

ENERGY PARTNERS LTD  
Form 10-K  
March 03, 2008  
Table of Contents

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

Washington, D.C. 20549

**Form 10-K**

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007

or

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

For the transition period from            to

Commission file number: 001-16179

**Energy Partners, Ltd.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)  
201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 3400

**72-1409562**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**New Orleans, Louisiana**  
(Address of principal executive offices)  
Registrant's telephone number, including area code:  
504-569-1875

**70170**  
(Zip Code)

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

<b>Title of Each Class</b>	<b>Name of Exchange on Which Registered</b>
Common Stock, Par Value \$0.01 Per Share	New York Stock Exchange

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

None

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

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

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined by Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No

## Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

The aggregate market value of the common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant at June 30, 2007 based on the closing price of such stock as quoted on the New York Stock Exchange on that date was \$487,670,267.

As of February 25, 2008 there were 31,758,777 shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding.

### **DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:**

Portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement for its 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders have been incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

**Table of Contents****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>PART I</b>	
Items 1 & 2. <u>Business and Properties</u>	1
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	12
Item 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	19
Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	19
Item 4. <u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u>	19
Item 4A. <u>Executive Officers of the Registrant</u>	19
<b>PART II</b>	
Item 5. <u>Market for the Registrant's Common Stock and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	21
Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	23
Item 7. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	23
Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	38
Item 8. <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	41
Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	74
Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	74
Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u>	74
<b>PART III</b>	
Item 10. <u>Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant</u>	76
Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>	76
Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	76
Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>	77
Item 14. <u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	77
<b>PART IV</b>	
Item 15. <u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	78

**Table of Contents**

**FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS**

All statements other than statements of historical fact contained in this Report on Form 10-K ( Report ) and other periodic reports filed by us under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and other written or oral statements made by us or on our behalf, are forward-looking statements. When used herein, the words anticipates , expects , believes , goals , intends , plans , or projects and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. It is important to note that forward-looking statements are based on a number of assumptions about future events and are subject to various risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the views, beliefs and estimates expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements. We refer you specifically to the section Risk Factors in Item 1A of this Report. Although we believe that the assumptions on which any forward-looking statements in this Report and other periodic reports filed by us are reasonable, no assurance can be given that such assumptions will prove correct. All forward-looking statements in this Report are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements in this paragraph and elsewhere in this Report.

**PART I**

**Items 1 & 2. Business and Properties**

We were incorporated in January 1998 and operate in a single segment as an independent oil and natural gas exploration and production company. Our current operations are concentrated in the Gulf of Mexico Shelf, the deepwater Gulf of Mexico as well as the Gulf Coast onshore region (the Gulf of Mexico Region ). We concentrate on this area because it provides us with favorable geologic and economic conditions, including multiple reservoir formations, regional economies of scale, extensive infrastructure and comprehensive geologic databases. We believe that this region offers a balanced and expansive array of existing and prospective exploration, exploitation and development opportunities in both established productive horizons and deeper geologic formations. In addition, we may evaluate reserve and exploratory acquisition opportunities outside of this area including in onshore North American basins. As of December 31, 2007, we had estimated proved reserves of approximately 103.1 Bcf of natural gas and 28.1 Mmbbls of oil, or an aggregate of approximately 45.3 Mmboe, with a standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows of \$1.1 billion.

We have a team of geoscientists and management professionals with considerable region-specific geological, geophysical, technical and operational experience. We have grown through a combination of exploration, exploitation and development drilling and multi-year, multi-well drill-to-earn programs, as well as strategic acquisitions of oil and natural gas fields, in the Gulf of Mexico Shelf, deepwater and the Gulf Coast onshore areas. As we have grown from our inception, we have strengthened our management team, expanded our property base, reduced our geographic concentration, and moved to a more balanced oil and natural gas reserve profile. We have also expanded our technical knowledge base through the addition of high quality personnel and geophysical and geological data.

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol EPL. We maintain a website at [www.eplweb.com](http://www.eplweb.com) which contains information about us, including links to our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and all related amendments. In addition, our website contains our Corporate Governance Guidelines and the charters for our Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Governance Committees. Copies of such information are also available by writing to the Secretary of the Company at 201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 3400, New Orleans, Louisiana 70170. Our website and the information contained in it and connected to it shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into this Report on Form 10-K.

***Exploration and Development Expenditures***

Our exploration and development expenditures for 2007 totaled \$317.3 million. For 2008, we have currently budgeted exploration and development expenditures of up to \$200 million. The drilling portfolio, primarily

## **Table of Contents**

offshore, includes a mixture of lower risk development and exploitation wells, moderate risk exploration opportunities and higher risk, higher potential exploration projects. Our 2008 budget does not include any acquisitions of proved reserves that may occur during the year.

### **Our Properties**

At December 31, 2007, we had interests in 24 producing fields, 6 fields under development and 1 property on which drilling operations were then being conducted, all of which are located in the Gulf of Mexico Region. These fields fall into five areas which we identify as our Eastern, Central, Western and Deepwater offshore and Gulf Coast onshore areas. The Eastern offshore area is comprised of two producing fields, including the East Bay field. The Central offshore area is comprised of four producing fields, all of which are contiguous and cover most of the Bay Marchand salt dome. The fields in these two areas and the acreage surrounding them comprise the core of our property base and the focus of our near term efforts. The Western offshore area, which extends from areas offshore central and western Louisiana to areas offshore Texas, is comprised of 18 producing fields. The Deepwater offshore area is comprised of 24 offshore blocks. Our Gulf Coast onshore area is located in South Louisiana. Over the last several years, we have continued to add to our leasehold acreage position in these areas through federal and state lease sales, acquisitions and trades with industry partners.

#### **Eastern Offshore Area**

East Bay, the key asset in our Eastern offshore area, comprising approximately 13% of our production during 2007 and 36% of our proved reserves at the end of 2007, is located 89 miles southeast of New Orleans near the mouth of the Mississippi River. It contains producing wells located onshore along the coastline and in water depths ranging up to approximately 170 feet and is comprised primarily of the South Pass 24, 26 and 27 fields. Through a number of state and federal lease sales, we have acquired acreage that is contiguous to East Bay in several additional South Pass blocks as well as across the river in West Delta blocks. We own an average 96% interest in our acreage position in this area with our working interest ranging from 18% to 100% and our net revenue interest varying up to a maximum of 86%. Inclusive of all lease acquisitions, our leasehold area covered 32,434 gross acres (31,141 net acres) at the end of 2007.

#### **Central Offshore Area**

The core assets of our Central offshore area, the fields located in Greater Bay Marchand, are located approximately 60 miles south of New Orleans in water depths of 181 feet or less. Our key assets in this area include the South Timbalier 26, 41 and 46 and Bay Marchand fields. These fields, located in the Greater Bay Marchand area, comprised approximately 54% of our production during 2007 and 45% of our proved reserves at the end of 2007.

In 2003, we drilled our initial discovery well in the South Timbalier 41 field, in which we hold a 60% working interest, on acreage acquired earlier that year in a federal lease sale. Several exploratory and development wells have been drilled in the field and all have been successful and have been brought on production. This field, in which additional reserve potential remains to be tested, represents the most significant discovery in our history. We acquired acreage in additional leases in the vicinity of this field in 2005 and subsequent years.

In addition, at the beginning of 2005 we owned a 50% interest in the South Timbalier 26 field. In March 2005, we closed the acquisition of the remaining 50% interest in South Timbalier 26 above approximately 13,000 feet subsea. As a result of the acquisition, we now own a 100% interest in the producing horizons in this field. The acquisition expanded our interest in our core Greater Bay Marchand area and gave us additional flexibility in undertaking the future development of the South Timbalier 26 field. We have interests in 12 producing wells in this field.

**Table of Contents****Western Offshore Area**

The properties in the Western offshore area are located in water depths ranging from 7 to 371 feet with working interests ranging from 17% to 100%. We owned interests in 18 producing fields in this area at December 31, 2007, with another 2 under development.

**Deepwater Offshore Area**

At December 31, 2007, we owned interests in 24 blocks in the Deepwater offshore area, one of which was under development and two of which were under evaluation at year end. Our working interest in this each of our properties in this area ranges from 25% to 33%. We have several additional prospects identified on our current deepwater acreage and plan to generate prospects and bid on deepwater leases at future Gulf of Mexico lease sales in order to expand our portfolio of drilling opportunities in the area.

**Gulf Coast Onshore Area**

In 2005, we closed an acquisition of properties and reserves onshore in south Louisiana for \$149.6 million in cash, after adjustments. In June 2007, we sold substantially all of our onshore South Louisiana producing assets for approximately \$68.6 million after closing adjustments. The remaining properties in the Gulf Coast onshore area are located in south Louisiana with working interests ranging from 16% to 40% and are comprised of undeveloped acreage with one well under development at year end.

**Oil and Natural Gas Reserves**

The following table presents our estimated net proved oil and natural gas reserves and the present value of our reserves at December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005. These estimates of proved reserves are based on reserve reports prepared by Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc. and Ryder Scott Company, L.P., independent petroleum engineers. Neither the present values, discounted at 10% per annum, of estimated future net cash flows before income taxes, or the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows shown in the table are intended to represent the current market value of the estimated oil and natural gas reserves we own.

	As of December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Total estimated net proved reserves(1):			
Oil (Mbbls)	28,123	29,914	31,478
Natural gas (Mmcf)	103,118	170,123	166,949
Total (Mboe)	45,309	58,268	59,303
Net proved developed reserves(2):			
Oil (Mbbls)	23,636	24,811	25,656
Natural gas (Mmcf)	85,926	117,392	103,627
Total (Mboe)	37,957	44,376	42,917
Estimated future net revenues before income taxes (in thousands)(3)	\$ 2,172,162	\$ 1,632,470	\$ 2,531,166
Present value of estimated future net revenues before income taxes (in thousands)(3) (4)	\$ 1,470,285	\$ 1,188,295	\$ 1,806,185
Standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows (in thousands)(5)	\$ 1,092,935	\$ 893,474	\$ 1,261,246

(1) Approximately 71% of our total proved reserves were proved undeveloped and proved developed non-producing at December 31, 2007.

(2) Net proved developed non-producing reserves as of December 31, 2007 were 24,804 Mboe or 55% of our total proved reserves (13,077 Mbbls and 70,360 Mmcf).

**Table of Contents**

- (3) The December 31, 2007 amount was calculated using a period-end oil price of \$94.76 per barrel and a period-end natural gas price of \$6.98 per Mcf, while the December 31, 2006 amount was calculated using a period-end oil price of \$58.40 per barrel and a period-end natural gas price of \$5.54 per Mcf and the December 31, 2005 amount was calculated using a period-end oil price of \$57.81 per barrel and a period-end natural gas price of \$10.31 per Mcf.

The Company believes estimated future net revenues before income taxes and present value of estimated future net revenues before income taxes to be important measures for evaluating the relative significance of its natural gas and oil properties. Because many factors that are unique to each individual company impact the amount of future income taxes to be paid, the use of pre-tax measures provide greater comparability of assets when evaluating companies.

- (4) The present value of estimated future net revenues attributable to our reserves was prepared using constant prices, as of the calculation date, discounted at 10% per year on a pre-tax basis.
- (5) The standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows represents the present value of future cash flows after income tax discounted at 10%.

**Costs Incurred in Oil and Natural Gas Activities**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the costs incurred that are associated with finding, acquiring, and developing our proved oil and natural gas reserves:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
	(In thousands)		
Acquisitions:			
-Proved	\$ 2,167	\$ 420	\$ 142,025
-Unproved	7,346	15,896	56,955
Exploration	191,621	224,147	171,859
Development(1)	121,769	167,346	114,814
Costs incurred	\$ 322,903	\$ 407,809	\$ 485,653

- (1) Includes asset retirement obligations incurred of \$5.6 million, \$8.5 million and \$6.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

**Productive Wells**

The following table sets forth the number of productive oil and natural gas wells in which we owned an interest as of December 31, 2007:

	Total Productive Wells	
	Gross	Net
Oil	176	162
Natural gas	58	38
Total	234	200



## Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

Productive wells consist of producing wells and wells capable of production, including oil wells awaiting connection to production facilities and natural gas wells awaiting pipeline connections to commence deliveries. 37 gross oil wells and 9 gross natural gas wells have dual completions.

**Table of Contents****Acreage**

The following table sets forth information as of December 31, 2007 relating to acreage held by us. Developed acreage is assigned to producing wells.

	Gross Acreage	Net Acreage
<b>Developed:</b>		
Eastern offshore area	30,341	29,047
Central offshore area	36,187	23,437
Western offshore area	125,474	83,960
Deepwater offshore area	5,760	1,920
Gulf Coast onshore area	320	128
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,082</b>	<b>138,492</b>
<b>Undeveloped:</b>		
Eastern offshore area	2,093	2,093
Central offshore area	48,837	47,977
Western offshore area	165,394	137,603
Deepwater offshore area	120,960	32,159
Gulf Coast onshore area	3,735	510
<b>Total</b>	<b>341,019</b>	<b>220,342</b>

Leases covering 5% of our undeveloped net acreage will expire in 2008, 14% in 2009, 45% in 2010, 31% in 2011, 3% in 2012 and 2% thereafter.

**Well Activity**

The following table shows our well activity for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005. In the table, gross refers to the total wells in which we have a working interest and net refers to gross wells multiplied by our working interest in these wells.

	Years Ended December 31,					
	2007		2006		2005	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
<b>Development Wells:</b>						
Productive	4.0	2.6	3.0	1.7	8.0	4.7
Non-productive					3.0	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Exploration Wells:</b>						
Productive	11.0	6.0	17.0	8.7	30.0	15.3
Non-productive	11.0	8.3	6.0	2.7	17.0	9.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>24.6</b>

Well activity refers to the number of wells completed at any time during the fiscal years, regardless of when drilling was initiated. For the purpose of this table, the term completed refers to the installation of permanent equipment for the production of oil or natural gas.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Title to Properties**

Our properties are subject to customary royalty interests, liens under indebtedness, liens incident to operating agreements, mechanics and materialman liens for current taxes and other burdens, including other mineral encumbrances and restrictions. We do not believe that any of these burdens materially interfere with the use of our properties in the operation of our business.

We believe that we have satisfactory title to, or rights in, all of our producing properties. As is customary in the oil and natural gas industry, minimal investigation of title is made at the time of acquisition of undeveloped properties. We investigate title prior to the consummation of an acquisition of producing properties and before the commencement of drilling operations on undeveloped properties. We have obtained or conducted a thorough title review on substantially all of our producing properties and believe that we have satisfactory title to such properties in accordance with standards generally accepted in the oil and natural gas industry.

### **Regulatory Matters**

#### ***Regulation of Transportation and Sale of Natural Gas***

Historically, the transportation and sale for resale of natural gas in interstate commerce have been regulated pursuant to the Natural Gas Act of 1938, as amended ( NGA ), the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978, as amended ( NGPA ), and regulations promulgated thereunder by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ( FERC ) and its predecessors. In the past, the federal government has regulated the prices at which natural gas could be sold. Deregulation of wellhead natural gas sales began with the enactment of the NGPA. In 1989, Congress enacted the Natural Gas Wellhead Decontrol Act, as amended (the Decontrol Act ). The Decontrol Act removed all NGA and NGPA price and non-price controls affecting wellhead sales of natural gas effective January 1, 1993. While sales by producers of natural gas can currently be made at unregulated market prices, Congress could reenact price controls in the future.

Since 1985, FERC has endeavored to make natural gas transportation more accessible to natural gas buyers and sellers on an open and non-discriminatory basis. FERC has stated that open access policies are necessary to improve the competitive structure of the interstate natural gas pipeline industry and to create a regulatory framework that will put natural gas sellers into more direct contractual relations with natural gas buyers by, among other things, unbundling the sale of natural gas from the sale of transportation and storage services. Beginning in 1992, FERC issued Order No. 636 and a series of related orders (collectively, Order No. 636 ) to implement its open access policies. As a result of the Order No. 636 program, the marketing and pricing of natural gas have been significantly altered. The interstate pipelines' traditional role as wholesalers of natural gas has been eliminated and replaced by a structure under which pipelines provide transportation and storage service on an open access basis to others who buy and sell natural gas. Although FERC's orders do not directly regulate natural gas producers, they are intended to foster increased competition within all phases of the natural gas industry.

In 2000, FERC issued Order No. 637 and subsequent orders (collectively, Order No. 637 ), which imposed a number of additional reforms designed to enhance competition in natural gas markets. Among other things, Order No. 637 effected changes in FERC regulations relating to scheduling procedures, capacity segmentation, penalties, rights of first refusal and information reporting. Most major aspects of Order No. 637 have been upheld on judicial review, and most pipelines' tariff filings to implement the requirements of Order No. 637 have been accepted by the FERC and placed into effect.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act ( OCSLA ) requires that all pipelines operating on or across the outer continental shelf ( OCS ) provide open access, non-discriminatory transportation service. Previously the FERC enforced this provision pursuant to its authority under both the NGA and the OCSLA. One of FERC's principal goals in carrying out OCSLA's mandate is to increase transparency in the market to provide producers

## **Table of Contents**

and shippers on the OCS with greater assurance of open access service on pipelines located on the OCS and non-discriminatory rates and conditions of service on such pipelines. In 2003, the courts determined that the FERC had only limited authority to enforce its open access rules on the OCS and decided, instead, that such authority primarily rested with others, including the Department of the Interior. The U.S. Minerals Management Service ( MMS ), within the Department of the Interior, has jurisdiction under OCSLA to ensure that all shippers seeking service on OCS pipelines transporting oil or gas pursuant to MMS-granted easements or rights-of-way receive open and non-discriminatory access to such transportation. In furtherance of this mandate, MMS has proposed regulations intended to better ensure such access for OCS shippers by providing complaint procedures and informal alternative processes to address allegations that a shipper has been denied open and non-discriminatory access to an OCS pipeline.

Additional proposals and proceedings that might affect the natural gas industry are pending before FERC and the courts. For example, the Federal Energy Policy Act, signed into law in August 2005, contains various provisions designed to increase the level of competition and transparency in FERC-regulated natural gas markets (e.g. one such provision, recently implemented by FERC in its regulations, makes market-based rate authority generally available to new interstate natural gas storage facilities), those provisions are now in various stages of implementation by FERC. The natural gas industry historically has been very heavily regulated; therefore, there is no assurance that the less stringent regulatory approach recently pursued by FERC will continue. However, we do not believe that any action taken will affect us in a way that materially differs from the way it affects other natural gas producers, gatherers and marketers.

Intrastate natural gas transportation is subject to regulation by state regulatory agencies. The basis for intrastate regulation of natural gas transportation and the degree of regulatory oversight and scrutiny given to intrastate natural gas pipeline rates and services varies from state to state. Insofar as such regulation within a particular state will generally affect all intrastate natural gas shippers within the state on a comparable basis, we believe that the regulation of similarly situated intrastate natural gas transportation in any states in which we operate and ship natural gas on an intrastate basis will not affect our operations in any way that is materially different from the effect of such regulation on our competitors.

### ***Regulation of Transportation of Oil***

Sales of crude oil, condensate and natural gas liquids are not currently regulated and are made at negotiated prices. The transportation of oil in common carrier pipelines is also subject to rate regulation. FERC regulates interstate oil pipeline transportation rates under the Interstate Commerce Act. In general, interstate oil pipeline rates must be cost-based, although settlement rates agreed to by all shippers are permitted and market-based rates may be permitted in certain circumstances. Effective January 1, 1995, FERC implemented regulations establishing an indexing system (based on inflation) for transportation rates for oil that allowed for an increase or decrease in the cost of transporting oil to the purchaser. A review of these regulations by the FERC in 2000 was successfully challenged on appeal by an association of oil pipelines. On remand, the FERC in February 2003 increased the index slightly, effective July 2001. Intrastate oil pipeline transportation rates are subject to regulation by state regulatory commissions. The basis for intrastate oil pipeline regulation, and the degree of regulatory oversight and scrutiny given to intrastate oil pipeline rates, varies from state to state. Insofar as effective interstate and intrastate rates are equally applicable to all comparable shippers, we believe that the regulation of oil transportation rates will not affect our operations in any way that is materially different from the effect of such regulation on our competitors.

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

## **Table of Contents**

Our subsidiary, EPL Pipeline, L.L.C., owns an approximately 12-mile oil pipeline, which transports oil produced from South Timbalier 26 and a portion of South Timbalier 41 on the Gulf of Mexico OCS to Bayou Fourchon, Louisiana. Production transported on this pipeline includes oil produced by us from South Timbalier 26 and by us and our working interest partner in South Timbalier 41. EPL Pipeline, L.L.C. has on file with the Louisiana Public Service Commission and FERC tariffs for this transportation service and offers non-discriminatory transportation for any willing shipper.

### ***Regulation of Production***

The production of oil and natural gas is subject to regulation under a wide range of local, state and federal statutes, rules, orders and regulations. Federal, state and local statutes and regulations require permits for drilling operations, drilling and plugging and abandonment surety bonds and reports concerning operations. The states in which we own and operate properties have regulations governing conservation matters, including provisions for the unitization or pooling of oil and natural gas properties, the establishment of maximum allowable rates of production from oil and natural gas wells, the regulation of well spacing, and the plugging and abandonment of wells. Many states also have regulations restricting production to the market demand for oil and natural gas. The effect of these regulations is to limit the amount of oil and natural gas that we can produce from our wells and to limit the number of wells or the locations at which we can drill. Moreover, each state generally imposes a production or severance tax with respect to the production and sale of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids within its jurisdiction.

Some of our offshore operations are conducted on federal leases that are administered by MMS and are required to comply with the regulations and orders promulgated by MMS under OCSLA. Among other things, we are required to obtain prior MMS approval for any exploration plans we pursue and our development and production plans for these leases. MMS regulations also establish construction requirements for production facilities located on our federal offshore leases and govern the plugging and abandonment of wells and the removal of production facilities from these leases. Under limited circumstances, MMS could require us to suspend or terminate our operations on a federal lease.

MMS also establishes the basis for royalty payments due under federal oil and natural gas leases through regulations issued under applicable statutory authority. State regulatory authorities establish similar standards for royalty payments due under state oil and natural gas leases. The basis for royalty payments established by MMS and the state regulatory authorities is generally applicable to all federal and state oil and natural gas lessees. Accordingly, we believe that the impact of royalty regulation on our operations should generally be the same as the impact on our competitors.

The failure to comply with these rules and regulations can result in substantial penalties, including lease termination in the case of federal leases. The regulatory burden on the oil and natural gas industry increases our cost of doing business and, consequently, affects our profitability. Our competitors in the oil and natural gas industry are subject to the same regulatory requirements and restrictions that affect our operations.

### ***Environmental Regulations***

*General.* Various federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment, such as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ( CERCLA ), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended ( RCRA ), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, as amended (the Clean Water Act ), and the Federal Clean Air Act, as amended (the Clean Air Act ), affect our operations and costs. In particular, our exploration, development and production operations, our activities in connection with storage and transportation of oil and other hydrocarbons and our use of facilities for treating, processing or otherwise handling hydrocarbons and related wastes may be subject to regulation under these and similar state legislation. These laws and regulations:

restrict the types, quantities and concentration of various substances that can be released into the environment in connection with drilling and production activities;

---

**Table of Contents**

limit or prohibit drilling activities on certain lands lying within wilderness, wetlands and other protected areas; and

impose substantial liabilities for pollution resulting from our operations, including the performance of remedial measures to address pollution as a result of operations.

Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may result in the assessment of administrative, civil and criminal fines and penalties or the imposition of injunctive relief. Changes in environmental laws and regulations occur regularly, and any changes that result in more stringent and costly waste handling, storage, transport, disposal or cleanup requirements could materially adversely affect our operations and financial position, as well as those in the oil and natural gas industry in general. While we believe that we are in substantial compliance with current applicable environmental laws and regulations and that continued compliance with existing requirements would not have a material adverse impact on us, there is no assurance that this trend will continue in the future.

As with the industry generally, compliance with existing regulations increases our overall cost of business. The areas affected include:

unit production expenses primarily related to the control and limitation of air emissions and the disposal of produced water;

capital costs to drill exploration and development wells primarily related to the management and disposal of drilling fluids and other oil and natural gas exploration wastes; and

capital costs to construct, maintain and upgrade equipment and facilities.

*Superfund.* CERCLA, also known as Superfund, imposes liability for response costs and damages to natural resources, without regard to fault or the legality of the original act, on some classes of persons that contributed to the release of a hazardous substance into the environment. These persons include the owner or operator of a disposal site and entities that disposed or arranged for the disposal of the hazardous substances found at the site. CERCLA also authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and, in some instances, third parties to act in response to threats to the public health or the environment and to seek to recover from the responsible classes of persons the costs they incur. It is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury and property damage allegedly caused by the hazardous substances released into the environment. In the course of our ordinary operations, we may generate waste that may fall within CERCLA's definition of a hazardous substance. We may be jointly and severally liable under CERCLA or comparable state statutes for all or part of the costs required to clean up sites at which these wastes have been disposed.

We currently own or lease properties that for many years have been used for the exploration and production of oil and natural gas. Although we and our predecessors have used operating and disposal practices that were standard in the industry at the time, hazardous substance may have been disposed or released on, under or from the properties owned or leased by us or on, under or from other locations where these wastes have been taken for disposal. In addition, many of these properties have been operated by third parties whose actions with respect to the treatment and disposal or release of hazardous substance were not under our control. These properties and wastes disposed on these properties may be subject to CERCLA and analogous state laws. Under these laws, we could be required:

to remove or remediate previously disposed wastes, including wastes disposed or released by prior owners or operators;

to clean up contaminated property, including contaminated groundwater;

to pay for natural resource damages resulting from the releases; or

to perform remedial operations to prevent future contamination.





## **Table of Contents**

At this time, we do not believe that we are associated with any Superfund site and we have not been notified of any claim, liability or damages under CERCLA.

*Oil Pollution Act of 1990.* The Oil Pollution Act of 1990, as amended (the OPA) and regulations thereunder impose liability on responsible parties for damages resulting from oil spills into or upon navigable waters, adjoining shorelines or in the exclusive economic zone of the United States. Liability under OPA is strict, and under certain circumstances joint and several, and potentially unlimited. A responsible party includes the owner or operator of an onshore facility and the lessee or permittee of the area in which an offshore facility is located. The OPA also requires the lessee or permittee of the offshore area in which a covered offshore facility is located to establish and maintain evidence of financial responsibility in the amount of \$35.0 million (\$10.0 million if the offshore facility is located landward of the seaward boundary of a state) to cover liabilities related to an oil spill for which such person is statutorily responsible. The amount of required financial responsibility may be increased above the minimum amounts to an amount not exceeding \$150.0 million depending on the risk represented by the quantity or quality of oil that is handled by the facility. We carry insurance coverage to meet these obligations, which we believe is customary for comparable companies in our industry. A failure to comply with OPA's requirements or inadequate cooperation during a spill response action may subject a responsible party to civil or criminal enforcement actions. We are not aware of any action or event that would subject us to liability under OPA, and we believe that compliance with OPA's financial responsibility and other operating requirements will not have a material adverse effect on us.

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations address the management and disposal of oil and natural gas operational wastes under three federal acts more fully discussed in the paragraphs that follow. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (RCRA), provides a framework for the safe disposal of discarded materials and the management of solid and hazardous wastes. The direct disposal of operational wastes into offshore waters is also limited under the authority of the Clean Water Act. When injected underground, oil and natural gas wastes are regulated by the Underground Injection Control program under Safe Drinking Water Act. If wastes are classified as hazardous, they must be properly transported, using a uniform hazardous waste manifest, documented, and disposed at an approved hazardous waste facility. We are covered under the Clean Water Act permitting requirements for discharges associated with exploration and development activities. We take the necessary steps to ensure all offshore discharges associated with a proposed operation, including produced waters, will be conducted in accordance with such requirements.

*Resource Conservation Recovery Act.* RCRA, is the principal federal statute governing the treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes. RCRA imposes stringent operating requirements, and liability for failure to meet such requirements, on a person who is either a generator or transporter of hazardous waste or an owner or operator of a hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facility. At present, RCRA includes a statutory exemption that allows most oil and natural gas exploration and production waste to be classified as nonhazardous waste. A similar exemption is contained in many of the state counterparts to RCRA. As a result, we are not required to comply with a substantial portion of RCRA's requirements because our operations generate minimal quantities of hazardous wastes. At various times in the past, proposals have been made to amend RCRA to rescind the exemption that excludes oil and natural gas exploration and production wastes from regulation as hazardous waste. Repeal or modification of the exemption by administrative, legislative or judicial process, or modification of similar exemptions in applicable state statutes, would increase the volume of hazardous waste we are required to manage and dispose of and would cause us to incur increased operating expenses.

*Clean Water Act.* The Clean Water Act imposes restrictions and controls on the discharge of produced waters and other wastes into navigable waters. Permits must be obtained to discharge pollutants into state and federal waters and to conduct construction activities in waters and wetlands. Certain state regulations and the general permits issued under the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program prohibit the discharge of produced waters and sand, drilling fluids, drill cuttings and certain other substances related to the oil

**Table of Contents**

and natural gas industry into certain coastal and offshore waters. Further, the EPA has adopted regulations requiring certain oil and natural gas exploration and production facilities to obtain permits for storm water discharges. Costs may be associated with the treatment of wastewater or developing and implementing storm water pollution prevention plans. The Clean Water Act and comparable state statutes provide for civil, criminal and administrative penalties for unauthorized discharges for oil and other pollutants and impose liability on parties responsible for those discharges for the costs of cleaning up any environmental damage caused by the release and for natural resource damages resulting from the release. We believe that our operations comply in all material respects with the requirements of the Clean Water Act and state statutes enacted to control water pollution.

*Safe Drinking Water Act.* Underground injection is the subsurface placement of fluid through a well, such as the reinjection of brine produced and separated from oil and natural gas production. The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended establishes a regulatory framework for underground injection, with the main goal being the protection of usable aquifers. The primary objective of injection well operating requirements is to ensure the mechanical integrity of the injection apparatus and to prevent migration of fluids from the injection zone into underground sources of drinking water. Hazardous-waste injection well operations are strictly controlled, and certain wastes, absent an exemption, cannot be injected into underground injection control wells. In Louisiana and Texas, no underground injection may take place except as authorized by permit or rule. We currently own and operate various underground injection wells. Failure to abide by our permits could subject us to civil and/or criminal enforcement. We believe that we are in compliance in all material respects with the requirements of applicable state underground injection control programs and our permits.

*Marine Mammal and Endangered Species.* Federal Lease Stipulations Executive Order 13158 (Marine Protected Areas) address the protection of marine areas and the reduction of potential taking of protected marine species (sea turtles, marine mammals, Gulf Sturgeon and other listed marine species). MMS permit approvals will be conditioned on collection and removal of debris resulting from activities related to exploration, development and production of offshore leases. MMS has issued Notices to Lessees and Operators ( NTL ) 2007-G03 advising of requirements for posting of signs in prominent places on all vessels and structures and of an observing training program.

*Consideration of Environmental Issues in Connection with Governmental Approvals.* Our operations frequently require licenses, permits and/or other governmental approvals. Several federal statutes, including OCSLA, the National Environmental Policy Act ( NEPA ), and the Coastal Zone Management Act ( CZMA ) require federal agencies to evaluate environmental issues in connection with granting such approvals and/or taking other major agency actions. OCSLA, for instance, requires the U.S. Department of Interior ( DOI ) to evaluate whether certain proposed activities would cause serious harm or damage to the marine, coastal or human environment. Similarly, NEPA requires DOI and other federal agencies to evaluate major agency actions having the potential to significantly impact the environment. In the course of such evaluations, an agency would have to prepare an environmental assessment and, potentially, an environmental impact statement. CZMA, on the other hand, aids states in developing a coastal management program to protect the coastal environment from growing demands associated with various uses, including offshore oil and natural gas development. In obtaining various approvals from the DOI, we must certify that we will conduct our activities in a manner consistent with an applicable program.

*Lead-Based Paints.* Various pieces of equipment and structures owned by us have been coated with lead-based paints as was customary in the industry at the time these pieces of equipment were fabricated and constructed. These paints may contain lead at a concentration high enough to be considered a regulated hazardous waste when removed. If we need to remove such paints in connection with maintenance or other activities and they qualify as a regulated hazardous waste, this would increase the cost of disposal. High lead levels in the paint might also require us to institute certain administrative and/or engineering controls required by the Occupational Safety and Health Act and MMS to ensure worker safety during paint removal.

---

## **Table of Contents**

*Air Pollution Control.* The Clean Air Act and state air pollution laws adopted to fulfill its mandates provide a framework for national, state and local efforts to protect air quality. Our operations utilize equipment that emits air pollutants subject to federal and state air pollution control laws. These laws require utilization of air emissions abatement equipment to achieve prescribed emissions limitations and ambient air quality standards, as well as operating permits for existing equipment and construction permits for new and modified equipment. Air emissions associated with offshore activities are projected using a matrix and formula supplied by MMS, which has primacy from the Environmental Protection Agency for regulating such emissions.

*Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials ( NORM ).* NORM are materials not covered by the Atomic Energy Act, whose radioactivity is enhanced by technological processing such as mineral extraction or processing through exploration and production conducted by the oil and natural gas industry. NORM wastes are regulated under the RCRA framework, but primary responsibility for NORM regulation has been a state function. Standards have been developed for worker protection; treatment, storage and disposal of NORM waste; management of waste piles, containers and tanks; and limitations upon the release of NORM contaminated land for unrestricted use. We believe that our operations are in material compliance with all applicable NORM standards established by the State of Louisiana or the State of Texas, as applicable.

*Abandonment Costs.* One of the responsibilities of owning and operating oil and natural gas properties is paying for the cost of abandonment. Companies are required to reflect abandonment costs as a liability on their balance sheets in the period in which it is incurred. We may incur significant abandonment costs in the future which could adversely affect our financial results.

### **Significant Customers**

We market substantially all of the oil and natural gas from properties we operate and from properties others operate where our interest is significant. Our oil, condensate and natural gas production is sold to a variety of purchasers, which has historically been at market-based prices. We believe that the prices for liquids and natural gas are comparable to market prices in the areas where we have production. Of our total oil and natural gas revenues in 2007, Louis Dreyfus Energy Services, L.P. accounted for approximately 29%, Shell 27% and Chevron Texaco Exploration & Production Company 14%.

Due to the nature of the markets for oil and natural gas, we do not believe that the loss of any one of these customers would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operation although a temporary disruption in production revenues could occur.

### **Employees**

As of December 31, 2007, we had 163 full-time employees, including 39 geoscientists, engineers and technicians and 64 field personnel. Our employees are not represented by any labor union. We consider relations with our employees to be satisfactory and we have never experienced a work stoppage or strike.

### **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

#### **Risks Relating to the Oil and Natural Gas Industry**

*Exploring for and producing oil and natural gas are high-risk activities with many uncertainties that could adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.*

Our future success will depend on the success of our exploration and production activities. Our oil and natural gas exploration and production activities are subject to numerous risks beyond our control, including the risk that drilling will not result in commercially viable oil or natural gas production. Our decisions to purchase, explore, develop or otherwise exploit prospects or properties will depend in part on the evaluation of data

**Table of Contents**

obtained through geophysical and geological analyses, production data and engineering studies, the results of which are often inconclusive or subject to varying interpretations. Our cost of drilling, completing and operating wells is often uncertain before drilling commences. Overruns in budgeted expenditures are common risks that can make a particular project uneconomical. Further, many factors may curtail, delay or cancel drilling activity, including the following:

pressure or irregularities in geological formations;

shortages of or delays in obtaining equipment and qualified personnel;

equipment failures or accidents;

adverse weather conditions, such as hurricanes and tropical storms;

reductions in oil and natural gas prices;

title problems;

limitations in the market for oil and natural gas; and

cost of services to drill wells.

***We may incur substantial losses and be subject to substantial liability claims as a result of our oil and natural gas operations. Our insurance coverage may not be sufficient or may not be available to cover some of these claims.***

Losses and liabilities arising from uninsured and underinsured events could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations. Our oil and natural gas exploration and production activities are subject to all of the operating risks associated with drilling for and producing oil and natural gas, including the possibility of:

environmental hazards, such as uncontrollable flows of oil, natural gas, brine, well fluids, toxic gas or other pollution into the environment, including groundwater and shoreline contamination;

abnormally pressured formations;

mechanical difficulties;

fires and explosions;

personal injuries and death; and

natural disasters, especially hurricanes and tropical storms in the Gulf of Mexico Region.

Offshore operations are also subject to a variety of operating risks peculiar to the marine environment, such as capsizing, collisions and damage or loss from hurricanes, tropical storms or other adverse weather conditions. These conditions can cause substantial damage to facilities and interrupt production.

Any of these risks could adversely affect our ability to conduct operations or result in substantial losses to our company. We maintain insurance at levels that we believe are consistent with industry practices and our particular needs, but we are not fully insured against all risks. We may elect not to obtain insurance for certain risks or to limit levels of coverage if we believe that the cost of available insurance is excessive relative to the risks involved. In this regard, the cost of available coverage has increased significantly as a result of losses experienced by third-party insurers in the 2005 hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico, in particular those resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In addition, pollution and environmental risks generally are not fully insurable. If a significant accident or other event occurs and is not fully covered by insurance, it could adversely affect our cash flow and net income and could reduce or eliminate the funds available for exploration, exploitation and acquisitions or result in loss of equipment and properties.

## **Table of Contents**

***Reserve estimates depend on many assumptions that may prove to be inaccurate. Any material inaccuracies in these reserve estimates or underlying assumptions will materially affect the quantities and present value of our reserves.***

The process of estimating oil and natural gas reserves is complex. It requires interpretations of available technical data and many assumptions, including assumptions relating to economic factors. Any significant inaccuracies in these interpretations or assumptions could materially affect the estimated quantities and present value of reserves shown in this Report.

In order to assist in the preparation of our estimates, we must project production rates and timing of development expenditures. We must also analyze available geological, geophysical, production and engineering data. The extent, quality and reliability of these data can vary. The process also requires economic assumptions about matters such as oil and natural gas prices, drilling and operating expenses, capital expenditures, taxes and availability of funds. Therefore, estimates of oil and natural gas reserves are inherently imprecise.

Actual future production, oil and natural gas prices, revenues, taxes, development expenditures, operating expenses and quantities of recoverable oil and natural gas reserves most likely will vary from our estimates.

It cannot be assumed that the present value of future net revenues from our proved reserves referred to in this Report is the current market value of our estimated oil and natural gas reserves. In accordance with SEC requirements, we base the estimated discounted future net cash flows from our proved reserves on prices and costs on the date of the estimate. Actual future prices and costs may differ materially from those used in the present-value estimate.

If management's estimates of the recoverable reserve volumes on a property are revised downward, or if development costs exceed previous estimates, or if commodity prices decrease, as discussed elsewhere in these risk factors, we may be required to record noncash impairment write downs in the future, which would result in a negative impact to our financial position.

The capitalized costs of our oil and natural gas properties, on a field basis, cannot exceed the estimated future net cash flows of that field. If net capitalized costs exceed future net revenues, we must write down the costs of each such field to our estimate of fair market value. Accordingly, unsuccessful exploration efforts, or fields that underperform or become uneconomic could cause a future write down of capitalized costs. Once incurred, a write down of oil and natural gas properties cannot be reversed at a later date even if oil or natural gas prices increase.

***Market conditions or operational impediments may hinder our access to oil and natural gas markets or delay our production.***

Market conditions or the unavailability of satisfactory oil and natural gas transportation arrangements may hinder our access to oil and natural gas markets or delay our production. The availability of a ready market for our oil and natural gas production depends on a number of factors, including the demand for and supply of oil and natural gas and the proximity of reserves to pipelines and terminal facilities. Our ability to market our production depends in substantial part on the availability and capacity of gathering systems, pipelines and processing facilities owned and operated by third parties. Our failure to obtain such services on acceptable terms could harm our business. We may be required to shut in wells for lack of a market or because of inadequacy or unavailability of oil or natural gas pipeline or gathering system capacity. If that were to occur, we would be unable to realize revenue from those wells until production arrangements were made to deliver to market.

## **Table of Contents**

*A substantial or extended decline in oil and natural gas prices may adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations and our ability to meet our capital expenditure requirements and financial commitments.*

The price we receive for our oil and natural gas production heavily influences our revenue, profitability, cash flow, access to capital and future rate of growth. Oil and natural gas are commodities and, therefore, their prices are subject to wide fluctuations in response to relatively minor changes in supply and demand. Historically, the markets for oil and natural gas have been volatile. These markets will likely continue to be volatile in the future. The prices we receive for our production, and the levels of our production, depend on numerous factors beyond our control. These factors include:

changes in the global supply, demand and inventories of oil;

domestic natural gas supply, demand and inventories;

the actions of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC;

the price and quantity of foreign imports of oil;

the price and availability of liquefied natural gas imports;

political conditions, including embargoes, in or affecting other oil-producing countries;

economic and energy infrastructure disruptions caused by actual or threatened acts of war, or terrorist activities, or national security measures deployed to protect the United States from such actual or threatened acts or activities;

economic stability of major oil and natural gas companies and the interdependence of oil and natural gas and energy trading companies;

the level of worldwide oil and natural gas exploration and production activity;

weather conditions, including energy infrastructure disruptions resulting from those conditions;

technological advances affecting energy consumption; and

the price and availability of alternative fuels.

Lower oil and natural gas prices may not only decrease our revenues on a per unit basis, but also may reduce the amount of oil and natural gas that we can produce economically. A substantial or extended decline in oil and natural gas prices may materially and adversely affect our future business, financial condition, results of operations, liquidity, ability to finance planned capital expenditures or ability to pursue acquisitions. Further, oil prices and natural gas prices do not necessarily move together.

*We are subject to extensive governmental laws and regulations, including environmental regulations, which can adversely affect the cost, manner or feasibility of doing business and could result in restrictions on our operations or civil or criminal liability.*

Our exploration, development and production operations, our activities in connection with storage and transportation of oil and other hydrocarbons and our use of facilities for treating, processing or otherwise handling hydrocarbons and related wastes are subject to various federal, state and local laws, orders and regulations. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may result in the assessment of administrative, civil and criminal fines and penalties or the imposition of injunctive relief.

Future compliance with laws and regulations, including environmental, production, transportation, sales, rate and tax rules and regulations, and any changes to such laws or regulations, may reduce our profitability. Such laws and regulations may require more stringent and costly waste handling, storage, transport, disposal or cleanup requirements, and could materially affect our operations and financial position, as well as those in the oil and natural gas industry in general.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Risks Relating to Energy Partners, Ltd.**

***Our substantial indebtedness and increased interest expense could impair our financial condition and our ability to fulfill our obligations.***

As of December 31, 2007, we had total indebtedness of approximately \$484.5 million. The increase in connection with the refinancing of our indebtedness and incurrence of additional indebtedness in April 2007 has increased our interest expense significantly. In addition, a significant portion of our indebtedness has a floating rate of interest, which may increase over time.

Our indebtedness could have important consequences to you. For example, it could:

Make it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to our indebtedness, which could in turn result in an event of default on such indebtedness;

Impair our ability to obtain additional financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, general corporate purposes or other purposes;

Reduce our ability to withstand a downturn in our business or the economy generally;

Require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to debt service payments, thereby reducing the availability of cash for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, general corporate purposes or other purposes;

Limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry in which we operate; and

Place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors that have proportionately less debt.

If we are unable to meet our debt service obligations, we could be forced to restructure or refinance our indebtedness, seek additional equity capital or sell assets. We may be unable to obtain financing or sell assets on satisfactory terms, or not at all.

***Our current operations are concentrated in the Gulf of Mexico Region, and a significant part of the value of our production and reserves is concentrated in two areas. Because of this concentration, any production problems or inaccuracies in reserve estimates related to these areas could impact our business adversely.***

All of our current operations are concentrated in the Gulf of Mexico Region. We are more vulnerable to operational, regulatory and other risks associated with the Gulf of Mexico, including the risk of adverse weather conditions, than many of our competitors that are more geographically diversified because all or a substantial portion of our operations could experience the same condition at the same time.

During 2007, 54% of our net daily production came from our Greater Bay Marchand area and approximately 45% of our proved reserves were located in the fields that comprise this area. In addition, 13% of our net daily production came from our East Bay field and approximately 35% of our proved reserves were located on this property. If mechanical problems, storms or other events were to curtail a substantial portion of this production, our cash flow could be affected adversely. If the actual reserves associated with these properties are less than our estimated reserves, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be adversely affected.

***Relatively short production life for Gulf of Mexico and Gulf Coast onshore region properties subjects us to higher reserve replacement needs.***

Producing oil and natural gas reservoirs generally are characterized by declining production rates that vary depending upon reservoir characteristics and other factors. High production rates generally result in recovery of a relatively higher percentage of reserves from properties during the initial few years of production. All of our



## **Table of Contents**

operations are presently in the Gulf of Mexico and Gulf Coast onshore regions. Production from reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico region generally declines more rapidly than from reservoirs in many other producing regions of the world. As of December 31, 2007, our independent petroleum engineers estimate, that on average, 63% of our total proved reserves will be produced within 5 years. As a result, our reserve replacement needs from new investments are relatively greater than those of producers who recover lower percentages of their reserves over a similar time period, such as producers who have a portion of their reserves outside the Gulf of Mexico Region. We may not be able to develop, exploit, find or acquire additional reserves to sustain our current production levels or to grow. There can be no assurance that we will be able to grow production at rates we have experienced in the past. Our future oil and natural gas reserves and production, and, therefore, our cash flow and income, are highly dependent on our success in efficiently developing and exploiting our current reserves and economically finding or acquiring additional recoverable reserves.

### ***Rapid growth may place significant demands on our resources.***

We experienced rapid growth in our operations in the past and our operations may expand quickly in the future. Our rapid growth in the past has placed, and any future growth could place, a significant demand on our managerial, operational and financial resources due to:

the need to manage relationships with various strategic partners and other third parties;

difficulties in hiring and retaining skilled personnel necessary to support our business;

complexities in integrating acquired businesses and personnel;

the need to train and manage our employee base; and

pressures for the continued development of our financial and information technology management systems.

If we have not made adequate allowances for the costs and risks associated with these demands or if our systems, procedures or controls are not adequate to support our operations, our business could be harmed.

### ***Properties that we buy may not produce as projected, and we may be unable to fully identify liabilities associated with the properties or obtain protection from sellers against them.***

Our strategy includes acquisitions. The successful acquisition of producing properties requires assessments of many factors, which are inherently inexact and may be inaccurate, including:

the amount of recoverable reserves and the rates at which those reserves will be produced;

future oil and natural gas prices;

estimates of operating costs;

estimates of future development costs;

## Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

estimates of the costs and timing of plugging and abandonment; and

potential environmental and other liabilities.

Our assessments will not reveal all existing or potential problems, nor will they permit us to become familiar enough with the properties to evaluate fully their deficiencies and capabilities. In the course of our due diligence, we may not inspect every well, platform or pipeline. We cannot necessarily observe structural and environmental problems, such as pipeline corrosion or groundwater contamination, when an inspection is conducted. We may not be able to obtain contractual indemnities from the seller for liabilities that it created. We may be required to assume the risk of the physical condition of the properties in addition to the risk that the properties may not perform in accordance with our expectations.

## **Table of Contents**

***Substantial acquisitions, development programs or other transactions could require significant external capital and could change our risk and property profile.***

In order to finance acquisitions of additional producing properties or finance the development of any discoveries made through any expanded exploratory program that might be undertaken, we may need to alter or increase our capitalization substantially through the issuance of additional debt or equity securities, the sale of production payments or other means. These changes in capitalization may significantly affect our risk profile. Additionally, significant acquisitions or other transactions can change the character of our operations and business. The character of the new properties may be substantially different in operating or geological characteristics or geographic location than our existing properties. Furthermore, we may not be able to obtain external funding for any such transactions or to obtain additional external funding on terms acceptable to us.

***The unavailability or high cost of drilling rigs, equipment, supplies, personnel and oilfield services could adversely affect our ability to execute on a timely basis our exploration and development plans within our budget.***

All of our operations are in the Gulf of Mexico and Gulf Coast onshore regions. Shortages and the high cost of drilling rigs, equipment, supplies or personnel could delay or adversely affect our exploration and development plans, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. Periodically, as a result of increased drilling activity or a decrease in the supply of equipment, materials and services, we have experienced increases in associated costs, including those related to drilling rigs, equipment, supplies and personnel and the services and products of other vendors to the industry. Increased drilling activity in the Gulf of Mexico and in other offshore areas around the world also decreases the availability of offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. We cannot offer assurance that costs will not continue to increase again or that necessary equipment and services will be available to us at economical prices.

***The loss of key personnel could adversely affect us.***

To a large extent, we depend on the services of our chairman and chief executive officer, Richard A. Bachmann and other senior management personnel. The loss of the services of Mr. Bachmann or other senior management personnel could have an adverse effect on our operations. We do not maintain any insurance against the loss of any of these individuals.

The exploration and production business is highly competitive, and our success will depend largely on our ability to attract and retain experienced geoscientists and other professional staff.

***Competition in the oil and natural gas industry is intense, which may adversely affect us.***

We operate in a highly competitive environment for acquiring oil and natural gas properties, marketing oil and natural gas and securing trained personnel. Many of our competitors possess and employ financial, technical and personnel resources substantially greater than ours, which can be particularly important in Gulf of Mexico and Gulf Coast onshore activities. Those companies may be able to pay more for productive oil and natural gas properties and exploratory prospects and to define, evaluate, bid for and purchase a greater number of properties and prospects than our financial or personnel resources permit. Our ability to acquire additional prospects and to discover reserves in the future will depend on our ability to evaluate and select suitable properties and to consummate transactions in a highly competitive environment. Also, there is substantial competition for capital available for investment in the oil and natural gas industry. We cannot make assurances that we will be able to compete successfully in the future in acquiring prospective reserves, developing reserves, marketing hydrocarbons, attracting and retaining quality personnel and raising additional capital. If we are unable to compete successfully in these areas in the future, our future revenues and growth may be diminished or restricted.

**Table of Contents**

*Provisions in our organizational documents and under Delaware law could delay or prevent a change in control of our company, which could adversely affect the price of our common stock.*

The existence of some provisions in our organizational documents and under Delaware law could delay or prevent a change in control of our company, which could adversely affect the price of our common stock. The provisions in our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws that could delay or prevent an unsolicited change in control of our company include:

the board of directors' ability to issue shares of preferred stock and determine the terms of the preferred stock without approval of common stockholders; and

a prohibition on the right of stockholders to call meetings and a limitation on the right of stockholders to present proposals or make nominations at stockholder meetings.

In addition, Delaware law imposes some restrictions on mergers and other business combinations between us and any holder of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

A putative class action suit filed in 2006 by Thomas Farrington, a purported stockholder of ours, against us, all of our directors, one of our subsidiaries, and Stone Energy Corporation in the Delaware Chancery Court has been dismissed on the motion of all parties with no material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

On February 21, 2008, we entered into a plea agreement with the United States Department of Justice under which we pled guilty on that same date to one strict liability, misdemeanor violation of the River and Harbors Act in the United States District Court for the Eastern Division of Louisiana. The plea concludes the investigation announced in June 2007 into possible environmental violations at our East Bay field in late 2005 and early 2006. Under the plea agreement, we have paid a fine of \$75,000 and have made a community service payment of \$25,000 to a Louisiana state agency. As a part of the plea agreement, we are subject to inactive probation for one year. The foregoing actions represent the final resolution of this matter with all federal agencies involved with the investigation.

In the ordinary course of business, we are a defendant in various other legal proceedings. We do not expect our exposure in these proceedings, individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

**Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders**

None.

**Item 4A. Executive Officers of the Registrant**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding our executive officers:

Name	Age	Position
Richard A. Bachmann	63	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Joseph T. Leary	58	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
John H. Peper	55	Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Thomas D. DeBrock	47	Senior Vice President Exploration
Stephen D. Longon	50	Senior Vice President Drilling, Engineering and Production

L. Keith Vincent

53 Senior Vice President Acquisitions and Land

## **Table of Contents**

Richard A. Bachmann has been chief executive officer and chairman of the board of directors since our incorporation in January 1998 and also served as our president until May 2005. Mr. Bachmann began organizing our company in February 1997. From 1995 to January 1997, he served as director, president and chief operating officer of The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company ( LL&E ), an independent oil and natural gas exploration company. From 1982 to 1995, Mr. Bachmann held various positions with LL&E, including director, executive vice president, chief financial officer and senior vice president of finance and administration. From 1978 to 1981, Mr. Bachmann was treasurer of Itel Corporation. Prior to 1978, Mr. Bachmann served with Exxon International, Esso Central America, Esso InterAmerica and Standard Oil of New Jersey. He also serves as a director of Trico Marine Services, Inc., Tulane University Hospital & Clinic and Xavier University of Louisiana.

Joseph T. Leary joined us in August 2007 as executive vice president and chief financial officer. Mr. Leary has over 24 years of energy industry experience and was most recently with KCS Energy, Inc. ( KCS ) serving as its senior vice president and chief financial officer from 2003 until it was acquired by Petrohawk Energy Corporation in 2006. At KCS, he was responsible for corporate finance, accounting, treasury, insurance and information technology. Prior to his position with KCS, Mr. Leary was vice president of finance and treasurer at EEX Corporation from 1996 until 2002. From 1983 until 1996, he was employed by Enserch Corporation in a variety of finance and treasury management positions.

John H. Peper joined us in January 2002 as executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary. Prior to joining us, Mr. Peper had been senior vice president, general counsel and secretary of Hall Houston Oil Company ( HHOC ) since February 1993. Mr. Peper also served as a director of HHOC from October 1991 until we acquired HHOC in January 2002. For more than five years prior to joining HHOC, Mr. Peper was a partner in the law firm of Jackson Walker, L.L.P., where he continued to serve in an of counsel capacity through 2001.

Thomas D. DeBrock, joined us in June 1998 as a senior geologist and was promoted to exploration manager, New Orleans in September 2004, vice president of exploration in August 2006 and senior vice president exploration in August 2007. He has more than 23 years of energy industry experience in both the exploration and development efforts. Mr. DeBrock began his career with GTS Seismic Corporation, and then joined Odeco Oil and Gas working the Gulf of Mexico Shelf followed by a move to LL&E to work the Onshore area of South Louisiana. After the merger of LL&E with Burlington Resources, he joined W&T Offshore before joining us.

Stephen D. Longon joined us in July 2007 as senior vice president drilling and engineering and in February 2008 was assigned additional responsibilities and was named senior vice president drilling, engineering and production. He has over 28 years of energy industry experience and was most recently with Dominion Exploration & Production, Inc. ( Dominion ) in its New Orleans office serving as General Manager of Production and Operations, with responsibility for their operations on the Gulf of Mexico ( GOM ) Shelf, in the deepwater GOM and onshore South Louisiana. During his earlier years with Dominion, he played a key role in the integration and management of substantial resource assets in the Arklatex area, South Texas and the Texas Gulf Coast. Prior to his position with Dominion, Mr. Longon had served as manager in a variety of GOM operational roles for Vastar Resources, Inc. From 1979 to 1993, Mr. Longon worked for Atlantic Richfield Company in positions of increasing responsibility, primarily in the GOM and onshore Texas and south Louisiana.

L. Keith Vincent joined us as land manager in January 1999 and was appointed vice president, land and business development, in July 2000. In August 2007, he was promoted to senior vice president land and business development and in February 2008 was assigned additional responsibilities and was appointed senior vice president acquisitions. Mr. Vincent was vice president, land and legal, of Great River Oil & Gas Corporation from 1994 to October 1998. From October 1998 until joining us, Mr. Vincent was a self-employed sole proprietor performing contract work for various oil and gas exploration companies. During Mr. Vincent's 28-year career, he also held various managerial positions with Davis Petroleum Corporation and Transco Exploration Company.



**Table of Contents****PART II****Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Stock and Related Stockholder Matters**

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol EPL. The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the range of the high and low sales prices of our common stock as reported by the New York Stock Exchange.

	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
2006		
First Quarter	\$ 28.68	\$ 20.62
Second Quarter	28.85	17.38
Third Quarter	25.75	16.37
Fourth Quarter	25.56	23.70
2007		
First Quarter	24.52	16.97
Second Quarter	19.25	15.83
Third Quarter	18.04	12.04
Fourth Quarter	15.39	11.73
2008		
First Quarter (through February 25, 2008)	12.71	10.30

On February 25, 2008 the last reported sale price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$12.25 per share.

As of February 25, 2008 there were approximately 125 holders of record of our common stock.

We have not paid any cash dividends in the past on our common stock and do not intend to pay cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. We intend to retain earnings for the future operation and development of our business. Any future cash dividends to holders of common stock would depend on future earnings, capital requirements, our financial condition and other factors determined by our board of directors.

**Table of Contents**

The graph below matches our cumulative 5-year total shareholder return on common stock with the cumulative total returns of the (i) S & P 500 index, (ii) our previous peer group, as used in 2006, composed of a customized peer group of eleven independent oil and natural gas exploration and production companies: ATP Oil & Gas Corp., Boisd Arc Energy Inc, Cabot Oil & Gas Corp., Comstock Resources Inc, Denbury Resources Inc., Houston Exploration Company, Meridian Resource Corp., Newfield Exploration Company, St. Mary Land & Exploration Company, Stone Energy Corp. and W & T Offshore Inc. and (iii) the new peer group which has been modified to remove Cabot Oil & Gas Corp., Comstock Resources, Inc., Denbury Resources Inc, Houston Exploration Company, Newfield Exploration Company and St. Mary Land & Exploration Company as they were either sold or their geographic area of operations is more diversified than ours with a lesser focus in our geographic area. These companies have been replaced by Callon Petroleum Company, Mariner Energy, Inc. and McMoRan Exploration Co. which we believe focus in a geographic area similar to ours and are companies that analysts would most likely use to compare with an investment in us. The graph tracks the performance of a \$100 investment in our common stock, in the peer groups, and the index (with the reinvestment of all dividends) from 12/31/2002 to 12/31/2007.

\* \$100 invested on 12/13/02 in stock or index-including reinvestment of dividends. Fiscal Year ending December 31.

Copyright © 2008, Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved.

[www.researchdatagroup.com/S&P.htm](http://www.researchdatagroup.com/S&P.htm)

	12/02	12/03	12/04	12/05	12/06	12/07
<b>Energy Partners, Ltd.</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>129.91</b>	<b>189.44</b>	<b>203.64</b>	<b>228.22</b>	<b>110.37</b>
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>128.68</b>	<b>142.69</b>	<b>149.70</b>	<b>173.34</b>	<b>182.87</b>
<b>New Peer Group</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>175.11</b>	<b>211.61</b>	<b>242.47</b>	<b>224.91</b>	<b>256.62</b>
<b>Old Peer Group</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>132.13</b>	<b>184.58</b>	<b>285.46</b>	<b>293.53</b>	<b>386.62</b>

**Table of Contents****Item 6. Selected Financial Data**

The following table shows selected consolidated financial data derived from our consolidated financial statements which are set forth in Item 8 of this Report. The data should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 of this Report.

	2007	Years Ended December 31,			2003
		2006	2005	2004	
(In thousands, except per share data)					
<b>Statement of Operations Data:</b>					
Revenue	\$ 454,649	\$ 449,550	\$ 402,947	\$ 295,447	\$ 230,187
Income (loss) from operations(1)	(56,013)	(55,343)	132,027	86,068	58,560
Net income (loss)(2)	(79,955)	(50,400)	73,095	46,416	33,250
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders(3)	(79,955)	(50,400)	72,151	43,017	29,705
Basic net income (loss) per common share	\$ (2.32)	\$ (1.32)	\$ 1.94	\$ 1.31	\$ 0.96
Diluted net income (loss) per common share	\$ (2.32)	\$ (1.32)	\$ 1.79	\$ 1.20	\$ 0.93
<b>Cash flows provided by (used in):</b>					
Operating activities	\$ 293,889	\$ 272,074	\$ 269,969	\$ 165,074	\$ 136,702
Investing activities	(244,421)	(358,780)	(449,159)	(176,713)	(110,057)
Financing activities	(43,818)	83,131	92,442	784	77,631

	2007	2006	As of December 31,		2003
			2005	2004	
(In thousands)					
<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Total assets	\$ 814,856	\$ 1,003,845	\$ 931,285	\$ 647,678	\$ 544,181
Long-term debt, excluding current maturities	484,501	317,000	235,000	150,109	150,317
Stockholders' equity	101,970	372,269	394,593	315,049	261,485
Cash dividends per common share					

- (1) The 2007, 2006 and 2005 income from operations includes business interruption insurance recoveries of \$9.1 million, \$32.9 million and \$20.6 million respectively from deferred production at our covered fields resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- (2) The 2003 net income includes a cumulative effect of change in accounting principle resulting from the adoption of Statement 143, which increased net income \$2.3 million, net of deferred income taxes of \$1.3 million.
- (3) Net income (loss) available to common stockholders is computed by subtracting preferred stock dividends and accretion of discount of \$0.9 million, \$3.4 million and \$3.5 million from net income (loss) for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

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

We were incorporated in January 1998 and operate in a single segment as an independent oil and natural gas exploration and production company. Our current operations are concentrated in the Shelf and deepwater Gulf of Mexico as well as the Gulf Coast onshore region, with a focus on our core properties and surrounding acreage in our Central and Eastern offshore areas.

We continue to strive towards implementing our long-term growth strategy to increase our oil and natural gas reserves and production while keeping our finding and development costs and operating costs competitive with our industry peers. We are implementing this strategy through drilling exploratory and development wells from our inventory of available prospects that we have evaluated for geologic and mechanical risk and future

---

**Table of Contents**

reserve or resource potential. We also evaluate acquisition opportunities outside of our core focus area as a complement to the drilling and development activities we have budgeted for that area. We also consider strategic divestiture opportunities from time to time. Our drilling program is predominately comprised of moderate risk, higher or moderate reserve potential opportunities, as well as some high risk, higher reserve potential opportunities and low risk, lower reserve potential opportunities, in order to achieve a balanced program of reserve and production growth.

We use the successful efforts method of accounting for our investment in oil and natural gas properties. Under this method, we capitalize lease acquisition costs, costs to drill and complete exploration wells in which proven reserves are discovered and costs to drill and complete development wells. Exploratory drilling costs are charged to expense if and when the well is determined not to have found reserves in commercial quantities. Seismic, geological and geophysical, and delay rental expenditures are expensed as incurred. We conduct many of our exploration and development activities jointly with others and, accordingly, recorded amounts for our oil and natural gas properties reflect only our proportionate interest in such activities.

Our revenue, profitability and future growth rate depend on a number of factors beyond our control, such as tropical weather, economic, political and regulatory developments and competition from other sources of energy. Oil and natural gas prices historically have been volatile and may fluctuate widely in the future. Sustained periods of low prices for oil and natural gas could materially and adversely affect our financial position, our results of operations, the quantities of oil and natural gas reserves that we can economically produce and our access to capital. See Risk Factors in Item 1A for a more detailed discussion of these risks.

We continue to generate prospects and strive to maintain an extensive inventory of drillable prospects in-house, and we are being exposed to new opportunities through relationships with industry partners. Our policy is to fund our exploration and development expenditures with internally generated cash flow, which allows us to preserve our balance sheet to finance acquisitions and other capital projects. However, from time to time during 2006 and 2007, we have used our bank credit facility to fund working capital needs as further discussed below.

On June 22, 2006, we entered into a Merger Agreement (the Merger Agreement) with Stone Energy Corporation ( Stone ), pursuant to which a wholly-owned subsidiary would acquire all of the shares of Stone for a combination of cash and stock valued at approximately \$2.1 billion. Prior to entering into the Merger Agreement, Stone terminated its then existing merger agreement with Plains Exploration Company ( Plains ) on the same day. Under the terms of the terminated merger agreement between Stone and Plains, Plains was entitled to a termination fee of \$43.5 million, which was advanced by us to Plains and was included in other assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheet at June 30, 2006. On August 28, 2006, Woodside Petroleum, Ltd. ( Woodside ) announced its intention to commence a tender offer (the Woodside Tender Offer ), through its U.S. subsidiary ATS Inc., for all of our outstanding shares of common stock for \$23.00 per share in cash subject to, among other conditions, our stockholders voting down the proposed Stone acquisition. The Woodside Tender Offer was commenced on August 31, 2006. On September 13, 2006, our board of directors (the Board ), after review with our independent financial and legal advisors, rejected as inadequate the unsolicited conditional offer by Woodside and recommended that our stockholders not tender their shares. On October 12, 2006 we announced that we had terminated the Merger Agreement with Stone and that the Board had directed us, assisted by our financial advisors, to explore strategic alternatives to maximize stockholder value, including the possible sale of our Company. The Woodside Tender Offer expired in November 2006. On March 12, 2007 we announced that we had completed our strategic alternatives process and that we intended to initiate a self-tender offer for 8,700,000 of our common shares, refinance our bank credit facility and repurchase our 8.75% senior notes (the Senior Notes ) through a concurrent debt tender and consent solicitation offer (the Transactions ). In order to fund the Transactions, we undertook a placement of \$450 million of Senior Unsecured Notes and entered into a new bank credit facility. In addition, we announced our plans to divest selected properties the proceeds from which would be used to reduce debt following the completion of the Transactions. In conjunction with the termination of the Merger Agreement, we paid \$8.0 million to Stone, which was included in general and administrative expenses in the fourth quarter of 2006. In addition, the \$43.5 million termination fee that was

## Table of Contents

advanced to Plains in June 2006 on behalf of Stone was expensed in 2006 along with other merger and strategic alternatives related costs of \$15.0 million. We incurred an additional \$9.4 million of legal and financial advisory fees for the year ended December 31, 2007 related to the exploration of strategic alternatives and the tender offers.

On April 23, 2007 we refinanced our bank credit facility with a new \$300 million revolving credit facility (the bank credit facility) with an initial availability of \$225 million and a borrowing base of \$200 million. Concurrently with the June 2007 sale of assets described below, the availability under the bank credit facility was automatically reduced to the \$200 million borrowing base amount. At December 31, 2007, we had a borrowing base of \$200 million and \$30 million outstanding under the bank credit facility. The borrowing base remains subject to redetermination based on the proved reserves of the oil and natural gas properties that serve as collateral for the bank credit facility as set out in the reserve report delivered to the banks each April 1 and October 1.

On April 23, 2007 we completed an offering of \$450 million aggregate principal amount of senior unsecured notes (the Senior Unsecured Notes), consisting of \$300 million aggregate principal amount of 9.75% senior notes due 2014 (the Fixed Rate Notes), with interest payable semi-annually on April 15 and October 15 beginning on October 15, 2007, and \$150 million aggregate principal amount of senior floating rate notes due 2013 (the Floating Rate Notes). The interest rate on the Floating Rate Notes for a particular interest period will be an annual rate equal to the three-month LIBOR plus 5.125%. Interest on the Floating Rate Notes is payable quarterly on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15, beginning in July of 2007. We may redeem the Senior Unsecured Notes, in whole or in part, prior to their maturity at specific redemption prices including premiums ranging from 4.875% to 0% from 2011 to 2013 and thereafter for the Fixed Rate Notes and premiums ranging from 2% to 0% from 2008 to 2010 and thereafter for the Floating Rate Notes. The indenture governing the Senior Unsecured Notes contains covenants, including but not limited to a covenant limiting the creation of liens securing indebtedness. The Senior Unsecured Notes are not subject to any sinking fund requirements. In November 2007 we consummated an exchange offer pursuant to which we exchanged registered senior unsecured notes having substantially identical terms as the privately placed Senior Unsecured Notes.

On May 4, 2007, we completed a cash tender offer for our \$150 million 8.75% senior notes due 2010 (the Senior Notes). Approximately \$145.5 million of these Senior Notes were repurchased and substantially all of their covenants have been removed.

On June 12, 2007, we sold substantially all of our onshore South Louisiana producing assets for \$72.0 million in cash. After giving effect to closing adjustments, the net cash proceeds received totaled approximately \$68.6 million. We used the proceeds to pay down a portion of our revolving credit facility. The estimated proved reserves of the disposed properties were approximately 2.1 Mmboe. The Company recorded a gain of \$6.5 million on the sale. We have included the results of operations from the onshore South Louisiana assets sold in our consolidated financial statements through the closing date.

Effective April 2, 2007, we elected to discontinue hedge accounting on our existing contracts and elected not to designate any additional hedging contracts that were entered into subsequent to that date as cash flow hedges under Financial Accounting Standards No. 133 Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, (Statement 133) as amended. Derivative contracts are carried at their fair value on the consolidated balance sheet as Fair value of commodity derivative instruments and all unrealized gains and losses are recorded in Gain (loss) on derivative instruments in Other income (expense) in the Statement of Operations and realized gains and losses related to contract settlements subsequent to April 2, 2007 will also be recognized in the same line in Other income (expense) in the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina made landfall south of New Orleans causing catastrophic damage throughout portions of the Gulf of Mexico and to portions of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, including New Orleans. As a result of the devastating effects of the storm on New Orleans and surrounding areas, we

**Table of Contents**

established temporary headquarters at our Houston, Texas office. On September 24, 2005 Hurricane Rita made landfall in the United States on the Texas/Louisiana border between Sabine Pass, Texas and Johnson's Bayou, Louisiana. This hurricane caused extensive damage throughout portions of the region, particularly to third party infrastructure such as pipelines and processing plants.

As a result of these two major hurricanes and three other hurricanes (the Tropical Weather ) that traversed the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent land areas in 2005, nearly all of our production was shut in at one time or another during the third quarter of 2005 and into 2006. We have recognized a total of \$62.6 million for business interruption recoveries of which \$32.9 million and \$20.6 million were recorded in the statement of operations in 2006 and fourth quarter of 2005, respectively and an additional \$9.1 million was recorded in the first quarter of 2007 upon the final settlement of the Hurricane Katrina claim. All insurance receivables related to these hurricanes have been collected.

On March 8, 2005, we closed the acquisition of the remaining 50% gross working interest in South Timbalier 26 above approximately 13,000 feet subsea that we did not already own for approximately \$19.6 million after closing adjustments. As a result of the acquisition, we now own a 100% gross working interest in the producing horizons in this field. The acquisition expands our interest in our core Greater Bay Marchand area and has given us additional flexibility in undertaking the future development of the South Timbalier 26 field.

On January 20, 2005, we closed an acquisition of properties and reserves in south Louisiana for \$149.6 million in cash, after adjustments for the exercise of preferential rights by third parties and closing adjustments. The entire purchase price was allocated to property and equipment. The terms of the acquisition did not contain any contingent consideration, options or future commitments. The acquisition was composed of nine fields, four of which were producing at the time of the closing through 14 wells with proved reserves in the southern portions of Terrebone, Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes in Louisiana.

We have included the results of operations from the acquisitions discussed above from their respective closing dates and the disposition through its closing date. We experienced substantial revenue and production fluctuations as a result of these acquisitions through the period prior to the tropical weather discussed above. We experienced a production decrease in 2007 from the previously discussed asset divestiture. For the foregoing reasons these activities will affect the comparability of our historical results of operations with future periods.

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

The following table presents information about our oil and natural gas operations.

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Net production (per day):			
Oil (Bbls)	8,769	8,238	7,984
Natural gas (Mcf)	92,167	106,042	88,430
Total (Boe)	24,130	25,912	22,722
Average sales prices, excluding impact of derivatives:			
Oil (per Bbl)	\$ 66.78	\$ 59.78	\$ 49.60
Natural gas (per Mcf)	7.15	6.98	8.50
Total (per Boe)	51.59	47.57	46.42
Impact of derivatives (1):			
Oil (per Bbl)	\$ (5.11)	\$	\$ (3.15)
Natural gas (per Mcf)	0.09	(0.02)	(0.24)
Oil & natural gas revenues (in thousands):			
Oil	\$ 213,751	\$ 179,752	\$ 135,359
Natural gas	240,589	269,434	266,646
Total	454,340	449,186	402,005
Average costs (per Boe):			
Lease operating expense	\$ 7.94	\$ 6.22	\$ 6.08
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	19.31	20.95	12.00
Accretion expense	0.51	0.48	0.50
Taxes, other than on earnings	1.12	1.44	1.25
General and administrative	7.01	12.70	5.21
Increase in oil and natural gas revenue (net of hedging) due to:			
Change in prices of oil	\$ 21,053	\$ 38,850	
Change in production volumes of oil	12,946	5,543	
Total increase in oil sales	33,999	44,393	
Change in prices of natural gas	\$ 7,351	\$ (42,043)	
Change in production volumes of natural gas	(36,196)	44,831	
Total increase in natural gas sales	(28,845)	2,788	
As of December 31,			
	2007	2006	2005
Total estimated net proved reserves:			
Oil (Mbbbls)	28,123	29,914	31,478
Natural gas (Mmcf)	103,118	170,123	166,949
Total (Mboe)	45,309	58,268	59,303
Standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows (in thousands)	\$ 1,092,935	\$ 893,474	\$ 1,261,246

- (1) Included in other income and expense in our 2007 statement of operations, is an unrealized loss of \$13.7 million due to the change in fair market value of contracts to be settled in the future and a gain of \$0.6 million in contracts settled during the year. The 2006 and 2005 amounts are included in oil and natural gas revenue.

---

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Revenues and Net Income***

Our oil and natural gas revenues increased to \$454.3 million in 2007 from \$449.2 million in 2006. Although production decreased primarily due to the sale of substantially all of our onshore South Louisiana assets in June 2007 (approximately 3,175 Boe per day) combined with natural reservoir declines, we had a slight increase in oil production which had a higher price than natural gas on an equivalent basis, during the year as well as an increase in both oil and natural gas prices as illustrated in the above tables.

Our oil and natural gas revenues increased to \$449.2 million in 2006 from \$402.0 million in 2005. The increase in revenue for this period is primarily due to production levels restored from Tropical Weather related damage which adversely affected 2005 production, combined with increased oil prices as well as the commencement of production from new fields and additional wells in our South Timbalier 41 field. These increases were partially offset by natural reservoir declines as well as a decline in natural gas prices. Also included in 2006 income from operations was \$32.9 million of business interruption insurance recoveries from deferred production at one of our fields resulting from Hurricane Katrina.

We had a net loss of \$80.0 million in 2007 compared to a net loss of \$50.4 million in 2006. The increased loss was largely due to higher lease operating expenses, exploration expenditures including dry hole costs and impairments, loss on derivative instruments and financing costs discussed below. This increased net loss was partially offset by general and administrative expense that was lower than for the year ended December 31, 2006, which included one time expensed costs of \$54.5 million relating to the terminated Merger Agreement with Stone, and the \$6.5 million gain recorded in 2007 on the sale of substantially all of our onshore South Louisiana assets in 2007.

We had a net loss of \$50.4 million in 2006 compared to net income of \$73.1 million in 2005. The decrease was due to impairments of \$84.7 million combined with substantially higher general and administrative expenses due to the expensing of costs resulting from the termination of the merger agreement between Stone and Plains, the termination of the Merger Agreement as well as the additional legal and financial advisory costs associated with the unsolicited tender offer by Woodside to acquire all of our outstanding common stock and costs associated with our process of exploring strategic alternatives.

### ***Operating Expenses***

Operating expenses were impacted by the following:

Lease operating expense increased \$11.1 million to \$69.9 million in 2007. The increase is primarily a result of an increase in new wells coming on stream in new fields (\$1.4 million), workover, maintenance and pipeline repair costs and equipment mobilization costs (\$7.0 million), and various increases at fields with increased production. These increases were partially offset by the sale of our onshore Louisiana assets (\$1.5 million decrease). Contributing to the increase on a per Boe basis were production declines from existing fields with fixed costs and the workover, maintenance and pipeline repair costs discussed.

Lease operating expense increased \$8.4 million to \$58.8 million in 2006. The increase is primarily a result of a general increase in production from new wells coming on stream in new fields, the continued increase in the cost of oilfield industry services combined with workover costs and uninsured repairs made during 2006. Also contributing to the increase was a gradual restart of storm shut-in production throughout 2006.

Exploration expenditures and dry hole costs increased \$46.5 million to \$98.2 million in 2007. The increase is primarily due to our decreased success rate and the increased average dollars expended on each exploratory well. The expense in 2007 is comprised of \$87.1 million of costs for 11 exploratory wells or portions thereof which were found to be not commercially productive and \$11.1 million of seismic expenditures and delay rentals.

Exploration expenditures and dry hole costs decreased \$13.2 million to \$51.7 million in 2006. The decrease is primarily due to our increased success rate and the decreased average dollars expended on



---

**Table of Contents**

each exploratory well. The expense in 2006 is comprised of \$37.5 million of costs for six exploratory wells or portions thereof which were found to be not commercially productive and \$14.2 million of seismic expenditures and delay rentals.

Our exploration expenditures, including dry hole charges, will vary depending on the amount of our capital budget dedicated to exploration activities and the level of success we achieve in exploratory drilling activities.

Impairments of properties of \$114.9 million were taken throughout 2007. The expense was taken in 17 fields. Eight fields with a net book value of \$79.4 million experienced mechanical difficulties or facility requirements and it was determined that significant capital would be needed to extend their economic lives and with our decreased capital budget in 2008 it was decided that this capital would be better deployed to projects with more potential. Another six fields with a net book value of \$15.9 million underperformed and have fully depleted earlier than anticipated. The remaining three fields were determined to have future projected cash flows of less than their net book values due to performance issues and reserve revisions and therefore an impairment charge of \$19.6 million was recorded to write down the assets to their fair value during 2007.

Impairments of properties of \$84.7 million were taken during 2006. Substantially all of the expense was taken in eight fields, four of which were onshore assets acquired during an acquisition in January 2005. Three of these onshore fields along with three offshore fields experienced downward revisions of recoverable reserves at December 31, 2006. These revisions along with decreased oil and natural gas prices resulted in impairments of \$52.1 million on these assets. The Company elected to release the lease on the remaining onshore field and one other offshore field experienced mechanical difficulties; it was determined that significant capital would be needed to extend its economic life and that this capital would be better deployed to projects with more potential. The net book value of these assets of \$27.0 million was therefore written off during 2006.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization ( DD&A ) decreased \$28.1 million to \$170.1 million in 2007. The decrease was primarily due to the sale of substantially all of our onshore South Louisiana assets in June 2007 (\$55.1 million) partially offset by increased DD&A our Greater Bay Marchand area are due to increased production and capital expenditures in 2007 (\$31.8 million). There were other individually small fluctuations both positive and negative. Some fields carry a higher depreciation burden than others and fields in which more recent exploration and development activity has taken place reflect the effect of rising costs of oilfield industry services and capital goods; therefore, changes in the sources of our production will directly impact this expense.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization increased \$98.7 million to \$198.2 million in 2006. The increase was primarily due to increased production volumes (\$14.5 million), a shift in the production contribution from our various fields causing a higher expense per Boe which translates into a \$59.3 million increase as well as reserve revisions taken in several of our onshore properties at the end of 2005 that increased the depreciation burden from those fields on a total expense (\$24.9 million) and per Boe basis. Some fields carry a higher depreciation burden than others and fields in which more recent exploration and development activity has taken place reflect the effect of rising costs of oilfield industry services and capital goods; therefore, changes in the sources of our production will directly impact this expense.

General and administrative expenses decreased \$58.4 million to \$61.7 million in 2007. The overall decrease was primarily attributable to one time expensed costs of \$54.5 million incurred during 2006 relating to the terminated Merger Agreement with Stone as well as legal and financial advisory costs of \$15.0 million in 2006 associated with the unsolicited Woodside offer and the ensuing strategic alternatives process. In 2007 we expensed approximately \$9.4 million relating to financial and legal advisory fees related to the exploration of strategic alternatives and the unsolicited Woodside offer. In addition, included in this expense is stock based compensation of \$9.4 million and \$10.7 million in the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

---

## **Table of Contents**

General and administrative expenses increased \$76.9 million to \$120.1 million in 2006. This increase was attributable to \$43.5 million related to the fee advanced by us to Plains on behalf of Stone to terminate their merger agreement as well as \$8.0 million we paid to Stone to terminate our Merger Agreement. Also contributing to the increase were legal and financial advisory costs of \$15.0 million associated with the Merger Agreement and its subsequent termination, the unsolicited Woodside offer and the ongoing strategic alternatives process. In addition, included in this expense is stock based compensation of \$10.7 million and \$6.8 million in the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. Stock based compensation expense increased due to the adoption of the fair-value recognition provisions of Statement of Financial Standards No. 123 (R), *Share Based Payment* ( Statement 123(R) ) during 2006.

Taxes, other than on earnings, decreased \$3.7 million to \$9.9 million in 2007. This decrease was due to the sale of substantially all of our onshore South Louisiana assets in June 2007 partially offset by a sharp increase in oil prices during the year. Taxes, other than on earnings, increased \$3.2 million to \$13.6 million in 2006. This increase was due to the increase in oil prices during the year as well as an increase in the rate charged in 2006 compared to 2005. These taxes are expected to fluctuate from period to period depending on our production volumes from non-federal leases and the commodity prices received.

### ***Other Income and Expense***

Interest expense increased \$21.6 million to \$46.2 million in 2007. The increase is primarily attributable to the net increase in the average borrowings due to the issuance of the \$450 million in aggregate principal amount of Senior Unsecured Notes in April 2007 offset by the repurchase of \$145.5 million in aggregate principal amount of the \$150 million 8.75% Senior Notes completed in May 2007 and combined with borrowings on our bank credit facility. Also included in the expense is a \$2.3 million commitment fee paid in April 2007 for the availability of a bridge loan to facilitate the refinancings which was not utilized.

A loss on early extinguishment of debt for the refinancing of the bank credit facility and the repurchase of the Senior Notes of approximately \$10.8 million was recorded during the year ended December 31, 2007. This loss includes the write-off of unamortized deferred financing costs related to the bank credit facility and the Senior Notes as well as the consent fees relating to the tender for the 8.75% Senior Notes.

Interest expense increased \$6.5 million to \$24.6 million in 2006. The increase was a result of an increase in the interest rate as well as the average borrowings under our bank credit facility in the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to the same period of 2005.

A loss on derivative instruments of \$13.1 million representing both realized and unrealized losses was recognized in 2007 as compared to none recognized in 2006 due to the change in our method of accounting for derivatives during the second quarter of 2007.

### **Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources**

The trend of increased revenues we have experienced through 2007 has continued to provide strong cash flows from operations, which totaled \$293.9 million in 2007. We intend to fund our exploration and development expenditures from internally generated cash flows, which we define as cash flows from operations before consideration of changes in working capital plus total exploration expenditures. Our cash on hand at December 31, 2007 was \$8.9 million. Our future internally generated cash flows will depend on our ability to maintain production and offset production declines in producing fields through our exploration and development program or acquisitions, as well as the prices of oil and natural gas. We may from time to time use the availability of our bank credit facility to balance working capital needs.

---

**Table of Contents**

On April 23, 2007 we completed a refinancing of our bank credit facility with a new \$300 million revolving credit facility (the bank credit facility) with an initial availability of \$225 million and a borrowing base of \$200 million. Concurrently with the sale of assets described previously, the availability under the bank credit facility was automatically reduced to the \$200 million borrowing base amount. The bank credit facility is secured by substantially all of our assets. The bank credit facility permits both prime rate borrowings and London InterBank Offered Rate (LIBOR) borrowings plus a floating spread. The spread will float up or down based on our utilization of the bank credit facility. The spread can range from 1.00% to 2.5% above LIBOR and 0% to 0.50% above prime. In addition we pay an annual fee on the unused portion of the bank credit facility ranging between 0.25% to 0.50% based on utilization. The bank credit facility contains customary events of default and various financial covenants, which require us to: (i) maintain a minimum current ratio, as defined by our bank credit facility, of 1.0x, (ii) maintain a minimum Consolidated EBITDAX to interest ratio, as defined by our bank credit facility, of 2.5x, and (iii) maintain a ratio of long-term debt to Consolidated EBITDAX below 3.5x, which decreases to 3.0x after April 1, 2008. The borrowing base remains subject to redetermination based on the proved reserves of the oil and natural gas properties that serve as collateral for the bank credit facility as set out in the reserve report delivered to the banks each April 1 and October 1. On April 30, 2007 we borrowed \$70 million under our bank credit facility to fund a portion of the equity self-tender offer and have since repaid a portion. As of February 25, 2008, we had a borrowing base of \$200 million and \$35 million outstanding under our bank credit facility. We were in compliance with the bank credit facility covenants as of December 31, 2007. We expect our borrowing base to decrease on the next determination date due to our reduction in proved reserves in 2007.

Also on April 23, 2007 we completed an offering of \$450 million aggregate principal amount of Senior Unsecured Notes, consisting of \$300 million aggregate principal amount of 9.75% Fixed Rate Notes due 2014, with interest payable semi-annually on April 15 and October 15 beginning on October 15, 2007, and \$150 million aggregate principal amount of Floating Rate Notes due 2013. The interest rate on the Floating Rate Notes for a particular interest period will be an annual rate equal to the three-month LIBOR plus 5.125%. Interest on the Floating Rate Notes are payable quarterly on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15, beginning in July of 2007. We may redeem the Senior Unsecured Notes, in whole or in part, prior to their maturity at specific redemption prices including premiums ranging from 4.875% to 0% from 2011 to 2013 and thereafter for the Fixed Rate Notes and premiums ranging from 2% to 0% from 2008 to 2010 and thereafter for the Floating Rate Notes. The indenture governing the Senior Unsecured Notes contains covenants, including but not limited to, a covenant limiting the creation of liens securing indebtedness. The Senior Unsecured Notes are not subject to any sinking fund requirements. In November 2007 we consummated an exchange offer pursuant to which we exchanged registered senior unsecured notes having substantially identical terms as the privately placed Senior Unsecured Notes.

On May 4, 2007, we completed a cash tender offer for our Senior Notes. Approximately \$145.5 million of these \$150 million 8.75% Senior Notes were repurchased and substantially all of their covenants have been removed.

Net cash of \$244.4 million used in investing activities in 2007 consisted primarily of oil and natural gas exploration and development expenditures offset by proceeds of \$68.6 million from the sale of onshore South Louisiana oil and natural gas assets in June 2007 and proceeds of \$19.6 million from the settlement of our Hurricane Rita insurance claim in March 2007. Exploration expenditures incurred are excluded from operating cash flows and included in investing activities, unless the expenditures do not result in the acquisition of an asset, such as geological and geophysical costs, costs of carrying and retaining undeveloped properties, and dry hole costs. During 2007, we completed 23 drilling projects and 26 recompletion/workover projects, 36 of which were successful. During 2006, we completed 28 drilling projects and 35 recompletion/workover projects, 49 of which were successful and two of which are under evaluation.

Our 2008 capital exploration and development budget is focused on moderate risk exploratory activities on undeveloped leases and our proved properties combined with exploitation and development activities on our proved properties, and does not include acquisitions. We continue to manage our portfolio in order to maintain an appropriate risk balance between low risk development and exploitation activities, moderate risk exploration

## Table of Contents

opportunities and higher risk, higher potential exploration opportunities. Our exploration and development budget for 2008 is currently approved for up to \$200 million. During 2007, capital and exploration expenditures were approximately \$322.9 million inclusive of \$5.6 million in asset retirement obligations. The level of our budget is based on many factors, including results of our drilling program, oil and natural gas prices, availability of operating cash flows, industry conditions, participation by other working interest owners and the costs of drilling rigs and other oilfield goods and services. Should actual conditions differ materially from expectations, some projects may be accelerated or deferred and, consequently, may increase or decrease total 2008 capital expenditures.

In June 2007, we sold substantially all of our onshore South Louisiana assets for \$68.6 million after closing adjustments. We have used the proceeds to pay down a portion of our bank credit facility. We have also been marketing selected offshore assets but can give no assurance of the occurrence or timing of any such sale or sales of the assets being so marketed or to the value we may receive.

In addition, the Board authorized an open market share repurchase program of up to \$50 million through April 2008, subject to business and market conditions and any debt covenants restricting such repurchases. We may use borrowings under our bank credit facility to fund the repurchase program. As of February 25, 2008, 59,500 shares had been purchased for \$0.8 million pursuant to this authorization.

We currently have on file a universal shelf registration statement which allows us to issue an aggregate of \$300 million in common stock, preferred stock, senior debt and subordinated debt in one or more separate offerings with a size, price and terms to be determined at the time of sale. We have no immediate plans to enter into transactions under this registration statement, but plan to use the proceeds of any future offering under this registration statement for general corporate purposes, which may include debt repayment, acquisitions, expansion and working capital.

We have experienced and expect to continue to experience substantial working capital requirements, primarily due to our active exploration and development program and merger and acquisition related fees. We believe that internally generated cash flows will be sufficient to meet our budgeted capital requirements for at least the next twelve months. Availability under the bank credit facility will continue to be used to balance short-term fluctuations in working capital requirements. We may use excess available cash flow to reduce our outstanding borrowings, including the redemption when permitted or the repurchase in the marketplace or in privately negotiated transactions of Senior Unsecured Notes; however, additional financing may be required in the future to fund our growth.

### Disclosures about Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments

The following table aggregates the contractual commitments and commercial obligations that affect our financial condition and liquidity position as of December 31, 2007:

	Total	Payments Due by Period			
		Less Than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	Thereafter
		(In thousands)			
Long-term debt	\$ 484,501	\$	\$ 4,501	\$ 30,000	\$ 450,000
Interest attributable to all long-term debt(1)	276,923	47,284	94,404	90,479	44,756
Operating leases	13,145	2,268	2,944	2,644	5,289
Unconditional purchase obligations	544	544			
Other long-term liabilities	1,505				1,505
Total contractual obligations	\$ 776,618	\$ 50,096	\$ 101,849	\$ 123,123	\$ 501,550

- (1) The interest attributable to the bank credit facility was calculated using its December 31, 2007 outstanding balance and its weighted average interest rate on that date.

**Table of Contents****Off-Balance Sheet Transactions**

We do not maintain any off-balance sheet transactions, arrangements, obligations or other relationships with unconsolidated entities or others that are reasonably likely to have a material current or future effect on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources other than those disclosed above.

**Derivative Activities**

We enter into derivative transactions with major financial institutions and others to reduce exposure to fluctuations in the price of oil and natural gas. We also distribute our derivative transactions to a variety of financial institutions to reduce our exposure to counterparty credit risk. We primarily use financially-settled crude oil and natural gas zero-cost collars and put options to provide floor prices with varying upside price participation. Our derivative instruments are benchmarked to the New York Mercantile Exchange ( NYMEX ) West Texas Intermediate crude oil contracts and Henry Hub natural gas contracts. With a zero-cost collar, the counterparty is required to make a payment to us if the settlement price for any settlement period is below the floor price of the collar, and we are required to make a payment to the counterparty if the settlement price for any settlement period is above the cap price of the collar. With a put option, the counterparty is required to make a payment to us if the settlement price for any settlement period is below the strike price of the put and we have no obligation to the counterparty except for the payment of any option premium. On occasion, we have incorporated floors and/or collars into our production sales contracts which are settled under conventional marketing terms. We had the following derivative contracts as of December 31, 2007:

**Natural Gas Positions**

Remaining Contract Term	Contract Type	Strike Price (\$/Mmbtu)	Volume (Mmbtu)	
			Daily	Total
01/08 - 03/08	Collar	\$ 6.89/\$17.24	35,000	3,185,000
04/08 - 06/08	Collar	\$ 6.50/\$11.15	20,000	1,820,000
11/08 - 12/08	Collar	\$ 6.82/\$15.38	20,000	1,220,000
01/09 - 03/09	Collar	\$ 6.75/\$17.15	10,000	900,000

**Crude Oil Positions**

Remaining Contract Term	Contract Type	Strike Price (\$/Bbl)	Volume (Bbls)	
			Daily	Total
01/08 - 06/08	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$84.68	3,000	546,000
07/08 - 09/08	Put	\$ 55.00	2,000	184,000
07/08 - 10/08	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$85.65	500	61,500
11/08 - 12/08	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$86.80	2,500	152,500
01/09 - 06/09	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$87.17	3,000	543,000

Accounting and reporting standards require that derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts, be recorded at fair market value and included as either assets or liabilities in the balance sheet. The accounting for changes in fair value depends on the intended use of the derivative and the resulting designation, which is established at the inception of the derivative.

Our hedged volume as of December 31, 2007 approximated 26% of our estimated production from proved reserves through the balance of the terms of the contracts. As of April 2, 2007, we elected to discontinue cash flow hedge accounting and therefore, not to designate any commodity derivative contracts as cash flow hedges under Statement 133. All derivative contracts are carried at their fair value on the consolidated balance sheet as assets or liabilities. Accordingly we recognize all unrealized and realized gains and losses related to these contracts in the statement of operations as income or expense.

We may in the future enter into these and other types of hedging arrangements to reduce our exposure to fluctuations in the market prices of oil and natural gas. Hedging transactions expose us to risk of financial loss in

## **Table of Contents**

some circumstances, including if production is less than expected, the other party to the contract defaults on its obligations, or there is a change in the expected differential between the underlying price in the hedging agreement and actual prices received. Hedging transactions may limit the benefit we would have otherwise received from increases in the prices for oil and natural gas. Furthermore, if we do not engage in hedging transactions, we may be more adversely affected by declines in oil and natural gas prices than our competitors who engage in hedging transactions.

### **Discussion of Critical Accounting Policies**

In preparing our financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, management must make a number of estimates and assumptions related to the reporting of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Application of certain of our accounting policies requires a significant number of estimates. These accounting policies are described below.

*Successful Efforts Method of Accounting* Oil and natural gas exploration and production companies choose one of two acceptable accounting methods, successful-efforts or full cost. The most significant difference between the two methods relates to the accounting treatment of drilling costs for unsuccessful exploration wells ( dry holes ) and exploration costs. Under the successful-efforts method, we recognize exploration costs and dry hole costs as an expense on the income statement when incurred and capitalize the costs of successful exploration wells as oil and natural gas properties. Companies that follow the full cost method capitalize all drilling and exploration costs including dry hole costs into one pool of total oil and natural gas property costs.

We use the successful-efforts method because we believe that it more conservatively reflects, on our balance sheet, the historical costs that have future value. However, using successful-efforts often causes our income to fluctuate significantly between reporting periods based on our drilling success or failure during the periods.

It is typical for companies that have an active exploratory drilling program, as we do, to incur dry hole costs. During the last three years we have drilled 91 exploration wells, of which 34 were considered dry holes. Our dry hole costs charged to expense during this period totaled \$176.6 million out of total exploratory drilling costs of \$587.6 million. It is impossible to predict future dry holes; however we expect to continue to have dry hole costs in the future which will vary depending on the amount of our capital dedicated to exploration activities and on the level of success of our exploratory program.

*Proved Reserve Estimates* Evaluations of oil and natural gas reserves are important to the effective management of our producing assets. They are integral to making investment decisions and are also used as a basis of calculating the units of production rates for depletion, depreciation and amortization and evaluating capitalized costs for impairment. Proved reserves are the estimated quantities of crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids that geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions, i.e., prices and costs as of the date the estimate is made.

Independent reserve engineers prepare our oil and natural gas reserve estimates using guidelines established by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The quality and quantity of data, the interpretation of the data, and the accuracy of mandated economic assumptions combined with the judgment exercised by the independent reserve engineers affect the accuracy of the estimated reserves. In addition, drilling or production results after the date of the estimate may cause material revisions to the reserve estimates in subsequent periods.

At December 31, 2007, proved oil and natural gas reserves were 45.3 million barrels of oil-equivalent ( Mmboe ). Approximately 71% of our proved reserves are classified as either proved undeveloped or proved developed non-producing reserves. Most of our proved developed non-producing reserves are behind pipe and will be produced after depletion of another horizon in the same well. Approximately

---

**Table of Contents**

16% of total proved reserves are categorized as proved undeveloped reserves. As of December 31, 2007, 18% of our proved undeveloped reserves were under development and expected to become proved developed within one year.

You should not assume that the present value of the future net cash flow disclosed in this Report reflects the current market value of the oil and natural gas reserves. In accordance with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's guidelines, we use prices and costs determined on the date of the estimate and a 10% discount rate to determine the present value of future net cash flow. Actual costs incurred and prices received in the future may vary significantly and the discount rate may or may not be appropriate based on external economic conditions.

The computation of the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows relating to proved oil and natural gas reserves at December 31, 2007 was based on period-end prices of \$6.98 per Mcf for natural gas and \$94.76 per barrel for crude after adjusting the West Texas Intermediate posted price per barrel and the Gulf Coast spot market price per Mmbtu for energy content, quality, transportation fees, and regional price differentials for each property. We estimated the costs based on the current year costs incurred for individual properties or similar properties if a particular property did not have production during the prior year.

*Depletion, Depreciation, and Amortization of Oil and Natural Gas Properties* We calculate DD&A using the estimates of proved oil and natural gas reserves previously discussed in these critical accounting policies. We segregate the costs for depletable units and record DD&A for these property costs separately using the units of production method. The units of production method is calculated as the ratio of (1) actual volumes produced to (2) total proved developed reserves (those proved reserves recoverable through existing wells with existing equipment and operating methods), or total proved reserves in the case of leasehold costs applied to (3) applicable asset cost. The volumes produced and asset cost are known, and while proved developed reserves are reasonably certain, they are based on estimates that are subject to some variability. This variability can result in net upward or downward revisions of proved developed reserves in existing fields, as more information becomes available through research and production and as a result of changes in economic conditions.

Our revisions in each of the years 2002 through 2004, in each case either positive or negative, had been less than 5% of total proved reserves on a Boe basis, however in 2005 our negative revisions of 4.0 Mmboe represented 7.5% of our total reserves. These revisions included a downward revision of 5.4 Mmboe primarily related to the proved undeveloped reserves acquired in the South Louisiana onshore acquisition in January 2005. Such revisions were derived primarily from the results of actual drilling activity in 2005. In 2006 we had net positive reserve revisions of 231 Mboe and in 2007 we had downward revisions of 5.3 Mmboe, which is net of positive revisions of 1.4 Mmboe. The negative revisions were a combination of performance revisions and the removal of 4.1 Mmboe of proved reserves on impaired fields due primarily to the decision not to perform well work to restore the related wells to productive status. While the revisions we have made in the past are an indicator of variability, they have had a minimal impact on the units of production rates because they have been low compared to our reserve base or relate to fields just coming on production. Historical revisions are not necessarily indicative of future variability.

*Impairment of Oil and Natural Gas Properties* We continually monitor our long-lived assets recorded in property and equipment in our consolidated balance sheet to make sure that they are fairly presented. We must evaluate our properties for potential impairment when circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. Because we account for our proved oil and natural gas properties separately under the successful efforts method of accounting, we assess our assets for impairment property by property rather than in one pool of total oil and natural gas property costs. A significant amount of judgment is involved in performing these evaluations since the amount is based on estimated future events. Such events include a projection of future oil and natural gas sales prices, an estimate of the ultimate amount of recoverable oil and natural gas reserves that will be produced

---

**Table of Contents**

from a field, the timing of this future production, future costs to produce the oil and natural gas, and future inflation levels. The need to test a property for impairment can be based on several factors, including a significant reduction in sales prices for oil and/or natural gas, unfavorable adjustments to reserve volumes, or other changes to contracts, environmental regulations or tax laws. In general, we do not view temporarily low oil or natural gas prices as a triggering event for conducting impairment tests. The markets for crude oil and natural gas have a history of significant price volatility. Although prices will occasionally drop precipitously, industry prices over the long-term are driven by market supply and demand. Accordingly, any impairment tests that we perform make use of our long-term price assumptions for the crude oil and natural gas markets.

We base our assessment of possible impairment using our best estimate of future prices, costs and expected net cash flow generated by a property. We estimate future prices based on management's expectations and escalate both the prices and the costs for inflation if appropriate. In the event net undiscounted cash flow is less than the carrying value of an asset, an impairment loss is indicated. We then measure the impairment expense as the difference between the net book value of the asset and its estimated fair value measured by discounting the future net cash flow from the property at an appropriate rate. Actual prices, costs, discount rates, and net cash flow may vary from our estimates. An estimate as to the sensitivity to earnings resulting from impairment reviews and impairment calculations is not practicable, given the broad range in the cost structure of our oil and natural gas assets and the number of assumptions involved in the estimates. That is, favorable changes to some assumptions may avoid the need to impair any assets, whereas unfavorable changes might cause some assets to become impaired but not others. We recognized impairment expense of \$114.9 million, \$84.7 million and \$17.9 million in the years ending December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005.

The impairment expense related to 17 fields during 2007. Eight fields with a net book value of \$79.4 million have experienced mechanical difficulties or facility requirements and it was determined that significant capital would be needed to extend their economic lives and with our decreased capital budget in 2008 it was decided that this capital would be better deployed to projects with more potential. Another six fields with a net book value of \$15.9 million under performed and have fully depleted earlier than anticipated. The remaining three fields were determined to have future projected cash flows of less than their net book values due to performance issues and reserve revisions and therefore an impairment charge of \$19.6 million was recorded to write down to their fair value during 2007.

Substantially all of the impairment expense in 2006 related to eight fields, four of which were onshore assets acquired during an acquisition in January of 2005. Three of these onshore fields along with three offshore fields experienced downward revisions of recoverable reserves at December 31, 2006. These revisions along with decreased oil and natural gas prices resulted in impairments of \$52.1 million on these assets. The Company elected to release the lease on the remaining onshore field and one other offshore field experienced mechanical difficulties, it was determined that significant capital would be needed to extend their economic lives and that this capital would be better deployed to projects with more potential. The net book value of these assets of \$27.0 million was therefore written off during 2006.

The impairment in 2005 consisted of full impairment at six fields which we determined would need significant capital to extend its economic life. We decided that the capital would be deployed to projects with more potential and therefore impaired the assets. Additionally, we had two fields with partial impairments due to insufficient cash flow from reserves.

We estimate the amount of capitalized costs of unproved properties which will prove unproductive by amortizing the balance of the unproved property costs (adjusted by an anticipated rate of future successful development) over an average lease term. We will transfer the original cost of an unproved property to proved properties when we find commercial oil and natural gas reserves sufficient to justify full development of the property. If we do not find commercial oil and natural gas reserves, the related unamortized capitalized costs will be charged to earnings when the determination is made.



**Table of Contents**

*Asset retirement obligation* We have significant obligations to plug and abandon oil and natural gas wells and related equipment as well as to dismantle and abandon facilities at the end of oil and natural gas production operations. We record the fair value of a liability for an Asset Retirement Obligation ( ARO ) in the period in which it is incurred and a corresponding increase in the carrying amount of the related asset. Subsequently, the ARO included in the carrying amount of the related asset are allocated to expense using the units-of-production method. In addition, accretion of the discount related to the ARO liability resulting from the passage of time is reflected as additional depreciation, depletion and amortization expense in the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

Inherent in the fair value calculation of the ARO are numerous assumptions and judgments including the ultimate settlement amounts, inflation factors, credit adjusted discount rates, timing of settlement, and changes in the legal, regulatory, environmental and political environments. To the extent future revisions to these assumptions impact the present value of the existing ARO liability, a corresponding adjustment will be required to be made to the oil and natural gas property balance. This adjustment may then have a positive or negative impact on the associated depreciation expense and accretion expense depending on the nature of the revision.

*Derivative instruments and hedging activities* We enter into hedging transactions for our oil and natural gas production to reduce our exposure to fluctuations in the price of oil and natural gas. Our hedging transactions have to date consisted primarily of financially-settled swaps and zero-cost collars. We may in the future enter into these and other types of hedging arrangements to reduce our exposure to fluctuations in the market prices of oil and natural gas. We are required to record our derivative instruments at fair market value as either assets or liabilities in our consolidated balance sheet. The fair value recorded is an estimate based on future commodity prices available at the time of the calculation. The fair market value could differ from actual settlements if market prices change, the other party to the contract defaults on its obligations or there is a change in the expected differential between the underlying price in the hedging agreement and actual prices received.

*Share-Based Compensation* In the first quarter of 2006, we adopted Statement 123(R), which requires the measurement at fair value and recognition of compensation expense for all share-based payment awards. Total share-based compensation during 2007 was \$9.6 million. Determining the appropriate fair-value model and calculating the fair value of employee stock options requires judgment. We use the Black-Scholes option pricing model to estimate the fair value of these share-based awards consistent with the provisions of Statement 123(R). Option pricing models, including the Black-Scholes model, also require the use of input assumptions, including expected volatility, expected life, expected dividend rate, and expected risk-free rate of return. The assumptions for expected volatility and expected life are the two assumptions that significantly affect the grant date fair value. The expected dividend rate and expected risk-free rate of return are not significant to the calculation of fair value.

We currently use historical volatility rather than implied volatility which is based on options freely traded in the open market, as the activity level for traded options was not sufficient to estimate implied volatility in 2007. We use the midpoint scenario to estimate expected term allowed by the SEC's Staff Accounting Bulletin 107, in order to leverage as much actual exercise and post-vesting cancellation history as is available. If we determined that another method used to estimate expected volatility or expected life was more reasonable than our current methods, or if another method for calculating these input assumptions was prescribed by authoritative guidance, the fair value calculated for share-based awards could change significantly. Higher volatility and longer expected lives result in an increase to share-based compensation determined at the date of grant.

Under the above critical accounting policies our net income can vary significantly from period to period because events or circumstances which trigger recognition as an expense for unsuccessful wells or impaired properties cannot be accurately forecast. In addition, selling prices for our oil and natural gas fluctuate significantly. Therefore we focus more on cash flow from operations and on controlling our finding and development, operating, administration and financing costs.

**Table of Contents****New Accounting Policies**

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Accounting Standards No. 141R, *Business Combinations* ( Statement 141R ). Statement 141R establishes principles and requirements for how an acquirer recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, any non-controlling interest in the acquiree and the goodwill acquired. This statement also establishes disclosure requirements which will enable users to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. Statement 141R applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2008. We are currently assessing what impact Statement 141R may have on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows should we complete a business combination after the effective date of Statement 141R.

In September 2006, the FASB issued Statement of Accounting Standards No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* ( Statement 157 ). Statement 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. Statement 157 applies under other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements, the Board having previously concluded in those accounting pronouncements that fair value is the relevant measurement attribute. Accordingly, Statement 157 does not require any new fair value measurements. However, for some entities, the application of Statement 157 will change current practice. Statement 157 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years. We are currently assessing what impact Statement 157 may have on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows and anticipate that additional disclosures may be required.

In February 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Accounting Standards No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115* ( Statement 159 ). Statement 159 permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. Statement 159 is expected to expand the use of fair value measurement, which is consistent with the Board's long-term measurement objectives for accounting for financial instruments. Statement 159 is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year that begins after November 15, 2007. Early adoption is permitted as of the beginning of a fiscal year that begins on or before November 15, 2007, provided the entity also elects to apply the provisions of Statement 157. We are currently assessing what impact Statement 159 may have on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

**Item 7A. *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk*****Interest Rate Risk**

We are exposed to changes in interest rates. Changes in interest rates affect the interest earned on our cash and cash equivalents and the interest rate paid on borrowings under our bank credit facility and on our Floating Rate Notes. Currently, we do not use interest rate derivative instruments to manage exposure to interest rate changes. At December 31, 2007, \$180 million of our long-term debt had variable interest rates while the remaining long-term debt had fixed interest expense. If the market interest rates had averaged 1% higher during 2007, interest rates for the period on variable rate debt outstanding during the period would have increased, and net income before income taxes would have decreased by approximately \$2.0 million based on total variable debt outstanding during the period. If market interest rates had averaged 1% lower during 2007, interest expense for the period on variable rate debt would have decreased, and net income before income taxes would have increased by approximately \$2.0 million.

**Commodity Price Risk**

Our revenues, profitability and future growth depend substantially on prices for oil and natural gas. Prices also affect the amount of cash flow available for capital expenditures and our ability to borrow and raise additional capital. The amount we can borrow under the bank facility is subject to periodic redetermination based in part on changing expectations of future prices. Lower prices may also reduce the amount of oil and natural gas that we can economically produce. We currently sell all of our oil and natural gas production under price sensitive or market price contracts.

**Table of Contents**

We use derivative instruments to manage commodity price risks associated with future oil and natural gas production. As of December 31, 2007, we had the following crude oil and natural gas contracts in place:

<b>Natural Gas Positions</b>				
<b>Remaining Contract Term</b>	<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>Strike Price (\$/Mmbtu)</b>	<b>Volume (Mmbtu)</b>	
			<b>Daily</b>	<b>Total</b>
01/08 - 03/08	Collar	\$ 6.89/\$17.24	35,000	3,185,000
04/08 - 06/08	Collar	\$ 6.50/\$11.15	20,000	1,820,000
11/08 - 12/08	Collar	\$ 6.82/\$15.38	20,000	1,220,000
01/09 - 03/09	Collar	\$ 6.75/\$17.15	10,000	900,000

<b>Crude Oil Positions</b>				
<b>Remaining Contract Term</b>	<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>Strike Price (\$/Bbl)</b>	<b>Volume (Bbls)</b>	
			<b>Daily</b>	<b>Total</b>
01/08 - 06/08	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$84.68	3,000	546,000
07/08 - 09/08	Put	\$ 55.00	2,000	184,000
07/08 - 10/08	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$85.65	500	61,500
11/08 - 12/08	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$86.80	2,500	152,500
01/09 - 06/09	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$87.17	3,000	543,000

Volumes covered under these contracts as of December 31, 2007 approximated 26% of our estimated production from proved reserves through the balance of the terms of the contracts. As of April 2, 2007, we elected to discontinue hedge accounting and therefore, not to designate any commodity derivative contracts as cash flow hedges under Statement 133. All derivative contracts are carried at their fair value on the consolidated balance sheet as assets or liabilities. Accordingly we recognize all unrealized and realized gains and losses related to these contracts in the statement of operations as income or expense.

We use a sensitivity analysis technique to evaluate the hypothetical effect that changes in the market value of crude oil and natural gas may have on fair value of our derivative instruments. At December 31, 2007 and 2006, the potential change in the fair value of commodity derivative instruments assuming a 10% increase in the underlying commodity price was a \$9.6 million and \$1.1 million increase in the combined estimated loss, respectively.

For purposes of calculating the hypothetical change in fair value, the relevant variables are the type of commodity (crude oil or natural gas), the commodities futures prices and volatility of commodity prices. The hypothetical fair value is calculated by multiplying the difference between the hypothetical price and the contractual price by the contractual volumes.

**Table of Contents**

**GLOSSARY OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS TERMS**

*Bbl* One stock tank barrel, or 42 U.S. gallons liquid volume, used in this Report in reference to oil and other liquid hydrocarbons.

*Boe* Barrels of oil equivalent, with six thousand cubic feet of natural gas being equivalent to one barrel of oil.

*Bcf* One billion cubic feet.

*Bcfe* One billion cubic feet equivalent, with one barrel of oil being equivalent to six thousand cubic feet of natural gas.

*completion* The installation of permanent equipment for the production of oil or natural gas, or in the case of a dry hole, the reporting of abandonment to the appropriate agency.

*Mbbls* One thousand barrels of oil or other liquid hydrocarbons.

*Mboe* One thousand barrels of oil equivalent.

*Mcf* One thousand cubic feet of natural gas.

*Mmbbls* One million barrels of oil or other liquid hydrocarbons

*Mmboe* One million barrels of oil equivalent

*Mmbtu* One million British Thermal Units.

*Mmcf* One million cubic feet of natural gas.

*plugging and abandonment* Refers to the sealing off of fluids in the strata penetrated by a well so that the fluids from one stratum will not escape into another or to the surface. Regulations of many states require plugging of abandoned wells.

*proved undeveloped reserves* Proved reserves that are expected to be recovered from new wells on undrilled acreage or from existing wells where a relatively major expenditure is required for recompletion.

*reservoir* A porous and permeable underground formation containing a natural accumulation of producible oil and/or natural gas that is confined by impermeable rock or water barriers and is individual and separate from other reservoirs.

*working interest* The interest in an oil and natural gas property (normally a leasehold interest) that gives the owner the right to drill, produce and conduct operations on the property and a share of production, subject to all royalties, overriding royalties and other burdens and to all costs of exploration, development and operations and all risks in connection therewith.

*EBITDAX* Net income (loss) before interest expense, income taxes, depreciation, depletion and amortization, exploration expenditures and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.

**Table of Contents**

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

**MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders

Energy Partners, Ltd.

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Our internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to the Company's management and Board of Directors regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the presentation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

Based on our evaluation under the COSO framework, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2007. No matter how well designed, there are inherent limitations in all systems of internal control. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Our independent registered public accounting firm has issued an audit report on our internal control over financial reporting. Their report appears on the following page.

Richard A. Bachmann  
*Chairman and Chief*

*Executive Officer*

Joseph T. Leary  
*Executive Vice President*

*and Chief Financial Officer*

**Table of Contents**

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Board of Directors and Stockholders

Energy Partners, Ltd.:

We have audited Energy Partners, Ltd.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Energy Partners, Ltd.'s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, Energy Partners, Ltd. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Energy Partners, Ltd. as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2007, and our report dated February 28, 2008 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

New Orleans, Louisiana

February 28, 2008

**Table of Contents**

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Board of Directors and Stockholders

Energy Partners, Ltd.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Energy Partners, Ltd. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2007. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Energy Partners, Ltd. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2007, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, effective January 1, 2006, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Standards (SFAS) No. 123(R), *Share Based Payment*.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Energy Partners, Ltd.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated February 28, 2008 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

New Orleans, Louisiana

February 28, 2008

**Table of Contents****ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****December 31, 2007 and 2006****(In thousands, except share data)**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,864	\$ 3,214
Trade accounts receivable	52,139	74,132
Other receivables		58,269
Deferred tax assets	3,865	1,387
Prepaid expenses	1,640	3,570
Total current assets	66,508	140,572
Property and equipment, at cost under the successful efforts method of accounting for oil and natural gas properties	1,547,003	1,527,304
Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(824,397)	(680,845)
Net property and equipment	722,606	846,459
Other assets	15,556	13,029
Deferred financing costs net of accumulated amortization of \$2,100 in 2007 and \$6,302 in 2006	10,186	3,785
	\$ 814,856	\$ 1,003,845
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 14,369	\$ 47,154
Accrued expenses	104,555	133,198
Fair value of commodity derivative instruments	9,124	1,552
Total current liabilities	128,048	181,904
Long-term debt	484,501	317,000
Deferred tax liabilities	20,880	62,451
Asset retirement obligation	73,350	68,767
Fair value of commodity derivative instruments	4,602	
Other	1,505	1,453
	712,886	631,575
Stockholders equity:		
Preferred stock, \$1 par value. Authorized 1,700,000 shares; no shares issued and outstanding		
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share. Authorized 100,000,000 shares; issued: 2007 43,980,644 shares; 2006 42,501,726 shares; outstanding, net of treasury shares: 2007 31,740,658 shares; 2006 39,021,912 shares	441	425
Additional paid-in capital	374,874	365,313
Accumulated other comprehensive loss net of deferred taxes of \$558 in 2006		(994)
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	(14,989)	64,966
Treasury stock, at cost. 2007 12,239,986 shares; 2006 3,479,814 shares	(258,356)	(57,440)



Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

Total stockholders' equity	101,970	372,270
Commitments and contingencies	\$ 814,856	\$ 1,003,845

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents**

**ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

**Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005**

**(In thousands, except per share data)**

	2007	2006	2005
Revenue:			
Oil and natural gas	\$ 454,340	\$ 449,186	\$ 402,005
Other	309	364	942
	454,649	449,550	402,947
Costs and expenses:			
Lease operating	69,919	58,808	50,431
Transportation	2,441	2,028	1,051
Exploration expenditures and dry hole costs	98,209	51,745	64,937
Impairment of properties	114,913	84,680	17,907
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	170,083	198,162	99,524
Accretion	4,458	4,572	4,125
General and administrative	61,724	120,113	43,205
Taxes, other than on earnings	9,900	13,632	10,372
Gain on insurance recoveries	(8,084)		
(Gain) loss on sale of assets	(6,605)	969	
Other	2,788	3,053	
Total costs and expenses	519,746	537,762	291,552
Business interruption recovery	9,084	32,869	20,632
Income (loss) from operations	(56,013)	(55,343)	132,027
Other income (expense):			
Interest income	1,585	1,428	781
Interest expense	(46,213)	(24,570)	(18,121)
Gain (loss) on derivative instruments	(13,083)		
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	(10,838)		
	(68,549)	(23,142)	(17,340)
Income (loss) before income taxes	(124,562)	(78,485)	114,687
Income taxes	44,607	28,085	(41,592)
Net income (loss)	(79,955)	(50,400)	73,095
Less dividends earned on preferred stock and accretion of discount			(944)
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders	\$ (79,955)	\$ (50,400)	\$ 72,151
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$ (2.32)	\$ (1.32)	\$ 1.94

## Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$	(2.32)	\$	(1.32)	\$	1.79
<b>Weighted average common shares used in computing income (loss) per share:</b>						
Basic		34,501		38,313		37,097
Incremental common shares						
Preferred stock						544
Stock options						852
Warrants						1,954
Restricted share units						257
Performance shares						55
<b>Diluted</b>		<b>34,501</b>		<b>38,313</b>		<b>40,759</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY**

Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands)

	PREFERRED STOCK		TREASURY STOCK		COMMON STOCK		ACCUMULATED ADDITIONAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		RETAINED EARNINGS	TOTAL
	SHARES	STOCK	SHARES	STOCK	SHARES	STOCK	CAPITAL	INCOME	(DEFICIT)	
Balance at December 31, 2004	344	\$ 33,504	3,480	\$ (57,378)	36,618	\$ 367	\$ 296,460	\$ (1,119)	\$ 43,215	\$ 315,049
Stock purchase, compensation and incentive plans, net			(6)	(54)	28		9,720			9,666
Exercise of common stock options					761	8	7,966	(87)		7,974
Equity offering costs								(87)		(87)
Conversion of warrants into common stock					22		19			19
Conversion of preferred stock	(344)	(34,448)			4,033	40	34,408			
Accretion of discount on preferred stock		944							(944)	
Comprehensive income:										
Net income									73,095	73,095
Fair value of commodity derivative instruments								(11,500)		(11,500)
Comprehensive income										61,595
Other					5		377			377
Balance at December 31, 2005			3,474	(57,432)	41,467	415	348,863	(12,619)	115,366	394,593
Stock purchase, compensation and incentive plans, net			6	(8)	151	2	10,496			10,490
Exercise of common stock options					26		261			261
Conversion of warrants into common stock					834	8	1,825			1,833
Reclass of performance shares into equity							3,126			3,126
Comprehensive income:										
Net loss									(50,400)	(50,400)
Fair value of commodity derivative instruments								11,625		11,625
Comprehensive loss										(38,775)

Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

Other			24		742			742
Balance at December 31, 2006	3,480	(57,440)	42,502	425	365,313	(994)	64,966	372,270
Stock purchase, compensation and incentive plans, net	1		181	4	6,870			6,874
Exercise of common stock options			44		468			468
Conversion of warrants into common stock			1,167	12	297			309
Purchase of shares into treasury	8,759	(200,916)						(200,916)
Comprehensive income:								
Net loss							(79,955)	(79,955)
Fair value of commodity derivative instruments						994		994
Comprehensive loss								(78,961)
Other			87		1,926			1,926
Balance at December 31, 2007	\$ 12,240	\$ (258,356)	43,981	\$ 441	\$ 374,874	\$	\$ (14,989)	\$ 101,970

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands)**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net income (loss)	\$ (79,955)	\$ (50,400)	\$ 73,095
<b>Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:</b>			
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	170,083	198,162	99,524
Accretion	4,458	4,572	4,125
(Gain) loss on disposal of assets and other	(5,083)	4,047	(777)
Non cash-based compensation	8,521	11,038	6,817
Non cash loss on early extinguishment of debt	3,398		
Deferred income taxes	(44,607)	(27,452)	41,242
Exploration expenditures	87,102	38,288	52,206
Impairment of properties	114,913	84,161	17,720
Amortization of deferred financing costs	1,380	1,133	995
Unrealized loss on derivative contracts	13,726		
Gain on insurance recoveries	(8,084)		
Other	1,927	1,587	966
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</b>			
Trade accounts receivable	23,542	2,390	(18,985)
Other receivables	58,269	(8,966)	(43,703)
Prepaid expenses	1,930	(391)	(894)
Other assets	(2,529)	283	(2,338)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(51,449)	13,599	40,073
Other liabilities	(3,653)	23	(97)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>293,889</b>	<b>272,074</b>	<b>269,969</b>
<b>Cash flows used in investing activities:</b>			
Acquisition of business, net of cash acquired		(420)	(863)
Insurance recoveries for property, plant and equipment	19,574		
Property acquisitions	(7,346)	(15,897)	(193,115)
Exploration and development expenditures	(323,846)	(341,936)	(254,900)
Other property and equipment additions	(1,402)	(527)	(1,723)
Proceeds from sale of oil and gas assets	68,599		1,442
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(244,421)</b>	<b>(358,780)</b>	<b>(449,159)</b>
<b>Cash flows from (used in) financing activities:</b>			
Deferred financing costs	(11,178)	(853)	(357)
Repayments of long-term debt	(530,499)	(73,109)	(63,108)
Proceeds from long-term debt	698,000	155,000	148,000
Purchase of shares into treasury	(200,916)		
Equity offering costs			(87)
Exercise of stock options and warrants	775	2,093	7,994
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(43,818)</b>	<b>83,131</b>	<b>92,442</b>

Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	5,650	(3,575)	(86,748)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3,214	6,789	93,537
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 8,864	\$ 3,214	\$ 6,789

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

---

**Table of Contents**

**ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(1) Organization**

Energy Partners, Ltd. was incorporated on January 29, 1998 and is an independent oil and natural gas exploration and production company with operations concentrated in the Shelf and deepwater Gulf of Mexico as well as the Gulf Coast onshore region. The Company's future financial condition and results of operations will depend primarily upon prices received for its oil and natural gas production and the costs of finding, acquiring, developing and producing reserves.

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

***(a) Basis of Presentation***

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Energy Partners, Ltd., and its wholly-owned subsidiaries (collectively, the Company). All significant intercompany accounts and transactions are eliminated in consolidation. The Company's interests in oil and natural gas exploration and production ventures and partnerships are proportionately consolidated.

***(b) Property and Equipment***

The Company uses the successful efforts method of accounting for oil and natural gas producing activities. Costs to acquire mineral interests in oil and natural gas properties, to drill and equip exploratory wells that find proved reserves, and to drill and equip development wells are capitalized. Exploratory drilling costs are initially capitalized, but charged to expense if and when the well is determined not to have found reserves in commercial quantities. Effective July 1, 2005, the Company adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board Staff Position FAS 19-1, Accounting for Suspended Well Costs (FSP 19-1). FSP 19-1 amended Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 19, Financial Accounting and Reporting by Oil and Gas Producing Companies (Statement 19), to permit the continued capitalization of exploratory well costs beyond one year if (a) the well found a sufficient quantity of reserves to justify its completion as a producing well and (b) the entity is making sufficient progress assessing the reserves and the economic and operating viability of the project. If both of these requirements are not met, the costs would be expensed. Upon adoption, the Company evaluated all existing capitalized well costs under the provisions of FSP 19-1 and determined there was no impact to the Company's consolidated financial statements. Geological and geophysical costs are charged to expense as incurred.

Leasehold acquisition costs are capitalized. If proved reserves are found on an undeveloped property, leasehold costs are transferred to proved properties. Costs of undeveloped leases are expensed over the life of the leases. Capitalized costs of producing oil and natural gas properties are depreciated and depleted by the units-of-production method.

The Company capitalizes interest costs during the development phase of significant properties or projects to bring them to a condition where they are capable of use in oil and natural gas production operations. Interest capitalized is included in the cost of oil and natural gas assets and amortized with other costs on a unit-of-production basis.

The Company assesses the impairment of capitalized costs of proved oil and natural gas properties when circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. The need to test a property for impairment can be based on several factors, including a significant reduction in sales prices for oil and/or natural gas, unfavorable adjustments to reserve volumes, or other changes to contracts, environmental regulations or tax laws. The calculation is performed on a field-by-field basis, utilizing its current estimate of future revenues and operating expenses. In the event net undiscounted cash flow is less than the carrying value, an impairment loss is recorded based on the present value of expected future net cash flows over the economic lives of the reserves.



**Table of Contents**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

On the sale or retirement of a complete unit of a proved property, the cost and related accumulated depletion, depreciation and amortization are eliminated from the property accounts, and the resulting gain or loss is recognized.

***(c) Asset Retirement Obligation***

The Company accounts for its Asset Retirement Obligations in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards No. 143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations (Statement 143). Statement 143 requires companies to record the present value of obligations associated with the retirement of tangible long-lived assets in the period in which it is incurred. The liability is capitalized as part of the related long-lived asset's carrying amount. Over time, accretion of the liability is recognized as an operating expense and the capitalized cost is depreciated over the expected useful life of the related asset. The Company's asset retirement obligations relate primarily to the plugging, dismantlement, removal, site reclamation and similar activities of its oil and natural gas properties.

***(d) Income Taxes***

The Company accounts for income taxes under the asset and liability method, which requires that deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax basis amounts. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in the tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

***(e) Deferred Financing Costs***

Costs incurred to obtain debt financing are deferred and are amortized as additional interest expense over the maturity period of the related debt.

***(f) Earnings Per Share***

Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing income available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share is computed in the same manner as basic earnings per share except that the denominator is increased to include the number of additional common shares that could have been outstanding assuming the conversion of convertible preferred stock shares, the exercise of stock option awards and warrants and the potential shares associated with restricted share units and performance shares that would have a dilutive effect on earnings per share.

***(g) Revenue Recognition***

The Company records revenues from the sales of oil and natural gas when the product is delivered at a determinable price, title has transferred and collectibility is reasonably assured. When the Company has an interest with other producers in properties from which natural gas is produced, the Company uses the entitlement method for recording natural gas sales revenue. Under this method of accounting, revenue is recorded based on the Company's net working interest in field production. Deliveries of natural gas in excess of the Company's working interest are recorded as liabilities and under-deliveries are recorded as receivables. The Company had natural gas imbalance receivables of \$0.2 million and \$0.3 million at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively and had liabilities of \$2.9 million and \$0.5 million at December 31, 2007 and 2006.

---

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)*****(h) Statements of Cash Flows***

For purposes of the statements of cash flows, highly-liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less are considered cash equivalents. At December 31, 2007 and 2006, interest-bearing cash equivalents were approximately \$15.9 million and \$10.7 million, respectively. Expenditures for exploratory dry holes incurred are excluded from operating cash flows and included in investing activities.

***(i) Derivative Activities***

The Company enters into derivative transactions with major financial institutions and others to reduce exposure to fluctuations in the price of oil and natural gas. The Company also distributes its derivative transactions to a variety of financial institutions to reduce its exposure to counterparty credit risk. The Company primarily uses financially-settled crude oil and natural gas zero-cost collars and put options to provide floor prices with varying upside price participation. With a zero-cost collar, the counterparty is required to make a payment to us if the settlement price for any settlement period is below the floor price of the collar, and we are required to make a payment to the counterparty if the settlement price for any settlement period is above the cap price of the collar. With a put option, the counterparty is required to make a payment to us if the settlement price for any settlement period is below the strike price of the put and we have no obligation to the counterparty except for the payment of any option premium. On occasion, the Company incorporates floors and/or collars into our production sales contracts which are settled under conventional marketing terms. Accounting and reporting standards require that derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts, be recorded at fair market value and included as either assets or liabilities in the balance sheet. The accounting for changes in fair value depends on the intended use of the derivative and the resulting designation, which is established at the inception of the derivative. Special accounting for qualifying hedges allows a derivative's gains and losses to offset related results on the hedged item in the statement of operations. For derivative instruments designated as cash-flow hedges, changes in fair value, to the extent the hedge is effective, would be recognized in other comprehensive income (a component of stockholders' equity) until the forecasted transaction is settled, when the resulting gains and losses will be recorded in oil and natural gas revenue. Hedge ineffectiveness is measured at least quarterly based on the changes in fair value between the derivative contract and the hedged item. Any change in fair value resulting from ineffectiveness, would be charged currently to other revenue. The Company accounted for its derivative instruments in this manner through April 2, 2007 when it elected to discontinue hedge accounting on its existing contracts and elected not to designate any additional hedging contracts that were entered into subsequent to that date as cash flow hedges under Financial Accounting Standards No. 133 Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, (Statement 133), as amended. Derivative contracts are carried at their fair value on the consolidated balance sheet as Fair value of commodity derivative instruments and all unrealized gains and losses are recorded in Gain (loss) on derivative instruments in Other income (expense) in the Statement of Operations and realized gains and losses related to contract settlements subsequent to April 2, 2007 will also be recognized in the same line in Other income (expense) in the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

***(j) Stock-Based Compensation***

The Company has two stock-award plans, the 2006 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan and the Amended and Restated 2000 Stock Incentive Plan for Non-Employee Directors. Prior to January 1, 2006 the Company accounted for its stock-based compensation in accordance with Accounting Principles Board's Opinion No. 25, Accounting For Stock Issued to Employees (Opinion No. 25) and related interpretations, as permitted by Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123, Accounting For Stock-Based Compensation (Statement 123) and Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 148, Accounting For Stock-Based Compensation Transition and Disclosure, (Statement 148). Accordingly, compensation expense for a stock option grant was recognized only if the exercise price was less than the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the grant date.

---

**Table of Contents**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Effective January 1, 2006, the company adopted the fair-value recognition provisions of Statement of Financial Standards No. 123 (R), *Share Based Payment* (Statement 123(R)), using the modified prospective transition method. Under this method, stock-based compensation expense for the year ended December 31, 2007 includes:

compensation expense for all stock-based compensation awards granted prior to January 1, 2006, but not yet vested, based on the grant-date fair-value estimated in accordance with the original provisions of Statement 123, and

compensation expense for all stock-based compensation awards granted subsequent to January 1, 2006, based on the grant-date fair-value estimated in accordance with the provisions of Statement 123(R).

Prior to the adoption of Statement No. 123(R), the Company reported all tax benefits resulting from the exercise of stock options as operating cash flows in its consolidated statements of cash flows. In accordance with Statement 123(R), the Company is now required to report the excess tax benefits from the exercise of stock options as financing cash flows. For the year ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, no excess tax benefits were reported in the statement of cash flows as the Company is in a net operating loss carryforward position. See note 14 for additional disclosures.

***(k) Allowance for Doubtful Accounts***

The Company routinely assesses the recoverability of all material trade and other receivables to determine their collectibility. Many of the Company's receivables are from joint interest owners on properties of which the Company is the operator. Thus, the Company may have the ability to withhold future revenue disbursements to recover any non-payment of joint interest billings. The Company's crude oil and natural gas receivables are typically collected within two months. The Company accrues an allowance on a receivable when, based on the judgment of management, it is probable that a receivable will not be collected and the amount of any allowance may be reasonably estimated. As of December 31, 2007 and 2006, the Company had no allowance for doubtful accounts balances.

***(l) Use of Estimates***

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Certain accounting policies involve judgments and uncertainties to such an extent that there is reasonable likelihood that materially different amounts could have been reported under different conditions, or if different assumptions had been used. The Company evaluates its estimates and assumptions on a regular basis. The Company uses historical experience and various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances to form the basis for making judgments about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The Company's actual results may differ from these estimates and assumptions used in preparation of its financial statements. Significant estimates with regard to these financial statements and related unaudited disclosures include the estimate of proved oil and natural gas reserve quantities and the related present value of estimated future net cash flows therefrom disclosed in note 20.

***(m) Reclassifications***

Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior period financial statements in order to conform to the classification adopted for reporting in fiscal 2007.

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(3) Common Stock**

On March 12, 2007, the Company's Board concluded its strategic alternatives process, as discussed in note 5, which resulted in, among other things, an equity self-tender offer for up to 8,700,000 shares of its common stock at \$23.00 per share and the authorization for the repurchase of up to \$50 million of its common stock during the one year period following the completion of the equity self tender offer, subject to business and market conditions and any debt covenants restricting such repurchases. On April 23, 2007 the Company completed the equity self-tender offer and purchased 8,700,000 million shares of its common stock. In addition, during the year ended December 31, 2007 the Company acquired 59,500 shares of its common stock for \$0.8 million, at an average price of \$13.71 per share in its stock repurchase program. All of these shares are reflected in treasury stock in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

**(4) Supplemental Cash Flow Information**

The following is supplemental cash flow information:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
	(In thousands)		
Interest paid	\$ 42,982	\$ 23,084	\$ 18,121
Income taxes paid, net of refunds	\$	\$ 350	\$ 350

The following is supplemental disclosure of non-cash financing activities:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
	(In thousands)		
Accretion of preferred stock	\$	\$	\$ 944
Conversion of preferred stock	\$	\$	\$ 34,448
Restricted share units	\$ 1,010	\$ 879	\$ 805

**(5) Mergers and Acquisitions**

On June 22, 2006, the Company entered into an agreement and plan of merger (the Merger Agreement) with Stone Energy Corporation (Stone), pursuant to which EPL Acquisition Corp. LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, would acquire all of the shares of Stone for a combination of cash and stock valued at approximately \$2.1 billion. Prior to entering into the Merger Agreement, Stone terminated its then existing merger agreement with Plains Exploration and Production Company (Plains) on the same day. As required under the terms of the terminated merger agreement between Stone and Plains, Plains was entitled to a termination fee of \$43.5 million, which was advanced by the Company to Plains and was included in other assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheet. On August 28, 2006, Woodside Petroleum, Ltd. (Woodside) announced its intention to commence a tender offer, through its U.S. subsidiary ATS Inc., for all of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock for \$23.00 per share subject to, among other conditions, the Company's stockholders voting down the proposed Stone acquisition. The tender offer was commenced on August 31, 2006 and was effective until September 28, 2006. On September 14, 2006, the Company announced that, on September 13, 2006, the Company's board of directors (the Board) rejected as inadequate the unsolicited conditional offer by Woodside and recommended that its stockholders not tender their shares. Woodside extended its offer three times and announced on October 26, 2006 that it was extending its offer for the final time until November 17, 2006. On October 12, 2006 the Company announced that it had terminated the Merger Agreement with Stone and that the Board had directed the Company, assisted by its financial advisors, to explore strategic alternatives to maximize stockholder value, including the possible sale of the Company. In conjunction with the termination of the Merger Agreement, the Company paid to Stone \$8.0 million, which was included in general and administrative expenses

---

**Table of Contents**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

in the fourth quarter of 2006. In addition, the \$43.5 million termination fee that was advanced to Plains in June 2006 on behalf of Stone was also expensed during 2006 along with other merger and strategic alternative related costs of \$15.0 million.

On March 12, 2007 the Company announced that the Board had concluded its strategic alternatives process. As a result of this process, the Board, with advice from its financial and legal advisors and management, determined to continue with the execution of the Company's strategic plan, augmented by a self-tender offer for up to 8,700,000 shares of its common stock at \$23.00 per share, the refinancing of its bank credit facility and a tender offer for all of its existing \$150 million aggregate principal amount of senior notes due 2010 (the Transactions), and the divestment of selected properties following the completion of the Transactions to reduce debt under the Company's new bank credit facility. In order to fund the Transactions, the Company undertook a private offering of \$450 million of senior unsecured notes and entered into a new bank credit facility. The Company has incurred an additional \$9.4 million of financial and legal advisory fees in the year ended December 31, 2007 related to the exploration of strategic alternatives and the tender offers.

On June 12, 2007, the Company completed its previously announced sale of substantially all of the Company's onshore South Louisiana assets for \$72.0 million in cash. After giving effect to closing adjustments, the net cash proceeds received totaled approximately \$68.6 million. The Company has used the proceeds to pay down a portion of its revolving credit facility. The estimated proved reserves of the disposed properties were approximately 2.1 Mmboe. The Company recorded a gain of \$6.5 million on the sale.

On March 8, 2005, the Company closed the acquisition of the remaining 50% gross working interest in South Timbalier 26 above approximately 13,000 feet subsea that it did not already own for approximately \$19.6 million after closing adjustments. As a result of the acquisition, the Company now owns a 100% gross working interest in the producing horizons in this field. The acquisition expands the Company's interest in its core Greater Bay Marchand area and gives the Company additional flexibility in undertaking the future development of the South Timbalier 26 field.

On January 20, 2005, the Company closed an acquisition of properties and reserves in south Louisiana for approximately \$149.6 million in cash, after adjustments for the exercise of preferential rights by third parties and closing adjustments. The entire purchase price was allocated to property and equipment. The terms of the acquisition did not contain any contingent consideration, options or future commitments. The acquisition was composed of nine fields, four of which were producing at the time of the closing through 14 wells with proved reserves in the southern portions of Terrebone, Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes in Louisiana.

The Company has included the results of operations from the acquisitions discussed above from their respective closing dates and the disposition through its closing date. The Company has experienced substantial revenue and production fluctuations as a result of these acquisitions and dispositions. For the foregoing reasons these transactions will affect the comparability of the Company's historical results of operations with future periods.

In connection with an acquisition in 2002, the Company issued among other things, 383,707 shares of \$38.4 million liquidation preference of newly authorized and issued Series D Exchangeable Convertible Preferred Stock (Series D Preferred Stock) with an issue date fair value of \$34.7 million discounted to give effect to the increasing dividend rate from 7% in June 2002 to 10% in June 2007. On February 28, 2005, the Company gave notice of the redemption of all of the Series D Preferred Stock issued in connection with the acquisition that remained outstanding on the redemption date of March 21, 2005. The redemption price was \$100 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends to the redemption date. Holders of record had the right to convert their shares into

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

shares of common stock through the close of business on March 18, 2005. All holders exercised their right to convert their shares and there were no preferred shares outstanding as of the close of business on March 18, 2005.

The Company also issued warrants to purchase four million shares of the Company's common stock in the same acquisition. Of the warrants, one million had a strike price of \$9.00 and three million had a strike price of \$11.00 per share. The warrants became exercisable on January 15, 2003 and expired on January 15, 2007. All remaining warrants were converted during the first quarter of 2007. In addition, former preferred stockholders of the acquired company had the right to receive contingent consideration based upon a percentage of the amount by which the before tax net present value of proved reserves related, in general, to exploratory prospect acreage held by the acquired company as of the closing date of the acquisition (the Ring-Fenced Properties) exceeded the net present value discounted at 30%. The potential consideration was determined annually from March 3, 2003 until March 1, 2007. The Company capitalized, as additional purchase price, all contingent consideration payments all of which were made in cash and totaled \$4.3 million. As of March 1, 2007, the final determination date, the Company determined that no final payment was due.

**(6) Property and Equipment**

The following is a summary of property and equipment at December 31, 2007 and 2006:

	2007	2006
	(In thousands)	
Proved oil and natural gas properties	\$ 1,496,068	\$ 1,478,520
Unproved oil and natural gas properties	42,083	41,353
Other	8,852	7,431
	\$ 1,547,003	\$ 1,527,304

Substantially all of the Company's oil and natural gas properties serve as collateral for its bank facility.

We analyze proved properties for impairment based on the reserves as determined by our independent reserve engineers. We recognized impairment expense of \$114.9 million, \$84.7 million and \$17.9 million in the years ending December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

The impairment expense related to 17 fields during 2007. Eight fields with a net book value of \$79.4 million have experienced mechanical difficulties or facility requirements and it was determined that significant capital would be needed to extend their economic lives and with our decreased capital budget in 2008 it was determined that this capital would be better deployed to projects with more potential. Another six fields with a net book value of \$15.9 million under performed and have fully depleted earlier than anticipated. The remaining three fields were determined to have future projected cash flows of less than their net book values due to performance issues and reserve revisions and therefore an impairment charge of \$19.6 million was recorded to write down to their fair value during 2007.

Substantially all of the impairment expense in 2006 was taken in eight fields, four of which were onshore assets acquired during an acquisition in January of 2005. Three of these onshore fields along with three offshore fields experienced downward revisions of recoverable reserves at December 31, 2006. These revisions along with decreased natural gas prices resulted in impairments of \$52.1 million on these assets. The Company elected to release the lease on the remaining onshore field. Additionally, one other offshore field experienced mechanical difficulties and it was determined that significant capital would be needed to extend its economic life and that this capital would be better deployed to projects with more potential. The net book value of these assets of \$27.0 million was therefore written off during 2006.

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The impairment expense in 2005 was related to full impairments at six fields which would need significant capital to extend their economic lives and the Company decided to deploy the capital to projects with more potential and therefore impaired the assets. The Company also had two fields with partial impairments due to insufficient cash flow from reserves.

At December 31, 2007, the Company had two projects whose exploratory well costs were suspended and were capitalized for a period greater than one year in the amount of \$32.6 million. At December 31, 2006 and 2005, the Company did not have any projects that were suspended for a period greater than one year.

**(7) Tropical Weather**

On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina made landfall in the United States south of New Orleans causing catastrophic damage throughout portions of the Gulf of Mexico and to portions of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, including New Orleans. As a result of the devastating effects of the storm on New Orleans and surrounding areas, the Company announced on August 30 that it had elected to establish temporary headquarters at its Houston, Texas office. A satellite office was also established in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. General and administrative costs associated with moving offices as well as relocation allowances paid to employees approximated \$1.6 million during 2005.

On September 24, 2005 Hurricane Rita made landfall in the United States on the Texas/Louisiana border. This hurricane caused extensive damage throughout portions of the Gulf of Mexico region particularly to third party infrastructure such as pipelines and processing plants.

As a result of these two major hurricanes and three other hurricanes that traversed the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent land areas, nearly all of the Company's production was shut in at one time or another during the third quarter of 2005 and into 2006. The Company maintained business interruption insurance on its significant properties, including its East Bay field on which recovery of lost revenue continued to accrue until October 2006. Through March 31, 2007, the total business interruption claim on these fields was \$62.6 million (all of which had been collected as of that date). In the first quarter of 2007, the Company settled and collected all remaining claims related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**(8) Asset Retirement Obligation**

The Company records the fair value of a liability for an asset retirement obligation in the period in which it is incurred, a corresponding increase in the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset.

The following table reconciles the beginning and ending aggregate recorded amount of the asset retirement obligation for the year ended December 31, 2007:

	<b>Asset Retirement Obligation (in thousands)</b>
December 31, 2006	\$ 68,767
Accretion expense	4,457
Liabilities incurred	4,409
Liabilities settled	(3,544)
Revisions in estimated cash flows	3,809
December 31, 2007	\$ 77,898

---

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

At December 31, 2007, and included above, asset retirement obligations required to be settled within the next twelve months of \$4.5 million were included in accrued expenses on the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

**(9) Indebtedness**

On April 23, 2007 the Company refinanced its bank credit facility with a new \$300 million revolving credit facility (the bank credit facility) with an initial availability of \$225 million and a borrowing base of \$200 million. Concurrently with the sale of assets described in Note 2, the availability under the bank credit facility was automatically reduced to the \$200 million borrowing base amount. The bank credit facility is secured by substantially all of the Company's assets. The bank credit facility permits both prime rate borrowings and London InterBank Offered Rate (LIBOR) borrowings plus a floating spread. The spread will float up or down based on utilization of the bank credit facility. The spread can range from 1.00% to 2.50% above LIBOR and 0% to 0.50% above prime. At December 31, 2007, the Company had \$30 million outstanding under the bank credit facility and had a borrowing base of \$200 million. In addition, the Company pays an annual fee on the unused portion of the bank credit facility ranging between 0.25% to 0.50% based on utilization. The bank credit facility contains customary events of default and various financial covenants, which require the Company to: (i) maintain a minimum current ratio, as defined by the bank credit facility, of 1.0x, (ii) maintain a minimum Consolidated EBITDAX to interest ratio, as defined by the bank credit facility, of 2.5x, and (iii) maintain a ratio of long-term debt to Consolidated EBITDAX below 3.5x, which decreases to 3.0x after April 1, 2008. The Company was in compliance with the bank credit facility covenants as of December 31, 2007. The borrowing base remains subject to redetermination based on the proved reserves of the oil and natural gas properties that serve as collateral for the bank credit facility as set out in the reserve report delivered to the banks each April 1 and October 1.

On April 23, 2007 the Company completed an offering of \$450 million aggregate principal amount of senior unsecured notes (the Senior Unsecured Notes), consisting of \$300 million aggregate principal amount of 9.75% senior notes due 2014 (the Fixed Rate Notes), with interest payable semi-annually on April 15 and October 15 beginning on October 15, 2007, and \$150 million aggregate principal amount of senior floating rate notes due 2013 (the Floating Rate Notes). The interest rate on the Floating Rate Notes for a particular interest period will be an annual rate equal to the three-month LIBOR plus 5.125%. Interest on the Floating Rate Notes is payable quarterly on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15, beginning in July of 2007. The Company may redeem the Senior Unsecured Notes, in whole or in part, prior to their maturity at specific redemption prices including premiums ranging from 4.875% to 0% from 2011 to 2013 and thereafter for the Fixed Rate Notes and premiums ranging from 2% to 0% from 2008 to 2010 and thereafter for the Floating Rate Notes. The indenture governing the Senior Unsecured Notes contains covenants, including but not limited to a covenant limiting the creation of liens securing indebtedness. The Senior Unsecured Notes are not subject to any sinking fund requirements. In November 2007 the Company consummated an exchange offer pursuant to which it exchanged registered senior unsecured notes having substantially identical terms as the privately placed Senior Unsecured Notes.

On May 4, 2007, the Company completed a cash tender offer for its \$150 million 8.75% Senior Notes due 2010 (the Senior Notes). Approximately \$145.5 million of these Senior Notes were repurchased and substantially all of their covenants have been removed.

A loss on early extinguishment of debt for the refinancing of the bank credit facility and the repurchase of the Senior Notes of approximately \$10.8 million was recorded during the year ended December 31, 2007. This loss includes the write-off of unamortized deferred financing costs related to the bank credit facility and the Senior Notes as well as the consent fees relating to the tender for the Senior Notes.



**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Total long-term debt outstanding at December 31, 2007 and 2006 was as follows:

	2007	2006
	(In thousands)	
Senior Notes, annual interest of 8.75%, payable August 1, 2010	\$ 4,501	\$ 150,000
Floating Rate Notes, with weighted average interest on December 31, 2007, of 10.37%, payable April 15, 2013	150,000	
Fixed Rate Notes, annual interest of 9.75%, payable May 15, 2014	300,000	
Bank credit facility, interest rate based on LIBOR borrowing rates plus a floating spread payable May 31, 2011, with weighted average interest on December 31, 2007 of 6.42%	30,000	167,000
	484,501	317,000
Less: Current maturities		
	\$ 484,501	\$ 317,000

Maturities of long-term debt as of December 31, 2007 were as follows (in thousands):

2008	\$
2009	
2010	4,501
2011	30,000
2012	
Thereafter	450,000
	\$ 484,501

**(10) Significant Customers**

The Company had oil and natural gas sales to three customers accounting for 29%, 27% and 14%, respectively, of total oil and natural gas revenues, excluding the effects of hedging activities, for the year ended December 31, 2007. The Company had oil and natural gas sales to four customers accounting for 28%, 19%, 12% and 11%, respectively, of total oil and natural gas revenues, excluding the effects of hedging activities, for the year ended December 31, 2006. The Company had oil and natural gas sales to four customers accounting for 18%, 16%, 15% and 10%, respectively, of total oil and natural gas revenues, excluding the effects of hedging activities, for the year ended December 31, 2005.

**(11) Derivative Transactions**

The Company enters into derivative transactions with major financial institutions and others to reduce exposure to fluctuations in the price of oil and natural gas. While the use of these transactions limits the downside risk of adverse price movements, their use also may limit future revenues from favorable price movements. The Company's Board of Directors has set limitations on the percentage of proved production that the Company can hedge. Crude oil hedges are primarily settled based on the average of the reported settlement prices for West Texas Intermediate crude on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) for each month. Natural gas hedges are primarily settled based on the average of the last three days of trading of the NYMEX Henry Hub natural gas contract for each month.

The Company primarily uses financially-settled crude oil and natural gas zero-cost collars and put options to provide floor prices with varying upside price participation. With a zero-cost collar, the counterparty is required



**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

to make a payment to the Company if the settlement price for any settlement period is below the floor price of the collar, and the Company is required to make a payment to the counterparty if the settlement price is above the cap price for the collar. With a put option, the counterparty is required to make a payment to the Company if the settlement price for any settlement period is below the strike price of the put and the Company has no obligations to the counterparty except for the payment of any option premium. On occasion, the Company has incorporated floors and/or collars into its production sales contracts which are settled under conventional marketing terms.

Prior to the second quarter of 2007, all derivative transactions that qualified for hedge accounting under Financial Accounting Standards No. 133 Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, (Statement 133) as amended by Statement Nos. 137, 138 and 149 were designated on the date the Company entered into each transaction as a hedge of the variability in cash flows associated with the forecasted sale of future oil and natural gas production. After-tax changes in the fair value of a hedge that was highly effective and designated and qualified as a cash flow hedge, to the extent that the hedge was effective, was recorded as Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (OCI) on the consolidated balance sheet until the sale of the hedged oil and natural gas production occurred. Upon the sale of the underlying hedged production, the net after-tax change in the fair value of the associated hedging transaction recorded in OCI was reversed and the resulting gain or loss on the settlement of the hedge, to the extent that it was effective, was reported in oil and natural gas revenues in the consolidated statement of operations. Once hedge accounting was discontinued prospectively for these existing contracts and while the hedging contracts remain in effect they are carried at their fair value on the Consolidated Balance Sheet until settlement and all subsequent changes in fair value are recognized in the Consolidated Statement of Operations for the period in which the change occurs. At March 31, 2007, following which cash flow hedging was discontinued, the Company had a net \$1.5 million after-tax loss recorded in OCI.

Effective April 2, 2007, the Company elected to discontinue hedge accounting on its existing contracts and elected not to designate any additional derivative contracts that were entered into subsequent to that date as cash flow hedges under Statement 133 as amended. Derivative contracts are carried at their fair value on the consolidated balance sheet as Fair value of commodity derivative instruments and all unrealized gains and losses are recorded in Gain (loss) on derivative instruments in Other income (expense) in the Statement of Operations and realized gains and losses related to contract settlements subsequent to April 2, 2007 will also be recognized in the same line in Other income (expense) in the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

The Company had the following crude oil and natural gas hedging contracts as of December 31, 2007:

**Natural Gas Positions**

Remaining Contract Term	Contract Type	Strike Price (\$/Mmbtu)	Volume (Mmbtu)	
			Daily	Total
01/08 - 03/08	Collar	\$ 6.89/\$17.24	35,000	3,185,000
04/08 - 06/08	Collar	\$ 6.50/\$11.15	20,000	1,820,000
11/08 - 12/08	Collar	\$ 6.82/\$15.38	20,000	1,220,000
01/09 - 03/09	Collar	\$ 6.75/\$17.15	10,000	900,000

**Crude Oil Positions**

Remaining Contract Term	Contract Type	Strike Price (\$/Bbl)	Volume (Bbls)	
			Daily	Total
01/08 - 06/08	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$84.68	3,000	546,000
07/08 - 09/08	Put	\$ 55.00	2,000	184,000
07/08 - 10/08	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$85.65	500	61,500
11/08 - 12/08	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$86.80	2,500	152,500
01/09 - 06/09	Collar	\$ 55.00/\$87.17	3,000	543,000

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The following table presents information about the components of gain (loss) on derivative instruments for the year ended December 31, 2007.

	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2007</b>
Derivative contracts:	
Unrealized gain (loss) due to change in fair market value	\$ (13,726)
Realized gain on settlement	643
 Total gain (loss) on derivative instruments	 \$ (13,083)

For the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, under cash flow hedge accounting, settlements of hedging contracts reduced oil and gas revenues by \$0.7 million and \$17.0 million, respectively.

The following table reconciles the change in accumulated other comprehensive income for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006:

	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2007 (In thousands)</b>	
Accumulated other comprehensive loss as of December 31, 2006 net of taxes of \$558		\$ (994)
Net income		\$ (79,955)
Other comprehensive income net of tax		
Hedging activities		
Reclassification adjustments for settled contracts net of taxes of \$90		(161)
Changes in fair value of outstanding hedging positions net of taxes of \$(649)		1,155
 Total other comprehensive income		 994 994
 Comprehensive income		 \$ (78,961)
 Accumulated other comprehensive income as of December 31, 2007		 \$

	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2006 (In thousands)</b>	
Accumulated other comprehensive loss as of December 31, 2005 net of taxes of \$7,098		\$ (12,619)
Net income		\$ (50,400)
Other comprehensive loss net of tax		
Hedging activities		
Reclassification adjustments for settled contracts net of taxes of \$(247)		439
Changes in fair value of outstanding hedging positions net of taxes of \$(6,293)		11,186
 Total other comprehensive loss		 11,625 11,625

Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

Comprehensive income	\$ (38,775)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss as of December 31, 2006 net of taxes of \$558	\$ (994)

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(12) Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The following table presents the carrying amounts and estimated fair values of financial instruments held by the Company at December 31, 2007 and 2006. The fair value of a financial instrument is the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties. The table excludes cash and cash equivalents, trade accounts receivable, noncurrent assets, trade accounts payable and accrued expenses and derivative instruments, all of which had fair values approximating carrying amounts. The fair value of long-term debt is estimated based on current rates offered the Company for debt of the same maturities.

	2007		2006	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value (In thousands)	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
<b>Financial liabilities:</b>				
<b>Current and long-term debt:</b>				
Senior Notes	\$ 4,501	\$ 3,858	\$ 150,000	\$ 153,750
Floating Rate Notes	\$ 150,000	\$ 142,500	\$	\$
Fixed Rate Notes	\$ 300,000	\$ 269,813	\$	\$
Bank credit facility	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 167,000	\$ 167,000

**(13) Income Taxes**

Components of income tax expense for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 are as follows:

	Current	Deferred (In thousands)	Total
<b>2007:</b>			
Federal	\$	\$ 43,368	\$ 43,368
State		1,239	1,239
	\$	\$ 44,607	\$ 44,607
<b>2006:</b>			
Federal	\$ 633	\$ 26,672	\$ 27,305
State		780	780
	\$ 633	\$ 27,452	\$ 28,085
<b>2005:</b>			
Federal	\$ 350	\$ 38,931	\$ 39,281
State		2,311	2,311
	\$ 350	\$ 41,242	\$ 41,592

The reasons for the differences between the effective tax rates and the expected corporate federal income tax rate is as follows:

**Percentage of Pretax Earnings**

Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

	2007	2006	2005
Expected tax rate	35.0%	35.0%	34.0%
State taxes	1.0	1.0	2.0
Other	(0.2)	(0.2)	0.3
	35.8%	35.8%	36.3%

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the current tax asset and net deferred tax liability at December 31, 2007 and 2006 are presented below:

	2007	2006
	(In thousands)	
Current deferred tax assets:		
Fair value of commodity derivative instruments	\$ 3,285	\$ 559
Accrued bonus compensation	580	828
Current deferred tax assets	\$ 3,865	\$ 1,387
Non-Current Deferred tax assets:		
Restricted stock awards and options	\$ 5,033	\$ 5,199
Federal and state net operating loss carryforwards	53,692	17,932
Fair market value of commodity derivative instruments	1,657	
Other	1,465	620
Non-Current Deferred tax liability:		
Property, plant and equipment, principally due to differences in depreciation	(82,727)	(86,202)
Net non-current deferred tax liability	\$ (20,880)	\$ (62,451)

At December 31, 2007, the Company had net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$149.1 million, which are available to reduce future federal taxable income. The net operating loss carryforwards begin expiring in the years 2018 through 2027. Although realization is not assured, management believes it is more likely than not that all of the deferred tax assets will be realized through future earnings and reversal of taxable temporary differences. As a result, no valuation allowance has been provided at December 31, 2007 and 2006. The 2007 tax provision does not use any of the net operating loss carryforwards.

In June 2006, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109 (FIN 48). FIN 48 clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an enterprise's financial statements in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*. FIN 48 prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return and also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition.

The Company adopted the provisions of FIN 48 on January 1, 2007. The implementation of FIN 48 did not have a material impact on the Company's financial statements. There were no unrecognized tax benefits as of the date of adoption of FIN 48 and therefore, there is no anticipated effect upon the Company's effective tax rate. Interest, if any, under FIN 48 will be classified in the financial statements as a component of interest expense and statutory penalties, if any, will be classified as a component of general and administrative expense.

As of January 1, 2007, the Company's 2003-2006 income tax years remain subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service, as well as the Louisiana Department of Revenue. In addition, Texas Franchise Tax calendar years 2002-2006 remain subject to examination.

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans**

As described in note 2, the Company has a long term-incentive plan authorizing various types of market and performance based incentive awards which may be granted to officers and employees. The 2006 Long Term





---

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Stock Incentive Plan (the Employee Plan) provides for the grant of stock options for which the exercise price, set at the time of the grant, is not less than the fair market value per share at the date of grant. The outstanding options have a term of 10 years and generally vest over 3 years with grants to a limited group of people that cliff vest at the end of 5 years. The Employee Plan also provides for restricted stock and restricted share units, which are referred to as non-vested share awards under Statement 123(R), and performance share awards. The Employee Plan was adopted by the board of directors in March 2006 and approved by stockholders in May 2006 and is administered by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors or such other committee as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee is authorized to select the employees of the Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates who will receive awards, to determine the types of awards to be granted to each person, and to establish the terms of each award. The total number of shares that may be issued under the plan for all types of awards was 2,604,414 as of May 2006.

The Amended and Restated 2000 Stock Incentive Plan for Non-Employee Directors (the Director Plan) was adopted by the board of directors in March 2005 and approved by our stockholders in May 2005. The Director Plan permits the use of restricted share units in addition to stock options to provide flexibility to adjust grants to maintain a competitive equity component for non-employee directors. The number of shares authorized for issuance under the Director Plan is 500,000. The size of any grants of stock options and restricted share units to non-employee directors, including to new directors, will be determined annually, based on the analysis of an independent compensation consultant. The option exercise price for an option granted under the Director Plan shall be the fair market value of the shares covered by the option at the time the option is granted. Options become fully exercisable on the first anniversary of the date of the grant. Prior to the one-year anniversary, the options shall be exercisable as to a number of shares covered by the option determined by pro-rating the number of shares covered by the option based on the number of days elapsed since the date of the grant. Any portion of an option that has not become exercisable prior to the cessation of the optionee's service as a director for any reason shall not thereafter become exercisable. Each option shall expire on the earlier of (i) ten (10) years from the date of the granting thereof, or (ii) thirty-six (36) months after the date the optionee ceases to be a director of the Company for any reason. Each restricted share unit represents the right to receive one share of Common Stock upon the earlier to occur of: (i) the cessation of the eligible director's service as a director of the Company for any reason, or (ii) the occurrence of a change of control of the Company. An eligible director shall become 100% vested in a grant of restricted share units on the first anniversary of the date of grant. Prior to the first anniversary of the grant, an eligible director shall be vested in a number of restricted share units determined by pro-rating the grant based on the number of days elapsed since the date of the grant. If the service of an eligible director ceases for any reason prior to the first anniversary of the grant, other than in connection with the occurrence of a change of control of the Company, the director shall forfeit any unvested restricted share units.

During the year ended December 31, 2007, the Company recognized compensation expense of \$3.7 million for option shares and \$5.4 million for non-vested share awards and recognized a compensation benefit of \$0.9 million for performance share awards. Of the \$3.7 million option expense included in the Company's statements of operations for the year ended December 31, 2007, \$1.5 million relates to awards granted prior to January 1, 2006. The deferred income tax benefit recognized during that same period for the awards was \$2.9 million. During the year ended December 31, 2006, the Company recognized compensation expense of \$4.4 million for option shares, \$5.9 million for non-vested share awards and \$0.8 million for performance share awards. Of the \$4.4 million option expense included in the Company's statements of operations for the year ended December 31, 2006, \$2.4 million relates to awards granted prior to January 1, 2006. The deferred income tax benefit recognized during that same period for the awards was \$4.0 million. During the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company recognized \$0.7 million of compensation expense for option shares due to the modification of an award under opinion No. 25 and recognized \$4.5 million for non-vested share awards and \$1.4 million for performance share awards. Total deferred income tax benefit recognized during that same period for share awards was \$2.4 million.

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The following table illustrates the pro forma effect on net income and earnings per common share for the year ended December 31, 2005 as if the Company had applied the fair value method to measure stock-based compensation, as required under the disclosure provisions of Statement 123(R):

	<b>2005</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>
<b>Net income available to common stockholders:</b>	
As reported	\$ 72,151
Less: Pro forma stock based employee compensation cost, after tax	1,140
 Pro forma	 \$ 71,011
<b>Basic earnings per share:</b>	
As reported	\$ 1.94
Pro forma	\$ 1.91
<b>Diluted earnings per share:</b>	
As reported	\$ 1.79
Pro forma	\$ 1.77
Average fair value of grants during the year	\$ 6.86
Stock-based employee compensation cost, net of tax, included in net income as reported	\$ 468

The fair value of each share option award is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option valuation model with the following weighted average assumptions for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005:

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Black-Scholes option pricing model assumptions:</b>			
Risk free interest rate	4.5%	4.4%	4.5%
Expected life (years)	4.95	4.79	5.00
Expected volatility	37%	43%	42% to 43%
<b>Dividend yield</b>			

Expected volatility is based on the historical volatility of the Company's stock over the period of time equivalent to the expected term of the options granted. The expected term of options granted is derived from historical exercise patterns over a period of time with consideration of expected term of unvested options. The Company has not experienced significant differences in the historical exercise patterns among officers, employees and non-employee directors for them to be considered separately for valuation purposes. The risk-free interest rate is based on the interest rate on constant maturity bonds published by the Federal Reserve with a maturity commensurate with the expected term of the options granted.

Additionally, Statement 123 (R) requires the Company to estimate pre-vesting option forfeitures at the time of grant and periodically revise those estimates in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. The Company records stock-based compensation expense only for those awards expected to vest using an estimated forfeiture rate based on its historical pre-vesting forfeiture data. The Company estimated forfeitures for the pro forma disclosure provisions of Statement 123 for periods prior to 2006.

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

A summary of option share activity for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 is as follows:

	Options	Weighted-Average Exercise Price Per Share	Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Terms (in years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in thousands)
Outstanding on December 31, 2004	2,032,329	\$ 11.09		
Granted	595,300	26.07		
Exercised	(759,288)	10.50		
Forfeited/Cancelled	(40,232)	14.82		
Outstanding on December 31, 2005	1,828,109	\$ 16.13		
Granted	544,181	21.69		
Exercised	(28,599)	9.15		
Forfeited/Cancelled	(201,007)	25.49		
Outstanding on December 31, 2006	2,142,684	\$ 16.76		
Granted	253,730	15.58		
Exercised	(47,689)	10.21		
Forfeited/Cancelled	(105,000)	17.88		
Outstanding on December 31, 2007	2,243,725	\$ 16.71	6.47	\$ 37,493
Exercisable on December 31, 2007	1,469,982	\$ 14.18	5.46	\$ 20,844
Available for future grants on December 31, 2007	2,322,633			

The weighted-average grant-date fair value of option shares granted during the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 was \$6.16, \$9.24 and \$6.86, respectively. The aggregate intrinsic value of option shares (the amount by which the market price of the stock on the date of exercise exceeded the market price of the stock on the date of grant) exercised during the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 was \$0.4 million, \$0.4 million and \$12.6 million, respectively. The following table summarizes information about option shares outstanding at December 31, 2007:

Range of Exercise Prices	Shares	Options Outstanding		Options Exercisable	
		Remaining Contractual Life	Weighted Average Price	Shares	Weighted Average Price
\$ 7.00 - \$14.00	1,134,721	5.3 years	\$ 11.13	1,034,721	\$ 10.93
\$14.01 - \$21.00	358,748	7.6 years	\$ 17.12	150,874	\$ 16.84
\$21.01 - \$28.00	750,256	7.8 years	\$ 24.96	284,387	\$ 24.59

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The fair value of non-vested share awards equals the market value of the underlying stock on the date of grant. The weighted-average grant-date fair value of the non-vested share awards granted during the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 was \$17.76 per share, \$21.62 per share, and \$26.50 per share, respectively. The total fair value of non-vested share awards that vested during each of the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 was \$3.6 million, \$3.3 million and \$3.4 million, respectively. A summary of the status of the Company's non-vested share awards as of December 31, 2007 and changes during the year ended December 31, 2007 is as follows:

	Shares	Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value
Non-vested share awards outstanding at December 31, 2006	713,288	\$ 23.71
Granted	204,062	17.76
Vested	(212,951)	17.00
Forfeited/Cancelled	(102,001)	21.80
Non-vested share awards outstanding at December 31, 2007	602,398	\$ 21.09

During the period from 2003 through 2005, performance shares were awarded to officers and key employees with the number of shares to be issued upon being earned, at the end of their respective three year cycles, being based on certain performance measures. The shares awarded can range from a minimum of 0% to a maximum of 200% of the target number of shares depending on the level at which the goals are attained. The Company did not award any performance shares in 2006 or 2007. In the year ended December 31, 2006, 55,111 shares were earned and issued and 35,756 shares expired unearned or were forfeited. In the year ended December 31, 2007, 69,000 shares were earned and issued and 56,100 expired unearned or forfeited leaving 80,990 shares reserved based on the maximum award available.

As of December 31, 2007, there was \$2.6 million of total unrecognized compensation expense related to option shares granted which is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 2 years. As of December 31, 2007, there was \$6.0 million of total unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested share awards granted which is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1 year and as of December 31, 2007.

The Company also has a 401(k) Plan that covers all employees. The 401(k) Plan was amended in 2004, such that the Company match was increased, effective January 1, 2005, to 100% of each individual participant's contribution not to exceed 6% of the participant's compensation. The contributions may be in the form of cash or the Company's common stock. The Company made matching contributions to the 401(k) Plan of 57,634, 38,220 and 30,586 shares of common stock in 2007, 2006 and 2005 valued at approximately \$0.9 million, \$0.9 million and \$0.8 million, respectively.

**(15) Commitments and Contingencies**

The Company has operating leases for office space and equipment, which expire on various dates through 2016. In addition, the Company has agreed to purchase seismic-related services and drilling rig commitments which expire on various dates through 2008.

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Future minimum commitments as of December 31, 2007 under these operating obligations are as follows (in thousands):

2008	\$ 2,812
2009	1,622
2010	1,322
2011	1,322
2012	1,322
Thereafter	5,289
	<b>\$ 13,689</b>

Expense relating to operating obligations for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 was \$7.9 million, \$9.6 million and \$4.8 million, respectively.

Commencing January 1, 2002, the Company was required to make monthly deposits of \$250,000 into a trust for future abandonment costs at East Bay. The Company was not entitled to access the trust fund in order to draw funds for abandonment purposes prior to December 31, 2003. Monthly deposits were not required to be made for fiscal year 2004 but resumed January 1, 2005. Beginning December 31, 2003 the minimum balance in the trust must be maintained at \$6.0 million (with a maximum balance not to exceed \$15.0 million) until such time that the remaining abandonment obligation is less than that amount. Therefore if funds are drawn to pay for ongoing abandonment activities, deposits may be necessary. These deposits are classified as other assets in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

A putative class action suit, filed in 2006 by Thomas Farrington, a purported stockholder of the Company, against the Company, all of the Company's directors, one of the Company's subsidiaries, and Stone in the Delaware Chancery Court has been dismissed on the motion of all parties with no material impact on the financial position or results of operations of the Company.

On February 21, 2008, the Company entered into a plea agreement with the United States Department of Justice under which the Company pled guilty on that same date to one strict liability, misdemeanor violation of the River and Harbors Act in the United States District Court for the Eastern Division of Louisiana. The plea concludes the investigation announced in June 2007 into possible environmental violations at the Company's East Bay field in late 2005 and early 2006. Under the plea agreement, the Company has paid a fine of \$75,000 and has made a community service payment of \$25,000 to a Louisiana state agency. As a part of the plea agreement, the Company is subject to inactive probation for one year. The foregoing actions represent the final resolution of this matter with all federal agencies involved with the investigation.

In the ordinary course of business, the Company is a defendant in various other legal proceedings. The Company does not expect its exposure in these proceedings, individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse effect on the financial position, results of operations or liquidity of the Company.

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(16) Related Party**

One of the Company's directors is a senior managing director of Evercore Group L.L.C. (Evercore). Evercore provided financial advisory service to the Company in connection with the Stone transaction, the Woodside offer and the Company's exploration of strategic alternatives. Evercore received fees of \$1.6 million in 2006 in connection with financial advisory services related to the Stone transaction and the consideration of the unsolicited offer from Woodside. In addition, a \$7.0 million fee was due to Evercore upon the earlier of the consummation of a transaction or September 5, 2007, of which \$2.3 million was accrued during 2006 and the remaining \$4.7 million was accrued in the first nine months of 2007 and paid in September 2007.

**(17) Interim Financial Information (Unaudited)**

The following is a summary of consolidated unaudited interim financial information for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006:

	March 31	Three Months Ended		December 31
		June 30	September 30	
		(In thousands, except per share data)		
<b>2007</b>				
Revenues	\$ 108,463	\$ 121,666	\$ 110,438	\$ 114,082
Costs and expenses	105,210	109,252	103,542	201,742
Business interruption recovery	9,084			
Income (loss) from operations	12,337	12,414	6,896	(87,660)
Net income (loss)	3,696	(6,270)	(3,963)	(73,418)
Earnings (loss) per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.09	\$ (0.18)	\$ (0.12)	\$ (2.31)
Diluted	0.09	(0.18)	(0.12)	(2.31)
<b>2006</b>				
Revenues	\$ 109,191	\$ 121,234	\$ 107,491	\$ 111,634
Costs and expenses	93,880	107,375	148,594	187,913
Business interruption recovery	12,689	10,594	8,293	1,293
Income from operations	28,000	24,453	(32,810)	(74,986)
Net income	14,803	12,585	(25,242)	(52,546)
Earnings per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.33	\$ (0.66)	\$ (1.35)
Diluted	0.37	0.31	(0.66)	(1.35)

**(18) Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Financial Information**

In connection with the Debt Offering, discussed above, all of the Company's current active subsidiaries (the Guarantor Subsidiaries) jointly, severally and unconditionally guaranteed the payment obligations under the Debt Offering. The following supplemental financial information sets forth, on a consolidating basis, the balance sheet, statement of operations and cash flow information for Energy Partners, Ltd. (Parent Company Only) and for the Guarantor Subsidiaries. The Company has not presented separate financial statements and other disclosures concerning the Guarantor Subsidiaries because management has determined that such information is not material to investors.

The supplemental condensed consolidating financial information has been prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations for condensed financial information and does not include all disclosures included in annual financial statements. Certain reclassifications were made to conform all of the financial information to the financial presentation on a consolidated basis. The principal eliminating entries eliminate investments in subsidiaries, intercompany balances and intercompany revenues and expenses.





**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheet**

As of December 31, 2007

	Parent Company Only	Guarantor Subsidiaries (In thousands)	Eliminations	Consolidated
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,864	\$	\$	\$ 8,864
Accounts receivable	(73,061)	125,200		52,139
Other current assets	5,373	132		5,505
Total current assets	(58,824)	125,332		66,508
Property and equipment	1,309,898	237,105		1,547,003
Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(704,890)	(119,507)		(824,397)
Net property and equipment	605,008	117,598		722,606
Investment in affiliates	199,964	119	(200,083)	
Notes receivable, long-term		221,909	(221,909)	
Other assets	25,652	90		25,742
	\$ 771,800	\$ 465,048	\$ (421,992)	\$ 814,856
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</b>				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 117,709	\$ 1,215	\$	\$ 118,924
Fair value of commodity derivative instruments	9,124			9,124
Current maturities of long-term debt				
Total current liabilities	126,833	1,215		128,048
Long-term debt	484,501	221,909	(221,909)	484,501
Other liabilities	58,496	41,841		100,337
	669,830	264,965	(221,909)	712,886
Stockholders' equity:				
Preferred stock		3	(3)	
Common stock	441	98	(98)	441
Additional paid-in capital	374,874	1,606	(1,606)	374,874
Retained earnings	(14,989)	198,376	(198,376)	(14,989)
Treasury stock	(258,356)			(258,356)
Total stockholders' equity	101,970	200,083	(200,083)	101,970
	\$ 771,800	\$ 465,048	\$ (421,992)	\$ 814,856



**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Statement of Operations****Year Ended December 31, 2007**

	<b>Parent Company Only</b>	<b>Guarantor Subsidiaries</b>	<b>Eliminations</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>			
<b>Revenue:</b>				
Oil and natural gas	\$ 365,707	\$ 88,633	\$	\$ 454,340
Other	58,595	172	(58,458)	309
	424,302	88,805	(58,458)	454,649
<b>Costs and expenses:</b>				
Lease operating expenses	95,237	(22,877)		72,360
Taxes, other than on earnings	364	9,536		9,900
Exploration expenditures, dry hole cost and impairments	193,560	19,562		213,122
Depreciation, depletion, amortization and accretion	150,130	24,411		174,541
General and administrative	60,421	16,303	(15,000)	61,724
Other expenses	(10,313)	(1,588)		(11,901)
Total costs and expenses	489,399	45,347	(15,000)	519,746
Business interruption recovery	9,084			9,084
Income (loss) from operations	(56,013)	43,458	(43,458)	(56,013)
<b>Other income (expense):</b>				
Interest expense, net	(44,628)			(44,628)
Gain (loss) on derivative instruments	(13,083)			(13,083)
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	(10,838)			(10,838)
Income (loss) before income taxes	(124,562)	43,458	(43,458)	(124,562)
Income taxes	44,607			44,607
Net income (loss)	\$ (79,955)	\$ 43,458	\$ (43,458)	\$ (79,955)

**Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Statement of Cash Flows****Year Ended December 31, 2007**

	<b>Parent Company Only</b>	<b>Guarantor Subsidiaries</b>	<b>Eliminations</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 272,356	\$ 21,533	\$	\$ 293,889
<b>Cash flows used in investing activities:</b>				
Insurance recoveries	19,574			19,574

Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

Property acquisitions	(6,922)	(424)	(7,346)
Exploration and development expenditures	(302,737)	(21,109)	(323,846)
Other property and equipment additions	(1,402)		(1,402)
Proceeds from the sale of oil and natural gas assets	68,599		68,599
Net cash used in investing activities	(222,888)	(21,533)	(244,421)
Cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities:			
Deferred financing costs	(11,178)		(11,178)
Repayments of long-term debt	(530,499)		(530,499)
Proceeds from public offering net of commissions	698,000		698,000
Purchase of shares into equity	(200,916)		(200,916)
Exercise of stock options and warrants	775		775
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(43,818)		(43,818)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	5,650		5,650
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	3,214		3,214
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	\$ 8,864	\$	\$ 8,864

---

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(19) New Accounting Pronouncements**

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Accounting Standards No. 141R, *Business Combinations* (Statement 141R). Statement 141R establishes principles and requirements for how an acquirer recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, any non-controlling interest in the acquiree and the goodwill acquired. This statement also establishes disclosure requirements which will enable users to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. Statement 141R applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2008. The Company is currently assessing what impact Statement 141R may have on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows should it complete a business combination after the effective date of Statement 141R.

In September 2006, the FASB issued Statement of Accounting Standards No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (Statement 157). Statement 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. Statement 157 applies under other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements, the Board having previously concluded in those accounting pronouncements that fair value is the relevant measurement attribute. Accordingly, Statement 157 does not require any new fair value measurements. Statement 157 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years. The Company is currently assessing what impact Statement 157 may have on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows and anticipates that additional disclosures may be required.

In February 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Accounting Standards No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115* (Statement 159). Statement 159 permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. Statement 159 is expected to expand the use of fair value measurement, which is consistent with the Board's long-term measurement objectives for accounting for financial instruments. Statement 159 is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year that begins after November 15, 2007. Early adoption is permitted as of the beginning of a fiscal year that begins on or before November 15, 2007, provided the entity also elects to apply the provisions of Statement 157. The Company is currently assessing what impact Statement 159 may have on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

**(20) Supplementary Oil and Natural Gas Disclosures (Unaudited)**

Our December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 estimates of proved reserves are based on reserve reports prepared by Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc. and Ryder Scott Company, L.P., independent petroleum engineers. Users of this information should be aware that the process of estimating quantities of proved and proved-developed natural gas and crude oil reserves is very complex, requiring significant subjective decisions in the evaluation of all available geological, engineering and economic data for each reservoir. The data for a given reservoir may also change substantially over time as a result of numerous factors including, but not limited to, additional development activity, evolving production history and continual reassessment of the viability of production under varying economic conditions. Consequently, material revisions to existing reserve estimates occur from time to time. Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure that reserve estimates reported represent the most accurate assessments possible, the significance of the subjective decisions required and variances in available data for various reservoirs make these estimates generally less precise than other estimates presented in connection with financial statement disclosures. Proved reserves are estimated quantities of natural gas, crude oil and condensate that geological and engineering data demonstrate, with reasonable certainty, to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions. Proved-developed reserves are proved reserves that can be expected to be recovered through existing wells with existing equipment and operating methods.

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The following table sets forth the Company's net proved reserves, including the changes therein, and proved-developed reserves:

	Crude Oil (Mbbbls)	Natural Gas (Mmcf)	Barrels of Oil Equivalent (Mboe)
<b>Proved-developed and undeveloped reserves:</b>			
December 31, 2004	28,770	149,835	53,743
Purchases of reserves in place (a)	3,949	52,690	12,731
Extensions, discoveries and other additions (b)	1,086	24,490	5,168
Revisions (c)	587	(27,789)	(4,045)
Production	(2,914)	(32,277)	(8,294)
December 31, 2005	31,478	166,949	59,303
Sales of reserves in place	(129)	(750)	(254)
Extensions, discoveries and other additions (d)	1,057	44,336	8,446
Revisions	515	(1,704)	231
Production	(3,007)	(38,708)	(9,458)
December 31, 2006	29,914	170,123	58,268
Sales of reserves in place (e)	(363)	(10,214)	(2,066)
Purchases of reserves in place (f)	46	3,628	651
Extensions, discoveries and other additions (g)	469	12,361	2,529
Revisions (h)	1,258	(39,139)	(5,265)
Production	(3,201)	(33,641)	(8,808)
December 31, 2007	28,123	103,118	45,309
<b>Proved-developed reserves:</b>			
December 31, 2005	25,646	103,627	42,917
December 31, 2006	24,811	117,392	44,376
December 31, 2007	23,636	85,926	37,957

- (a) Includes the acquisition of approximately 8.5 MMboe from the onshore south Louisiana acquisition completed in January 2005 and approximately 4.2 MMboe acquired in March 2005 through the acquisition of the remaining interest in South Timbalier 26.
- (b) Includes approximately 1.2 MMboe associated with discoveries in Greater Bay Marchand.
- (c) During 2005, the Company revised downward its estimate of proved reserves by a total of approximately 4,045 Mboe. The net downward revision of the Company's estimates was due to information received from production results and drilling activity that occurred during 2005. Reserves were revised downward by 5,351 Mboe related primarily to the proved undeveloped reserves acquired in the South Louisiana onshore acquisition in January 2005.
- (d) Includes approximately 2.2 MMboe associated with discoveries in Greater Bay Marchand.

## Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

- (e) Includes the sale of approximately 2.1 Mmboe proved reserves in the sale of substantially all of the Company's onshore South Louisiana producing assets.
- (f) Purchases are the result of the acquisition of an additional interest in our deepwater leases and reserves acquired through the non participation rights in a well operation.
- (g) Includes approximately 1.8 Mmboe associated with discoveries in Greater Bay Marchand.
- (h) Comprised of approximately 1.4 Mmboe of positive revisions and approximately 6.6 Mmboe of negative revisions, of which approximately 4.1 Mmboe was on fields that were impaired during 2007.

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Capitalized costs for oil and natural gas producing activities consist of the following:

	2007	2006
	(In thousands)	
Proved properties	\$ 1,496,068	\$ 1,478,520
Unproved properties	42,083	41,353
Accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(817,923)	(675,556)
Net capitalized costs	\$ 720,228	\$ 844,317

Costs incurred for oil and natural gas property acquisition, exploration and development activities for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 are as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
	(In thousands)		
Acquisitions			
-Proved	\$ 2,167	\$ 420	\$ 142,025
-Unproved	7,346	15,896	56,955
Exploration	191,621	224,147	171,859
Development (1)	121,769	167,346	114,814
Costs incurred	\$ 322,903	\$ 407,809	\$ 485,653

(1) Includes asset retirement obligations incurred of \$5.6 million, \$8.5 million and \$6.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

**Standardized Measure of Discounted Future Net Cash Flows Relating to Reserves**

The following information has been developed utilizing procedures prescribed by Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 69 (Statement 69), Disclosures about Oil and Gas Producing Activities. It may be useful for certain comparative purposes, but should not be solely relied upon in evaluating the Company or its performance. Further, information contained in the following table should not be considered as representative of realistic assessments of future cash flows, nor should the Standardized Measure of Discounted Future Net Cash Flows be viewed as representative of the current value of the Company.

The Company believes that the following factors should be taken into account in reviewing the following information: (1) future costs and selling prices will probably differ from those required to be used in these calculations; (2) due to future market conditions and governmental regulations, actual rates of production achieved in future years may vary significantly from the rate of production assumed in the calculations; (3) selection of a 10% discount rate is arbitrary and may not be reasonable as a measure of the relative risk inherent in realizing future net oil and gas revenues; and (4) future net revenues may be subject to different rates of income taxation.

Under the Standardized Measure, future cash inflows were estimated by applying, period end oil and gas prices adjusted for each field and the conversion of year end spot prices from Mmbtu to the reported Mcf value, to the estimated future production of period-end proved reserves. Future cash inflows were reduced by estimated future development, abandonment and production costs based on period-end costs in order to arrive at net cash flow before tax. Future income tax expense has been computed by applying period-end statutory tax rates to aggregate future net cash flows, reduced by the tax basis of the properties involved and tax carryforwards. Use of a 10% discount rate is required by



Statement 69.

72

**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Management does not rely solely upon the following information in making investment and operating decisions. Such decisions are based upon a wide range of factors, including estimates of probable as well as proved reserves and varying price and cost assumptions considered more representative of a range of possible economic conditions that may be anticipated.

The standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows relating to proved oil and natural gas reserves is as follows:

	2007	2006	2005
		(In thousands)	
Future cash inflows	\$ 3,384,268	\$ 2,688,624	\$ 3,540,136
Future production costs	(895,352)	(700,915)	(645,025)
Future development costs	(316,753)	(355,238)	(363,949)
Future income tax expense	(598,874)	(415,250)	(770,858)
Future net cash flows after income taxes	1,573,289	1,217,220	1,760,304
10% annual discount for estimated timing of cash flows	(480,354)	(323,746)	(499,058)
Standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows	\$ 1,092,935	\$ 893,474	\$ 1,261,246

A summary of the changes in the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows applicable to proved oil and natural gas reserves for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 is as follows:

	2007	2006	2005
		(In thousands)	
Beginning of the period	\$ 893,474	\$ 1,261,246	\$ 667,668
Sales and transfers of oil and natural gas produced, net of production costs	(375,060)	(379,624)	(342,396)
Net changes in prices and production costs	788,913	(648,509)	861,576
Extensions, discoveries and improved recoveries, net of future production costs	106,690	250,255	145,143
Revision of quantity estimates	(210,230)	8,316	(160,227)
Previously estimated development costs incurred during the period	63,588	97,073	33,481
Purchase and sales of reserves in place, net	(50,060)	(5,951)	271,675
Changes in estimated future development costs	(8,935)	(28,356)	143
Changes in production rates (timing) and other	(151,746)	(91,709)	(19,764)
Accretion of discount	118,830	180,618	92,414
Net change in income taxes	(82,529)	250,115	(288,467)
Net increase (decrease)	199,461	(367,772)	593,578
End of period	\$ 1,092,935	\$ 893,474	\$ 1,261,246

The computation of the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows relating to proved oil and natural gas reserves at December 31, 2007 was based on period-end prices of \$6.98 per Mcf for natural gas and \$94.76 per barrel for crude oil. The computation of the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows relating to proved oil and natural gas reserves at December 31, 2006 was based on period-end prices of \$5.54 per Mcf for natural gas and \$58.40 per barrel for crude oil. The December 31, 2005 computation was based on period-end prices of \$10.31 per Mcf for natural gas and \$57.81 per barrel for crude oil.



---

**Table of Contents**

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

None.

**Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

**Conclusion Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Under the supervision and with the participation of certain members of our management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we completed an evaluation of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended). Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report with respect to being recorded, processed, summarized and reported within time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms and with respect to the timely communication to them and other members of management responsible for preparing periodic reports and all material information required to be disclosed in this report as it relates to our Company and its consolidated subsidiaries.

A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons or by collusion of two or more people. The design of any system of controls also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions; over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Accordingly, our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of our disclosure control system are met and, as set forth above, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded, based on their evaluation as of the end of the period, that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective to provide reasonable assurance that the objectives of our disclosure control system were met. See Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and the Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, which are included herein.

**Item 9B. Other Information**

**Amended and Restated Bylaws**

The Securities and Exchange Commission approved rule filings by the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE"), which requires all securities listed on the NYSE (subject to limited exceptions not applicable to the Company) to be eligible for a direct registration system such as the Depository Trust Company's Direct Registration System (the "Direct Registration System") on and after March 31, 2008. As a result of this requirement, the Company amended and restated its Bylaws (the "Amended and Restated Bylaws") to authorize the issuance of uncertificated shares of some or all of its common stock to permit the Company to convert to electronic book-entry issuance of its common stock.

In addition, the Amended and Restated Bylaws remove obsolete references to the Stockholder Agreement, dated November 17, 1999, and amended and restated on March 17, 2003, by and among the Company, Evercore

**Table of Contents**

Capital Partners L.P., Evercore Capital Partners (NQ) L.P., Evercore Capital Offshore Partners L.P., Energy Income Fund, L.P. and individual shareholders of the Company signatories thereto, which agreement has been terminated.

The Amended and Restated Bylaws are attached hereto as Exhibit 3.5.

**Amendment to Change of Control Severance Agreement**

The Company's board of directors has extended the termination date of the Change of Control Severance Agreements with Messrs. Bachmann, Peper and Leary from March 28, 2008 to March 28, 2009.

The Form of Second Amendment to Change of Control Severance Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 10.13.

**Terms of T. Rodney Dykes' Separation Agreement**

In connection with the March 31, 2008 departure of T. Rodney Dykes as Senior Vice President - Production and Construction, Mr. Dykes and the Company have reached an agreement pursuant to which (i) Mr. Dykes agreed to release claims against the Company and its subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors and other persons and to comply with certain confidentiality provisions and (ii) the Company agreed (A) to pay Mr. Dykes \$245,000 in severance pay, (B) to accelerate the vesting of Mr. Dykes' 4,748 nonqualified stock options otherwise scheduled to vest on May 30, 2008, (C) to permit Mr. Dykes' vested stock options to remain exercisable for up to three years after the date of Mr. Dykes' departure, (D) to accelerate the vesting of Mr. Dykes' 6,103 cash-settled restricted share units otherwise scheduled to vest on May 30, 2008, and (E) to provide reimbursement for Mr. Dykes' COBRA premiums for up to 12 months at a level commensurate with the portion of his health care coverage currently paid by the Company.

The General Release between T. Rodney Dykes and Energy Partners, Ltd. is attached hereto as Exhibit 10.25.

**Table of Contents****PART III****Item 10. Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant**

Except as set forth below, for information required by Item 10 regarding our directors and executive officers, see the definitive Proxy Statement of Energy Partners, Ltd. for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 29, 2008, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is incorporated herein by reference, and Part I Item 4A. Executive Officers .

**Code of Ethics** The Company has adopted a code of ethics that applies to all directors and employees, including our chief executive officer, chief financial officer and controller which is available on our website at [www.eplweb.com](http://www.eplweb.com). A copy is also available by writing to the Secretary of the Company at 201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 3400, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70170. The Company will post on its website any waiver the Code of Conduct granted to any of its directors or executive officers.

**Item 11. Executive Compensation**

For information required by Item 11 see the definitive Proxy Statement of Energy Partners, Ltd. for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 29, 2008, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters**

Except as set forth below, for the information required by Item 12 see the definitive Proxy Statement of Energy Partners, Ltd. for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 29, 2008, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is incorporated herein by reference.

**SECURITIES AUTHORIZED FOR ISSUANCE UNDER EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS**

The following table provides information as of December 31, 2007, with respect to compensation plans under which our equity securities are authorized for issuance.

	Number of Securities to be Issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (1)	Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options (2)	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Grant Under Equity Compensation Plans
Equity compensation plans approved by stockholders	2,141,380	\$14.18	2,322,633
Equity compensation plans not approved by stockholders			

(1) Comprised of 1,469,982 shares subject to issuance upon the exercise of options, 69,000 shares issued as performance shares and 602,398 shares to be issued upon the lapsing of restrictions associated with restricted share units

(2) Restricted share units and performance shares do not have an exercise price; therefore this only reflects the option exercise price. See note 14 to our consolidated financial statements for further information regarding the significant features of the above plans.

**Table of Contents**

**Item 13. *Certain Relationships and Related Transactions***

For information required by Item 13 see the definitive Proxy Statement of Energy Partners, Ltd. for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 29, 2008, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 14. *Principal Accountant Fees and Services***

For information required by Item 14 see the definitive Proxy Statement of Energy Partners, Ltd. for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 29, 2008, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Table of Contents**

**PART IV**

**Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**

(a) *Documents to be filed as part of this Report:*

*1. Financial Statements:*

The following financial statements are included in this Report on Form 10-K:

Independent Auditor's Report

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2007 and 2006

Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

*2. Financial Statement Schedules:*

Schedule II Valuation and Qualifying Accounts.

(b) *Exhibits*

**Title**

Energy Partners, Ltd., dated as of November 16, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to EPL's registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-42876)).

Incorporation of Energy Partners, Ltd., dated as of September 15, 2000 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to EPL's registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-100000)).

Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, Series B Convertible Preferred Stock and Series C Preferred Stock of Energy Partners, Ltd. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to EPL's registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-100000)).

Series D Exchangeable Convertible Preferred Stock of Energy Partners, Ltd. (incorporated by reference to EPL's Form 10-K filed February 27, 2006).

Energy Partners, Ltd.

Incorporation of Energy Partners, Ltd. dated as of May 5, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to EPL's Form 10-Q filed May 9, 2006).

Employee Incentive Plan for Non-Employee Directors (incorporated by reference to EPL's proxy statement on Form 14A filed April 4, 2005 (File No. 001-16179)).

Agreement between Ocean Energy, Inc. and Energy Partners, Ltd. dated as of January 26, 2000 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18, to EPL's registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-100000)).

Employee Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to EPL's proxy statement on Form 14A filed March 27, 2002).



**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
10.4	Offer Letter of Mr. Phillip A. Gobe, dated October 19, 2004 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Form 8-K filed October 25, 2004).
10.5	Energy Partners, Ltd. Change of Control Severance Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the EPL's Form 8-K filed March 30, 2005).
10.6	Energy Partners, Ltd. Change of Control Severance Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the EPL's Form 8-K filed March 30, 2005).
10.7	Form of Stock Option Grant under the Energy Partners, Ltd. 2000 Stock Option Plan for Non-employee Directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 of EPL's Form 10-Q filed August 5, 2004).
10.8	Offer Letter of Mr. Timothy Woodall, dated July 11, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on August 22, 2006).
10.9	Offer Letter to Joseph T. Leary (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on August 21, 2007).
10.10	Form of Indemnity Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on September 14, 2006).
10.11	Form of First Amendment to Change of Control Severance Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on September 14, 2006).
10.12	First Amendment to Energy Partners, Ltd. Change of Control Severance Plan dated September 13, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on September 14, 2006).
10.13*	Form of Second Amendment to Change of Control Severance Agreement.
10.14	First Amendment to Energy Partners, Ltd. Amended and Restated 2000 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of EPL's Form 10-Q filed August 5, 2004).
10.15	Form of Nonqualified Stock Option Grant under the Energy Partners, Ltd. Amended and Restated 2000 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of EPL's Form 10-Q filed August 5, 2004).
10.16	Form of Restricted Share Unit Agreement under the Energy Partners, Ltd. Amended and Restated 2000 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of EPL's Form 10-Q filed August 5, 2004).
10.17	Form of Performance Share Agreement under the Amended and Restated 2000 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of EPL's Form 8-K filed March 30, 2005).
10.18	2006 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to EPL's proxy statement on Form 14A filed April 5, 2006).
10.19	Energy Partners, Ltd. Long Term Stock Incentive Plan Cash Settled Restricted Share Unit Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on June 5, 2007).
10.20	Form of Nonqualified Stock Option Grant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to EPL's Form 10-Q filed on May 3, 2007).
10.21	Form of Restricted Share Unit Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to EPL's Form 10-Q filed on May 3, 2007).
10.22	Amendment to Nonqualified Stock Options Granted to Phillip A. Gobe (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on August 21, 2007).

**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
10.23	Amendment to Restricted Share Unit Agreements Granted Phillip A. Gobe (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on August 21, 2007).
10.24	Amendment to Cash-Settled Restricted Share Unit Agreement Granted Phillip A. Gobe (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on August 21, 2007).
10.25*	General Release between T. Rodney Dykes and Energy Partners, Ltd.
10.26	Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of May 31, 2007, by and between EPL of Louisiana, L.L.C., and Castex Energy 2007, L.P. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on June 18, 2007).
10.27	First Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated, as of June 12, 2007 by and between EPL of Louisiana, L.L.C. and Castex Energy 2007, L.P. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on June 18, 2007).
10.28	Indenture Dated as of April 23, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on April 26, 2007).
10.29	Revolving Credit Facility Dated as of April 23, 2007 among Energy Partners, Ltd., the lenders party thereto and Bank of America, N.A. as Administrative Agent L/C Issuer and Collateral Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on April 26, 2007).
21.1*	Subsidiaries of Energy Partners, Ltd.
23.1*	Consent of KPMG LLP.
23.2*	Consent of Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc.
23.3*	Consent of Ryder Scott Company, L.P.
31.1*	Rule 13a-14a(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Energy Partners, Ltd.
31.2*	Rule 13a-14a(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Energy Partners, Ltd.
32.0*	Section 1350 Certifications.
99.1*	Report of Independent Petroleum Engineers dated as of February 15, 2008.
99.2*	Report of Independent Petroleum Engineers dated as of February 15, 2008.

\* Filed herewith

**Table of Contents****SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

ENERGY PARTNERS, LTD.

By: /s/ RICHARD A. BACHMANN  
**Richard A. Bachmann**

*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this Report has been signed by the following persons on behalf of the registrant in the capacities and on the date indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
/s/ RICHARD A. BACHMANN <b>Richard A. Bachmann</b>	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	March 3, 2008
/s/ JOSEPH T. LEARY <b>Joseph T. Leary</b>	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	March 3, 2008
/s/ DINA M. BRACCI RIVIERE <b>Dina M. Bracci Riviere</b>	Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)	March 3, 2008
/s/ JOHN C. BUMGARNER, JR. <b>John C. Bumgarner, Jr.</b>	Director	March 3, 2008
/s/ JERRY D. CARLISLE <b>Jerry D. Carlisle</b>	Director	March 3, 2008
/s/ HAROLD D. CARTER <b>Harold D. Carter</b>	Director	March 3, 2008
/s/ ENOCH L. DAWKINS <b>Enoch L. Dawkins</b>	Director	March 3, 2008
/s/ NORMAN C. FRANCIS <b>Norman C. Francis</b>	Director	March 3, 2008
/s/ ROBERT D. GERSHEN <b>Robert D. Gershen</b>	Director	March 3, 2008

Edgar Filing: ENERGY PARTNERS LTD - Form 10-K

**Robert D. Gershen**

/s/ PHILLIP A. GOBE Director March 3, 2008

**Phillip A. Gobe**

/s/ WILLIAM R. HERRIN, JR. Director March 3, 2008

**William R. Herrin, Jr.**

/s/ WILLIAM O. HILTZ Director March 3, 2008

**William O. Hiltz**

/s/ JOHN G. PHILLIPS Director March 3, 2008

**John G. Phillips**

**Table of Contents**

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
3.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Energy Partners, Ltd., dated as of November 16, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to EPL's registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-42876)).
3.2	Amendment to Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Energy Partners, Ltd., dated as of September 15, 2000 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to EPL's registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-42876)).
3.3	Certificate of Elimination of the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, Series B Convertible Preferred Stock and Series C Preferred Stock of Energy Partners, Ltd. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of EPL's Form 8-K filed January 22, 2002).
3.4	Certificate of Elimination of the Series D Exchangeable Convertible Preferred Stock of Energy Partners, Ltd. (incorporated by reference to EPL's Form 10-K filed February 27, 2006).
3.5*	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Energy Partners, Ltd.
3.6	Amendment to Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Energy Partners, Ltd. dated as of May 5, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to EPL's Form 10-Q filed May 9, 2006).
10.1	Amended and Restated 2000 Stock Incentive Plan for Non-Employee Directors (incorporated by reference to EPL's proxy statement on Form 14A filed April 4, 2005 (File No. 001-16179)).
10.2	Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between Ocean Energy, Inc. and Energy Partners, Ltd. dated as of January 26, 2000 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18, to EPL's registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-42876)).
10.3	Amended and Restated 2000 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to EPL's proxy statement on Form 14A filed March 27, 2002).
10.4	Offer Letter of Mr. Phillip A. Gobe, dated October 19, 2004 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Form 8-K filed October 25, 2004).
10.5	Energy Partners, Ltd. Change of Control Severance Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the EPL's Form 8-K filed March 30, 2005).
10.6	Energy Partners, Ltd. Change of Control Severance Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the EPL's Form 8-K filed March 30, 2005).
10.7	Form of Stock Option Grant under the Energy Partners, Ltd. 2000 Stock Option Plan for Non-employee Directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 of EPL's Form 10-Q filed August 5, 2004).
10.8	Offer Letter of Mr. Timothy Woodall, dated July 11, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on August 22, 2006).
10.9	Offer Letter to Joseph T. Leary (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on August 21, 2007).
10.10	Form of Indemnity Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on September 14, 2006).
10.11	Form of First Amendment to Change of Control Severance Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on September 14, 2006).
10.12	First Amendment to Energy Partners, Ltd. Change of Control Severance Plan dated September 13, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to EPL's Form 8-K filed on September 14, 2006).

**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
10.13*	Form of Second Amendment to Change of Control Severance Agreement.
10.14	First Amendment to Energy Partners, Ltd. Amended and Restated 2000 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of EPL s Form 10-Q filed August 5, 2004).
10.15	Form of Nonqualified Stock Option Grant under the Energy Partners, Ltd. Amended and Restated 2000 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of EPL s Form 10-Q filed August 5, 2004).
10.16	Form of Restricted Share Unit Agreement under the Energy Partners, Ltd. Amended and Restated 2000 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of EPL s Form 10-Q filed August 5, 2004).
10.17	Form of Performance Share Agreement under the Amended and Restated 2000 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of EPL s Form 8-K filed March 30, 2005).
10.18	2006 Long Term Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to EPL s proxy statement on Form 14A filed April 5, 2006).
10.19	Energy Partners, Ltd. Long Term Stock Incentive Plan Cash Settled Restricted Share Unit Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on June 5, 2007).
10.20	Form of Nonqualified Stock Option Grant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to EPL s Form 10-Q filed on May 3, 2007).
10.21	Form of Restricted Share Unit Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to EPL s Form 10-Q filed on May 3, 2007).
10.22	Amendment to Nonqualified Stock Options Granted to Phillip A. Gobe (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on August 21, 2007).
10.23	Amendment to Restricted Share Unit Agreements Granted Phillip A. Gobe (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on August 21, 2007).
10.24	Amendment to Cash-Settled Restricted Share Unit Agreement Granted Phillip A. Gobe (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on August 21, 2007).
10.25*	General Release between T. Rodney Dykes and Energy Partners, Ltd.
10.26	Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of May 31, 2007, by and between EPL of Louisiana, L.L.C., and Castex Energy 2007, L.P. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on June 18, 2007).
10.27	First Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of June 12, 2007, by and between EPL of Louisiana, L.L.C. and Castex Energy 2007, L.P. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on June 18, 2007).
10.28	Indenture Dated as of April 23, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on April 26, 2007).
10.29	Revolving Credit Facility Dated as of April 23, 2007 among Energy Partners, Ltd., the lenders party thereto and Bank of America, N.A. as Administrative Agent L/C Issuer and Collateral Agent(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to EPL s Form 8-K filed on April 26, 2007).
21.1*	Subsidiaries of Energy Partners, Ltd.
23.1*	Consent of KPMG LLP.

**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
23.2*	Consent of Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc.
23.3*	Consent of Ryder Scott Company, L.P.
31.1*	Rule 13a-14a(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Energy Partners, Ltd.
31.2*	Rule 13a-14a(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Energy Partners, Ltd.
32.0*	Section 1350 Certifications.
99.1*	Report of Independent Petroleum Engineers dated as of February 15, 2008.
99.2*	Report of Independent Petroleum Engineers dated as of February 15, 2008.

\* Filed herewith