

PETROHAWK ENERGY CORP  
Form 8-A12B  
February 28, 2007

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# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## FORM 8-A

FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES

PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

# PETROHAWK ENERGY CORPORATION

[Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter]

**Delaware**

(State of incorporation or organization)

**86-0876964**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**1000 Louisiana, Suite 5600, Houston, Texas**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**77002**

(Zip Code)

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

Title of each class to be so registered:

**Common Stock, par value \$.001 per share**

Name of each exchange on which each class is to be registered:

**New York Stock Exchange**

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(c), check the following box.  x.

If this form relates to the registration of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(d), check the following box.  "

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates: **N/A**

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

None

(Title of class)

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This registration statement relates to the shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share (the **Common Stock** ), of Petrohawk Energy Corporation (the **Company** ). This registration statement is filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the **SEC** ) in connection with the filing by the Company on February 23, 2007 of an application to list the Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange.

**Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.**

Set forth below is a description of the material terms of our capital stock. This description is not complete and is qualified by reference to our certificate of incorporation (including our certificates of designation), as amended, and our bylaws, as amended. Copies of these documents have been filed with the SEC as exhibits to our periodic reports and are incorporated by reference into this registration statement.

**Authorized Capital Stock**

Our authorized capital stock consists of 300,000,000 shares of common stock, par value of \$0.001 per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share.

**Common Stock**

**Voting rights.** Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. The vote of the holders of a majority of the stock represented at a meeting at which a quorum is present is generally required to take stockholder action, unless a greater vote is required by law. The holders are not entitled to cumulative voting in the election of directors. Directors are elected by plurality vote. Accordingly, the holder or holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock will be able to elect our entire board of directors.

**Dividends, distributions and stock splits.** Holders of common stock are entitled to receive dividends if, as and when such dividends are declared by the board of directors out of assets legally available therefore after payment of dividends required to be paid on shares of preferred stock, if any. Our existing debt arrangements restrict our ability to pay cash dividends.

**Liquidation.** In the event of any dissolution, liquidation, or winding up of our affairs, whether voluntary or involuntary, after payment of debts and other liabilities and making provision for any holders of its preferred stock who have a liquidation preference, our remaining assets will be distributed ratably among the holders of common stock.

**Fully paid.** All shares of common stock outstanding are fully paid and nonassessable.

**Other rights.** Holders of common stock have no redemption or conversion rights and no preemptive or other rights to subscribe for our securities.

**Preferred Stock**

Our board of directors has the authority to issue 5,000,000 shares of undesignated preferred stock. As of the date of this registration statement, no shares of preferred stock are outstanding. We may issue preferred stock from time to time in one or more series, without stockholder approval, when authorized by our board of directors.

Any or all of the rights of our preferred stock may be greater than the rights of our common stock. Upon issuance of a particular series of preferred stock, our board of directors is authorized to specify:

the number of shares to be included in the series;

the annual dividend rate for the series and any restrictions or conditions on the payment of dividends;

the redemption price, if any, and the terms and conditions of redemption;

any sinking fund provisions for the purchase or redemption of the series;

if the series is convertible, the terms and conditions of conversion;

the amounts payable to holders upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up; and

any other rights, preferences and limitations relating to the series.

Our board of directors' ability to authorize, without stockholder approval, the issuance of preferred stock with conversion and other rights, may affect adversely the rights of holders of our common stock or other series of preferred stock that may be outstanding.

#### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common and preferred stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, Inc.

#### **Delaware Anti-Takeover Law and Certain Charter and Bylaw Provisions**

Our certificate of incorporation, bylaws and the Delaware General Corporation Law ( DGCL ) contain certain provisions that could discourage potential takeover attempts and make it more difficult for stockholders to change management or receive a premium for their shares.

**Delaware law.** We are subject to Section 203 of the DGCL, an anti-takeover law. In general, the statute prohibits a publicly-held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder. A business combination includes a merger, sale of 10% or more of our assets and certain other transactions resulting in a financial benefit to the stockholder. For purposes of Section 203, an interested stockholder is defined to include any person that is:

the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation;

an affiliate or associate of the corporation who was the owner of 15% or more of the voting stock outstanding of the corporation, at any time within three years immediately prior to the relevant date; and

an affiliate or associate of the persons described in the foregoing bullet points.

However, the above provisions of Section 203 do not apply if:

the board of directors approves the transaction that made the stockholder an interested stockholder prior to the date of that transaction;

after completion of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, that stockholder owned at least 85% of our voting stock outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding shares owned by our officers and directors; or

on or subsequent to the date of the transaction, the business combination is approved by our board of directors and authorized at a meeting of our stockholders by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock not owned by the interested stockholder.

Stockholders may, by adopting an amendment to the corporation's certificate of incorporation or bylaws, elect for the corporation not to be governed by Section 203, effective 12 months after adoption. Neither our certificate of incorporation nor our bylaws exempt us from the restrictions imposed under Section 203. It is anticipated that the provisions of Section 203 may encourage companies interested in acquiring us to negotiate in advance with our board.

**Charter and bylaw provisions.** Delaware law permits any Delaware corporation to classify its board of directors into as many as three (3) classes as equally as possible with staggered terms of office. After initial implementation of a classified board, one class will be elected at each annual meeting of the stockholders to serve for a term of three (3) years (depending upon the number of classes into which directors are classified) or until their successors are elected and take office. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide for a classified board of directors divided into three (3) classes, with no class having more than one director more than any other class and each class serving for a term of three (3) years or until their successors are elected and qualified. Under Delaware law, stockholders of a corporation with a classified board of directors may

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only remove a director for cause unless the certificate of incorporation provides otherwise. Our certificate of incorporation does not so provide and, accordingly, stockholders may

only remove a director for cause. Further, our bylaws provide that two-thirds (2/3rds) of shares voting at the meeting are required to effect such removal. The likely effect of the classification of the board of directors and the limitations on the removal of directors is an increase in the time required for the stockholders to change the composition of the board of directors. For example, because only approximately one-third of the directors may be replaced by stockholder vote at each annual meeting of stockholders, stockholders seeking to replace a majority of the members of the board of directors will need at least two annual meetings of stockholders to effect this change.

**Limitation of liability; indemnification.** Our certification of incorporation contains provisions permitted under the DGCL relating to the liability of directors. The provisions eliminate a director's liability for monetary damages for a breach of fiduciary duty, except (i) for a breach of a director's duty of loyalty, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) pursuant to Section 174 of the DGCL, or (iv) transactions from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. Furthermore, our bylaws contain provisions requiring that we indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL. These provisions do not limit or eliminate our right or the right of any of our stockholders to seek non-monetary relief, such as an injunction or rescission, in the event of a breach by a director or an officer of his or her duty of care.

**Item 2. Exhibits.**

Not applicable.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

**PETROHAWK ENERGY CORPORATION**

By: /s/ Floyd C. Wilson  
Floyd C. Wilson, Chairman of the Board, President,  
and Chief Executive Officer

Dated: February 28, 2007