cash from operations, and because the minimum quarterly distribution and first, second and third target distribution levels will have been reduced to zero as described below, our general partner's share of distributions of available cash will increase, in general, to 50% of all distributions of available cash.

**ADJUSTMENT OF THE MINIMUM QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTION AND TARGET DISTRIBUTION LEVELS.** The minimum quarterly distribution, unrecovered capital per unit and the first, second and third target distribution levels will be proportionately adjusted upward or downward, as appropriate, in the event of any combination or subdivision of units (whether effected by a distribution payable in units or otherwise) but not by reason of the issuance of additional units for cash or property. For example, in the event of a two-for-one split of the units (assuming no prior adjustments), then the minimum quarterly distribution, unrecovered capital for a unit and the first, second and third target distribution levels would each be reduced to 50% of its initial level. In addition, if unrecovered capital is reduced as a result of a distribution of available cash constituting cash from interim capital transactions, the minimum quarterly distribution and the first, second and third target distribution levels will be adjusted downward proportionately, by multiplying each such amount, as the same may have been previously adjusted, by a fraction, the numerator of which is the unrecovered capital immediately after giving effect to such distribution and the denominator of which is the unrecovered capital immediately prior to such distribution. "Unrecovered capital" means, generally, the amount by which \$10.25 per unit exceeds the aggregate distributions of Cash from Interim Capital Transactions with respect to such unit, as adjusted. For example, the initial unrecovered capital is \$10.25 per unit (which was the initial public offering price per unit, as adjusted for a two-for-one split); if cash from interim capital transactions of \$7.50 per unit is distributed to unitholders (assuming no prior adjustments), then the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution, and of each of the target distribution levels, would be reduced to 26.8% of its initial level. If and when the unrecovered capital is zero, the minimum quarterly distribution and the first, second and third target distribution levels each will have been reduced to zero, and our general partner's share of distributions of available cash will increase, in general, to 50% of all distributions of available cash. Further, if the minimum quarterly distribution and the first, second and third target distribution levels each have been reduced to zero, then any preference units that have not either been redeemed or converted into common units, if any, (1) will receive no further distributions, (2) will be treated as if they had been redeemed and (3) will cease to be outstanding for all purposes.

The minimum quarterly distribution and the first, second and third target distribution levels may also be adjusted if legislation is enacted or the interpretation or existing legislation is modified which causes us to become taxable as a corporation or otherwise subjects us to taxation as an entity for federal income tax purposes. In such event, the minimum quarterly distribution and the first, second and third target distribution levels for each quarter thereafter would be reduced to an amount equal to the product of (1) each of the minimum quarterly distribution and the first, second and third target distribution levels multiplied by (2) one minus the sum of (a) the estimated effective federal income tax rate to which we are subject as an entity plus (b) the estimated effective overall state and local income tax rate to which we are subject as an entity for the taxable year in which such quarter occurs. For example, if we were to become taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes and we became subject to a combined estimated effective federal, state and local income tax rate of 38%, then the minimum quarterly distribution, and each of the target distribution levels, would be reduced to 62% of the amount thereof immediately prior to such adjustment.

Distributions of cash from interim capital transactions will not reduce the minimum quarterly distribution in the quarter in which they are distributed.

**DISTRIBUTION OF CASH UPON LIQUIDATION.** Following the commencement of our liquidation, our assets will be sold or otherwise disposed of, and the partners' capital account balances will be adjusted to reflect any resulting gain or loss. The proceeds of such liquidation will, first, be applied to the payment of our creditors in the order of priority provided in the partnership agreement and by law, and thereafter, be distributed to the unitholders and our general partner in accordance with their respective capital account balances, as so adjusted.

Partners are entitled to liquidation distributions in accordance with capital account balances. The allocations of gain or loss at the time of liquidation are intended to entitle the holders of outstanding preference units to a preference over the holders of outstanding common units upon our liquidation, to the extent of their Unrecovered Capital and any arrearages. However, you cannot be sure that gain or loss will be sufficient to achieve this result. Preference unitholders will not be entitled to share with our general partner and common unitholders in our assets in excess of such Unrecovered Capital and arrearages. The manner of such adjustment is as provided in the partnership agreement. Any gain (or unrealized gain attributable to assets distributed in kind) will be allocated to the partners as follows:

- first, to our general partner and the holders of units which have negative balances in their capital accounts to the extent of and in proportion to such negative balance;
- second, 98% to the preference unitholders and 2% to our general partner, until the capital account for each preference unit is equal to the sum of the Unrecovered Capital in respect of such preference unit plus any cumulative arrearages then existing in the payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on such preference unit;
- third, 98% to the common unitholders and 2% to our general partner until the capital account for each common unit is equal to the Unrecovered Capital in respect of such common unit;
- fourth, 98% to all unitholders (or, if liquidation occurs after the second anniversary of the preference unit conversion, to all common unitholders) and 2% to our general partner until there has been allocated under this clause fourth an amount per unit equal to (a) the excess of the first target distribution per unit over the minimum quarterly distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence, less (b) the amount per unit of any distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution per unit which was distributed 98% to the common unitholders and 2% to our general partner for any quarter of our existence;
- fifth, 85% to all unitholders (or, if liquidation occurs after the second anniversary of the preference unit conversion, to all common unitholders) and 15% to our general partner until there has been allocated under this clause fifth an amount per unit equal to (a) the excess of the second target distribution per unit over the first target distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence, less (b) the amount per unit of any distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations in excess of the first target distribution per unit which was distributed 85% to the common unitholders and 15% to our general partner for any quarter of our existence;
- sixth, 75% to all unitholders (or, if liquidation occurs after the second anniversary of the preference unit conversion, to all common unitholders) and 25% to our general partner until there has been allocated under this clause sixth an amount per unit equal to (a) the excess of the third target distribution per unit over the second target distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence, less (b) the amount per unit of any distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations in excess of the second target distribution per unit which was distributed 75% to the common unitholders and 25% to our general partner for any quarter of our existence; and
- thereafter, 50% to all unitholders (or, if liquidation occurs after the second anniversary of the preference unit conversion, to all common unitholders) and 50% to our general partner.



Any loss or unrealized loss will be allocated to the partners: first, in proportion to the positive balances of the preference unitholders' capital accounts until the preference unitholders' capital account balances are reduced to the amount of their Unrecovered Capital plus any arrearages; second, in proportion to the positive balances in our general partner's and the common unitholders' capital accounts until the common unitholders' capital accounts are reduced to zero; third, in proportion to the positive balances in our general partners' and the preference unitholders' capital accounts until the preference unitholders' capital accounts are reduced to zero; and thereafter, to our general partner.

#### LIMITED CALL RIGHT

If, at any time, non-affiliates of our general partner own 15% or less of the issued and outstanding units or other limited partner interests of any class (including common units), then our general partner may call, or assign to us or its affiliates our right to call, such remaining publicly-held units or other limited partner interests at a purchase price equal to the greater of (1) the highest cash price paid by our general partner or its affiliates for any unit or other limited partner interest purchased within the 90 days preceding the date our general partner mails notice of the election to call the units or other limited partner interests or (2) the average of the last reported sales price per unit or other limited partner interest over the 20 trading days preceding the date five days before our general partner mails such notice.

#### VOTING RIGHTS

Our general partner manages and operates our business. Unlike the holders of common stock in a corporation, you will have only limited voting rights on matters affecting our business. You will have no right to elect our general partner on an annual or other continuing basis. Our general partner may not be removed except pursuant to the vote of the holders of at least 55.0% of our limited partner interests, including limited partner interests owned by our general partner and its affiliates. And to the extent our limited partners do have the right to vote on a particular matter, our general partner and its affiliates will be able to exert influence over such vote because of their effective 34.5% ownership of us as of the date of this prospectus. You are entitled to vote only on the following matters:

- a merger or consolidation involving us;
- the sale, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets;
- our conversion into a corporation for tax purposes;
- the transfer of all of our general partner interest (but not the sale of our general partner);
- the election of any successor general partner upon the current general partner's withdrawal;
- the removal of our general partner;
- our continuation upon an event of dissolution; and
- certain amendments to our partnership agreement.

In addition, holders of record of limited partner interests will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, meetings of our limited partners and to act with respect to matters as to which approvals may be solicited. The partnership agreement provides that limited partner interests held in nominee or street name account will be voted by the broker (or other nominee) pursuant to the instruction of the beneficial owner unless the arrangement between the beneficial owner and his nominee provides otherwise.

#### PREEMPTIVE AND DISSENTER'S APPRAISAL RIGHTS

Holders of limited partner interests do not have preemptive rights and do not have dissenters' rights of appraisal under the partnership agreement or applicable Delaware law in the event of a merger or consolidation involving us or a sale of substantially all of our assets.

## TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

**DUTIES.** ChaseMellon Shareholder Services acts as the registrar and transfer agent for our preference and common units and receives a fee from us for serving in such capacities. All fees charged by the transfer agent for transfers and withdrawals of units are borne by us and not by the limited partners, except that fees similar to those customarily paid by stockholders for surety bond premiums to replace lost or stolen certificates, taxes or other governmental charges, special charges for services requested by a limited partner and other similar fees or charges are borne by the affected limited partner. There is no charge to limited partners for disbursements of our distributions of available cash. We indemnify the transfer agent and its agents from certain liabilities.

**RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL.** The transfer agent may at any time resign, by notice to us, or be removed by us, such resignation or removal to become effective upon the appointment by our general partner of a successor transfer agent and registrar and its acceptance of such appointment. If no successor has been appointed and has accepted such appointment with 30 days after notice of such resignation or removal, our general partner is authorized to act as the transfer agent and registrar until a successor is appointed.

## TRANSFER OF LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS

Until a unit or other limited partner interest has been transferred on our books, we and the transfer agent may treat the record holder thereof as the absolute owner for all purposes, notwithstanding any notice to the contrary or any notation or other writing on the certificate representing such unit or other limited partner interest, except as otherwise required by law. Any transfer of a unit or other limited partner interest will not be recorded by the transfer agent or recognized by us unless certificates representing those units or other limited partner interests are surrendered. When acquiring units or other limited partner interests, the transferee of such units or other limited partner interests:

- is an assignee until admitted as a substituted limited partner;
- automatically requests admission as a substituted limited partner;
- agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of, and executes, our partnership agreement;
- represents that such transferee has the capacity and authority to enter into our partnership agreement;
- grants powers of attorney to our general partner and any liquidator of us;
- makes the consents and waivers contained in our partnership agreement; and
- certifies that such transferee is an eligible U.S. citizen as required by the FERC.

An assignee will become a limited partner in respect of the transferred units or other limited partner interests upon the consent of our general partner and the recordation of the name of the assignee on our books and records. Such consent may be withheld in the sole discretion of our general partner. Our units or other limited partner interests are securities and are transferable according to the laws governing transfers of securities.

In addition to other rights acquired upon transfer, the transferor gives the transferee the right to request admission as a substituted limited partner in respect of the transferred units or other limited partner interests. A purchaser or transferee of units or other limited partner interests who does not become a limited partner obtains only (1) the right to assign the units or other limited partner interests to a purchaser or other transferee and (2) the right to transfer the right to seek admission as a substituted limited partner with respect to the transferred units or other limited partner interests. Thus, a purchaser or transferee of units or other limited partner interests who does not meet the requirements of limited partner admission will not be the record holder of such units or other limited partner interests, will not receive cash distributions unless the units or other limited partner interests are held in a nominee or street name account and the nominee or broker has ensured that such transferee satisfies such requirements of

admission with respect to such units or other limited partner interests and may not receive certain federal income tax information or reports furnished to holders of record.

#### LIQUIDATION RIGHTS

Following the commencement of our liquidation, assets will be sold or otherwise disposed of, and the partners' capital account balances will be adjusted to reflect any resulting gain or loss. The manner of such adjustment is as provided in our partnership agreement. The proceeds of any liquidation will, first, be applied to the payment of our creditors in the order of priority provided in our partnership agreement and by law, and thereafter, be distributed to the limited partners and our general partner in accordance with their respective capital account balances, as so adjusted.

Partners are entitled to liquidation distributions in accordance with capital account balances. The allocations of gain or loss at the time of liquidation are intended to entitle the holders of outstanding preference units to a preference over the holders of outstanding common units upon our liquidation, to the extent of any unrecovered capital (as defined in our partnership agreement), and any arrearages, applicable thereto. However, no assurance can be given that gain or loss will be sufficient to achieve this result. Further, preference unitholders are not entitled to share with our general partner and other limited partners in our assets in excess of the unrecovered capital and arrearages. Any gain (or unrealized gain attributable to assets distributed in kind) will be allocated to our partners as follows:

first, to our general partner and limited partners which have negative balances in their capital accounts to the extent of and in proportion to such negative balance;

second, 98% to the preference unitholders and 2% to our general partner, until the capital account for each preference unit is equal to the sum of the unrecovered capital in respect of such preference unit plus any cumulative arrearages then existing in the payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on such preference unit.

third, 98% to the common unitholders and 2% to our general partner until the capital account for each common unit is equal to the unrecovered capital in respect of such common unit;

fourth, 98% to all limited partners (or, if liquidation occurs after August 2000, to all common unitholders) and 2% to our general partner until there has been allocated under this clause fourth an amount per unit equal to (1) the excess of the first target distribution per unit over the minimum quarterly distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence, less (2) the amount per unit of any distributions of available cash constituting "cash from operations" (as defined in our partnership agreement) in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution per unit which was distributed 98% to our common unitholders and 2% to our general partner for any quarter of our existence;

fifth, 85% to all limited partners (or, if liquidation occurs after August 2000, to all common unitholders) and 15% to our general partner until there has been allocated under this clause fifth an amount per unit equal to (1) the excess of the second target distribution per unit over the first target distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence, less (2) the amount per unit of any distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations in excess of the first target distribution per unit which was distributed 85% to our common unitholders and 15% to our general partner for any quarter of our existence;

sixth, 75% to all limited partners (or, if liquidation occurs after August 2000, to all common unitholders) and 25% to our general partner until there has been allocated under this clause sixth an amount per unit equal to (1) the excess of the third target distribution per unit over the second target distribution per unit for each quarter our existence, less (2) the amount per unit of any distributions of available cash constituting cash from operations in excess of the second target distribution per unit which was distributed 75% to the common unitholders and 25% to our general partner for any quarter of our existence; and

thereafter, 50% to all limited partners (or, if liquidation occurs after August 2000, to all common unitholders) and 50% to our general partner.

Any loss or unrealized loss will be allocated to the partners: first, in proportion to the positive balances of the preference unitholders' capital accounts until the preference unitholders' capital account balances are reduced to the amount of their unrecovered capital plus any arrearages; second, in proportion to the positive balances in our general partner's and the common unitholders' capital accounts until the common unitholders' capital account balances are reduced to zero; third, in proportion to the positive balances in our general partner's and the preference unitholders' capital accounts until the preference unitholders' capital accounts are reduced to zero; and thereafter, to our general partner.

#### FURTHER ASSESSMENTS

Generally, limited partners will not be liable for assessments in addition to their initial capital investment in their units or other limited partner interests. Under certain circumstances, however, limited partners may be required to repay us amounts wrongfully returned or distributed to such limited partners. Under Delaware law, a limited partnership may not make a distribution to a partner to the extent that at the time of the distribution, after giving effect to the distribution, all liabilities of the partnership, other than liabilities to partners on account of their partnership interests and nonrecourse liabilities, exceed the fair value of the assets of the limited partnership. Delaware law provides that a limited partner who receives such a distribution and knew at the time of the distribution that the distribution violated the law will be liable to the limited partnership for the amount of the distribution for three years from the date of the distribution. Under Delaware law, an assignee who becomes a substitute limited partner of a limited partnership is liable for the obligations of his assignor to make contributions to the partnership, except the assignee is not obligated for liabilities that were unknown to him at the time he became a limited partner and that could not be ascertained from the partnership agreement.

If it were determined under Delaware law that certain actions which the limited partners may take under our partnership agreement constituted "control" of our business, then our limited partners could be held personally liable for our obligations to the same extent as our general partner.

#### MODIFICATION OF RIGHTS

In general, amendments which would enlarge the obligations of the limited partners or our general partner require the consent of the limited partner or general partner, as applicable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, our partnership agreement permits our general partner to make certain amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner, including, subject to certain limitations, (1) an amendment that in the sole discretion of our general partner is necessary or desirable in connection with the authorization of additional preference units or other capital securities, (2) any amendment made, the effect of which is to separate into a separate security, separate and apart from the units, the right of preference unitholders to receive any arrearage, and (3) several other amendments expressly permitted in our partnership agreement to be made by our general partner acting alone.

In addition, our general partner may make amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner if such amendments do not adversely affect the limited partners in any material respect, or are required by law or by our partnership agreement.

#### RELATIONSHIP TO PREFERENCE UNITS

As of May 31, 2000, there were 289,699 preference units outstanding, which have certain rights which are superior to those of common units. These rights include:

- the right to receive a cumulative minimum quarterly distribution of available cash of \$0.275 (plus any arrearages) per preference unit before the common units may receive any quarterly distribution; and

- a liquidation preference of the unrecovered capital per preference unit--that is, if we are liquidated, each preference unit must receive a liquidating distribution equal to its unrecovered capital (plus any arrearages on the minimum quarterly distributions) before the common units may receive any liquidating distribution.

#### RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER UNITS

As of May 31, 2000, there were 26,739,065 common units outstanding, which have certain rights which are superior to those of other units or other limited partner interests that may be issued in the future. These rights include:

- the right to receive a cumulative minimum quarterly distribution of available cash of \$0.275 (plus any arrearages) per common unit before the other units or other limited partner interests may receive any quarterly distribution; and
- a liquidation preference of the unrecovered capital per common unit--that is, if we are liquidated, each common unit must receive a liquidating distribution equal to its unrecovered capital (plus any arrearages on the minimum quarterly distributions) before the other units or other limited partner interests may receive any liquidating distribution.

#### CERTAIN OTHER PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT PROVISIONS

The following paragraphs are a summary of certain provisions of our partnership agreement as in effect on the date of this prospectus. The following discussion is qualified in its entirety by reference to our partnership agreement.

#### PURPOSE

Our stated purposes under our partnership agreement are to serve as the managing member of our subsidiaries and to engage in any business activity permitted under Delaware law. Our general partner is generally authorized to perform all acts deemed necessary to carry out these purposes and to conduct our business. Our partnership existence will continue until December 31, 2043, unless sooner dissolved pursuant to the terms of our partnership agreement.

#### AUTHORITY OF OUR GENERAL PARTNER

Our general partner has a power of attorney to take certain actions, including the execution and filing of documents, on our behalf and with respect to our partnership agreement. However, our partnership agreement limits the authority of our general partner as follows:

- Without the prior approval of at least a majority in interest of our limited partners, our general partner may not, among other things, (1) sell or exchange all or substantially all of our assets (whether in a single transaction or a series of related transactions) or (2) approve on our behalf the sale, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets; however, we may mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or grant a security interest in all or substantially all of our assets without such approval;
- With certain exceptions generally described below under "--Amendment of Partnership Agreement," an amendment to a provision of our partnership agreement generally requires the approval of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding limited partner interests;
- With certain exceptions described below, any amendment that would materially and adversely affect the rights and preference of any type or class of partnership interests in relation to other types or classes of partnership interests will require the approval of the holders of at least a majority of such type or class of partnership interest (excluding those held by our general partner and its affiliates); and

- In general, our general partner may not take any action, or refuse to take any reasonable action, the effect of which would be to cause us to be taxable as a corporation or to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, without the consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding limited partner interests, including the vote of the holders of a majority of the preference units (other than preference units held by our general partner and its affiliates).

#### WITHDRAWAL OR REMOVAL OF OUR GENERAL PARTNER

Our general partner has agreed not to voluntarily withdraw as general partner on or prior to December 31, 2002 (with limited exceptions described below) without the approval of at least a majority of the remaining outstanding units and an opinion of counsel that (following the selection of a successor) its withdrawal would not result in the loss of limited liability or cause us to be taxed as a corporation or other entity for federal income tax purposes. However, our general partner may withdraw without such approval of the unitholders, upon 90 days' notice, if more than 50.0% of the outstanding preference units are held or controlled by one person and its affiliates other than the withdrawing general partner and its affiliates.

After December 31, 2002, our general partner may withdraw by giving 90 days' written notice. If an appropriate opinion of counsel cannot be obtained, we would be dissolved as a result of such withdrawal.

Our general partner may not be removed, with or without cause, as general partner except upon approval by the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than 55.0% of the outstanding limited partner interests, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions.

In the event of withdrawal of our general partner where such withdrawal violates our partnership agreement or removal of our general partner for "cause," a successor general partner will have the option to acquire the general partner interest of the departing general partner (the "Departing Partner") and, if requested by the Departing Partner, its nonmanaging member interests in our subsidiaries, for a fair market value cash payment. Under all other circumstances where our general partner withdraws or is removed by our limited partners, the Departing Partner will have the option to require the successor general partner to acquire the general partner and nonmanaging member interests of the Departing Partner for a fair market value cash payment.

Our general partner may transfer all, but not less than all, of its general partner interest and its nonmanaging interests in our subsidiaries without the approval of our limited partners (1) to an affiliate of our general partner or (2) upon its merger or consolidation into another entity or the transfer of all or substantially all of its assets to another entity. In the case of any other transfer, in addition to the foregoing requirements, the approval of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding limited partner interests is required, excluding for purposes of such determination units held by our general partner and its affiliates. However, no approval of the limited partners is required for transfers of the stock or other securities representing equity interest in our general partner.

#### AMENDMENT OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Amendments to our partnership agreement may be proposed only by our general partner. Proposed amendments (other than those described below) must be approved by holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding limited partner interests, except (1) that any amendment that would have a disproportionate material adverse effect on a class of units or other limited partner interests will require the approval of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding limited partner interests (excluding those held by our general partner and its affiliates) of the class so affected or (2) as otherwise provided in our partnership agreement. No provision of our partnership agreement that establishes a percentage of outstanding limited partner interests required to take any action may be amended or otherwise modified to reduce such voting requirement without the approval of the holders of that percentage of outstanding limited partner interests constituting the voting requirement sought to be amended.

In general, amendments which would enlarge the obligations of any type or class of our limited partners or our general partner require the consent of such limited partners or general partner, as applicable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, our partnership agreement permits our general partner to make certain amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner, including, subject to certain limitations, (1) an amendment that in the sole discretion of our general partner is necessary or desirable in connection with the authorization of additional preference units or other capital securities, (2) any amendment made, the effect of which is to separate into a separate security, separate and apart from the units, the right of preference unitholders to receive any arrearage, and (3) several other amendments expressly permitted in our partnership agreement to be made by our general partner acting alone.

In addition, our general partner may make amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner if such amendments do not adversely affect the limited partners in any material respect, or are required by law or by our partnership agreement.

No other amendments to our partnership agreement will become effective without the approval of at least 95.0% of the limited partner interests unless we obtain an opinion of counsel to the effect that such amendment will not cause us to be taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxed as an entity for federal income tax purposes and will not affect the limited liability of any limited partner or any member of our subsidiaries.

#### MEETINGS; VOTING

Record holders of limited partner interests on the record date set pursuant to our partnership agreement will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, meetings of limited partners. Meetings of our limited partners may only be called by our general partner or, with respect to meetings called to remove our general partner, by limited partners owning 55.0% or more of the outstanding limited partner interests.

Representation in person or by proxy of two-thirds (or a majority, if that is the vote required to take action at the meeting in question) of the outstanding units or other limited partner interests of the class for which a meeting is to be held will constitute a quorum at a meeting of limited partners. Except for (1) a proposal for removal or withdrawal of our general partner, (2) the sale of all or substantially all of our assets or (3) certain amendments to our partnership agreement described above, substantially all matters submitted for a vote are determined by the affirmative vote, in person or by proxy, of holders of at least a majority of the outstanding limited partner interests.

Each record holder of a limited partner interest has one vote per unit or other limited partner interest, according to his percentage interest in us. However, our partnership agreement does not restrict our general partner from issuing limited partner interests having special or superior voting rights.

#### INDEMNIFICATION

Our partnership agreement provides that we:

- will indemnify our general partner, any Departing Partner and any person who is or was an officer, director or other representative of our general partner, any Departing Partner or us, to the fullest extent permitted by law, and
- may indemnify, to the fullest extent permitted by law, (1) any person who is or was an affiliate of our general partner, any Departing Partner or us, (2) any person who is or was an employee, partner, agent or trustee of our general partner, any Departing Partner, us or any such affiliate, or (3) any person who is or was serving at our request as an officer, director, employee, partner, member, agent or other representative of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, committee or other enterprise;

(each, as well as any employee, partner, agent or other representative of our general partner, any Departing Partner, us or any of their affiliates, an "Indemnitee") from and against any and all claims,

damages, expenses and fines, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, in which any Indemnitee may be involved, or is threatened to be involved, as a party or otherwise, by reason of its status as (1) our general partner, Departing Partner, us or an affiliate of either, (2) an officer, director, employee, partner, agent, trustee or other representative of our general partner, any Departing Partner, us or any of their affiliates or (3) a person serving at our request in any other entity in a similar capacity. Indemnification will be conditioned on the determination that, in each case, the Indemnitee acted in good faith, in a manner which such Indemnitee believed to be in, or not opposed to, our best interests and, with respect to any criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe its conduct was unlawful.

The above indemnification may result in indemnification of Indemnitees for negligent acts, and may include indemnification for liabilities under the Securities Act. We have been advised that, in the opinion of the SEC, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. Any indemnification under these provisions will be only out of our assets. We are authorized to purchase (or to reimburse our general partner or its affiliates for the cost of) insurance against liabilities asserted against and expenses incurred by such persons in connection with our activities, whether or not we would have the power to indemnify such person against such liabilities under the provisions described above.

#### GENERAL PARTNER EXPENSES

Our general partner will be reimbursed for its direct and indirect expenses incurred on our behalf on a monthly or other appropriate basis as provided for in our partnership agreement, including, without limitation, expenses allocated to our general partner by its affiliates and payments made by our general partner to El Paso Energy and its affiliates pursuant to the management agreement.

#### CONVERSION OF PREFERENCE UNITS INTO COMMON UNITS AND SUBSEQUENT REDEMPTION OF PREFERENCE UNITS

From May 8, 2000 until August 7, 2000, the holders of our 289,699 then outstanding preference units have the right to convert their preference units into an equal number of common units. This is the third and final conversion opportunity that we will offer to holders of preference units.

During the first and second conversion opportunities, which occurred in 1998 and 1999, the holders of 17,785,301 preference units, representing approximately 98.0% of the preference units issued by us, converted their preference units into common units. As a result of that conversion, the common units (including the 8,953,764 common units held by our general partner and its affiliates) have become the primary listed security on the NYSE under the symbol "EPN". The preference units currently outstanding trade as our secondary listed security on the NYSE under the symbol "EPN.P".

After August 7, 2000, any or all of the outstanding preference units may be redeemed at any time at our option, exercised in the sole discretion of our general partner, upon at least 30 but not more than 60 days' notice. We must redeem all such preference units if we redeem any preference units. The redemption price for each preference unit would be the amount of the "unrecovered capital," which is \$10.25 as of the date of this prospectus. Unrecovered capital is more particularly defined in our partnership agreement, but generally is the difference between \$10.25 less the amount of available cash from interim capital transactions that has been distributed to a hypothetical preference unit issued on February 19, 1993.

#### LIMITED LIABILITY

Assuming that a limited partner does not take part in the control of our business, and that he otherwise acts in conformity with the provisions of our partnership agreement, his liability under Delaware law will be limited, subject to certain possible exceptions, generally to the amount of capital he is obligated to contribute to us in respect of his units or other limited partner interests plus his share of any of our undistributed profits and assets.



## TERMINATION, DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

Our partnership existence will continue until December 31, 2043, unless sooner terminated pursuant to our partnership agreement. We will be dissolved upon (1) the election of our general partner, if approved by the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding limited partner interests, (2) the sale, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets and properties, (3) bankruptcy or dissolution of our general partner or (4) withdrawal or removal of our general partner or any other event that results in its ceasing to be our general partner (other than by reason of transfer in accordance with our partnership agreement or withdrawal or removal following approval of a successor). Notwithstanding the foregoing, we will not be dissolved if within 90 days after such event our partners agree in writing to continue our business and to the appointment, effective as of the date of such event, of a successor general partner.

Upon a dissolution pursuant to clause (3) or (4) above, the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding limited partner interests may also elect, within certain time limitations, to reconstitute and continue our business on the same terms and conditions set forth in our partnership agreement by forming a new limited partnership on terms identical to those set forth in our partnership agreement and having as a general partner an entity approved by the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding limited partner interests, subject to our receipt of an opinion of counsel that such reconstitution, continuation and approval will not result in the loss of the limited liability of our limited partners or cause us, the reconstituted limited partnership or our subsidiaries to be taxable as a corporation or otherwise subject to taxation as an entity for federal income tax purposes.

Upon our dissolution, unless we are reconstituted and continue as a new limited partnership, a liquidator will liquidate our assets and apply the proceeds of the liquidation in the order of priority set forth in our partnership agreement. The liquidator may defer liquidation or distribution of our assets and/or distribute assets to partners in kind if it determines that a sale or other disposition of our assets would be unsuitable.

## INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The tax consequences to you of an investment in our units or other limited partner interests will depend in part on your own tax circumstances. You should therefore consult your own tax advisor about the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences to you of an investment in our units or other limited partner interests.

This section is a summary of material tax considerations that may be relevant to prospective limited partners and, to the extent set forth below under "--Legal Opinions and Advice," expresses the opinion of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., counsel to us and our general partner, insofar as it relates to matters of law and legal conclusions. This section is based upon current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), existing and proposed regulations thereunder and current administrative rulings and court decisions, all of which are subject to change, possibly retroactively. Subsequent changes in such authorities may cause the tax consequences to vary substantially from the consequences described below.

No attempt has been made in the following discussion to comment on all federal income tax matters affecting us or you. Moreover, the discussion focuses on limited partners who are individual citizens or residents of the U.S. and has only limited application to corporations, estates, trusts, non-resident aliens or other limited partners subject to specialized tax treatment (such as tax-exempt institutions, foreign persons, individual retirement accounts, REITs or mutual funds). Accordingly, you should consult, and should depend on, your own tax advisor in analyzing the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences peculiar to you of the ownership or disposition of units or other limited partner interests.

## LEGAL OPINIONS AND ADVICE

Our counsel is of the opinion that, based on the accuracy of the representations and subject to the qualifications set forth in the detailed discussion that follows, for federal income tax purposes (1) we will be treated as a partnership, and (2) owners of units or other limited partner interests (with certain exceptions, as described in "--Limited Partner Status" below) will be treated as our partners. In addition, all statements as to matters of law and legal conclusions contained in this section, unless otherwise noted, reflect the opinion of our counsel.

We have not requested and will not request a ruling from the IRS, and the IRS has made no determination, with respect to the foregoing issues or any other matter affecting us or you. An opinion of counsel represents only that counsel's best legal judgment and does not bind the IRS or the courts. Thus, no assurance can be provided that, if contested by the IRS, a court would agree with the opinions and statements set forth herein. Any such contest with the IRS may materially and adversely impact the market for our units or other limited partner interests and the prices at which they trade. In addition, the costs of any contest with the IRS will be borne directly or indirectly by the limited partners and our general partner. Furthermore, no assurance can be given that our treatment or the treatment of an investment in us will not be significantly modified by future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions. Any such modification may or may not be retroactively applied.

For the reasons hereinafter described, our counsel has not rendered an opinion with respect to the following specific federal income tax issues:

- (1) the treatment of a holder of units or other limited partner interests whose securities are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of those securities (see "--Tax Treatment of Operations--Treatment of Short Sales"),
- (2) whether a holder of units or other limited partner interests acquiring securities in separate transactions must maintain a single aggregate adjusted tax basis in his securities (see "--Disposition of Limited Partner Interests --Recognition of Gain or Loss"),
- (3) whether our monthly convention for allocating taxable income and losses is permitted by existing Treasury Regulations (see "--Disposition of Limited Partner Interests--Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees"), and;
- (4) whether our method for depreciating Section 743 adjustments is sustainable (see "--Tax Treatment of Operations--Section 754 Election").

## TAX RATES

The maximum effective income tax rate for individuals for 2000 is 39.6%. In general, net capital gains of an individual are subject to a maximum 20% tax rate if the asset giving rise to gain was held for more than 12 months at the time of disposition.

## PARTNERSHIP STATUS

A partnership is not a taxable entity and incurs no federal income tax liability. Instead, each partner of a partnership is required to take into account his allocable share of items of income, gain, loss and deduction of the partnership in computing his federal income tax liability, regardless of whether cash distributions are made. Distributions by a partnership to a partner are generally not taxable unless the amount of cash distributed is in excess of the partner's adjusted basis in his partnership interest immediately before the distribution.

We have not requested and will not request a ruling from the IRS, and the IRS has made no determination, as to our status as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. Instead we have relied on the opinion of our counsel that, based upon the Code, the regulations thereunder, published revenue rulings and court decisions, we will be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

In rendering its opinion, our counsel has relied on certain factual representations made by us and our general partner. Such factual matters are as follows:

- We will not elect to be treated as an association or corporation;
- We will be operated in accordance with (1) all applicable partnership statutes, (2) our partnership agreement, and (3) the description thereof in this prospectus;
- For each taxable year, more than 90% of our gross income will be income from sources that our counsel has opined or may opine is "qualifying income" within the meaning of Section 7704(d) of the Code;
- Each futures contract entered into by us for the purchase or sale of natural gas or crude oil will be identified as a hedging transaction pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 1.1221-2(e)(1);
- Gain or loss resulting from our future transactions will be treated as an adjustment in the computation of cost of goods sold with respect to sales of crude oil for federal income tax purposes;
- Prior to January 1, 1997 our general partner had at all times while acting as our general partner either (1) in the aggregate as a general and limited partner at least a 20% interest in the capital and 19% of our outstanding units and was acting for its own account and not as a mere agent of the limited partners, or (2) assets (excluding any interest in, or notes or receivables due from, us or our operating subsidiaries), the fair market value of which exceed their liabilities by the amount of at least 5% of the fair market value of all partnership interests outstanding immediately after the initial public offering of preference units, plus 5% of any additional net capital contributions to us made after the initial public offering;
- Prior to January 1, 1992, except as otherwise required by Section 704 of the Code, our general partner had an interest in each material item of our and our operating subsidiaries' income, gain, loss, deduction and credit equal to at least 1% at all times during our existence and the existence of our operating companies; and
- Prior to January 1, 1992, our general partner acted independently of our limited partners.

Section 7704 of the Code provides that publicly-traded partnerships will, as a general rule, be taxed as corporations. However, an exception (the "Qualifying Income Exception") exists with respect to publicly-traded partnerships of which 90% or more of the gross income for every taxable year consists of "qualifying income." Qualifying income includes income and gains derived from the transportation and marketing, processing, production and development of, and exploration for, natural gas and crude oil,

among other activities. Other types of qualifying income include interest (from other than a financial business), dividends, gains from the sale of real property and gains from the sale or other disposition of capital assets held for the production of income that otherwise constitutes qualifying income. Based upon our representations and the representations of our general partner and a review of the applicable legal authorities, our counsel is of the opinion that at least 90% of our gross income will constitute qualifying income. We estimate that less than 10.0% of our gross income for each taxable year will not constitute qualifying income.

If we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception (other than a failure which is determined by the IRS to be inadvertent and which is cured within a reasonable time after discovery), we will be treated as if we had transferred all of our assets (subject to liabilities) to a newly formed corporation (on the first day of the year in which we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception) in return for stock in that corporation, and then distributed that stock to our partners in liquidation of their interests in us. This contribution and liquidation should be tax-free to us and unitholders, so long as we, at that time, do not have liabilities in excess of the tax basis of our assets. Thereafter, we would be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes.

If we were taxable as a corporation in any taxable year, either as a result of a failure to meet the Qualifying Income Exception or otherwise, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction would be reflected only on our tax return rather than being passed through to the limited partners, and our net income would be taxed to us at corporate rates. In addition, any distribution made to a limited partner would be treated as either taxable dividend income (to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits) or (in the absence of earnings and profits) a nontaxable return of capital (to the extent of the limited partner's tax basis in his units or other limited partner interests) or taxable capital gain (after the limited partner's tax basis in his units or other limited partner interests is reduced to zero). Accordingly, taxation as a corporation would result in a material reduction in a limited partner's cash flow and after-tax return and thus would likely result in a substantial reduction of the value of the units or other limited partner interests.

The discussion below is based on the assumption that we will be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

#### LIMITED PARTNER STATUS

Holders of our capital securities who have become our limited partners will be treated as our partners for federal income tax purposes. Our counsel is also of the opinion that (1) assignees who have executed and delivered transfer applications and are awaiting admission as limited partners and (2) holders whose units or other limited partner interests are held in street name or by a nominee and who have the right to direct the nominee in the exercise of all substantive rights attendant to the ownership of their units or other limited partner interests will be treated as our partners for federal income tax purposes. As there is no direct authority addressing assignees of units or other limited partner interests who are entitled to execute and deliver transfer applications and thereby become entitled to direct the exercise of attendant rights, but who fail to execute and deliver transfer applications, our counsel's opinion does not extend to these persons. Furthermore, a purchaser or other transferee of units or other limited partner interests who does not execute and deliver a transfer application may not receive certain federal income tax information or reports furnished to record holders of units or other limited partner interests unless the units or other limited partner interests are held in a nominee or street name account and the nominee or broker has executed and delivered a transfer application with respect to such units or other limited partner interests.

A beneficial owner of units or other limited partner interests whose securities have been transferred to a short seller to complete a short sale would appear to lose his status as a partner with respect to such units or other limited partner interests for federal income tax purposes. See "--Tax Treatment of Operations--Treatment of Short Sales."

Income, gain, deductions or losses would not appear to be reportable by a holder who is not a partner for federal income tax purposes, and any cash distributions received by such a holder would therefore be

fully taxable as ordinary income. These holders should consult their own tax advisors with respect to their status as our partners for federal income tax purposes.

#### TAX CONSEQUENCES OF LIMITED PARTNER INTEREST OWNERSHIP

##### FLOW-THROUGH OF TAXABLE INCOME

We will pay no federal income tax. Instead, each limited partner will be required to report on his income tax return his allocable share of our income, gains, losses and deductions without regard to whether corresponding cash distributions are received by him. Consequently, we may allocate income to a limited partner even if he has not received a cash distribution. Each limited partner will be required to include in income his allocable share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for our taxable year ending with or within the taxable year of the limited partner.

##### TREATMENT OF PARTNERSHIP DISTRIBUTIONS

Distributions by us to a limited partner generally will not be taxable to him for federal income tax purposes to the extent of his tax basis in his units or other limited partner interests immediately before the distribution.

Cash distributions in excess of a limited partner's tax basis generally will be considered to be gain from the sale or exchange of the units or other limited partner interests, taxable in accordance with the rules described under "--Disposition of Limited Partner Interests" below. Any reduction in a limited partner's share of our liabilities for which no partner, including the general partner, bears the economic risk of loss ("nonrecourse liabilities") will be treated as a distribution of cash to that limited partner. To the extent that our distributions cause a limited partner's "at risk" amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year, he must recapture any losses deducted in previous years. See "--Limitations on Deductibility of Partnership Losses."

A decrease in a limited partner's percentage interest in us because of our issuance of additional units or other limited partner interests will decrease his share of our nonrecourse liabilities and, thus will result in a corresponding deemed distribution of cash. A non-pro rata distribution of money or property may result in ordinary income to a limited partner, regardless of his tax basis in his units or other limited partner interests, if the distribution reduces his share of our "unrealized receivables" (including depreciation recapture) and/or substantially appreciated "inventory items" (both as defined in Section 751 of the Code) (collectively, "Section 751 Assets"). To that extent, he will be treated as having been distributed his proportionate share of the Section 751 Assets and having exchanged those assets with us in return for the non-pro rata portion of the actual distribution made to him. This latter deemed exchange will generally result in the limited partner's realization of ordinary income under Section 751(b) of the Code. This income will equal the excess of (1) the non-pro rata portion of the distribution over (2) the limited partner's tax basis for the share of the Section 751 Assets deemed relinquished in the exchange.

##### BASIS OF UNITS

A limited partner's initial tax basis for his units or other limited partner interests will be the amount he paid for the units or other limited partner interests plus his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. That basis will be increased by his share of our income and by any increases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. That basis will be decreased (but not below zero) by distributions from us to him, by his share of our losses, by any decrease in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities and by his share of our expenditures that are not deductible in computing its taxable income and are not required to be capitalized. A limited partner will have no share of our debt which is recourse to our general partner, but will have a share, generally based on his share of profits, of our nonrecourse liabilities. See "--Disposition of Limited Partner Interests--Recognition of Gain or Loss."

## LIMITATIONS ON DEDUCTIBILITY OF PARTNERSHIP LOSSES

The deduction by a limited partner of his share of our losses will be limited to the tax basis in his units or other limited partner interests and, in the case of an individual limited partner or a corporate limited partner (if more than 50% of the value of its stock is owned directly or indirectly by five or fewer individuals or certain tax-exempt organizations), to the amount for which the limited partner is considered to be "at risk" with respect to our activities, if that is less than his tax basis. A limited partner must recapture losses deducted in previous years to the extent that our distributions cause his at risk amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year. Losses disallowed to a limited partner or recaptured as a result of these limitations will carry forward and will be allowable to the extent that his tax basis or at risk amount (whichever is the limiting factor) is subsequently increased. Upon the taxable disposition of a unit or other limited partner interests, any gain recognized by a limited partner can be offset by losses that were previously suspended by the at risk limitation but may not be offset by losses suspended by the basis limitation. Any excess loss (above such gain) previously suspended by the at risk or basis limitations is no longer utilizable.

In general, a limited partner will be at risk to the extent of the tax basis of his units or other limited partner interests, excluding any portion of that basis attributable to his share of our nonrecourse liabilities, reduced by any amount of money he borrows to acquire or hold his units or other limited partner interests if the lender of such borrowed funds owns an interest in us, is related to such a person or can look only to units or other limited partner interests for repayment. A limited partner's at risk amount will increase or decrease as the tax basis of his units or other limited partner interests increases or decreases (other than tax basis increases or decreases attributable to increases or decreases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities).

The passive loss limitations generally provide that individuals, estates, trusts and certain closely-held corporations and personal service corporations can deduct losses from passive activities (generally, activities in which the taxpayer does not materially participate) only to the extent of the taxpayer's income from those passive activities. The passive loss limitations are applied separately with respect to each publicly-traded partnership. Consequently, any passive losses generated by us will only be available to offset future income generated by us and will not be available to offset income from other passive activities or investments (including other publicly-traded partnerships) or salary or active business income. Passive losses which are not deductible because they exceed a limited partner's income generated by us may be deducted in full when he disposes of his entire investment in us in a fully taxable transaction to an unrelated party. The passive activity loss rules are applied after other applicable limitations on deductions such as the at risk rules and the basis limitation.

A limited partner's share of our net income may be offset by any suspended passive losses from us, but it may not be offset by any other current or carryover losses from other passive activities, including those attributable to other publicly-traded partnerships. The IRS has announced that Treasury Regulations will be issued which characterize net passive income from a publicly-traded partnership as investment income for purposes of the limitations on the deductibility of investment interest.

## LIMITATIONS ON INTEREST DEDUCTIONS

The deductibility of a non-corporate taxpayer's "investment interest expense" is generally limited to the amount of such taxpayer's "net investment income." As noted, a limited partner's net passive income from us will be treated as investment income for this purpose. In addition, a limited partner's share of our portfolio income will be treated as investment income. Investment interest expense includes (1) interest on indebtedness properly allocable to property held for investment, (2) our interest expense attributed to portfolio income, and (3) the portion of interest expense incurred to purchase or carry an interest in a passive activity to the extent attributable to portfolio income. The computation of a limited partner's investment interest expense will take into account interest on any margin account borrowing or other loan incurred to purchase or carry a unit or other limited partner interest. Net investment income includes gross income from property held for investment and amounts treated as portfolio income pursuant to the passive

loss rules less deductible expenses (other than interest) directly connected with the production of investment income, but generally does not include gains attributable to the disposition of property held for investment.

#### ALLOCATION OF PARTNERSHIP INCOME, GAIN, LOSS AND DEDUCTION

In general, if we have a net profit, items of income, gain, loss and deduction will be allocated among our general partner and the limited partners in accordance with their respective percentage interests in us. At any time that distributions are made to the preference units and not to the common units or other limited partner interests, or that incentive distributions are made to our general partner, gross income will be allocated to the recipients to the extent of such distribution. If we have a net loss, items of income, gain, loss and deduction will generally be allocated first, to our general partner and the limited partners in accordance with their respective percentage interests to the extent of their positive capital accounts (as maintained under the partnership agreement) and, second, to our general partner.

As required by Section 704(c) of the Code and as permitted by Regulations thereunder, certain items of our income, deduction, gain and loss will be allocated to account for the difference between the tax basis and fair market value of property contributed to us by our general partner or others ("Contributed Property"). The effect of these allocations to a limited partner will be essentially the same as if the tax basis of the Contributed Property were equal to its fair market value at the time of contribution. In addition, certain items of recapture income will be allocated to the extent possible to the partner allocated the deduction giving rise to the treatment of such gain as recapture income in order to minimize the recognition of ordinary income by some limited partners. Finally, although we do not expect that our operations will result in the creation of negative capital accounts, if negative capital accounts nevertheless result, items of our income and gain will be allocated in an amount and manner sufficient to eliminate the negative balance as quickly as possible.

Regulations provide that an allocation of items of partnership income, gain, loss or deduction, other than an allocation required by Section 704(c) of the Code to eliminate the difference between a partner's "book" capital account (credited with the fair market value of Contributed Property) and "tax" capital account (credited with the tax basis of Contributed Property) (the "Book-Tax Disparity"), will generally be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's distributive share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction only if the allocation has substantial economic effect. In any other case, a partner's distributive share of an item will be determined on the basis of the partner's interest in the partnership, which will be determined by taking into account all the facts and circumstances, including the partners' relative contributions to the partnership, the interests of the partners in economic profits and losses, the interest of the partners in cash flow and other nonliquidating distributions and rights of the partners to distributions of capital upon liquidation.

Our counsel is of the opinion that allocations under our partnership agreement will be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a limited partner's distributive share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction.

#### TAX TREATMENT OF OPERATIONS

##### ACCOUNTING METHOD AND TAXABLE YEAR

We use the year ending December 31 as our taxable year and have adopted the accrual method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. Each limited partner will be required to include in income his allocable share of partnership income, gain, loss and deduction for our taxable year ending within or with the taxable year of the limited partner. In addition, a limited partner who has a taxable year ending on a date other than December 31 and who disposes of all of his units or other limited partner interests following the close of our taxable year but before the close of his taxable year must include his allocable share of our income, gain, loss and deduction in income for his taxable year with the result that he will be required to report in income for his taxable year his distributive share of more than one year of our

income, gain, loss and deduction. See "--Disposition of Limited Partner Interests--Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees."

#### INITIAL TAX BASIS, DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION

The tax basis of our various assets will be used for purposes of computing depreciation and cost recovery deductions and, ultimately, gain or loss on the disposition of such assets. Our assets initially have an aggregate tax basis equal to the consideration we paid for such assets or, with respect to assets we acquired upon our formation or by contribution, the tax basis of the assets in the possession of our general partner or other contributor immediately prior to our formation. The federal income tax burden associated with the difference between the fair market value of property contributed by our general partner or other contributor and the tax basis established for such property will be borne by our general partner or other contributor. See "--Allocation of Partnership Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction."

To the extent allowable, we may elect to use the depletion, depreciation and cost recovery methods that will result in the largest deductions in our early years. We are not entitled to any amortization deductions with respect to any goodwill conveyed to us on formation. Property subsequently acquired or constructed by us may be depreciated using accelerated methods permitted by the Code.

If we dispose of depreciable property by sale, foreclosure or otherwise, all or a portion of any gain (determined by reference to the amount of depreciation previously deducted and the nature of the property) may be subject to the recapture rules and taxed as ordinary income rather than capital gain. Similarly, a partner who has taken cost recovery or depreciation deductions with respect to our property may be required to recapture such deductions as ordinary income upon a sale of his units or other limited partner interests. See "--Allocation of Partnership Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction" and "--Disposition of Limited Partner Interests--Recognition of Gain or Loss."

The costs incurred in promoting the issuance of units or other limited partner interests (i.e. syndication expenses) must be capitalized and cannot be deducted currently, ratably or upon our termination. There are uncertainties regarding the classification of costs as organization expenses, which may be amortized, and as syndication expenses, which may not be amortized. Under recently adopted regulations, underwriting discounts and commissions would be treated as a syndication cost.

#### SECTION 754 ELECTION

We have made the election permitted by Section 754 of the Code. That election is irrevocable without the consent of the IRS. The election will generally permit us to adjust a unit or other limited partner interest purchaser's (other than a unit or other limited partner interest purchaser that purchases units or other limited partner interests directly from us) tax basis in our assets ("inside basis") pursuant to Section 743(b) of the Code to reflect his purchase price. The Section 743(b) adjustment belongs to the purchaser and not to other partners. (For purposes of this discussion, a partner's inside basis in our assets will be considered to have two components: (1) his share of our tax basis in such assets ("common basis") and (2) his Section 743(b) adjustment to that basis.)

If a partnership elects the remedial allocation method with respect to an item of partnership property (which we may do with respect to certain assets), newly adopted Treasury regulations under Section 743 of the Code require that the portion of any Section 743(b) adjustment that is attributable to Section 704(c) built in gain must be depreciated over the remaining cost recovery period for the Section 704(c) built in gain. Nevertheless, the proposed regulations under Section 197 indicate that the Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to an amortizable Section 197 intangible should be treated as a newly-acquired asset placed in service in the month when the purchaser acquires the unit or other limited partner interest. Under Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6), a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to property subject to depreciation under Section 167 of the Code rather than cost recovery deductions under Section 168 is generally required to be depreciated using either the straight-line method or the 150% declining balance method. Although the newly adopted regulations under Section 743 likely eliminated many of the problems, the depreciation and amortization methods and useful lives associated



with the Section 743(b) adjustment may differ from the methods and useful lives generally used to depreciate the common basis in such properties. Pursuant to our partnership agreement, we are authorized to adopt a convention to preserve the uniformity of units or other limited partner interests even if that convention is not consistent with Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6) and Proposed Treasury Regulation Section 1.197-2(g)(3). See "--Uniformity of Limited Partner Interests."

Although our counsel is unable to opine as to the validity of such an approach, we intend to depreciate the portion of a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to unrealized appreciation in the value of Contributed Property (to the extent of any unamortized Book-Tax Disparity) using a rate of depreciation or amortization derived from the depreciation or amortization method and useful life applied to the common basis of such property, or treat that portion as non-amortizable to the extent attributable to property the common basis of which is not amortizable. This method is consistent with the newly adopted regulations under Section 743 but is arguably inconsistent with Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6) and Proposed Treasury Regulation Section 1.197-2(g)(3) (neither of which is expected to directly apply to a material portion of our assets). To the extent such Section 743(b) adjustment is attributable to appreciation in value in excess of the unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, we will apply the rules described in the Regulations and legislative history. If we determine that such position cannot reasonably be taken, we may adopt a depreciation or amortization convention under which all purchasers acquiring units or other limited partner interests in the same month would receive depreciation or amortization, whether attributable to common basis or Section 743(b) adjustment, based upon the same applicable rate as if they had purchased a direct interest in our assets. Such an aggregate approach may result in lower annual depreciation or amortization deductions than would otherwise be allowable to certain unitholders. See "--Uniformity of Limited Partner Interests."

The allocation of the Section 743(b) adjustment must be made in accordance with the Code. The IRS may seek to reallocate some or all of any Section 743(b) adjustment not so allocated by us to goodwill which, as an intangible asset, would be amortizable over a longer period of time than some of our tangible assets.

A Section 754 election is advantageous if the transferee's tax basis in his units or other limited partner interests is higher than such securities' share of the aggregate tax basis of our assets immediately prior to the transfer. In such a case, as a result of the election, the transferee would have a higher tax basis in his share of our assets for purposes of calculating, among other items, his depreciation and depletion deductions and his share of any gain or loss on a sale of our assets. Conversely, a Section 754 election is disadvantageous if the transferee's tax basis in such units or other limited partner interests is lower than such security's share of the aggregate tax basis of our assets immediately prior to the transfer. Thus, the fair market value of the units or other limited partner interests may be affected either favorably or adversely by the election.

The calculations involved in the Section 754 election are complex and will be made by us on the basis of certain assumptions as to the value of our assets and other matters. There is no assurance that the determinations made by us will not be successfully challenged by the IRS and that the deductions resulting from them will not be reduced or disallowed altogether. Should the IRS require a different basis adjustment to be made, and should, in our opinion, the expense of compliance exceed the benefit of the election, we may seek permission from the IRS to revoke our Section 754 election. If such permission is granted, a subsequent purchaser of units or other limited partner interests may be allocated more income than he would have been allocated had the election not been revoked.

#### ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

Each limited partner will be required to take into account his distributive share of any items of our income, gain, deduction or loss for purposes of the alternative minimum tax. The current minimum tax rate for noncorporate taxpayers is 26% on the first \$175,000 of alternative minimum taxable income in excess of the exemption amount and 28% on any additional alternative minimum taxable income.

Prospective limited partners should consult with their tax advisors as to the impact of an investment in units or other limited partner interests on their liability for the alternative minimum tax.

#### VALUATION OF PARTNERSHIP PROPERTY AND BASIS OF PROPERTIES

The federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of units or other limited partner interests will depend in part on our estimates of the relative fair market values of our assets. Although we may from time to time consult with professional appraisers with respect to valuation matters, many of the relative fair market value estimates will be made by us. These estimates are subject to challenge and will not be binding on the IRS or the courts. If the estimates of fair market value are subsequently found to be incorrect, the character and amount of items of income, gain, loss or deductions previously reported by limited partners might change, and limited partners might be required to adjust their tax liability for prior years.

#### TREATMENT OF SHORT SALES

A limited partner whose units or other limited partner interests are loaned to a "short seller" to cover a short sale of units or other limited partner interests may be considered as having disposed of ownership of those securities. If so, he would no longer be a partner with respect to those securities during the period of the loan and may recognize gain or loss from the disposition. As a result, during this period, any of our income, gain, deduction or loss with respect to those securities would not be reportable by the limited partner, any cash distributions received by the limited partner with respect to those securities would be fully taxable and all of such distributions would appear to be treated as ordinary income. Limited partners desiring to assure their status as partners and avoid the risk of gain recognition should modify any applicable brokerage account agreements to prohibit their brokers from borrowing their units or other limited partner interests. The IRS has announced that it is actively studying issues relating to the tax treatment of short sales of partnership interests. See also "--Disposition of Limited Partner Interests--Recognition of Gain or Loss."

#### DISPOSITION OF LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS

##### RECOGNITION OF GAIN OR LOSS

Gain or loss will be recognized on a sale of units or other limited partner interests equal to the difference between the amount realized and the limited partner's tax basis for the units or other limited partner interests sold. A limited partner's amount realized will be measured by the sum of the cash or the fair market value of other property received plus his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. Because the amount realized includes a limited partner's share of our nonrecourse liabilities, the gain recognized on the sale of units or other limited partner interests could result in a tax liability in excess of any cash received from such sale.

Prior distributions by us in excess of cumulative net taxable income in respect of a unit or other limited partner interest which decreased a limited partner's tax basis in such unit or other limited partner interest will, in effect, become taxable income if the unit or other limited partner interest is sold at a price greater than the limited partner's tax basis in such unit or other limited partner interest, even if the price is less than his original cost.

Should the IRS successfully contest the convention used by us to amortize only a portion of the Section 743(b) adjustment (described under "--Tax Treatment of Operations--Section 754 Election") attributable to an amortizable Section 197 intangible after a sale by our general partner of units or other limited partner interests, a limited partner could realize additional gain from the sale of units or other limited partner interests than had such convention been respected. In that case, the limited partner may have been entitled to additional deductions against income in prior years but may be unable to claim them, with the result to him of greater overall taxable income than appropriate. Our counsel is unable to opine as to the validity of the convention but believes such a contest by the IRS to be unlikely because a successful contest could result in substantial additional deductions to other limited partners.

Gain or loss recognized by a limited partner (other than a "dealer" in units or other limited partner interests) on the sale or exchange of a unit or other limited partner interest held for more than one year will generally be taxable as capital gain or loss. Capital gain recognized on the sale of units or other limited partner interests held for more than 12 months will generally be taxed at a maximum rate of 20%. A portion of this gain or loss (which could be substantial), however, will be separately computed and taxed as ordinary income or loss under Section 751 of the Code to the extent attributable to assets giving rise to depreciation recapture or other "unrealized receivables" or to "inventory items" owned by us. The term "unrealized receivables" includes potential loss recapture items, including depreciation recapture. Ordinary income attributable to unrealized receivables, inventory items and depreciation recapture may exceed net taxable gain realized upon the sale of the unit or other limited partner interest and may be recognized even if there is a net taxable loss realized on the sale of the unit or other limited partner interest. Thus, a limited partner may recognize both ordinary income and a capital loss upon a disposition of units or other limited partner interests. Net capital loss may offset no more than \$3,000 of ordinary income in the case of individuals and may only be used to offset capital gain in the case of corporations.

The IRS has ruled that a partner who acquires interests in a partnership in separate transactions must combine those interests and maintain a single adjusted tax basis. Upon a sale or other disposition of less than all of such interests, a portion of that tax basis must be allocated to the interests sold using an "equitable apportionment" method. The ruling is unclear as to how the holding period of these interests is determined once they are combined. If this ruling is applicable to the holders of units or other limited partner interests, a limited partner will be unable to select high or low basis units or other limited partner interests to sell as would be the case with corporate stock. It is not clear whether the ruling applies to us because, similar to corporate stock, interests in us are evidenced by separate certificates. Accordingly, our counsel is unable to opine as to the effect such ruling will have on the limited partners. A limited partner considering the purchase of additional units or other limited partner interests or a sale of units or other limited partner interests purchased in separate transactions should consult his own tax advisor as to the possible consequences of that ruling.

Some provisions of the Code affect the taxation of certain financial products and securities, including partnership interests, by treating a taxpayer as having sold an "appreciated" partnership interest (one in which gain would be recognized if it were sold, assigned or terminated at its fair market value) if the taxpayer or related persons enters into a short sale, an offsetting notional principal contract or a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest or substantially identical property. Moreover, if a taxpayer has previously entered into a short sale, an offsetting notional principal contract or a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest, the taxpayer will be treated as having sold such position if the taxpayer or related person then acquires the partnership interest or substantially identical property. The Secretary of Treasury is also authorized to issue regulations that treat a taxpayer that enters into transactions or positions that have substantially the same effect as the preceding transactions as having constructively sold the financial position.

#### ALLOCATIONS BETWEEN TRANSFERORS AND TRANSFEREES

In general, our taxable income and losses will be determined annually, will be prorated on a monthly basis and will be subsequently apportioned among the limited partners in proportion to the number of units or other limited partner interests owned by each of them as of the opening of the NYSE on the first business day of the month (the "Allocation Date"). However, gain or loss realized on a sale or other disposition of our assets other than in the ordinary course of business will be allocated among the limited partners on the Allocation Date in the month in which that gain or loss is recognized. As a result, a limited partner transferring units or other limited partner interests may be allocated income, gain, loss and deduction accrued after the date of transfer.

The use of this method may not be permitted under existing Treasury Regulations. Accordingly, our counsel is unable to opine on the validity of this method of allocating income and deductions between the transferors and the transferees of units or other limited partner interests. If this method is not allowed under the Treasury Regulations (or only applies to transfers of less than all of the limited partner's

interest), our taxable income or losses might be reallocated among the limited partners. We are authorized to revise our method of allocation between transferors and transferees (as well as among partners whose interests otherwise vary during a taxable period) to conform to a method permitted under future Treasury Regulations.

A limited partner who owns units or other limited partner interests at any time during a quarter and who disposes of those securities prior to the record date set for a cash distribution with respect to such quarter will be allocated items of our income, gain, loss and deductions attributable to such quarter but will not be entitled to receive that cash distribution.

#### NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A limited partner who sells or exchanges units or other limited partner interests is required to notify us in writing of that sale or exchange within 30 days after the sale or exchange and in any event by no later than January 15 of the year following the calendar year in which the sale or exchange occurred. We are required to notify the IRS of that transaction and to furnish certain information to the transferor and transferee. However, these reporting requirements do not apply with respect to a sale by an individual who is a citizen of the U.S. and who effects the sale or exchange through a broker. Additionally, a transferor and a transferee of a unit or other limited partner interest will be required to furnish statements to the IRS, filed with their income tax returns for the taxable year in which the sale or exchange occurred, that set forth the amount of the consideration received for the unit or other limited partner interest that is allocated to goodwill or going concern value of ours. Failure to satisfy these reporting obligations may lead to the imposition of substantial penalties.

#### CONSTRUCTIVE TERMINATION

We will be considered to have been terminated if there is a sale or exchange of 50% or more of the total interests in our capital and profits within a 12-month period. Our termination will result in the closing of our taxable year for all limited partners. In the case of a limited partner reporting on a taxable year other than a fiscal year ending December 31, the closing of our taxable year may result in more than 12 months' taxable income or the inability to include our results in his taxable income for the year of termination. New tax elections required to be made by us, including a new election under Section 754 of the Code, must be made subsequent to a termination, and a termination could result in a deferral of our deductions for depreciation. A termination could also result in penalties if we were unable to determine that the termination had occurred. Moreover, a termination might either accelerate the application of, or subject us to, any tax legislation enacted prior to the termination.

#### ENTITY-LEVEL COLLECTIONS

If we are required or elect under applicable law to pay any federal, state or local income tax on behalf of any limited partner or our general partner or any former limited partner, we are authorized to pay those taxes from our funds. Such payment, if made, will be treated as a distribution of cash to the partner on whose behalf the payment was made. If the payment is made on behalf of a person whose identity cannot be determined, we are authorized to treat the payment as a distribution to current limited partners. We are authorized to amend our partnership agreement in the manner necessary to maintain uniformity of intrinsic tax characteristics of units or other limited partner interests and to adjust subsequent distributions, so that after giving effect to such distributions, the priority and characterization of distributions otherwise applicable under the partnership agreement is maintained as nearly as is practicable. Payments by us as described above could give rise to an overpayment of tax on behalf of an individual partner in which event the partner could file a claim for credit or refund.

#### UNIFORMITY OF LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS

Because we cannot match transferors and transferees of units or other limited partner interests, we must maintain uniformity of the economic and tax characteristics of the units or other limited partner

interests to a purchaser of such securities. In the absence of uniformity, compliance with a number of federal income tax requirements, both statutory and regulatory, could be substantially diminished. A lack of uniformity can result from a literal application of Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6) and Proposed Treasury Regulation Section 1.197-2(g)(3). Any non-uniformity could have a negative impact on the value of the units or other limited partner interests. See "-- Tax Treatment of Operations -- Section 754 Election."

We intend to depreciate the portion of a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to unrealized appreciation in the value of contributed property or adjusted property (to the extent of any unamortized Book-Tax Disparity) using a rate of depreciation or amortization derived from the depreciation or amortization method and useful life applied to the common basis of such property, or treat that portion as nonamortizable, to the extent attributable to property the common basis of which is not amortizable, consistent with the newly adopted regulations under Section 743 but despite its inconsistency with Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6) and Proposed Treasury Regulation Section 1.197-2(g)(3) (neither of which is expected to directly apply to a material portion of our assets). See "--Tax Treatment of Operations--Section 754 Election." To the extent such Section 743(b) adjustment is attributable to appreciation in value in excess of the unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, we will apply the rules described in the Regulations and legislative history. If we determine that such a position cannot reasonably be taken, we may adopt a depreciation and amortization convention under which all purchasers acquiring units or other limited partner interests in the same month would receive depreciation and amortization deductions, whether attributable to common basis or Section 743(b) basis, based upon the same applicable rate as if they had purchased a direct interest in our property. If such an aggregate approach is adopted, it may result in lower annual depreciation and amortization deductions than would otherwise be allowable to certain limited partners and risk the loss of depreciation and amortization deductions not taken in the year that such deductions are otherwise allowable. We will not adopt this convention if we determine that the loss of depreciation and amortization deductions will have a material adverse effect on the limited partners. If we choose not to utilize this aggregate method, we may use any other reasonable depreciation and amortization convention to preserve the uniformity of the intrinsic tax characteristics of any units or other limited partner interests that would not have a material adverse effect on the limited partners. The IRS may challenge any method of depreciating the Section 743(b) adjustment described in this paragraph. If such a challenge were sustained, the uniformity of units or other limited partner interests might be affected, and the gain from the sale of units or other limited partner interests might be increased without the benefit of additional deductions. See "-- Disposition of Limited Partner Interests -- Recognition of Gain or Loss."

#### TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS AND CERTAIN OTHER INVESTORS

Ownership of units or other limited partner interests by employee benefit plans, other tax-exempt organizations, nonresident aliens, foreign corporations, other foreign persons and regulated investment companies raises issues unique to such persons and, as described below, may have substantially adverse tax consequences. Employee benefit plans and most other organizations exempt from federal income tax (including individual retirement accounts ("IRAs") and other retirement plans) are subject to federal income tax on unrelated business taxable income. Virtually all of the taxable income derived by such an organization from the ownership of a unit or other limited partner interest will be unrelated business taxable income and thus will be taxable to such a limited partner.

A regulated investment partnership or "mutual fund" is required to derive 90% or more of its gross income from interest, dividends, gains from the sale of stocks or securities or foreign currency or certain related sources. We do not anticipate that any significant amount of our gross income will include that type of income.

Non-resident aliens and foreign corporations, trusts or estates which hold units or other limited partner interests will be considered to be engaged in business in the U.S. on account of ownership of units or other limited partner interests. As a consequence they will be required to file federal tax returns in respect of their share of our income, gain, loss or deduction and pay federal income tax at regular rates on

any net income or gain. Generally, a partnership is required to deduct withholding tax on the portion of the partnership's income which is effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business and which is allocable to the foreign partners, regardless of whether any actual distributions have been made to such partners. However, under rules applicable to publicly-traded partnerships, we will withhold (currently at the rate of 39.6%) on actual cash distributions made quarterly to foreign limited partners. Each foreign limited partner must obtain a taxpayer identification number from the IRS and submit that number to the Transfer Agent on a Form W-8 in order to obtain credit for the taxes withheld. A change in applicable law may require us to change these procedures. We have the right to redeem units or other limited partner interests held by certain non-U.S. residents or holders otherwise not qualified to become one of our limited partners.

Because a foreign corporation which owns units or other limited partner interests will be treated as engaged in a U.S. trade or business, such a corporation may be subject to U.S. branch profits tax at a rate of 30%, in addition to regular federal income tax, on its allocable share of our income and gain (as adjusted for changes in the foreign corporation's "U.S. net equity") which are effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business. That tax may be reduced or eliminated by an income tax treaty between the U.S. and the country with respect to which the foreign corporate limited partner is a "qualified resident." In addition, such a limited partner is subject to special information reporting requirements under Section 6038C of the Code.

The IRS has ruled that a foreign limited partner who sells or otherwise disposes of a unit or other limited partner interest will be subject to federal income tax on gain realized on the disposition of the unit or other limited partner interest to the extent that the gain is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the foreign limited partner. Apart from the application of that ruling, a foreign limited partner will not be taxed or subject to withholding upon the disposition of a unit or other limited partner interest if that foreign limited partner has held less than 5% in value of the units or other limited partner interests during the five-year period ending on the date of the disposition and if the units or other limited partner interests are regularly traded on an established securities market at the time of the disposition.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

##### PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION RETURNS AND AUDIT PROCEDURES

We intend to furnish to each limited partner, within 90 days after the close of each calendar year, certain tax information, including a substitute Schedule K-1, which sets forth each limited partner's share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for our preceding taxable year. In preparing this information, which will generally not be reviewed by counsel, we will use various accounting and reporting conventions, some of which have been mentioned in the previous discussion, to determine the limited partner's share of income, gain, loss and deduction. There is no assurance that any of those conventions will yield a result which conforms to the requirements of the Code, regulations or administrative interpretations of the IRS. We cannot assure prospective limited partners that the IRS will not successfully contend in court that such accounting and reporting conventions are impermissible. Any such challenge by the IRS could negatively affect the value of the units or other limited partner interests.

The federal income tax information returns filed by us may be audited by the IRS. Adjustments resulting from any such audit may require each limited partner to adjust a prior year's tax liability, and possibly may result in an audit of the limited partner's own return. Any audit of a limited partner's return could result in adjustments of non-partnership as well as partnership items.

Partnerships generally are treated as separate entities for purposes of federal tax audits, judicial review of administrative adjustments by the IRS and tax settlement proceedings. The tax treatment of partnership items of income, gain, loss and deduction are determined in a partnership proceeding rather than in separate proceedings with the partners. The Code provides for one partner to be designated as the "Tax Matters Partner" for these purposes. Our partnership agreement appoints our general partner as our Tax Matters Partner.

The Tax Matters Partner has made and will make certain elections on our behalf and on behalf of the limited partners and can extend the statute of limitations for assessment of tax deficiencies against limited partners with respect to our items. The Tax Matters Partner may bind a limited partner with less than a 1% profits interest in us to a settlement with the IRS unless that limited partner elects, by filing a statement with the IRS, not to give such authority to the Tax Matters Partner. The Tax Matters Partner may seek judicial review (by which all the limited partners are bound) of a final partnership administrative adjustment and, if the Tax Matters Partner fails to seek judicial review, such review may be sought by any limited partner having at least a 1% interest in our profits and by the limited partners having in the aggregate at least a 5% profits interest. However, only one action for judicial review will go forward, and each limited partner with an interest in the outcome may participate. However, if we elect to be treated as a large partnership, a partner will not have the right to participate in settlement conferences with the IRS or to seek a refund.

A limited partner must file a statement with the IRS identifying the treatment of any item on his federal income tax return that is not consistent with the treatment of the item on our return. Intentional or negligent disregard of the consistency requirement may subject a limited partner to substantial penalties. However, if we elect to be treated as a large partnership, our partners would be required to treat all of our items in a manner consistent with our return.

#### NOMINEE REPORTING

Persons who hold an interest in us as a nominee for another person are required to furnish to us (a) the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the beneficial owner and the nominee; (b) whether the beneficial owner is (1) a person that is not a U.S. person, (2) a foreign government, an international organization or any wholly-owned agency or instrumentality of either of the foregoing, or (3) a tax-exempt entity; (c) the amount and description of units or other limited partner interests held, acquired or transferred for the beneficial owner; and (d) certain information including the dates of acquisitions and transfers, means of acquisitions and transfers, and acquisition cost for purchases, as well as the amount of net proceeds from sales. Brokers and financial institutions are required to furnish additional information, including whether they are U.S. persons and certain information on units or other limited partner interests they acquire, hold or transfer for their own account. A penalty of \$50 per failure (up to a maximum of \$100,000 per calendar year) is imposed by the Code for failure to report such information to us. The nominee is required to supply the beneficial owner of the units or other limited partner interests with the information furnished to us.

#### REGISTRATION AS A TAX SHELTER

The Code requires that "tax shelters" be registered with the Secretary of the Treasury. The temporary Treasury Regulations interpreting the tax shelter registration provisions of the Code are extremely broad. It is arguable that we are not subject to the registration requirement on the basis that we will not constitute a tax shelter. However, our general partner, as our principal organizer, has registered us as a tax shelter with the Secretary of the Treasury in the absence of assurance that we will not be subject to tax shelter registration and in light of the substantial penalties which might be imposed if registration is required and not undertaken. ISSUANCE OF THE REGISTRATION NUMBER DOES NOT INDICATE THAT AN INVESTMENT IN US OR THE CLAIMED TAX BENEFITS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED, EXAMINED OR APPROVED BY THE IRS. The IRS has issued the following shelter registration number to us: 93084000079. We must furnish the registration number to the limited partners, and a limited partner who sells or otherwise transfers a unit or other limited partner interest in a subsequent transaction must furnish the registration number to the transferee. The penalty for failure of the transferor of a unit or other limited partner interest to furnish the registration number to the transferee is \$100 for each such failure. The limited partners must disclose our tax shelter registration number on Form 8271 to be attached to the tax return on which any deduction, loss or other benefit generated by us is claimed or income of ours is included. A limited partner who fails to disclose the tax shelter registration number on his return, without reasonable cause for that failure, will be subject to a \$250 penalty for each failure. Any penalties discussed herein are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

## ACCURACY-RELATED PENALTIES

An additional tax equal to 20% of the amount of any portion of an underpayment of tax which is attributable to one or more of certain listed causes, including negligence or disregard of rules or regulations, substantial understatements of income tax and substantial valuation misstatements, is imposed by the Code. No penalty will be imposed, however, with respect to any portion of an underpayment if it is shown that there was a reasonable cause for that portion and that the taxpayer acted in good faith with respect to that portion.

A substantial understatement of income tax in any taxable year exists if the amount of the understatement exceeds the greater of 10% of the tax required to be shown on the return for the taxable year or \$5,000 (\$10,000 for most corporations). The amount of any understatement subject to penalty generally is reduced if any portion is attributable to a position adopted on the return (1) with respect to which there is, or was, "substantial authority" or (2) as to which there is a reasonable basis and the pertinent facts of such position are disclosed on the return. Certain more stringent rules apply to "tax shelters," a term that in this context does not appear to include us. If any item of our income, gain, loss or deduction included in the distributive shares of limited partners might result in such an "understatement" of income for which no "substantial authority" exists, we must disclose the pertinent facts on its return. In addition, we will make a reasonable effort to furnish sufficient information for limited partners to make adequate disclosure on their returns to avoid liability for this penalty.

A substantial valuation misstatement exists if the value of any property (or the adjusted basis of any property) claimed on a tax return is 200% or more of the amount determined to be the correct amount of such valuation or adjusted basis. No penalty is imposed unless the portion of the underpayment attributable to a substantial valuation misstatement exceeds \$5,000 (\$10,000 for most corporations). If the valuation claimed on a return is 400% or more than the correct valuation, the penalty imposed increases to 40%.

## STATE, LOCAL AND OTHER TAX CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to federal income taxes, limited partners will be subject to other taxes, such as state and local income taxes, unincorporated business taxes, and estate, inheritance or intangible taxes that may be imposed by the various jurisdictions in which we do business or own property. Although an analysis of those various taxes is not presented here, each prospective limited partner should consider their potential impact on his investment in our units or other limited partner interests. We will own property and conduct business in Texas and Louisiana; among other places. Of those, only Texas does not currently impose a personal income tax. A limited partner will be required to file state income tax returns and to pay state income taxes in some or all of the states in which we do business or own property and may be subject to penalties for failure to comply with those requirements. In certain states, tax losses may not produce a tax benefit in the year incurred (if, for example, we have no income from sources within that state) and also may not be available to offset income in subsequent taxable years. Some of the states may require us, or we may elect, to withhold a percentage of income from amounts to be distributed to a limited partner who is not a resident of the state. Withholding, the amount of which may be greater or less than a particular limited partner's income tax liability to the state, generally does not relieve the non-resident limited partner from the obligation to file an income tax return. Amounts withheld may be treated as if distributed to limited partners for purposes of determining the amounts distributed by us. See "--Disposition of Limited Partner Interests--Entity-Level Collections." Based on current law and its estimate of our future operations, our general partner anticipates that any amounts required to be withheld will not be material.

It is the responsibility of each limited partner to investigate the legal and tax consequences, under the laws of pertinent states and localities, of his investment in our units or other limited partner interests. Accordingly, each prospective limited partner should consult, and must depend upon, his own tax counsel or other advisor with regard to those matters. Further, it is the responsibility of each limited partner to file all state and local, as well as U.S. federal, tax returns that may be required of such limited partner. Our counsel has not rendered an opinion on the state or local tax consequences of an investment in our units or other limited partner interests.



## INVESTMENT BY EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

An investment in us by an employee benefit plan is subject to certain additional considerations because persons with discretionary control of assets of such plans (a "fiduciary") are subject to the fiduciary responsibility provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"), and transactions are subject to restrictions imposed by Section 4975 of the Code. As used herein, the term "employee benefit plan" includes, but is not limited to, qualified pension, profit-sharing and stock bonus plans, Keogh plans, Simplified Employee Pension Plans, and tax deferred annuities or Individual Retirement Accounts ("IRAs") established or maintained for employees by an employer or employee organization. Among other things, consideration should be given to (1) whether such investment is prudent under Section 404(a)(1)(B) of ERISA, (2) whether in making such investment such plan will satisfy the diversification requirement of Section 404(a)(1)(C) of ERISA, and (3) whether such investment will result in recognition of unrelated business taxable income by such plan. See "Income Tax Considerations -- Tax Exempt Organizations and Certain Other Investors." Fiduciaries should determine whether an investment in us is authorized by the appropriate governing instrument and is an appropriate investment for such plan.

In addition, a fiduciary of an employee benefit plan should consider whether such plan will, by investing in us, be deemed to own an undivided interest in our assets, with the result that our general partner would also be a fiduciary of such plan and we would be subject to the regulatory restrictions of ERISA, including its prohibited transaction rules, as well as the prohibited transaction rules of the Code. Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code (which also applies to IRAs that are not considered part of an employee benefit plan; i.e., IRAs established or maintained by individuals rather than an employer or employee organization) prohibit an employee benefit plan from engaging in certain transactions involving "plan assets" with parties who are "parties in interest" under ERISA or "disqualified persons" under the Code with respect to the plan.

Under Department of Labor regulations the assets of an entity in which employee benefit plans acquire equity interests would not be deemed "plan assets" if, among other things, (1) the equity interests acquired by employee benefit plans are publicly offered securities -- i.e., the equity interests are widely held by 100 or more investors independent of the issuer and each other, freely transferable and registered pursuant to certain provisions of the federal securities law, (2) the entity is an "operating company" -- i.e., it is primarily engaged in the production or sale of a product or service other than the investment of capital, or (3) there is no significant investment by benefit plan investors, which is defined to mean that less than 25% of the value of each class of equity interest is held by the employee benefit plans referred to above, IRAs and other employee benefit plans not subject to ERISA (such as governmental plans). Our assets are not expected to be considered "plan assets" under these regulations because it is expected that the investment will satisfy the requirements in (1) above, and may also satisfy the requirements in (2) and (3).

## PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the capital securities representing limited partner interests described in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement to one or more underwriters for public offering and sale, or we may sell the securities to investors directly or through agents. Any underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of these securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Underwriters may offer and sell these securities at fixed prices, which may be changed, at prices related to the prevailing market prices at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. We also may authorize underwriters acting as our agents to offer and sell these securities upon the terms and conditions as are set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with the sale of these securities, underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of these securities for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell these securities to or through dealers. Dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent.

Any underwriting compensation paid by us to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of these securities, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters, dealers and agents participating in the distribution of these securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of these securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us, to indemnification against the contribution toward certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

If a prospectus supplement so indicates, we will authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers by certain institutional investors to purchase these securities to which such prospectus supplement relates, providing for payment and delivery on a future date specified in such prospectus supplement. There may be limitations on the minimum amount that may be purchased by any such institutional investor or on the number of these securities that may be sold pursuant to such arrangements. Institutional investors include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and such other institutions as we may approve. The obligations of the purchasers pursuant to such delayed delivery and payment arrangements will not be subject to any conditions except that (1) the purchase by an institution of the securities shall not be prohibited under the applicable laws of any jurisdiction in the United States and (2) if these securities are being sold to underwriters, we shall have sold to such underwriters the total number of such securities less the number thereof covered by such arrangements. Underwriters will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity of such arrangements or our performance or such institutional investors thereunder.

If a prospectus supplement so indicates, the underwriters engaged in an offering of these securities may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of these securities at levels above those that might otherwise prevail in the open market. Specifically, the underwriters may over-allot in connection with the offering creating a short position in these securities for their own account. For the purposes of covering a syndicate short position or pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of these securities, the underwriters may place bids for these securities or effect purchases of these securities in the open market. A syndicate short position may also be covered by exercise of an over-allotment option, if one is granted to the underwriters. Finally, the underwriters may impose a penalty bid on certain underwriters and dealers. This means that the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. The underwriters will not be required to engage in any of these activities and any such activities, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates may be customers of, engage in transactions with and perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

## LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters with respect to the legality of the capital securities representing limited partner interests being offered and certain tax matters will be passed upon for us by Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., Houston, Texas. If the securities are being distributed in an underwritten offering, certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by counsel identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements incorporated in this Registration Statement by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of El Paso Energy Partners, L.P. for the year ended December 31, 1999, and the audited historical financial statements included in El Paso Energy Partners, L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K/A dated June 5, 2000, have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The consolidated financial statements of Western Gulf Holdings, L.L.C. as of December 31, 1999 and the related statements of income, members' equity, and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 1999 incorporated into this Registration Statement by reference to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent auditors, given upon the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The financial statements of Poseidon Oil Pipeline Company, L.L.C. as of December 31, 1999 and 1998, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 1999, incorporated in this Registration Statement by reference to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999, have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, as indicated in their report with respect thereto, and are incorporated by reference in reliance upon the report of said firm and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements of Neptune Pipeline Company, L.L.C. incorporated in this Registration Statement by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of El Paso Energy Partners, L.P. for the year ended December 31, 1999 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The information derived from the report of Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc., independent petroleum engineers, with respect to our estimated oil and natural gas reserves incorporated into this Registration Statement by reference to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999 have been so incorporated in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts with respect to such matters contained in their report.

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4,000,000 COMMON UNITS

EL PASO ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

REPRESENTING LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS

LOGO  
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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

JULY 25, 2000

(INCLUDING PROSPECTUS DATED JUNE 30, 2000)

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SALOMON SMITH BARNEY  
GOLDMAN, SACHS & CO.  
PAINWEBBER INCORPORATED  
DONALDSON, LUFKIN & JENRETTE  
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