

Spectra Energy Partners, LP  
Form S-3ASR  
September 22, 2017

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 22, 2017  
Registration No. 333-

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

Form S-3  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

SPECTRA ENERGY PARTNERS, LP

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 41-2232463

(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer  
incorporation or organization) Identification Number)

5400 Westheimer Court  
Houston, Texas 77056  
(713) 627-5400

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Valorie Wanner  
Associate General Counsel  
5400 Westheimer Court  
Houston, Texas 77056  
(713) 627-5400

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copy to:

Robyn E. Zolman  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP  
1801 California Street, Suite 4200  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
(303) 298-5700

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

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If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

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

Large accelerated filer		Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer	(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company
		Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1)	Amount to be Registered(2)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price per Security	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee(3)
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Common Units

Debt Securities

(1)

Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or together with other securities registered hereunder.

(2)

There is being registered hereunder such indeterminate number or amount of common units and debt securities as may from time to time be issued by the registrant at indeterminate prices and as may be issuable upon conversion, redemption, exchange, exercise or settlement of any securities registered hereunder, including under any applicable antidilution provisions.

(3)

In reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act, the registrant hereby defers payment of the registration fee.

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PROSPECTUS

Spectra Energy Partners, LP

Common Units

Debt Securities

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more series:

- common units representing limited partner interests in Spectra Energy Partners, LP; and
- debt securities of Spectra Energy Partners, LP, which may be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities.

The securities we may offer:

- will be offered at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more accompanying prospectus supplements; and
- may be offered separately or together, or in separate series.

Our common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the symbol “SEP.” We will provide information in the prospectus supplement for the trading market, if any, for any debt securities we may offer.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer to sell securities we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about those securities and the terms of that offering, including the specific manner in which we will offer the securities. The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus may be used to offer and sell securities only if accompanied by a prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. You should also carefully read the documents we refer to in the “Where You Can Find More Information” section of this prospectus for information on us and our financial statements.

Our principal executive offices are located at 5400 Westheimer Court, Houston, Texas 77056. Our telephone number is (713) 627-5400.

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider each of the factors described under “Risk Factors,” referenced on page 6 of this prospectus, before you make an investment in our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is September 22, 2017

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We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information or to make representations other than those contained in this prospectus. We do not take any responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any information that others may give you. You should not assume that the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of each such document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a “shelf” registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer from time to time our common units or debt securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of us and the securities offered under this prospectus.

Each time we sell common units or debt securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering and the securities being offered. The prospectus supplement also may add to, update, or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, the information in the prospectus supplement will control. We urge you to read carefully this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the additional information described below under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by reference to the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed or will be filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below in the section entitled “Where You Can Find More Information.”

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, references in this prospectus to “Spectra Energy Partners,” “we,” “our,” “us” or like terms refer to Spectra Energy Partners, LP. References in this prospectus to our “general partner” refer to Spectra Energy Partners (DE) GP, LP or Spectra Energy Partners GP, LLC, the general partner of Spectra Energy Partners (DE) GP, LP, as appropriate. References to “Enbridge” refer to Enbridge Inc., the ultimate parent company of our general partner.

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ABOUT SPECTRA ENERGY PARTNERS, LP

Spectra Energy Partners, LP, through its subsidiaries and equity affiliates, is engaged in the transmission, storage and gathering of natural gas, and the transportation and storage of crude oil, through interstate pipeline systems in the United States and Canada with over 15,000 miles of transmission and transportation pipelines, the storage of natural gas in underground facilities with aggregate working gas storage capacity of approximately 170 billion cubic feet and crude oil storage of approximately 5.6 million barrels. We are a Delaware master limited partnership formed in 2007. Our common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “SEP.”

We own and operate natural gas transmission, gathering and storage assets, and crude oil transportation and storage assets, in central, southern and eastern United States as well as western Canada. Our assets are strategically located in geographic regions of the United States and Canada where demand, primarily for natural gas used in electricity generation, and crude oil, is expected to increase steadily. We have a broad mix of customers, including local gas distribution companies, municipal utilities, interstate and intrastate pipelines, direct industrial users, electric power generators, marketers and producers, oil refineries, and exploration and production companies. Our interstate gas transmission pipeline and storage operations and our crude oil transportation and storage operations are regulated by either the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Department of Transportation, or the National Energy Board with the exception of Moss Bluff intrastate storage operations and Ozark gathering facilities, which are subject to oversight by various state commissions.

Our operations and activities are managed by our general partner, Spectra Energy Partners (DE) GP, LP, which in turn is managed by its general partner, Spectra Energy Partners GP, LLC (the “Ultimate General Partner”). The Ultimate General Partner is wholly owned by an indirect subsidiary of Enbridge. Enbridge is a separate, publicly traded entity which trades on the Toronto Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) under the symbol “ENB.” As of June 30, 2017, Enbridge and its subsidiaries collectively owned a 75% ownership interest in us (a 73% limited partner interest and a 2% general partner interest), together with 100% of our incentive distribution rights, and the remaining 25% limited partner interest was publicly owned.

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**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and other reports with and furnish other information to the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. You may read and copy any document we file with or furnish to the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-732-0330 for further information on their public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also inspect and copy the information we file with the SEC at the offices of the NYSE at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we have filed with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you without actually including the specific information in this prospectus by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and may replace information in this prospectus and information previously filed with the SEC. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), (excluding any information furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 on any Current Report on Form 8-K) after the date of this prospectus:

- Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, as filed with the SEC on February 24, 2017;
- Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017, as filed with the SEC on May 10, 2017 and August 3, 2017, respectively;
- Our Current Reports on Form 8-K, as filed with the SEC on January 9, 2017, February 7, 2017, February 27, 2017, April 19, 2017, June 7, 2017 and September 7, 2017; and
- The description of our common units contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A, as filed with the SEC on June 22, 2007, and any subsequent amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

You may obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus from the SEC through the SEC's website at the address provided above. You may request a copy of any document incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement (including exhibits to those documents specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement), at no cost, by visiting our website at <http://www.spectraenergypartners.com>, or by writing or calling us at the following address:

Spectra Energy Partners, LP  
5400 Westheimer Court  
Houston, Texas 77056  
Attention: Corporate Secretary  
Telephone: (713) 627-5400

The information contained on our website is not part of this prospectus.

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CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the information included in this prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference herein contain “forward-looking” statements. All statements that are not statements of historical facts, including statements regarding our future financial position, business strategy, budgets, projected costs and plans and objectives of management for future operations, are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are identified by terms and phrases such as: anticipate, believe, intend, estimate, expect, continue, should, could, may, plan, project, predict, will, potential, forecast, and similar expressions. When considering forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements in this prospectus.

These forward-looking statements reflect our intentions, plans, expectations, assumptions and beliefs about future events. Forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are outside our control and could cause actual results to differ materially from the results expressed or implied by those forward-looking statements. Factors used to develop these forward-looking statements and that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in any forward-looking statement include known and unknown risks. Known risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the risk factors and other cautionary statements described under the headings “Risk Factors” included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, any subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and any subsequently filed Current Reports on Form 8-K, all of which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Forward-looking statements may include statements about our:

- state, provincial, federal and foreign legislative and regulatory initiatives that affect cost and investment recovery, have an effect on rate structure, and affect the speed at and degree to which competition enters the natural gas and oil industries;
- outcomes of litigation and regulatory investigations, proceedings or inquiries;
- weather and other natural phenomena, including the economic, operational and other effects of hurricanes and storms;
- the timing and extent of changes in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates;
- general economic conditions, including the risk of a prolonged economic slowdown or decline, or the risk of delay in a recovery, which can affect the long-term demand for natural gas and oil and related services;
- potential effects arising from terrorist attacks and any consequential or other hostilities;
- changes in environmental, safety and other laws and regulations;
- the development of alternative energy resources;
- results and costs of financing efforts, including the ability to obtain financing on favorable terms, which can be affected by various factors, including credit ratings and general market and economic conditions;
-

increases in the cost of goods and services required to complete capital projects;

- growth in opportunities, including the timing and success of efforts to develop U.S. and Canadian pipeline, storage, gathering, and other related infrastructure projects and the effects of competition;
- the performance of natural gas transmission, storage and gathering facilities, and crude oil transportation and storage;
- the extent of success in connecting natural gas and oil supplies to transmission and gathering systems and in connecting to expanding gas and oil markets;
- the effects of accounting pronouncements issued periodically by accounting standard-setting bodies;

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- conditions of the capital markets during the periods covered by these forward-looking statements; and

- the ability to successfully complete merger, acquisition or divestiture plans; regulatory or other limitations imposed as a result of a merger, acquisition or divestiture; and the success of the business following a merger, acquisition or divestiture.

You should read these statements carefully because they discuss our expectations about our future performance, contain projections of our future operating results or our future financial condition, or state other “forward-looking” information. Before you invest, you should be aware that the occurrence of any of the events described under the headings “Risk Factors” included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, any subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and any subsequently filed Current Reports on Form 8-K could substantially harm our business, results of operations and financial condition. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the events described in the forward-looking statements might not occur or might occur to a different extent or at a different time than we have described. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider all of the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and additional information which may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement in the future as provided under “Where You Can Find More Information,” including our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, including the risk factors described under “Risk Factors” in such reports. This prospectus also contains forward looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Please read “Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.” Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in the forward looking statements as a result of certain factors, including the risks described elsewhere in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. If any of these risks occur, our business, financial condition or results of operation could be adversely affected.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated to the contrary in an accompanying prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities covered by this prospectus for general partnership purposes, which may include debt repayment, future acquisitions, capital expenditures and additions to working capital.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges for Spectra Energy Partners, LP for each of the periods indicated is as follows:

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2017	Years Ended December 31,				
		2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	5.4	5.3	5.7	5.2	2.8	2.4

For the purpose of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, “earnings” consist of pre-tax income from continuing operations before income or loss from equity investees, adjusted to reflect distributed income from equity investments, and fixed charges, less capitalized interest. “Fixed charges” consist of interest costs, amortization of debt discount, premiums and issuance costs and the representative interest portion of operating leases.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS

The Common Units

The common units are a class of limited partner interests in us. The holders of common units are entitled to participate in partnership distributions and exercise the rights or privileges available to common unitholders under our partnership agreement. For a description of the rights and privileges of our common unitholders under our partnership agreement, including voting rights, please read “The Partnership Agreement.”

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Duties. American Stock Transfer & Trust Company serves as registrar and transfer agent for the common units. We will pay all fees charged by the transfer agent for transfers of common units except the following that must be paid by common unitholders:

- surety bond premiums to replace lost or stolen certificates, taxes and other governmental charges;
- special charges for services requested by a common unitholder; and
- other similar fees or charges.

There will be no charge to common unitholders for disbursements of our cash distributions. We will indemnify the transfer agent, its agents and each of their stockholders, directors, officers and employees against all claims and losses that may arise out of acts performed or omitted for its activities in that capacity, except for any liability due to any gross negligence or intentional misconduct of the indemnified person or entity.

Resignation or Removal. The transfer agent may resign, by notice to us, or be removed by us. The resignation or removal of the transfer agent will become effective upon our appointment of a successor transfer agent and registrar and its acceptance of the appointment. If no successor has been appointed and has accepted the appointment within 30 days after notice of the resignation or removal, our general partner may act as the transfer agent and registrar until a successor is appointed.

Transfer of Common Units

Any transfer of a common unit will not be recorded by the transfer agent or recognized by us unless the transferee executes and delivers a properly completed transfer application. By executing and delivering a transfer application, the transferee of common units:

- becomes the record holder of the common units and is an assignee until admitted into our partnership as a substituted limited partner;
- automatically requests admission as a substituted limited partner in our partnership;
- executes and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of our partnership agreement;
- represents that the transferee has the capacity, power and authority to enter into our partnership agreement;
- grants powers of attorney to the officers of our general partner and any liquidator of us as specified in our partnership agreement;
-

gives the consents, covenants, representations and approvals contained in our partnership agreement; and

- certifies:

- that the transferee is an individual or is an entity subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by us; or

- that, if the transferee is an entity not subject to United States federal income taxation on the

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income generated by us, as in the case, for example, of a mutual fund taxed as a regulated investment company or a partnership, all the entity's owners are subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by us. A transferee will become a substituted limited partner of our partnership for the transferred common units automatically upon the recording of the transfer on our books and records. Our general partner will cause any unrecorded transfers for which a properly completed and duly executed transfer application has been received to be recorded on our books and records no less frequently than quarterly.

A transferee's broker, agent or nominee may, but is not obligated to, complete, execute and deliver a transfer application. We are entitled to treat the nominee holder of a common unit as the absolute owner. In that case, the beneficial holder's rights are limited solely to those that it has against the nominee holder as a result of any agreement between the beneficial owner and the nominee holder.

Common units are securities and are transferable according to the laws governing transfer of securities. In addition to other rights acquired upon transfer, the transferor gives the transferee the right to request admission as a substituted limited partner in our partnership for the transferred common units. A purchaser or transferee of common units who does not execute and deliver a properly completed transfer application obtains only:

- the right to assign the common unit to a purchaser or other transferee; and
- the right to transfer the right to seek admission as a substituted limited partner in our partnership for the transferred common units.

Thus, a purchaser or transferee of common units who does not execute and deliver a properly completed transfer application:

- will not receive cash distributions;
- will not be allocated any of our income, gain, deduction, losses or credits for federal income tax or other tax purposes;
- may not receive some federal income tax information or reports furnished to record holders of common units; and
- will have no voting rights under our partnership agreement;

unless the common units are held in a nominee or "street name" account and the nominee or broker has executed and delivered a transfer application and certification as to itself and any beneficial holders.

The transferor of common units has a duty to provide the transferee with all information that may be necessary to transfer the common units. The transferor does not have a duty to ensure the execution of the transfer application by the transferee and has no liability or responsibility if the transferee neglects or chooses not to execute and deliver a properly completed transfer application to the transfer agent. Please read "The Partnership Agreement — Status as Limited Partner."

Until a common unit has been transferred on our books, we and the transfer agent may treat the record holder of the common unit as the absolute owner for all purposes, except as otherwise required by law or stock exchange regulations.

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DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We will issue debt securities under an indenture between Spectra Energy Partners, LP and a trustee that we will name in the related prospectus supplement. If we offer senior debt securities, we will issue them under a senior indenture. If we issue subordinated debt securities, we will issue them under a subordinated indenture. The term “Trustee” as used in this prospectus refers to the trustee under either of these two indentures. References in this prospectus to an “Indenture” refer to the particular indenture under which Spectra Energy Partners, LP issues a series of debt securities. The debt securities will be governed by the provisions of the related Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the “Trust Indenture Act”).

This description is a summary of the material provisions of the debt securities and the Indentures. We urge you to read the Indentures or the forms of Indentures filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part because those Indentures, and not this description, govern your rights as a holder of debt securities.

General

Any series of debt securities:

- will be issued only in fully registered form; and

- will be our general obligations.

The Indenture does not limit the total amount of debt securities that may be issued. Debt securities under the Indenture may be issued from time to time in separate series, up to the aggregate amount authorized for each such series.

We will prepare a prospectus supplement and either a supplement to the relevant Indenture or a resolution of the board of directors of our general partner and accompanying officers’ certificate relating to any series of debt securities that we offer, which will include specific terms relating to some or all of the following:

- whether the debt securities are senior or subordinated debt securities;

- the form and title of the debt securities;

- the total principal amount of the debt securities;

- the date or dates on which the debt securities may be issued;

- the portion of the principal amount which will be payable if the maturity of the debt securities is accelerated;

- any right we may have to defer payments of interest by extending the dates payments are due and whether interest on those deferred amounts will be payable;

- the dates on which the principal and premium, if any, of the debt securities will be payable;

- the interest rate which the debt securities will bear and the interest payment dates for the debt securities;

-

any option or conversion provisions;

- 

any optional redemption provisions;

- 

any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to redeem or otherwise repurchase the debt securities;

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whether the debt securities may be issued in amounts other than \$1,000 each or multiples thereof;

- 

any changes to or additional Events of Default or covenants; and

- 

any other terms of the debt securities.

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This description of debt securities will be deemed modified, amended or supplemented by any description of any series of debt securities set forth in a prospectus supplement related to that series.

The prospectus supplement will also describe any material United States federal income tax consequences or other special considerations regarding the applicable series of debt securities, including those relating to:

- debt securities with respect to which payments of principal, premium or interest are determined with reference to an index or formula, including changes in prices of particular securities, currencies or commodities;
- debt securities with respect to which principal, premium or interest is payable in a foreign or composite currency;
- debt securities that are issued at a discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below market rates; and
- variable rate debt securities that are exchangeable for fixed rate debt securities.

Interest payments on debt securities in certificated form may be made by check mailed to the registered holders or, if so stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, at the option of a holder, by wire transfer to an account designated by the holder.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities may be transferred or exchanged at the office of the Trustee at which its corporate trust business is principally administered in the United States, subject to the limitations provided in the Indenture, without the payment of any service charge, other than any applicable tax or other governmental charge.

Any funds paid to the Trustee or any paying agent for the payment of amounts due on any debt securities that remain unclaimed for two years will be returned to us, and the holders of the debt securities must look only to us for payment after that time.

Events of Default, Remedies and Notice

Events of Default

Unless otherwise specified in a supplement to the Indenture, each of the following events will be an “Event of Default” under the Indenture with respect to a series of debt securities:

- default in any payment of interest on any debt securities of that series when due that continues for 30 days;
- default in the payment of principal of or premium, if any, on any debt securities of that series when due at its stated maturity, upon redemption, upon required repurchase or otherwise;
- default in the payment of any sinking fund payment on any debt securities of that series when due;
- failure by us to comply for 60 days after notice with the other agreements contained in the Indenture, any supplement to the Indenture with respect to that series or any board resolution of our general partner authorizing the issuance of that series; or
- certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us.

Exercise of Remedies

If an Event of Default, other than an Event of Default described in the fifth bullet point above, occurs and is continuing, the Trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare the entire principal of, premium, if any, and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately.

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A default under the fourth bullet point above will not constitute an Event of Default until the Trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series notifies us of the default and such default is not cured within 60 days after receipt of notice.

If an Event of Default described in the fifth bullet point above occurs, the principal of, premium, if any, and accrued and unpaid interest on all outstanding debt securities of all series will become immediately due and payable without any declaration of acceleration or other act on the part of the Trustee or any holders.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series may rescind any declaration of acceleration by the Trustee or the holders with respect to the debt securities of that series, but only if:

- rescinding the declaration of acceleration would not conflict with any judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction; and

- all existing Events of Default with respect to that series have been cured or waived, other than the nonpayment of principal, premium or interest on the debt securities of that series that has become due solely by the declaration of acceleration.

If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee will be under no obligation, except as otherwise provided in the Indenture, to exercise any of the rights or powers under the Indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders unless such holders have offered to the Trustee reasonable indemnity or security against any costs, liability or expense. No holder may pursue any remedy with respect to the Indenture or the debt securities of any series, except to enforce the right to receive payment of principal, premium or interest on its own debt securities when due, unless:

- such holder has previously given the Trustee notice that an Event of Default with respect to that series is continuing;

- holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have requested that the Trustee pursue the remedy;

- such holders have offered the Trustee reasonable indemnity or security against any cost, liability or expense;

- the Trustee has not complied with such request within 60 days after the receipt of the request and the offer of indemnity or security; and

- the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have not given the Trustee a direction that is inconsistent with such request within such 60-day period.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series have the right, subject to certain restrictions, to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee or of exercising any right or power conferred on the Trustee with respect to that series of debt securities. The Trustee, however, may refuse to follow any direction that:

- conflicts with law;

- is inconsistent with any provision of the Indenture;

- the Trustee determines is unduly prejudicial to the rights of any other holder; or
- would involve the Trustee in personal liability.

Notice of Event of Default

Within 30 days after the occurrence of an Event of Default, we are required to give written notice to the Trustee and indicate the status of the default and what action we are taking or proposes to take to cure the default. In addition, we are required to deliver to the Trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, a compliance certificate indicating that we have complied with all covenants contained in the Indenture or whether any default or Event of Default has occurred during the previous year.

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Within 90 days after the occurrence of any default known to it, the Trustee must mail to each holder a notice of the default. Except in the case of a default in the payment of principal, premium or interest with respect to any debt securities, the Trustee may withhold such notice, but only if and so long as the board of directors, the executive committee or a committee of directors or responsible officers of the Trustee in good faith determines that withholding such notice is in the interests of the holders.

Amendments and Waivers

We may supplement or amend the Indenture without the consent of any holder of debt securities to, among other things:

- cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;
- provide for the assumption by a successor of our obligations under the Indenture;
- secure the debt securities;
- add covenants for the benefit of the holders or surrender any right or power conferred upon us;
- in the case of any subordinated debt security, to make any change in the subordination provisions that limits or terminates the benefits applicable to any holder of our Senior Indebtedness;
- make any change that does not adversely affect the rights of any holder;
- add or appoint a successor or separate Trustee;
- comply with any requirement of the SEC in connection with the qualification of the Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act; or
- establish the form or terms of the debt securities of any new series.

In addition, we may amend the Indenture if the holders of a majority in principal amount of all debt securities of each series that would be affected then outstanding under the Indenture consent to it. We may not, however, without the consent of each holder of outstanding debt securities of each series that would be affected, amend the Indenture to:

- reduce the percentage in principal amount of debt securities of any series whose holders must consent to an amendment;
- reduce the rate of or extend the time for payment of interest on any debt securities;
- reduce the principal of or extend the stated maturity of any debt securities;



- reduce the premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities or change the time at which any debt securities may or shall be redeemed;
- make any debt securities payable in a currency other than that stated in the debt security;
- in the case of any subordinated debt security, make any change in the subordination provisions that adversely affects the rights of any holder under those provisions;
- impair the right of any holder to receive payment of premium, principal or interest with respect to such holder's debt securities on or after the applicable due date;
- impair the right of any holder to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment with respect to such holder's debt securities;
- release any security that has been granted in respect of the debt securities;
- make any change in the amendment provisions which require each holder's consent; or
- make any change in the waiver provisions.

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The consent of the holders is not necessary under the Indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It is sufficient if such consent approves the substance of the proposed amendment. After an amendment under the Indenture requiring the consent of the holders becomes effective, we are required to mail to all holders a notice briefly describing the amendment. The failure to give, or any defect in, such notice, however, will not impair or affect the validity of the amendment.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each affected series, on behalf of all such holders, and subject to certain rights of the Trustee, may waive:

- compliance with certain restrictive provisions of the Indenture; and

- any past default under the Indenture;

except that such majority of holders may not waive a default:

- in the payment of principal, premium or interest; or

- in respect of a provision that under the Indenture cannot be amended without the consent of all holders of the series of debt securities that is affected.

Satisfaction and Discharge

The Indenture will be discharged and will cease to be of further effect as to all outstanding debt securities of any series issued thereunder, when:

(a)  
either:

(1)  
all outstanding debt securities of that series that have been authenticated (except lost, stolen or destroyed debt securities that have been replaced or paid and debt securities for whose payment money has theretofore been deposited in trust and thereafter repaid to us) have been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation; or

(2)  
all outstanding debt securities of that series that have not been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation have become due and payable or will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee and in any case we have irrevocably deposited with the Trustee as trust funds cash, certain U.S. government obligations or a combination thereof, in such amounts as will be sufficient, to pay the entire indebtedness of such debt securities not delivered to the Trustee for cancellation, for principal, premium, if any, and accrued interest to the stated maturity or redemption date;

(b)  
we have paid or caused to be paid all other sums payable by us under the Indenture with respect to the debt securities of that series; and

(c)  
we have delivered to the Trustee an accountants' certificate as to the sufficiency of the trust funds, without reinvestment, to pay the entire indebtedness of such debt securities at maturity.

Defeasance

At any time, we may terminate, with respect to debt securities of a particular series, all our obligations under such series of debt securities and the Indenture, which we call a “legal defeasance.” If we decide to make a legal defeasance, however, we may not terminate our obligations specified in the Indenture, including those:

- relating to the defeasance trust;
- to register the transfer or exchange of the debt securities;
- to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities; or
- to maintain a registrar and paying agent in respect of the debt securities.

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At any time we may also effect a “covenant defeasance,” which means we have elected to terminate our obligations under covenants applicable to a series of debt securities and described in the prospectus supplement applicable to such series, other than as described in such prospectus supplement, and any Event of Default resulting from a failure to observe such covenants.

The legal defeasance option may be exercised notwithstanding a prior exercise of the covenant defeasance option. If the legal defeasance option is exercised, payment of the affected series of debt securities may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default with respect to that series. If the covenant defeasance option is exercised, payment of the affected series of debt securities may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default specified in the fourth bullet point under “—Events of Default, Remedies and Notice — Events of Default” above or an Event of Default that is added specifically for such series and described in a prospectus supplement.

In order to exercise either defeasance option, we must:

- irrevocably deposit in trust with the Trustee money or certain U.S. government obligations for the payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the series of debt securities to redemption or stated maturity, as the case may be;
- comply with certain other conditions, including that no bankruptcy or default with respect to us has occurred and is continuing 91 days after the deposit in trust; and
- deliver to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that holders of the defeased series of debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance and will be subject to Federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance had not occurred. In the case of legal defeasance only, such opinion of counsel must be based on a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable Federal income tax law.

### No Personal Liability

Our limited partners, directors, officers, employees, incorporators and members will not be liable for:

- any of our obligations under the debt securities or the Indenture; or
- any claim based on, in respect of, or by reason of, such obligations or their creation.

By accepting a debt security, each holder will be deemed to have waived and released all such liability. This waiver and release are part of the consideration for the issuance of the debt securities. This waiver may not be effective, however, to waive liabilities under the Federal securities laws and it is the view of the SEC that such a waiver is against public policy.

Our general partner, however, will not be relieved of any such liability, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### No Protection in the Event of a Change of Control

Unless otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not contain any provisions that protect the holders of the debt securities in the event of our change of control or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction, whether or not such transaction results in our change of control.

### Provisions Relating only to the Senior Debt Securities

The senior debt securities will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other unsubordinated debt. The senior debt securities will be effectively subordinated, however, to all of our secured debt to the extent of the value of the collateral for that debt. We will disclose the amount of our secured debt in the prospectus supplement.

### Provisions Relating only to the Subordinated Debt Securities

Subordinated Debt Securities Subordinated to Senior Indebtedness

The subordinated debt securities will rank junior in right of payment to all of our Senior Indebtedness. "Senior Indebtedness" will be defined in the relevant supplemental indenture or authorizing resolutions of

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our general partner respecting any issuance of a series of subordinated debt securities, and the definition will be set forth in the prospectus supplement.

### Payment Blockages

The subordinated indenture will provide that no payment of principal, interest and any premium on the subordinated debt securities may be made in the event:

- we or our property is involved in any voluntary or involuntary liquidation or bankruptcy;
- we fail to pay the principal, interest, any premium or any other amounts on any of our Senior Indebtedness within any applicable grace period or the maturity of such Senior Indebtedness is accelerated following any other default, subject to certain limited exceptions set forth in the relevant subordinated indenture; or
- any other default on any of our Senior Indebtedness occurs that permits immediate acceleration of its maturity, in which case a payment blockage on the subordinated debt securities will be imposed for a maximum of 179 days at any one time.

### No Limitation on Amount of Senior Debt

The subordinated indenture will not limit the amount of Senior Indebtedness that we may incur, unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement.

### Book Entry, Delivery and Form

The debt securities of a particular series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global certificates (which we refer to as “global debt securities”) that will be deposited with the Trustee as custodian for The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”). This means that we will not issue certificates to each holder except in the limited circumstances described below. Instead, one or more global debt securities will be issued to DTC, who will keep a computerized record of its participants (for example, your broker) whose clients have purchased the debt securities. The participant will then keep a record of its clients who purchased the debt securities. Unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for a certificated debt security, a global debt security may not be transferred, except that DTC, its nominees and their successors may transfer a global debt security as a whole to one another. Beneficial interests in global debt securities will be shown on, and transfers of global debt securities will be made only through, records maintained by DTC and its participants.

DTC has provided us the following information: DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a “banking organization” within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the United States Federal Reserve System, a “clearing corporation” within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a “clearing agency” registered under the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. DTC holds securities that its participants (“Direct Participants”) deposit with DTC. DTC also records the settlement among Direct Participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through computerized records for Direct Participants’ accounts. This eliminates the need to exchange certificates. Direct Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations.

DTC’s book-entry system is also used by other organizations such as securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that work through a Direct Participant. The rules that apply to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

DTC is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (“DTCC”). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries.

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We will wire all payments on the global debt securities to DTC's nominee. We and the Trustee will treat DTC's nominee as the owner of the global debt securities for all purposes. Accordingly, we, the Trustee and any paying agent will have no direct responsibility or liability to pay amounts due on the global debt securities to owners of beneficial interests in the global debt securities.

It is DTC's current practice, upon receipt of any payment on the global debt securities, to credit Direct Participants' accounts on the payment date according to their respective holdings of beneficial interests in the global debt securities as shown on DTC's records. In addition, it is DTC's current practice to assign any consenting or voting rights to Direct Participants whose accounts are credited with debt securities on a record date, by using an omnibus proxy. Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global debt securities, and voting by participants, will be governed by the customary practices between the participants and owners of beneficial interests, as is the case with debt securities held for the account of customers registered in "street name." However, payments will be the responsibility of the participants and not of DTC, the Trustee or us.

Debt securities represented by a global debt security will be exchangeable for certificated debt securities with the same terms in authorized denominations only if:

- DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or if DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under applicable law and in either event a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days; or
- an Event of Default occurs and DTC notifies the Trustee of its decision to exchange the global debt security for certificated debt securities.

### Governing Law

Each Indenture and all of the debt securities will be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

### The Trustee

We will enter into each Indenture with a Trustee that is qualified to act under the Trust Indenture Act and with any other trustee chosen by us and appointed in a supplemental indenture for a particular series of debt securities. Unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, the initial Trustee for each series of debt securities will be Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. We, our general partner, and any other affiliates of Enbridge may maintain a banking relationship in the ordinary course of business with our Trustee and one or more of its affiliates.

### Resignation or Removal of Trustee

If the Trustee has or acquires a conflicting interest within the meaning of the Trust Indenture Act after a default has occurred and is continuing, the Trustee must either eliminate its conflicting interest within 90 days, apply to the SEC for permission to continue as trustee or resign, to the extent and in the manner provided by, and subject to the provisions of, the Trust Indenture Act and the applicable Indenture. Any resignation will require the appointment of a successor trustee under the applicable Indenture in accordance with the terms and conditions of such Indenture. The Trustee may resign or be removed by us with respect to one or more series of debt securities and a successor Trustee may be appointed to act with respect to any such series. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of any series may remove the Trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series.

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Limitations on Trustee if it is Our Creditor

Each Indenture will limit the right of the Trustee, in the event that it becomes a creditor of us, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize on certain property received in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise.

Annual Trustee Report to Holders of Debt Securities

The Trustee is required to submit an annual report to the holders of the debt securities regarding, among other things, the Trustee's eligibility to serve as such, the priority of the Trustee's claims regarding certain advances made by it, and any action taken by the Trustee materially affecting the debt securities.

Certificates and Opinions to be Furnished to Trustee

Each Indenture will provide that, in addition to other certificates or opinions that may be specifically required by other provisions of the Indenture, every application by us for action by the Trustee shall be accompanied by a certificate of certain officers of our general partner and an opinion of counsel (who may be our counsel) stating that, in the opinion of the signers, all conditions precedent to such action have been complied with by us.

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PROVISIONS OF OUR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT RELATING TO CASH DISTRIBUTIONS

Set forth below is a summary of the significant provisions of our partnership agreement that relate to cash distributions. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this section to “units” mean common units and Class B units, and references in this section to “unitholders” mean common unitholders and Class B unitholders.

Distributions of Available Cash

General. Our partnership agreement requires that, within 60 days after the end of each quarter, we distribute all of our available cash with respect to such quarter to unitholders of record on the applicable record date and our general partner with respect to its general partner units and incentive distribution rights.

Definition of Available Cash. Available cash, for any quarter, consists of all cash and cash equivalents on hand at the end of that quarter:

- less the amount of cash reserves established by our general partner to:
- provide for the proper conduct of our business;
- comply with applicable law, any of our debt instruments or other agreements; or
- provide funds for distributions to our unitholders and to our general partner for any one or more of the next four quarters except to the extent it would limit our ability to make minimum quarterly distributions to common unitholders for that quarter;
- plus, if our general partner so determines, all or a portion of cash and cash equivalents on hand on the date of determination of available cash for the quarter.

Minimum Quarterly Distribution. We will distribute to the holders of common units on a quarterly basis at least the minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.30 per unit, or \$1.20 per year, to the extent we have sufficient cash from our operations after establishment of cash reserves and payment of fees and expenses, including payments to our general partner. However, there is no guarantee that we will pay the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units in any quarter. Even if our cash distribution policy is not modified or revoked, the amount of distributions paid under our policy and the decision to make any distribution is determined by our general partner, taking into consideration the terms of our partnership agreement. We will be prohibited from making any distributions to unitholders if it would cause an event of default, or an event of default is existing, under any of our credit agreements.

General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights. Our general partner is entitled through its general partner interest to a proportional share (equal to the ratio of its general partner units over the sum of such units and all units then outstanding) of all quarterly distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. As of July 31, 2017, this general partner interest is represented by 6,315,140 general partner units. If we issue additional units, our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us in exchange for a proportionate number of general partner units to maintain its then current proportional general partner interest. Our general partner’s current 2% interest in these distributions through its general partner interest will be proportionally reduced if we issue additional units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its current 2% general partner interest.

Our general partner also currently holds 100% of the incentive distribution rights that entitle it to receive increasing percentages, from 13% up to a maximum of 48%, of the available cash we distribute from operating surplus (as defined below) in excess of \$0.345 per unit per quarter distributed to our unitholders. Together with its current 2% general partner interest, our general partner is entitled to a maximum distribution of 50% of our available cash distributed from operating surplus for any quarter once each unitholder has received the third target distribution (as

defined below) for such quarter. The maximum distribution of 50% does not include any distributions that our general partner may receive on limited partner units that it owns. Notwithstanding the foregoing, our general partner has agreed to a \$4.0 million reduction of the amount of each quarterly incentive distribution rights distribution payable with respect to

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each quarter beginning with quarter ending December 31, 2015 and ending with the quarter ending on September 30, 2018, provided that such incentive distributions will not be reduced to less than zero in any quarter. Please read “— General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights” for additional information.

Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus

General. All cash distributed to unitholders will be characterized as either “operating surplus” or “capital surplus.” Our partnership agreement requires that we distribute available cash from operating surplus differently than available cash from capital surplus.

Operating Surplus. We define operating surplus in the partnership agreement and for any period it generally means:

- an operating surplus “basket” equal to the sum of (i) two times the amount needed to pay the minimum quarterly distribution on all of our units (including the general partner units) and (ii) two times the amount in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution needed for any quarter to pay a distribution on our common units at the same per-unit amount as was distributed on our common units in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution in the immediately preceding quarter, provided the amount in (ii) will be deemed to be operating surplus only to the extent that the distribution paid in respect of such amounts is paid on our common units; plus
- all of our cash receipts after the closing of our initial public offering of common units, excluding cash from interim capital transactions, as defined below under “— Capital Surplus”; less
- all of our operating expenditures after the closing of our initial public offering of common units, excluding the repayment of borrowings, but including maintenance capital expenditures (including any capital contribution to our equity affiliates to be used by them for maintenance capital expenditures); less
- the amount of cash reserves established by our general partner to provide funds for future operating expenditures.

We define operating expenditures in the partnership agreement, and it generally means all of our expenditures, including, but not limited to, taxes, reimbursement of expenses incurred by our general partner on our behalf, non-pro rata purchases of units (other than those made with the proceeds of an interim capital transaction (as defined below)), interest payments, payments made in the ordinary course of business under interest rate hedge contracts and commodity hedge contracts and maintenance capital expenditures, provided that operating expenditures will not include:

- payments of principal of and premium on indebtedness;
- expansion capital expenditures;
- payment of transaction expenses (including taxes) related to interim capital transactions;
- distributions to our partners; and
- non-pro rata purchases of units of any class made with the proceeds of an interim capital transaction.

Maintenance capital expenditures means cash expenditures (including expenditures for the addition or improvement to our existing capital assets or for the acquisition of existing, or the construction of new, capital assets) if such expenditures are made to maintain, including over the long term, our operating capacity, asset base or income.

Expansion capital expenditures means cash expenditures made to increase our long-term operating capacity, asset base or income, whether through construction or acquisition. Expansion capital expenditures include any capital contribution made to our equity affiliates to be used by them for expansion capital expenditures. Our partnership agreement provides that our general partner, with the concurrence of the conflicts committee of the board of directors of our general partner, determines how to allocate a capital expenditure consisting of both maintenance capital expenditures and expansion capital expenditures between the portion consisting of maintenance capital expenditures and the portion consisting of expansion capital expenditures.

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Capital Surplus. We also define capital surplus in the partnership agreement and in “— Characterization of Cash Distributions” below. Capital surplus generally will be generated only by the following, which we call “interim capital transactions”:

- borrowings, refinancings or refundings of indebtedness;
- sales of our equity and debt securities;
- sales or other dispositions of assets, other than (i) sales or other dispositions of inventory, accounts receivable and other assets in the ordinary course of business and (ii) sales or other dispositions of assets as part of normal retirements or replacements;
- the termination of interest rate hedge contracts or commodity hedge contracts prior to the termination date specified therein;
- capital contributions received; and
- corporate reorganizations or restructurings.

Characterization of Cash Distributions. Our partnership agreement requires that we treat all available cash distributed as coming from operating surplus until the sum of all available cash distributed since the closing of our initial public offering of common units equals the operating surplus as of the most recent date of determination of available cash. Our partnership agreement requires that we treat any amount distributed in excess of operating surplus, regardless of its source, as capital surplus. This amount does not reflect actual cash on hand that is available for distribution to our unitholders. Rather, it is a provision that will enable us, if we choose, to distribute as operating surplus up to this amount of cash we receive in the future from interim capital transactions, that would otherwise be distributed as capital surplus. We do not anticipate that we will make any distributions from capital surplus. The characterization of cash distributions as operating surplus versus capital surplus does not result in a different impact to unitholders for federal tax purposes. Please read “Material Tax Consequences — Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership — Treatment of Distributions” for a discussion of the tax treatment of cash distributions.

Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus

Our partnership agreement requires that we make distributions of available cash from operating surplus for any quarter in the following manner:

- first, 98% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner with respect to its general partner units, until we distribute for each outstanding unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and
- thereafter, in the manner described in “General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights” below.

The preceding discussion is based on the assumptions that our general partner maintains its current general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights

Our partnership agreement provides that our general partner will be entitled through its general partner units to a proportional share (equal to the ratio of its general partner units over the sum of such units and all units then

outstanding) of all quarterly distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. Our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us in exchange for a proportionate number of general partner units to maintain its then current proportional general partner interest if we issue additional units (other than the issuance of Class B units in connection with a reset of the incentive distribution target levels or the issuance of common units upon conversion of outstanding Class B units). Our general partner's current 2% general partner interest, and the percentage of our cash distributions to which it is entitled, will be proportionately reduced if we issue additional units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of

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capital to us in exchange for a proportionate number of general partner units in order to maintain its current 2% general partner interest. Our general partner will be entitled to make such capital contribution in the form of the contribution to us of common units held by our general partner based on the current market value of the contributed common units.

Incentive distribution rights represent the right to receive an increasing percentage (13%, 23% and 48%) of quarterly distributions of available cash from operating surplus after the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels have been achieved. Our general partner currently holds 100% of the incentive distribution rights, but may transfer these rights separately from its general partner interest, subject to restrictions in the partnership agreement. The following discussion assumes that our general partner maintains its current 2% general partner interest and continues to own 100% of the incentive distribution rights. The percentage interests shown for our general partner include its current 2% general partner interest and the incentive distribution rights.

If for any quarter we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the common unitholders in an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution, then our partnership agreement requires that we distribute any additional available cash from operating surplus for that quarter among the unitholders and our general partner in the following manner:

- first, 98% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner with respect to its general partner units, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.345 per unit for that quarter (the “first target distribution”);
- second, 85% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 15% to our general partner with respect to its general partner units and its incentive distribution rights, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.375 per unit for that quarter (the “second target distribution”);
- third, 75% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 25% to our general partner with respect to its general partner units and its incentive distribution rights, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.45 per unit for that quarter (the “third target distribution”); and
- thereafter, 50% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 50% to our general partner with respect to its general partner units and its incentive distribution rights.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, our general partner has agreed to a \$4.0 million reduction of the amount of each quarterly incentive distribution rights distribution payable with respect to each quarter beginning with the quarter ending December 31, 2015 and ending with the quarter ending on September 30, 2018, provided that such incentive distributions will not be reduced to less than zero in any quarter.

### General Partner’s Right to Reset Incentive Distribution Levels

Our general partner, as the holder of our incentive distribution rights, has the right under our partnership agreement to elect to relinquish the right to receive incentive distribution payments based on the initial cash target distribution levels and to reset, at higher levels, the minimum quarterly distribution amount and cash target distribution levels upon which the incentive distribution payments to our general partner would be set. Our general partner’s right to reset the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels upon which the incentive distributions payable to our general partner are based may be exercised, without approval of our unitholders or the conflicts committee of the board of directors of our general partner, at any time when we have made cash distributions to the holders of the incentive distribution rights at the highest level of incentive distribution for each of the prior four consecutive fiscal quarters. The reset minimum quarterly distribution amount and target distribution levels will be higher than the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels prior to the reset such that our general partner will not receive any incentive distributions under the reset target distribution levels until cash distributions per unit following this event increase as described below. We anticipate that our general partner would

exercise this reset right in order to facilitate acquisitions or internal growth projects that would otherwise not be sufficiently accretive to cash distributions per common unit, taking into account the existing levels of incentive distribution payments being made to our general partner.

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In connection with the resetting of the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels and the corresponding relinquishment by our general partner of incentive distribution payments based on the target cash distributions prior to the reset, our general partner will be entitled to receive a number of newly issued Class B units based on a predetermined formula described below that takes into account the “cash parity” value of the average cash distributions related to the incentive distribution rights received by our general partner for the two quarters prior to the reset event as compared to the average cash distributions per common unit during this period.

The number of Class B units that our general partner would be entitled to receive from us in connection with a resetting of the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels then in effect would be equal to (x) the average amount of cash distributions received by our general partner in respect of its incentive distribution rights during the two consecutive fiscal quarters ended immediately prior to the date of such reset election divided by (y) the average of the amount of cash distributed per common unit during each of these two quarters. Each Class B unit will be convertible into one common unit at the election of the holder of the Class B unit at any time following the first anniversary of the issuance of these Class B units. The issuance of Class B units will be conditioned upon approval of the listing or admission for trading of the common units into which the Class B units are convertible by the national securities exchange on which the common units are then listed or admitted for trading. Each Class B unit will receive the same level of distribution as a common unit on a pari passu basis with other unitholders.

Following a reset election by our general partner, the minimum quarterly distribution amount will be reset to an amount equal to the average cash distribution amount per common unit for the two fiscal quarters immediately preceding the reset election (such amount is referred to as the “reset minimum quarterly distribution”) and the target distribution levels will be reset to be correspondingly higher such that we would distribute all of our available cash from operating surplus for each quarter thereafter as follows:

- first, 98% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner with respect to its general partner units, until each unitholder receives an amount equal to 115% of the reset minimum quarter distribution for that quarter;
- second, 85% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 15% to our general partner with respect to its general partner units and its incentive distribution rights, until each unitholder receives an amount per unit equal to 125% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter;
- third, 75% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 25% to our general partner with respect to its general partner units and its incentive distribution rights, until each unitholder receives an amount per unit equal to 150% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and
- thereafter, 50% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 50% to our general partner with respect to its general partner units and its incentive distribution rights.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, our general partner has agreed to a \$4.0 million reduction of the amount of each quarterly incentive distribution rights distribution payable with respect to each quarter beginning with the quarter ending December 31, 2015 and ending with the quarter ending on September 30, 2018, provided that such incentive distributions will not be reduced to less than zero in any quarter.

Distributions from Capital Surplus

How Distributions from Capital Surplus Will Be Made. Our partnership agreement requires that we make distributions of available cash from capital surplus, if any, in the following manner:

- first, 98% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner with respect to its general partner units, until a hypothetical holder of a common unit acquired in our initial public offering of common units has recovered with respect to such common unit an amount of available cash from capital surplus equal to the initial public offering price

per unit; and

- thereafter, we will make all distributions of available cash from capital surplus as if they were from operating surplus.

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**Effect of a Distribution from Capital Surplus.** Our partnership agreement treats a distribution of capital surplus as the repayment of the initial unit price from our initial public offering of common units, which is a return of capital. The initial public offering price less any distributions of capital surplus per unit is referred to as the “unrecovered initial unit price.” Each time a distribution of capital surplus is made, the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels will be reduced in the same proportion as the corresponding reduction in the unrecovered initial unit price. However, any distribution of capital surplus before the unrecovered initial unit price is reduced to zero cannot be applied to the payment of the minimum quarterly distribution.

Once we distribute capital surplus on a unit issued in our initial public offering of common units in an amount equal to the initial unit price, our partnership agreement specifies that the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels will be reduced to zero. Our partnership agreement specifies that we then make all future distributions from operating surplus, with 50% being paid to the holders of units and 50% to our general partner. The percentage interests shown for our general partner include its 2% general partner interest and assume our general partner has not transferred the incentive distribution rights.

### **Adjustment to the Minimum Quarterly Distribution and Target Distribution Levels**

In addition to adjusting the minimum quarterly distribution and target distribution levels to reflect a distribution of capital surplus, if we combine our units into fewer units or subdivide our units into a greater number of units, our partnership agreement specifies that the following items will be proportionately adjusted:

- the minimum quarterly distribution;
- target distribution levels; and
- the unrecovered initial unit price.

For example, if a two-for-one split of the common units should occur, the minimum quarterly distribution, the target distribution levels and the unrecovered initial unit price would each be reduced to 50% of its current level. Our partnership agreement provides that we not make any adjustment by reason of the issuance of additional units for cash or property.

In addition, if legislation is enacted or if existing law is modified or interpreted by a governmental authority, so that we become taxable as a corporation or otherwise subject to taxation as an entity for federal, state or local income tax purposes, our partnership agreement specifies that our general partner may reduce the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels for each quarter by multiplying each distribution level by a fraction, the numerator of which is available cash for that quarter and the denominator of which is the sum of available cash for that quarter plus our general partner’s estimate of our aggregate liability for the quarter for such income taxes payable by reason of such legislation or interpretation. To the extent that the actual tax liability differs from the estimated tax liability for any quarter, the difference will be accounted for in subsequent quarters.

### **Distributions of Cash Upon Liquidation**

**General.** If we dissolve in accordance with the partnership agreement, we will sell or otherwise dispose of our assets in a process called liquidation. We will first apply the proceeds of liquidation to the payment of our creditors. We will distribute any remaining proceeds to the unitholders and our general partner, in accordance with their capital account balances, as adjusted to reflect any gain or loss upon the sale or other disposition of our assets in liquidation. Any net gain in excess of unrecovered capital recognized upon liquidation will be allocated in a manner that takes into account the incentive distribution rights of our general partner.

**Manner of Adjustments for Gain.** Adjustment for gain is generally allocated in the following manner:

- first, to our general partner and the holders of units who have negative balances in their capital accounts to the extent of and in proportion to those negative balances;



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- second, 98% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner, until the capital account for each common unit is equal to the sum of: (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; and (2) the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs;

- third, 98% to the Class B unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner, until the capital account for each Class B unit is equal to the sum of: (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; and (2) the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs;

- fourth, 98% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner, until we allocate under this paragraph an amount per unit equal to the sum of: (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; (2) the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs; and (3) the excess of the first target distribution per unit over the minimum quarterly distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence over the cumulative amount per unit of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution per unit that we distributed 98% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 2% to our general partner, for each quarter of our existence (the “first liquidation target amount”);

- fifth, 85% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 15% to our general partner, until we allocate under this paragraph an amount per unit equal to the sum of: (1) the first liquidation target amount and (2) the excess of the second target distribution per unit less the first target distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence; over the cumulative amount per unit of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the first target distribution per unit that we distributed 85% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 15% to our general partner for each quarter of our existence (the “second liquidation target amount”);

- sixth, 75% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 25% to our general partner, until we allocate under this paragraph an amount per unit equal to the sum of: (1) the second liquidation target amount and (2) the excess of the third target distribution per unit less the second target distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence; over the cumulative amount per unit of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the second target distribution per unit that we distributed 75% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 25% to our general partner for each quarter of our existence (the “third liquidation target amount”); and

- thereafter, 50% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 50% to our general partner.

The percentage interests set forth above for our general partner include its 2% general partner interest and assume our general partner has not transferred the incentive distribution rights.

Manner of Adjustments for Losses. Adjustment for loss is generally allocated in the following manner:

- first, 98% to holders of Class B units in proportion to the positive balances in their capital accounts and 2% to our general partner, until the capital accounts of the Class B unitholders have been reduced to zero;

- second, 98% to the holders of common units in proportion to the positive balances in their capital accounts and 2% to our general partner, until the capital accounts of the common unitholders have been reduced to zero; and

thereafter, 100% to our general partner.

Adjustments to Capital Accounts. Our partnership agreement requires that we make adjustments to capital accounts upon the issuance of additional units. In this regard, our partnership agreement specifies that we allocate any unrealized and, for tax purposes, unrecognized gain or loss resulting from the adjustments to the unitholders and our general partner in the same manner as we allocate gain or loss upon liquidation. In the event that we make positive adjustments to the capital accounts upon the issuance of additional units, our partnership agreement requires that we allocate any later negative adjustments to the capital accounts resulting from the issuance of additional units or upon our liquidation in a manner which results, to the extent possible, in our general partner's capital account balances equaling the amount which they would have been if no earlier positive adjustments to the capital accounts had been made.

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### THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The following is a summary of the material provisions of our partnership agreement. Our Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership, as amended, is filed as an exhibit to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015. Please read “Where You Can Find More Information.” We will provide prospective investors with a copy of our partnership agreement upon request at no charge.

We summarize the following provisions of our partnership agreement elsewhere in this prospectus:

- with regard to distributions of available cash, please read “Provisions of Our Partnership Agreement Relating to Cash Distributions;”
- with regard to the transfer of common units, please read “Description of the Common Units — Transfer of Common Units;” and
- with regard to allocations of taxable income and taxable loss, please read “Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences.”

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this section to “units” mean common units and Class B units, and references in this section to “unitholders” mean common unitholders and Class B unitholders.

#### Organization and Duration

Our partnership was organized March 19, 2007 and will have a perpetual existence.

#### Purpose

Our purpose under the partnership agreement is limited to any business activity that is approved by our general partner and that lawfully may be conducted by a limited partnership organized under Delaware law; provided, that our general partner shall not cause us to engage, directly or indirectly, in any business activity that our general partner determines would cause us to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes.

Although our general partner has the ability to cause us and our subsidiaries to engage in activities other than the business of transmitting, storing and gathering natural gas, and transporting and storing crude oil, through interstate pipeline systems in the United States and Canada, our general partner has no current plans to do so and may decline to do so free of any fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or our limited partners, including any duty to act in good faith or in the best interests of us or our limited partners. Our general partner is authorized in general to perform in its capacity as our general partner all acts it determines to be necessary or appropriate to carry out our purposes and to conduct our business, and for the protection and benefit of our partnership.

#### Power of Attorney

Each of our limited partners, and each person who acquires a unit from a unitholder, by accepting the unit, automatically grants to our general partner and, if appointed, a liquidator, a power of attorney to, among other things, execute and file documents required for our qualification, continuance or dissolution. The power of attorney also grants our general partner the authority to amend, and to make consents and waivers under, our partnership agreement.

#### Cash Distributions

Our partnership agreement specifies the manner in which we will make cash distributions to holders of our common units and other partnership securities issued by us as well as to our general partner in respect of its general partner interest and its incentive distribution rights. For a description of these cash distribution provisions, please read “Provisions of Our Partnership Agreement Relating to Cash Distributions.”

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**Capital Contributions**

Unitholders are not obligated to make additional capital contributions to us, except as described below under “— Limited Liability.”

For a discussion of our general partner’s right to contribute capital to us to maintain its then current proportional general partner interest if we issue additional units, please read “— Issuance of Additional Securities.”

**Voting Rights**

The following is a summary of the unitholder vote required for the matters specified below. Matters requiring the approval of a “unit majority” require the approval of a majority of the outstanding common units (including Class B units, if any), voting as a single class.

In voting their common units or Class B units, our general partner and its affiliates will have no fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or any of our other limited partners, including any duty to act in good faith or in the best interests of us or the limited partners.

Issuance of additional units	No approval right.
Amendment of our partnership agreement	Certain amendments may be made by our general partner without the approval of the unitholders. Other amendments generally require the approval of a unit majority. Please read “— Amendment of the Partnership Agreement.”
Merger of our partnership or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets	Unit majority in certain circumstances. Please read “— Merger, Consolidation, Conversion, Sale or Other Disposition of Assets.”
Dissolution of our partnership	Unit majority. Please read “— Termination and Dissolution.”
Continuation of our business upon dissolution	Unit majority. Please read “— Termination and Dissolution.”
Withdrawal of the general partner	No approval right. Please read “— Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner.”
Removal of the general partner	Not less than 66 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> % of the outstanding units, voting as a single class, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates. Please read “— Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner.”
Transfer of the general partner interest	No approval right. Please read “— Transfer of General Partner Units.”
Transfer of incentive distribution rights	No approval right. Please read “— Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights.”
Transfer of ownership interests in our general partner	No approval required at any time. Please read “— Transfer of Ownership Interests in the General Partner.”

**Limited Liability**

Assuming that a limited partner of ours does not participate in the control of our business within the meaning of the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act (which we refer to as the “Delaware Act”) and that such limited partner otherwise acts in conformity with the provisions of our partnership agreement, such limited partner’s liability under the Delaware Act will be limited, subject to possible exceptions, to the amount of capital such limited partner is obligated to contribute to us for such limited partner’s common units plus such limited partner’s share of any undistributed profits and assets. If it were determined, however, that the right, or exercise of the right, by our limited partners as a group:



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- to remove or replace our general partner;

- to approve some amendments to our partnership agreement; or

- to take other action under our partnership agreement;

constituted “participation in the control” of our business for the purposes of the Delaware Act, then our limited partners could be held personally liable for our obligations under the laws of Delaware, to the same extent as our general partner. This liability would extend to persons who transact business with us who reasonably believe that the limited partner is a general partner. Neither our partnership agreement nor the Delaware Act specifically provides for legal recourse against our general partner if a limited partner were to lose limited liability through any fault of our general partner. While this does not mean that a limited partner could not seek legal recourse, we know of no precedent for this type of a claim in Delaware case law.

Under the Delaware Act, a limited partnership may not make a distribution to a partner if, after the distribution, all liabilities of the limited partnership, other than liabilities to partners on account of their partnership interests and liabilities for which the recourse of creditors is limited to specific property of the partnership, would exceed the fair value of the assets of the limited partnership. For the purpose of determining the fair value of the assets of a limited partnership, the Delaware Act provides that the fair value of property subject to liability for which recourse of creditors is limited shall be included in the assets of the limited partnership only to the extent that the fair value of that property exceeds the nonrecourse liability. The Delaware Act provides that a limited partner who receives a distribution and knew at the time of the distribution that the distribution was in violation of the Delaware Act shall be liable to the limited partnership for the amount of the distribution for three years. Under the Delaware Act, a substituted limited partner of a limited partnership is liable for the obligations of the assignor to make contributions to the partnership, except that such person is not obligated for liabilities unknown to such person at the time such person became a limited partner and that could not be ascertained from the partnership agreement.

Our subsidiaries conduct business in numerous states and we may have subsidiaries that conduct business in additional states in the future. Maintenance of our limited liability as owner of our operating subsidiaries may require compliance with legal requirements in the jurisdictions in which our operating subsidiaries conduct business, including qualifying our subsidiaries to do business there.

Limitations on the liability of limited partners for the obligations of a limited partnership have not been clearly established in many jurisdictions. If, by virtue of our ownership interest in our operating subsidiaries or otherwise, it were determined that we were conducting business in any state without compliance with the applicable limited partnership or limited liability company statute, or that the right or exercise of the right by the limited partners as a group to remove or replace our general partner, to approve some amendments to the partnership agreement, or to take other action under our partnership agreement constituted “participation in the control” of our business for purposes of the statutes of any relevant jurisdiction, then the limited partners could be held personally liable for our obligations under the law of that jurisdiction to the same extent as our general partner under the circumstances. We will operate in a manner that our general partner considers reasonable and necessary or appropriate to preserve the limited liability of our limited partners.

#### Issuance of Additional Securities

Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of additional partnership securities for the consideration and on the terms and conditions determined by our general partner without the approval of the unitholders.

It is possible that we will fund acquisitions through the issuance of additional common units or other partnership securities. Holders of any additional common units we issue will be entitled to share equally with the then-existing holders of common units in our distributions of available cash. In addition, the issuance of additional common units or other partnership securities may dilute the value of the interests of the then-existing holders of common units in our

net assets.

In accordance with Delaware law and the provisions of our partnership agreement, we may also issue additional partnership securities that, as determined by our general partner, may have special voting rights

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to which the common units are not entitled. In addition, our partnership agreement does not prohibit the issuance by our subsidiaries of equity securities, which may effectively rank senior to the common units.

Upon issuance of additional partnership securities of ours (other than the issuance of Class B units in connection with a reset of the incentive distribution target levels or the issuance of common units upon conversion of outstanding Class B units), our general partner will be entitled, but not required, to make additional capital contributions to us, in exchange for a proportionate number of general partner units, to the extent necessary to maintain its then current proportional general partner interest in us. Our general partner's current 2% general partner interest in us will be proportionally reduced if we issue additional units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its current 2% general partner interest. Moreover, our general partner will have the right, which it may from time to time assign in whole or in part to any of its affiliates, to purchase common units or other partnership securities whenever, and on the same terms that, we issue those securities to persons other than our general partner and its affiliates, to the extent necessary to maintain the percentage interest of our general partner and its affiliates, including such interest represented by common units, that existed immediately prior to each issuance. The holders of common units other than our general partner will not have preemptive rights to acquire additional common units or other partnership securities of ours.

Amendment of the Partnership Agreement

General. Amendments to our partnership agreement may be proposed only by or with the consent of our general partner. However, our general partner will have no duty or obligation to propose any such amendment and may decline to do so free of any fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or our limited partners, including any duty to act in good faith or in the best interests of us or our limited partners. In order to adopt a proposed amendment, other than the amendments discussed below, our general partner is required to seek written approval of the holders of the number of units required to approve the amendment or call a meeting of our limited partners to consider and vote upon the proposed amendment. Except as described below, an amendment must be approved by a unit majority.

Prohibited Amendments. No amendment may be made to our partnership agreement that would:

- enlarge the obligations of any limited partner without its consent, unless approved by a majority of the type or class of limited partner interests so affected; or
- enlarge the obligations of, restrict in any way any action by or rights of, or reduce in any way the amounts distributable, reimbursable or otherwise payable by us to our general partner or any of its affiliates without the consent of our general partner, which consent may be given or withheld at its option.

The provision of our partnership agreement preventing the amendments having the effects described in any of the clauses above can be amended upon the approval of the holders of at least 90% of the outstanding units voting together as a single class (including units owned by our general partner and its affiliates).

No Unitholder Approval. Our general partner may generally make amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any of our limited partners to reflect:

- a change in our name, the location of our principal place of our business, our registered agent or our registered office;
- the admission, substitution, withdrawal or removal of partners in accordance with our partnership agreement;
- a change that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate to qualify or continue our qualification as a limited partnership or a partnership in which the limited partners have limited liability under the laws of any state or to ensure that neither we nor any of our operating subsidiaries will be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxed as an entity for federal income tax purposes;

- an amendment that is necessary, in the opinion of our counsel, to prevent us or our general partner or its directors, officers, agents or trustees from in any manner being subjected to the

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provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, or “plan asset” regulations adopted under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or ERISA, whether or not substantially similar to plan asset regulations currently applied or proposed;

- an amendment that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate for the authorization of additional partnership securities or rights to acquire partnership securities, including any amendment that our general partner determines is necessary or appropriate in connection with:

- the adjustments of the minimum quarterly distribution, first target distribution, second target distribution and third target distribution in connection with the reset of our general partner’s incentive distribution rights as described under “Provisions of Our Partnership Agreement Relating to Cash Distributions — General Partner’s Right to Reset Incentive Distribution Levels”; or

- the implementation of the provisions relating to our general partner’s right to reset its incentive distribution rights in exchange for Class B units; and

- any modification of the incentive distribution rights made in connection with our issuance of additional partnership securities or rights to acquire partnership securities, provided that, any such modifications and related issuance of partnership securities have received approval by a majority of the members of the conflicts committee of the board of directors of our general partner;

- any amendment expressly permitted in our partnership agreement to be made by our general partner acting alone;

- an amendment effected, necessitated or contemplated by a merger agreement that has been approved under the terms of our partnership agreement;

- any amendment that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate for the formation by us of, or our investment in, any corporation, partnership or other entity, as otherwise permitted by our partnership agreement;

- a change in our fiscal year or taxable year and related changes;

- conversions into, mergers with or conveyances to another limited liability entity that is newly formed and has no assets, liabilities or operations at the time of the conversion, merger or conveyance other than those it receives by way of the conversion, merger or conveyance; or

- any other amendments substantially similar to any of the matters described in the clauses above.

In addition, our general partner may make amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any of our limited partners if our general partner determines that those amendments:

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do not adversely affect in any material respect the limited partners considered as a whole or any particular class of limited partners as compared to other classes of limited partners;

- are necessary or appropriate to satisfy any requirements, conditions or guidelines contained in any opinion, directive, order, ruling or regulation of any federal or state agency or judicial authority or contained in any federal or state statute;
- are necessary or appropriate to facilitate the trading of limited partner interests or to comply with any rule, regulation, guideline or requirement of any securities exchange on which the limited partner interests are or will be listed for trading;
- are necessary or appropriate in connection with any action taken by our general partner relating to splits or combinations of units under the provisions of our partnership agreement; or
- are required to effect the intent expressed in this prospectus or the intent of the provisions of our partnership agreement or are otherwise contemplated by our partnership agreement.

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**Opinion of Counsel and Unitholder Approval.** For amendments to our partnership agreement of the type not requiring unitholder approval, our general partner will not be required to obtain an opinion of counsel that an amendment will not result in a loss of limited liability to our limited partners or result in our being treated as an entity for federal income tax purposes in connection with any of the amendments. No other amendments to our partnership agreement will become effective without the approval of holders of at least 90% of the outstanding units voting as a single class unless we first obtain an opinion of counsel to the effect that the amendment will not affect the limited liability under applicable law of any of our limited partners.

In addition to the above restrictions, any amendment to our partnership agreement that would have a material adverse effect on the rights or preferences of any type or class of outstanding units in relation to other classes of units will require the approval of a majority of the type or class of units so affected. Any amendment that reduces the voting percentage required to take any action is required to be approved by the affirmative vote of limited partners whose aggregate outstanding units constitute not less than the voting requirement sought to be reduced.

### **Merger, Consolidation, Conversion, Sale or Other Disposition of Assets**

A merger, consolidation or conversion of us requires the prior consent of our general partner. However, our general partner will have no duty or obligation to consent to any merger, consolidation or conversion and may decline to do so free of any fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or our limited partners, including any duty to act in good faith or in the best interest of us or our limited partners.

In addition, our partnership agreement generally prohibits our general partner without the prior approval of the holders of a unit majority, from causing us to, among other things, sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets in a single transaction or a series of related transactions, including by way of merger, consolidation or other combination, or approving on our behalf the sale, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of our subsidiaries. Our general partner may, however, mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or grant a security interest in all or substantially all of our assets without that approval. Our general partner may also sell all or substantially all of our assets under a foreclosure or other realization upon those encumbrances without that approval. Finally, our general partner may consummate any merger without the prior approval of our unitholders if we are the surviving entity in the transaction, our general partner has received an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters, the transaction would not result in a material amendment to our partnership agreement, each of our units will be an identical unit of our partnership following the transaction, and the partnership securities to be issued do not exceed 20% of our outstanding partnership securities immediately prior to the transaction.

If the conditions specified in the partnership agreement are satisfied, our general partner may convert us or any of our subsidiaries into a new limited liability entity or merge us or any of our subsidiaries into, or convey all of our assets to, a newly formed entity if the sole purpose of that conversion, merger or conveyance is to effect a mere change in our legal form into another limited liability entity, our general partner has received an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters, and the governing instruments of the new entity provide the limited partners and our general partner with the same rights and obligations as contained in our partnership agreement. The unitholders are not entitled to dissenters' rights of appraisal under our partnership agreement or applicable Delaware law in the event of a conversion, merger or consolidation, a sale of substantially all of our assets or any other similar transaction or event.

### **Termination and Dissolution**

We will continue as a limited partnership until terminated under our partnership agreement. We will dissolve upon:

- the election of our general partner to dissolve us, if approved by the holders of units representing a unit majority;
- there being no limited partners, unless we are continued without dissolution in accordance with applicable Delaware law;

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- the entry of a decree of judicial dissolution of our partnership; or

- the withdrawal or removal of our general partner or any other event that results in its ceasing to be our general partner other than by reason of a transfer of its general partner interest in accordance with our partnership agreement or withdrawal or removal following approval and admission of a successor.

Upon a dissolution under the last clause above, the holders of a unit majority may also elect, within specific time limitations, to continue our business on the same terms and conditions described in our partnership agreement by appointing as a successor general partner an entity approved by the holders of units representing a unit majority, subject to our receipt of an opinion of counsel to the effect that:

- the action would not result in the loss of limited liability of any of our limited partners; and

- neither our partnership nor any of our subsidiaries would be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise be taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes upon the exercise of that right to continue.

Liquidation and Distribution of Proceeds

Upon our dissolution, unless we are continued as a new limited partnership, the liquidator authorized to wind up our affairs will, acting with all of the powers of our general partner that are necessary or appropriate to liquidate our assets and apply the proceeds of the liquidation as described in “Provisions of Our Partnership Agreement Relating to Cash Distributions — Distributions of Cash Upon Liquidation.” The liquidator may defer liquidation or distribution of our assets for a reasonable period of time or distribute assets to our partners in kind if it determines that a sale would be impractical or would cause undue loss to our partners.

Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner

Our general partner may withdraw as general partner without first obtaining approval of any unitholder by giving 90 days’ written notice, and that withdrawal will not constitute a violation of our partnership agreement. Notwithstanding the information above, our general partner may withdraw without unitholder approval upon 90 days’ notice to the limited partners if at least 50% of the outstanding common units are held or controlled by one person and its affiliates other than our general partner and its affiliates. In addition, the partnership agreement permits our general partner in some instances to sell or otherwise transfer all of its general partner interest in us and all of its incentive distribution rights without the approval of the unitholders. Please read “— Transfer of General Partner Units” and “— Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights.”

Upon withdrawal of our general partner under any circumstances, other than as a result of a transfer by our general partner of all or a part of its general partner interest in us, the holders of a unit majority, voting as separate classes, may select a successor to that withdrawing general partner. If a successor is not elected, or is elected but an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters cannot be obtained, we will be dissolved, wound up and liquidated, unless within a specified period after that withdrawal, the holders of a unit majority agree in writing to continue our business and to appoint a successor general partner. Please read “— Termination and Dissolution.”

Our general partner may not be removed unless that removal is approved by the vote of the holders of not less than 66<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% of the outstanding units, voting together as a single class, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates, and we receive an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters. Any removal of our general partner is also subject to the approval of a successor general partner by the vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding common units and Class B units, if any, voting as a separate class. The ownership of more than 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% of the outstanding units by our general partner and its affiliates would give them the practical ability to prevent our general partner’s removal.

Our partnership agreement also provides that if our general partner is removed as our general partner under circumstances where cause does not exist and units held by our general partner and its affiliates are not voted in favor



of that removal, our general partner will have the right to convert its general partner interest and its incentive distribution rights into common units or to receive cash in exchange for those interests based on the fair market value of those interests at that time.

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In the event of removal of a general partner under circumstances where cause exists or withdrawal of a general partner where that withdrawal violates our partnership agreement, a successor general partner will have the option to purchase the general partner interest and incentive distribution rights of the departing general partner for a cash payment equal to the fair market value of those interests. Under all other circumstances where a general partner withdraws or is removed by the limited partners, the departing general partner will have the option to require the successor general partner to purchase the general partner interest of the departing general partner and its incentive distribution rights for fair market value. In each case, this fair market value will be determined by agreement between the departing general partner and the successor general partner. If no agreement is reached, an independent investment banking firm or other independent expert selected by the departing general partner and the successor general partner will determine the fair market value. Or, if the departing general partner and the successor general partner cannot agree upon an expert, then an expert chosen by agreement of the experts selected by each of them will determine the fair market value.

If the option described above is not exercised by either the departing general partner or the successor general partner, the departing general partner's general partner interest and its incentive distribution rights will automatically convert into common units equal to the fair market value of those interests as determined by an investment banking firm or other independent expert selected in the manner described in the preceding paragraph.

In addition, we will be required to reimburse the departing general partner for all amounts due the departing general partner, including, without limitation, all employee-related liabilities, including severance liabilities, incurred for the termination of any employees employed by the departing general partner or its affiliates for our benefit.

### Transfer of General Partner Units

Our general partner is permitted to transfer all or any of its general partner units without unitholder approval. As a condition of this transfer, the transferee must assume, among other things, the rights and duties of our general partner, agree to be bound by the provisions of our partnership agreement, and furnish an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters.

Our general partner and its affiliates may at any time, transfer common units to one or more persons, without unitholder approval.

### Transfer of Ownership Interests in the General Partner

At any time, Enbridge and its affiliates may sell or transfer all or part of their partnership interests in our general partner, or their membership interest in Spectra Energy Partners GP, LLC, the general partner of our general partner, to an affiliate or third party without the approval of our unitholders.

### Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights

Our general partner or any other holder of incentive distribution rights may transfer any or all of its incentive distribution rights without unitholder approval.

### Change of Management Provisions

Our partnership agreement contains specific provisions that are intended to discourage a person or group from attempting to remove Spectra Energy Partners (DE) GP, LP as our general partner or otherwise change our management. If any person or group other than our general partner and its affiliates acquires beneficial ownership of 20% or more of any class of units, that person or group loses voting rights on all of its units. This loss of voting rights does not apply to any person or group that acquires the units from our general partner or its affiliates and any transferees of that person or group approved by our general partner or to any person or group who acquires the units with the prior approval of the board of directors of our general partner.

Our partnership agreement also provides that if our general partner is removed as our general partner under circumstances where cause does not exist and units held by our general partner and its affiliates are not voted in favor of that removal, our general partner will have the right to convert its general partner units

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and its incentive distribution rights into common units or to receive cash in exchange for those interests based on the fair market value of those interests at that time.

### Limited Call Right

If at any time our general partner and its affiliates own more than 80% of the then-issued and outstanding limited partner interests of any class, our general partner will have the right, which it may assign in whole or in part to any of its affiliates or to us, to acquire all, but not less than all, of the limited partner interests of the class held by unaffiliated persons as of a record date to be selected by our general partner, on at least 10 but not more than 60 days' notice. The purchase price in the event of this purchase is the greater of:

- the highest cash price paid by either of our general partner or any of its affiliates for any limited partner interests of the class purchased within the 90 days preceding the date on which our general partner first mails notice of its election to purchase those limited partner interests; and
- the current market price as of the date three days before the date the notice is mailed.

As a result of our general partner's right to purchase outstanding limited partner interests, a holder of limited partner interests may have his limited partner interests purchased at a price that may be lower than market prices at various times prior to such purchase or lower than a unitholder may anticipate the market price to be in the future.

The tax consequences to a unitholder of the exercise of this call right are the same as a sale by that unitholder of his common units in the market. Please read "Material Tax Consequences — Disposition of Common Units."

### Non-Taxpaying Assignees; Redemption

To avoid any adverse effect on the maximum applicable rates chargeable to customers by our subsidiaries that are regulated interstate natural gas and oil pipelines, or in order to reverse an adverse determination that has occurred regarding such maximum rates, transferees (including purchasers from the underwriters in offerings) are required to furnish a properly completed transfer application certifying, and our general partner, acting on our behalf, may at any time require each unitholder to re-certify that such transferee is not an Ineligible Holder (as defined in our partnership agreement) as of the date of such transfer application.

If a unitholder fails to furnish:

- a transfer application containing the required certification;
- a re-certification containing the required certification within 30 days after request; or
- provides a false certification; then

we will have the right, which we may assign to any of our affiliates, to acquire all but not less than all of the units held by such unitholder. Further, the units will not be entitled to any allocations of income or loss, distributions or voting rights while held by such unitholder.

The purchase price in the event of such an acquisition for each unit held by such unitholder will be the average of the daily closing prices of the units on the national securities exchange on which the units are then listed or admitted for trading for the twenty trading days prior to the date fixed for redemption. The purchase price will be paid in cash or by delivery of a promissory note, as determined by our general partner. Any such promissory note will bear interest at the rate of 5% annually and be payable in three equal annual installments of principal and accrued interest, commencing one year after the redemption date.

### Meetings; Voting

Except as described below regarding a person or group owning 20% or more of any class of units then outstanding, record holders of units on the record date will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, meetings of our limited partners

and to act upon matters for which approvals may be solicited.

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Our general partner does not anticipate that any meeting of unitholders will be called in the foreseeable future. Any action that is required or permitted to be taken by the unitholders may be taken either at a meeting of the unitholders or without a meeting if consents in writing describing the action so taken are signed by holders of the number of units necessary to authorize or take that action at a meeting. Meetings of the unitholders may be called by our general partner or by unitholders owning at least 20% of the outstanding units of the class for which a meeting is proposed. Unitholders may vote either in person or by proxy at meetings. The holders of a majority of the outstanding units of the class or classes for which a meeting has been called represented in person or by proxy will constitute a quorum unless any action by the unitholders requires approval by holders of a greater percentage of the units, in which case the quorum will be the greater percentage.

Each record holder of a unit has a vote according to his percentage interest in us based on the number of units held by such holder as to the total number of outstanding units, although additional limited partner interests having special voting rights could be issued. However, if at any time any person or group acquires, in the aggregate, beneficial ownership of 20% or more of any class of units then outstanding, other than our general partner, its affiliates, their transferees and persons who acquired such units with the prior approval of the board of directors of our general partner, that person or group will lose voting rights on all of its units and the units may not be voted on any matter and will not be considered to be outstanding when sending notices of a meeting of unitholders, calculating required votes, determining the presence of a quorum or for other similar purposes. Common units held in nominee or street name account will be voted by the broker or other nominee in accordance with the instruction of the beneficial owner unless the arrangement between the beneficial owner and his nominee provides otherwise.

Any notice, demand, request, report or proxy material required or permitted to be given or made to record holders of common units under our partnership agreement will be delivered to the record holder by us or by the transfer agent.

### Status as Limited Partner

By transfer of common units in accordance with our partnership agreement, each transferee of common units shall be admitted as a limited partner with respect to the common units transferred when such transfer and admission is reflected in our books and records. Except as described under “— Limited Liability,” the common units will be fully paid, and unitholders will not be required to make additional contributions.

### Non-Citizen Assignees; Redemption

If we are or become subject to federal, state or local laws or regulations that, in the reasonable determination of our general partner, create a substantial risk of cancellation or forfeiture of any property that we have an interest in because of the nationality, citizenship or other related status of any limited partner, we may redeem the units held by the limited partner at their current market price on the redemption date. In order to avoid any cancellation or forfeiture, our general partner may require each limited partner to furnish information about his nationality, citizenship or related status. If a limited partner fails to furnish information about his nationality, citizenship or other related status within 30 days after a request for the information or our general partner determines after receipt of the information that the limited partner is not an eligible citizen, the limited partner may be treated as a non-citizen assignee. A non-citizen assignee is entitled to an interest equivalent to that of a limited partner for the right to share in allocations and distributions from us, including liquidating distributions. A non-citizen assignee does not have the right to direct the voting of his units and may not receive distributions in-kind upon our liquidation.

### Indemnification

Under our partnership agreement, in most circumstances, we will indemnify the following persons, to the fullest extent permitted by law, from and against all losses, claims, damages or similar events:

- our general partner;
  
- any departing general partner;

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- any person who is or was an affiliate of a general partner or any departing general partner;

- any person who is or was a director, officer, member, partner, fiduciary or trustee of any entity set forth in the preceding three bullet points;

- any person who is or was serving as director, officer, member, partner, fiduciary or trustee of another person at the request of our general partner or any departing general partner; and

- any person designated by our general partner.

Any indemnification under these provisions will only be out of our assets. Unless it otherwise agrees, our general partner will not be personally liable for, or have any obligation to contribute or lend funds or assets to us to enable us to effectuate, indemnification. We may purchase insurance against liabilities asserted against and expenses incurred by persons for our activities, regardless of whether we would have the power to indemnify the person against liabilities under our partnership agreement.

Reimbursement of Expenses

Our partnership agreement requires us to reimburse our general partner for all direct and indirect expenses it incurs or payments it makes on our behalf and all other expenses allocable to us or otherwise incurred by our general partner in connection with operating our business. These expenses include salary, bonus, incentive compensation and other amounts paid to persons who perform services for us or on our behalf and expenses allocated to our general partner by its affiliates. Our general partner is entitled to determine in good faith the expenses that are allocable to us.

Books and Reports

Our general partner is required to keep appropriate books of our business at our principal offices. The books will be maintained for both tax and financial reporting purposes on an accrual basis. For tax and fiscal reporting purposes, our fiscal year is the calendar year.

We will furnish or make available to record holders of common units, within 120 days after the close of each fiscal year, an annual report containing audited financial statements and a report on those financial statements by our independent public accountants. Except for our fourth quarter, we will also furnish or make available summary financial information within 90 days after the close of each quarter.

We will furnish each record holder of a unit with information reasonably required for tax reporting purposes within 90 days after the close of each calendar year. This information is expected to be furnished in summary form so that some complex calculations normally required of partners can be avoided. Our ability to furnish this summary information to unitholders will depend on the cooperation of unitholders in supplying us with specific information. Every unitholder will receive information to assist him in determining his federal and state tax liability and filing his federal and state income tax returns, regardless of whether he supplies us with information.

Right to Inspect Our Books and Records

Our partnership agreement provides that a limited partner of ours can, for a purpose reasonably related to his interest as a limited partner, upon reasonable written demand stating the purpose of such demand and at his own expense, have furnished to him:

- a current list of the name and last known address of each partner of ours;

- a copy of our tax returns;

information as to the amount of cash, and a description and statement of the agreed value of any other property or services, contributed or to be contributed by each partner to us and the date on which each partner became a partner;

- 

copies of our partnership agreement, our certificate of limited partnership, related amendments and powers of attorney under which they have been executed;

- 

information regarding the status of our business and financial condition; and

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- any other information regarding our affairs as is just and reasonable.

Our general partner may, and intends to, keep confidential from our limited partners, trade secrets or other information the disclosure of which our general partner believes in good faith is not in our best interests or that we are required by law or by agreements with third parties to keep confidential.

Registration Rights

Under our partnership agreement, we have agreed to register for resale under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and applicable state securities laws any common units or other partnership securities proposed to be sold by our general partner or any of its affiliates or their assignees if an exemption from the registration requirements is not otherwise available. These registration rights continue for two years following any withdrawal or removal of Spectra Energy Partners (DE) GP, LP as general partner. We are obligated to pay all expenses incidental to the registration, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions.

Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of interest exist and may arise in the future as a result of the relationships between our general partner and its affiliates (including Enbridge), on the one hand, and our partnership and any other partners of ours, on the other hand. The directors and officers of Spectra Energy Partners GP, LLC have fiduciary duties to manage Spectra Energy Partners GP, LLC and our general partner in a manner beneficial to its owners. At the same time, whenever our general partner, acting in its capacity as our general partner, the board of directors of our general partner, or the conflicts committee of the board of directors of our general partner (which we refer to as the “conflicts committee”), makes a determination or takes or declines to take any other action, our general partner, its board of directors, or the conflicts committee, as applicable, has a duty to act in good faith and shall not be subject to any other or different standards imposed by our partnership agreement, any other agreement, the Delaware Act, or any other law, rule or regulation, as provided in our partnership agreement.

Whenever a conflict arises between our general partner or its affiliates, on the one hand, and us or any other partner of ours, on the other hand, our general partner will resolve that conflict. Our partnership agreement contains provisions that modify and limit our general partner’s fiduciary duties to us and our unitholders. Our partnership agreement also restricts the remedies available to our unitholders for actions taken by our general partner that, without those limitations, might constitute breaches of fiduciary duty.

Our general partner will not be in breach of its obligations under our partnership agreement or its duties to us or our unitholders, or any duty stated or implied by law, if the resolution or course of action in respect of such conflict is:

- approved by a majority of the members of the conflicts committee, although our general partner is not obligated to seek such approval;

- approved by the vote of a majority of the outstanding common units, excluding any common units owned by our general partner or any of its affiliates;

- on terms no less favorable to us than those generally being provided to or available from unrelated third parties; or

- fair and reasonable to us, taking into account the totality of the relationships among the parties involved, including other transactions that may be particularly favorable or advantageous to us.

If (i) our general partner seeks approval of such resolution or course of action by the conflicts committee, then it will be presumed that, in making its decision, the conflicts committee acted in good faith, and (ii) our general partner does not seek approval from the conflicts committee and the board of directors of Spectra Energy Partners GP, LLC determines that the resolution or course of action taken with respect to the conflict of interest satisfies either of the



standards set forth in the third and fourth bullet points above, then it will be presumed that, in making its decision, the board of directors acted in good faith, and, in either case, in any proceeding brought by or on behalf of any of our limited partners or us challenging such resolutions or action, the person bringing or prosecuting such proceeding will have the burden of

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overcoming such presumption. Unless the resolution of a conflict is specifically provided for in our partnership agreement, our general partner or the conflicts committee may consider any factors it determines in good faith to consider when resolving a conflict. When our partnership agreement provides that someone act in good faith, it requires that person to believe he is acting in the best interests of our partnership.

Fiduciary Duties

Duties owed by our general partner, its board of directors, and the conflicts committee to us and our unitholders are prescribed by law and our partnership agreement. The Delaware Act provides that Delaware limited partnerships may, in their partnership agreements, modify, restrict or expand the fiduciary duties otherwise owed by a general partner to limited partners and the partnership.

Our partnership agreement contains various provisions modifying and restricting the fiduciary duties that might otherwise be owed by our general partner or its board of directors to us and our unitholders. We have adopted these restrictions to allow our general partner or its affiliates to engage in transactions with us that would otherwise be prohibited by state-law fiduciary duty standards and to take into account the interests of other parties in addition to our interests when resolving conflicts of interest. We believe this is appropriate and necessary because our general partner's board of directors will have fiduciary duties to manage our general partner in a manner beneficial to its owners. Whenever our general partner, acting in its capacity as our general partner, the board of directors of our general partner, or the conflicts committee makes a determination or takes or declines to take any other action, our general partner, its board of directors, or the conflicts committee, as applicable, has a duty to act in good faith and shall not be subject to any other or different standards imposed by our partnership agreement, any other agreement, the Delaware Act, or any other law, rule or regulation, as provided in our partnership agreement. Without these modifications, our general partner's ability to make decisions involving conflicts of interest would be restricted. The modifications to the fiduciary standards enable our general partner to take into consideration all parties involved in the proposed action. These modifications also enable our general partner to attract and retain experienced and capable directors. These modifications are detrimental to our common unitholders because they restrict the remedies available to unitholders for actions that, without those limitations, might constitute breaches of fiduciary duty, and permit our general partner to take into account the interests of third parties in addition to our interests when resolving conflicts of interest. The following is a summary of the material restrictions of the duties owed by our general partner and its board of directors to us and our limited partners:

Partnership agreement modified standards	<p>Our partnership agreement contains provisions that waive or consent to conduct by our general partner and its affiliates that might otherwise raise issues about compliance with duties or applicable law. For example, our partnership agreement provides that when our general partner is acting in its capacity as our general partner, as opposed to in its individual capacity, it must act in "good faith" and will not be subject to any other standard under applicable law. In addition, when our general partner is acting in its individual capacity, as opposed to in its capacity as our general partner, it may act without any fiduciary obligation to us or the unitholders whatsoever. These standards reduce the obligations to which our general partner would otherwise be held.</p> <p>In addition to the other more specific provisions limiting the obligations of our general partner, our partnership agreement further provides that our general partner and its officers and directors will not be liable for monetary damages to us, our limited partners or assignees for errors of judgment or for</p>
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any acts or omissions unless there has been a final and non-appealable judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction determining that the general partner or its officers and directors acted in bad faith or engaged in fraud or willful misconduct or in the case of a criminal matter, acted with knowledge that the conduct was criminal.

Our partnership agreement generally provides that affiliated transactions and resolutions of conflicts of interest not involving a vote of unitholders and that are not approved by the conflicts committee of the board of directors of our general partner must be:

Special provisions regarding affiliated transactions

- on terms no less favorable to us than those generally being provided to or available from unrelated third parties; or
- “fair and reasonable” to us, taking into account the totality of the relationships between the parties involved (including other transactions that may be particularly favorable or advantageous to us).

If our general partner does not seek approval from the conflicts committee and its board of directors determines that the resolution or course of action taken with respect to the conflict of interest satisfies either of the standards set forth in the bullet points above, then it will be presumed that, in making its decision, the board of directors, which may include board members affected by the conflict of interest, acted in good faith and in any proceeding brought by or on behalf of any limited partner or the partnership, the person bringing or prosecuting such proceeding will have the burden of overcoming such presumption. These standards reduce the obligations to which our general partner would otherwise be held.

By purchasing our common units, each common unitholder automatically agrees to be bound by the provisions in the partnership agreement, including the provisions discussed above. Please read “Description of the Common Units — Transfer of Common Units.” This is in accordance with the policy of the Delaware Act favoring the principle of freedom of contract and the enforceability of partnership agreements. The failure of a limited partner or assignee to sign a partnership agreement does not render the partnership agreement unenforceable against that person.

Under our partnership agreement, we must indemnify our general partner and its officers, directors, managers and certain other specified persons, to the fullest extent permitted by law, against liabilities, costs and expenses incurred by our general partner or these other persons. We must provide this indemnification unless there has been a final and non-appealable judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction determining that these persons acted in bad faith or engaged in fraud or willful misconduct. We must also provide this indemnification for criminal proceedings unless our general partner or these other persons acted with knowledge that their conduct was unlawful. Thus, our general partner could be indemnified for its negligent acts if it meets the requirements set forth above. To the extent these provisions purport to include indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act, in the opinion of the SEC, such indemnification is contrary to public policy and, therefore, unenforceable. Please read “— Indemnification.”

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### MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

This section summarizes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to prospective unitholders and is based upon current provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), existing and proposed U.S. Treasury regulations thereunder (the “Treasury Regulations”), and current administrative rulings and court decisions, all of which are subject to change (possibly with retroactive effect). Changes in these authorities may cause the federal income tax consequences to a prospective unitholder to vary substantially from those described below. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this section to “we” or “us” are references to Spectra Energy Partners and its subsidiaries, and references to “units” or “unitholders” are references to common units and common unitholders.

Legal conclusions contained in this section, unless otherwise noted, are the opinion of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP insofar as they relate to matters of U.S. federal income tax law and are based on the accuracy of representations made by us to them for this purpose. However, this section does not address all federal income tax matters that affect us or our unitholders and does not describe the application of the alternative minimum tax that may be applicable to certain unitholders. Furthermore, this section focuses on unitholders who are individuals who are citizens or residents of the United States (for federal income tax purposes), who have the U.S. dollar as their functional currency, who use the calendar year as their taxable year, who purchase units subject to this registration statement, who do not materially participate in the conduct of our business activities and who hold units as capital assets (typically, property that is held for investment). This section has limited applicability to corporations, partnerships (including other entities treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes), estates, trusts, non-resident aliens or other unitholders subject to specialized tax treatment, such as tax-exempt entities, non-U.S. persons, individual retirement accounts (“IRAs”), employee benefit plans, real estate investment trusts or mutual funds, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities, U.S. persons whose “functional currency” is not the U.S. dollar, persons holding their units as part of a “straddle,” “hedge,” “conversion transaction” or other risk reduction transaction, and persons deemed to sell their units under the constructive sale provisions of the Code. Accordingly, we encourage each unitholder to consult the unitholder’s own tax advisor in analyzing the federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax consequences particular to that unitholder resulting from ownership or disposition of units and potential changes in applicable tax laws.

We are relying on opinions and advice of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP with respect to the matters described herein. Unlike a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”), an opinion of counsel represents only that counsel’s best legal judgment and does not bind the IRS or a court. Accordingly, the opinions and statements made herein may not be sustained by a court if contested by the IRS. Any such contest of the matters described herein may materially and adversely impact the market for our units and the prices at which our units trade. In addition, our costs of any contest with the IRS will be borne indirectly by our unitholders and our general partner because the costs will reduce our cash available for distribution. Furthermore, the tax consequences of an investment in us, may be significantly modified by future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions, which may be retroactively applied.

For the reasons described below, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has not rendered an opinion with respect to the following federal income tax issues: (1) the treatment of a unitholder whose units are the subject of a securities loan (e.g., a loan to a short seller to cover a short sale of units) (please read “— Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership — Treatment of Securities Loans”); (2) whether our monthly convention for allocating taxable income and losses is permitted by existing Treasury Regulations (please read “— Disposition of Units — Allocations Between Transferor and Transferees”); and (3) whether our method for taking into account Section 743 adjustments is sustainable in certain cases (please read “— Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership — Section 754 Election” and “— Uniformity of Units”).

### Taxation of the Partnership

#### Partnership Status

We expect to be treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes and, therefore, subject to the discussion below under “Administrative Matters — Information Returns and Audit Procedures,” will generally not be liable for entity-level federal income taxes. Instead, as described below, each of our

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unitholders will take into account its respective share of our items of income, gain, loss and deduction in computing its federal income tax liability as if the unitholder had earned such income directly, even if we make no cash distributions to the unitholder. Distributions we make to a unitholder will not give rise to income or gain taxable to such unitholder, unless the amount of cash distributed exceeds the unitholder's adjusted tax basis in its units.

Section 7704 of the Code provides that publicly-traded partnerships will be treated as corporations for federal income tax purposes. However, if 90% or more of a partnership's gross income for every taxable year it is publicly-traded consists of "qualifying income," the partnership may continue to be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes (the "Qualifying Income Exception"). Qualifying income includes income and gains derived from the exploration, development, mining or production, processing, refining, transportation or the marketing of any mineral or natural resource (such as crude oil, natural gas, refined products and NGLs) as well as other types of qualifying income such as interest (other than from a financial business), dividends, gains from the sale of real property and gains from the sale or other disposition of capital assets held for the production of income that otherwise constitutes qualifying income. We estimate that less than 5% of our current gross income is not qualifying income; however, this estimate could change from time to time.

Based upon and subject to this estimate, the factual representations made by us and our general partner regarding the composition of our income and the other representations set forth below, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP is of the opinion that we will be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. In rendering its opinion, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has relied on factual representations made by us and our general partner. The representations made by us and our general partner upon which Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has relied include, without limitation:

(a)

Neither we nor any of our partnership or limited liability company subsidiaries has elected to be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes;

(b)

For each taxable year since the year of our initial public offering, more than 90% of our gross income has been income of a character that Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has opined is "qualifying income" within the meaning of Section 7704(d) of the Code; and

(c)

Each hedging transaction that we treat as resulting in qualifying income has been appropriately identified as a hedging transaction pursuant to applicable Treasury Regulations, and has been associated with crude oil, natural gas, or products thereof that are held or to be held by us in activities that Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has opined generate qualifying income.

We believe that these representations are true and will be true in the future.

If we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, other than a failure that is determined by the IRS to be inadvertent and that is cured within a reasonable time after discovery (in which case the IRS may also require us to make adjustments with respect to our unitholders or pay other amounts), we will be treated as transferring all of our assets, subject to all of our liabilities, to a newly formed corporation, on the first day of the year in which we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, in return for stock in that corporation and then as distributing that stock to our unitholders in liquidation. This deemed contribution and liquidation should not result in the recognition of taxable income by our unitholders or us so long as the aggregate amount of our liabilities does not exceed the adjusted tax basis of our assets. Thereafter, we would be treated as an association taxable as a corporation for federal income tax purposes.

The present federal income tax treatment of publicly traded partnerships, including us, or an investment in our common units may be modified by administrative or legislative action or judicial interpretation at any time. For example, from time to time, members of the U.S. Congress propose and consider substantive changes to the existing federal income tax laws that affect publicly traded partnerships. These changes could eliminate the Qualifying Income Exception upon which we rely for our treatment as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes or otherwise make it difficult or impossible to be treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We are unable to

predict whether any such legislative or regulatory changes or other proposals will ultimately be enacted or adopted. However, it is possible that a change in law could affect us and may be applied retroactively. Any such change could negatively impact the value of an investment in our units. Moreover, while we believe the income that we treat as qualifying

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income satisfies the requirements for qualifying income under applicable legal requirements, including the final qualifying income Treasury Regulations effective as of January 19, 2017, the IRS could take a position that is contrary to our interpretation of (a) Section 7704 of the Code, (b) the final qualifying income Treasury Regulations, or (c) other applicable guidance.

If for any reason we are taxable as a corporation in any taxable year, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction would be taken into account by us in determining the amount of our liability for federal income tax, rather than being passed through to our unitholders. Our taxation as a corporation would materially reduce the cash available for distribution to unitholders and thus would likely substantially reduce the value of our units. Any distribution made to a unitholder at a time we are treated as a corporation would be (i) a taxable dividend to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, then (ii) a nontaxable return of capital to the extent of the unitholder's adjusted tax basis in its units (determined separately for each unit), and thereafter (iii) taxable capital gain.

At the state level, several states have been evaluating ways to subject partnerships to entity-level taxation through the imposition of state income, franchise, or other forms of taxation. Imposition of a similar tax on us in the jurisdictions in which we operate or in other jurisdictions to which we may expand could substantially reduce our cash available for distribution to our unitholders.

The remainder of this discussion is based on the opinion of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP that we will be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

### Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership

#### Limited Partner Status

Unitholders who have been admitted as limited partners of Spectra Energy Partners will be treated as partners of Spectra Energy Partners for federal income tax purposes. Also:

(a)

assignees who have executed and delivered transfer applications, and are awaiting admission as limited partners, and

(b)

unitholders whose common units are held in street name or by a nominee and who have the right to direct the nominee in the exercise of all substantive rights attendant to the ownership of their common units, will be treated as partners of Spectra Energy Partners for federal income tax purposes.

As there is no direct or indirect controlling authority addressing the federal tax treatment of assignees of common units who are entitled to execute and deliver transfer applications and thereby become entitled to direct the exercise of attendant rights, but who fail to execute and deliver transfer applications, the opinion of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP does not extend to these persons. Furthermore, a purchaser or other transferee of common units who does not execute and deliver a transfer application may not receive some federal income tax information or reports furnished to record holders of common units unless the common units are held in a nominee or street name account and the nominee or broker has executed and delivered a transfer application for those common units.

For a discussion related to the risks of losing partner status as a result of securities loans, please read “— Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership — Treatment of Securities Loans.” Unitholders who are not treated as partners in us as described above are urged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences applicable to them under their particular circumstances.

#### Flow-Through of Taxable Income

Subject to the discussion below under “— Entity-Level Collections of Unitholder Taxes” with respect to payments we may be required to make on behalf of our unitholders and the discussion below under “Administrative Matters,” we will not pay any federal income tax. Rather, each unitholder will be required to report on its federal income tax return each year its share of our income, gains, losses and deductions for our taxable year or years ending with or within its taxable year. Consequently, we may allocate income to a unitholder even if that unitholder has not received a cash distribution.

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### Basis of Units

A unitholder's tax basis in its units initially will be the amount paid for those units, increased by the unitholder's initial allocable share (as measured for federal income tax purposes) of our "nonrecourse liabilities" (liabilities for which no partner bears the economic risk of loss). That basis will be (i) increased by the unitholder's share of our income and any increases in such unitholder's share of our nonrecourse liabilities, and (ii) decreased, but not below zero, by the amount of all distributions to the unitholder, the unitholder's share of our losses, and any decreases in the unitholder's share of our nonrecourse liabilities and its share of our expenditures that are neither deductible nor required to be capitalized. The IRS has ruled that a partner who acquires interests in a partnership in separate transactions must combine those interests and maintain a single adjusted tax basis for all of those interests.

### Treatment of Distributions

Distributions by us to a unitholder will not be taxable to the unitholder unless such distributions exceed the unitholder's adjusted tax basis in its units, in which case the unitholder will recognize gain taxable in the manner described below under "— Disposition of Units."

Any reduction in a unitholder's share of our "nonrecourse liabilities" will be treated as a distribution by us of cash to that unitholder. A decrease in a unitholder's percentage interest in us because of our issuance of additional units may decrease the unitholder's share of our nonrecourse liabilities. For purposes of the foregoing, a unitholder's share of our nonrecourse liabilities will be based upon that unitholder's share of the unrealized appreciation (or depreciation) in our assets, to the extent thereof, with any excess liabilities allocated based on the unitholder's share of our profits. Please read "— Disposition of Units."

A non-pro rata distribution of money or property (including a deemed distribution as a result of the reallocation of our nonrecourse liabilities described above) may cause a unitholder to recognize ordinary income, if the distribution reduces the unitholder's share of our "unrealized receivables," including depreciation and depletion recapture and substantially appreciated "inventory items," both as defined in Section 751 of the Code ("Section 751 Assets"). To the extent of such reduction, the unitholder would be deemed to receive its proportionate share of the Section 751 Assets and exchange such assets with us in return for a portion of the non-pro rata distribution. This deemed exchange will result in the unitholder's recognition of ordinary income in an amount equal to the excess of (1) the non-pro rata portion of that distribution over (2) the unitholder's tax basis (typically zero) in the Section 751 Assets deemed to be relinquished in the exchange.

### Limitations on Deductibility of Losses

A unitholder may not be entitled to deduct the full amount of loss we allocate to it because its share of our losses will be limited to the lesser of (i) the unitholder's adjusted tax basis in its units, and (ii) in the case of a unitholder that is an individual, estate, trust or a corporate unitholder (if more than 50% of the value of the corporate unitholder's stock is owned directly or indirectly by or for five or fewer individuals or some tax-exempt organizations), the amount for which the unitholder is considered to be "at risk" with respect to our activities. A unitholder will be at risk to the extent of its adjusted tax basis in its units, reduced by (1) any portion of that basis attributable to the unitholder's share of our nonrecourse liabilities, (2) any portion of that basis representing amounts otherwise protected against loss because of a guarantee, stop loss agreement or similar arrangement and (3) any amount of money the unitholder borrows to acquire or hold its units, if the lender of those borrowed funds owns an interest in us, is related to another unitholder or can look only to the units for repayment.

A unitholder subject to the at risk limitation must recapture losses deducted in previous years to the extent that distributions (including distributions deemed to result from a reduction in a unitholder's share of nonrecourse liabilities) cause the unitholder's at risk amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year. Losses disallowed to a unitholder or recaptured as a result of the basis or at risk limitations will carry forward and will be allowable as a deduction in a later year to the extent that the unitholder's adjusted tax basis or at risk amount, whichever is the limiting factor, is subsequently increased. Upon a



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taxable disposition of units, any gain recognized by a unitholder can be offset by losses that were previously suspended by the at risk limitation but not losses suspended by the basis limitation. Any loss previously suspended by the at risk limitation in excess of that gain can no longer be used, and will not be available to offset a unitholder's salary or active business income.

In addition to the basis and at risk limitations, a passive activity loss limitation limits the deductibility of losses incurred by individuals, estates, trusts, some closely-held corporations and personal service corporations from "passive activities" (such as trade or business activities in which the taxpayer does not materially participate). The passive loss limitations are applied separately with respect to each publicly-traded partnership. Consequently, any passive losses we generate will be available to offset only passive income generated by us. Passive losses that exceed a unitholder's share of passive income we generate may be deducted in full when the unitholder disposes of all of its units in a fully taxable transaction with an unrelated party. The passive loss rules are applied after other applicable limitations on deductions, including the at risk and basis limitations.

### Limitations on Interest Deductions

The deductibility of a non-corporate taxpayer's "investment interest expense" is limited to the amount of that taxpayer's "net investment income." Investment interest expense includes:

- interest on indebtedness properly allocable to property held for investment;
- our interest expense attributed to portfolio income; and
- the portion of interest expense incurred to purchase or carry an interest in a passive activity to the extent attributable to portfolio income.

The computation of a unitholder's investment interest expense will take into account interest on any margin account borrowing or other loan incurred to purchase or carry a unit. Net investment income includes gross income from property held for investment and amounts treated as portfolio income under the passive loss rules, less deductible expenses other than interest directly connected with the production of investment income. Net investment income does not include qualified dividend income or gains attributable to the disposition of property held for investment. A unitholder's share of a publicly-traded partnership's portfolio income and, according to the IRS, net passive income will be treated as investment income for purposes of the investment interest expense limitation.

### Entity-Level Collections of Unitholder Taxes

If we are required or elect under applicable law to pay any federal, state, local or non-U.S. tax on behalf of any current or former unitholder or our general partner, we are authorized to treat the payment as a distribution of cash to the relevant unitholder or general partner. Where the tax is payable on behalf of all unitholders or we cannot determine the specific unitholder on whose behalf the tax is payable, we are authorized to treat the payment as a distribution to all current unitholders. We are authorized to amend our partnership agreement in the manner necessary to maintain uniformity of intrinsic tax characteristics of units and to adjust later distributions, so that after giving effect to these distributions, the priority and characterization of distributions otherwise applicable under our partnership agreement is maintained as nearly as is practicable. Payments by us as described above could give rise to an overpayment of tax on behalf of a unitholder, in which event the unitholder may be entitled to claim a refund of the overpayment amount. Unitholders are urged to consult their tax advisors to determine the consequences to them of any tax payment we make on their behalf.

### Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction

Our items of income, gain, loss and deduction will be allocated among our general partner and our unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us. At any time that incentive distributions are made to our general partner, gross income will be allocated to our general partner to the extent of such distributions. If we have a net loss, that loss will be allocated first to our general partner and the unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us to the extent of their positive capital accounts, as adjusted to take into account the unitholders' share of

nonrecourse debt, and, second, to our general partner.

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Specified items of our income, gain, loss and deduction will be allocated under Section 704(c) of the Code (or the principles of Section 704(c) of the Code) to account for any difference between the adjusted tax basis and fair market value of our assets at the time such assets are contributed to us and at the time of any subsequent offering of our units (a “Book-Tax Disparity”). As a result, the federal income tax burden associated with any Book-Tax Disparity immediately prior to an offering will be borne by our partners holding interests in us prior to such offering. In addition, items of recapture income will be specially allocated to the extent possible (subject to the limitations described above) to the unitholder who was allocated the deduction giving rise to that recapture income in order to minimize the recognition of ordinary income by other unitholders.

It may not be administratively feasible to make the relevant adjustments to “book” basis and the relevant Section 704(c) allocations separately each time we issue units, particularly in the case of small or frequent unit issuances. If that is the case, we may use simplifying conventions to make those adjustments and allocations, which may include the aggregation of certain issuances of units. Our counsel, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, is unable to opine as to the validity of such conventions.

An allocation of items of our income, gain, loss or deduction, other than an allocation required by the Code to eliminate a Book-Tax Disparity, will be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner’s share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction only if the allocation has “substantial economic effect.” In any other case, a partner’s share of an item will be determined on the basis of the partner’s interest in us, which will be determined by taking into account all the facts and circumstances, including (i) the partner’s relative contributions to us, (ii) the interests of all the partners in profits and losses, (iii) the interest of all the partners in cash flow and (iv) the rights of all the partners to distributions of capital upon liquidation. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP is of the opinion that, with the exception of the issues described in “— Section 754 Election” and “— Disposition of Units — Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees,” allocations under our partnership agreement will be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner’s share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction.

### Treatment of Securities Loans

A unitholder whose units are loaned (for example, a loan to “short seller” to cover a short sale of units) may be treated as having disposed of those units. If so, such unitholder would no longer be treated for tax purposes as a partner with respect to those units during the period of the loan and may recognize gain or loss from the disposition. As a result, during this period (i) any of our income, gain, loss or deduction allocated to those units would not be reportable by the lending unitholder, and (ii) any cash distributions received by the unitholder as to those units may be treated as ordinary taxable income.

Due to a lack of controlling authority, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has not rendered an opinion regarding the tax treatment of a unitholder that enters into a securities loan with respect to its units. Unitholders desiring to assure their status as partners and avoid the risk of income recognition from a loan of their units are urged to modify any applicable brokerage account agreements to prohibit their brokers from borrowing and lending their units. The IRS has announced that it is studying issues relating to the tax treatment of short sales of partnership interests. Please read “— Disposition of Units — Recognition of Gain or Loss.”

### Tax Rates

Under current law, the highest marginal U.S. federal income tax rates for individuals applicable to ordinary income and long-term capital gains (generally, gains from the sale or exchange of certain investment assets held for more than one year) are 39.6% and (subject to certain exceptions) 20%, respectively. These rates are subject to change by new legislation at any time.

In addition, a 3.8% net investment income tax applies to certain net investment income earned by individuals, estates, and trusts. For these purposes, net investment income includes a unitholder’s allocable share of our income and gain, as well as any gain realized by a unitholder from a sale of units. In the case of an individual, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (i) the unitholder’s net investment income from all investments, or (ii) the amount by which the unitholder’s modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$250,000 (if the unitholder is married and filing jointly or a surviving spouse), \$125,000 (if married filing separately)

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or \$200,000 (if the unitholder is unmarried or in any other case). In the case of an estate or trust, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (i) undistributed net investment income, or (ii) the excess adjusted gross income over the dollar amount at which the highest U.S. federal income tax bracket applicable to an estate or trust begins.

**Section 754 Election**

We have made the election permitted by Section 754 of the Code that permits us to adjust the tax bases in our assets as to specific purchasers of our units under Section 743(b) of the Code. That election is irrevocable without the consent of the IRS, unless there is a constructive termination of the partnership. Please read “— Disposition of Units — Constructive Termination”). The Section 743(b) adjustment separately applies to each purchaser of units based upon the values and adjusted tax bases of our assets at the time of the relevant purchase, and the adjustment will reflect the purchase price paid. The Section 743(b) adjustment does not apply to a person who purchases units directly from us.

Under our partnership agreement, we are authorized to take a position to preserve the uniformity of units even if that position is not consistent with applicable Treasury Regulations. A literal application of Treasury Regulations governing a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to properties depreciable under Section 167 of the Code may give rise to differences in the taxation of unitholders purchasing units from us and unitholders purchasing from other unitholders. If we have any such properties, we intend to adopt methods employed by other publicly traded partnerships to preserve the uniformity of units, even if inconsistent with existing Treasury Regulations, and Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has not opined on the validity of this approach. Please read “— Uniformity of Units.”

The IRS may challenge the positions we adopt with respect to depreciating or amortizing the Section 743(b) adjustment we take to preserve the uniformity of units due to lack of controlling authority. Because a unitholder’s adjusted tax basis for its units is reduced by its share of our items of deduction or loss, any position we take that understates deductions will overstate a unitholder’s basis in its units, and may cause the unitholder to understate gain or overstate loss on any sale of such units. Please read “— Disposition of Units — Recognition of Gain or Loss.” If a challenge such treatment were sustained, the gain from the sale of units may be increased without the benefit of additional deductions.

The calculations involved in the Section 754 election are complex and are made on the basis of assumptions as to the value of our assets and other matters. The IRS could seek to reallocate some or all of any Section 743(b) adjustment we allocated to our assets subject to depreciation to goodwill or nondepreciable assets. Goodwill, as an intangible asset, is amortizable over a longer period of time or under a less accelerated method than certain of our tangible assets. We cannot assure any unitholder that the determinations we make will not be successfully challenged by the IRS or that the resulting deductions will not be reduced or disallowed altogether. Should the IRS require a different tax basis adjustment to be made, and should, in our opinion, the expense of compliance exceed the benefit of the election, we may seek permission from the IRS to revoke our Section 754 election. If permission is granted, a subsequent purchaser of units may be allocated more income than it would have been allocated had the election not been revoked.

**Tax Treatment of Operations**

**Accounting Method and Taxable Year**

We use the year ending December 31 as our taxable year and the accrual method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. Each unitholder will be required to include in its tax return its share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for each taxable year ending within or with its taxable year. In addition, a unitholder who has a taxable year ending on a date other than December 31 and who disposes of all of its units following the close of our taxable year but before the close of its taxable year must include its share of our income, gain, loss and deduction in income for its taxable year, with the result that it will be required to include in income for its taxable year its share of more than twelve months of our income, gain, loss and deduction. Please read “— Disposition of Units — Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees.”

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### Tax Basis, Depreciation and Amortization

The tax basis of our assets will be used for purposes of computing depreciation and cost recovery deductions and, ultimately, gain or loss on the disposition of these assets. If we dispose of depreciable property by sale, foreclosure or otherwise, all or a portion of any gain, determined by reference to the amount of depreciation and depletion deductions previously taken, may be subject to the recapture rules and taxed as ordinary income rather than capital gain. Similarly, a unitholder who has taken cost recovery or depreciation deductions with respect to property we own will likely be required to recapture some or all of those deductions as ordinary income upon a sale of its interest in us. Please read “— Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership — Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction.”

The costs we incur in offering and selling our units (called “syndication expenses”) must be capitalized and cannot be deducted currently, ratably or upon our termination. While there are uncertainties regarding the classification of costs as organization expenses, which may be amortized by us, and as syndication expenses, which may not be amortized by us, the underwriting discounts and commissions we incur will be treated as syndication expenses.

### Valuation and Tax Basis of Our Properties

The federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of units will depend in part on our estimates of the relative fair market values and the tax bases of our assets. Although we may from time to time consult with professional appraisers regarding valuation matters, we will make many of the relative fair market value estimates ourselves. These estimates and determinations of tax basis are subject to challenge and will not be binding on the IRS or the courts. If the estimates of fair market value or basis are later found to be incorrect, the character and amount of items of income, gain, loss or deduction previously reported by unitholders could change, and unitholders could be required to adjust their tax liability for prior years and incur interest and penalties with respect to those adjustments.

### Disposition of Units

#### Recognition of Gain or Loss

A unitholder will be required to recognize gain or loss on a sale or exchange of units equal to the difference, if any, between the unitholder’s amount realized and the adjusted tax basis in the units sold. A unitholder’s amount realized will equal the sum of the cash and the fair market value of other property it receives plus its share of our nonrecourse liabilities with respect to the units sold or exchanged. Because the amount realized includes a unitholder’s share of our nonrecourse liabilities, the gain recognized on the sale or exchange of units could result in a tax liability in excess of any cash received from the sale or exchange.

Except as noted below, gain or loss recognized by a unitholder on the sale or exchange of a unit held for more than one year will be taxable as long-term capital gain or loss. However, gain or loss recognized on the disposition of units will be separately computed and taxed as ordinary income or loss under Section 751 of the Code to the extent attributable to Section 751 Assets, such as depreciation or depletion recapture and our “inventory items,” regardless of whether such inventory item is substantially appreciated in value. Ordinary income attributable to Section 751 Assets may exceed net taxable gain realized on the sale or exchange of a unit and may be recognized even if there is a net taxable loss realized on the sale or exchange of a unit. Thus, a unitholder may recognize both ordinary income and capital gain or loss upon a sale or exchange of units. Net capital loss may offset capital gains and, in the case of individuals, up to \$3,000 of ordinary income per year.

For purposes of calculating gain or loss on the sale or exchange of units, the unitholder’s adjusted tax basis will be adjusted by its allocable share of our income or loss in respect of its units for the year of the sale. Furthermore, as described above, the IRS has ruled that a partner who acquires interests in a partnership in separate transactions must combine those interests and maintain a single adjusted tax basis for all of those interests. Upon a sale or other disposition of less than all of those interests, a portion of that adjusted tax basis must be allocated to the interests sold using an “equitable apportionment” method, which means that the adjusted tax basis allocated to the interest sold equals an amount that bears the same relation to the partner’s tax basis in its entire interest in the partnership as the value of the interest sold bears to the value of the partner’s entire interest in the partnership.

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Treasury Regulations under Section 1223 of the Code allow a selling unitholder who can identify units transferred with an ascertainable holding period to elect to use the actual holding period of the units transferred. Thus, according to the ruling discussed in the paragraph above, a unitholder will be unable to select high or low basis units to sell or exchange as would be the case with corporate stock, but, according to the Treasury Regulations, it may designate specific units sold for purposes of determining the holding period of units transferred. A unitholder electing to use the actual holding period of units transferred must consistently use that identification method for all subsequent sales or exchanges of our units. A unitholder considering the purchase of additional units or a sale or exchange of units purchased in separate transactions is urged to consult its tax advisor as to the possible consequences of this ruling and application of the Treasury Regulations.

Specific provisions of the Code affect the taxation of some financial products and securities, including partnership interests, by treating a taxpayer as having sold an “appreciated” financial position, including a partnership interest with respect to which gain would be recognized if it were sold, assigned or terminated at its fair market value, in the event the taxpayer or a related person enters into:

- a short sale;
- an offsetting notional principal contract; or
- a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest or substantially identical property.

Moreover, if a taxpayer has previously entered into a short sale, an offsetting notional principal contract or a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest, the taxpayer will be treated as having sold that position if the taxpayer or a related person then acquires the partnership interest or substantially identical property. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue Treasury Regulations that treat a taxpayer that enters into transactions or positions that have substantially the same effect as the preceding transactions as having constructively sold the financial position.

### Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees

In general, our taxable income or loss will be determined annually, will be prorated on a monthly basis and will be subsequently apportioned among the unitholders in proportion to the number of units owned by each of them as of the opening of the applicable exchange on the first business day of the month (the “Allocation Date”). However, gain or loss realized on a sale or other disposition of our assets or, in the discretion of our general partner, any other extraordinary item of income, gain, loss or deduction will be allocated among the unitholders on the Allocation Date in the month in which such income, gain, loss or deduction is recognized. As a result, a unitholder transferring units may be allocated income, gain, loss and deduction realized after the date of transfer.

Although simplifying conventions are contemplated by the Code and most publicly traded partnerships use similar simplifying conventions, the use of this method may not be permitted under existing Treasury Regulations. The Department of the Treasury and the IRS have issued Treasury Regulations pursuant to which a publicly traded partnership may use a similar monthly simplifying convention to allocate tax items among transferor and transferee unitholders: however, the final Treasury Regulations do not specifically authorize the use of the proration method we have adopted. Accordingly, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP is unable to opine on the validity of this method of allocating income and deductions between transferee and transferor unitholders. If the IRS were to challenge our proration method or new Treasury Regulations were issued, our taxable income or losses could be reallocated among our unitholders. We are authorized to revise our method of allocation between transferee and transferor unitholders, as well as among unitholders whose interests vary during a taxable year, to conform to a method permitted under future Treasury Regulations.

A unitholder who disposes of units prior to the record date set for a cash distribution for that quarter will be allocated items of our income, gain, loss and deduction attributable to the month of disposition but will not be entitled to receive a cash distribution for that period.



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### Notification Requirements

A unitholder who sells or exchanges any of its units is required to notify us in writing of that transaction within 30 days after the transaction (or, if earlier, January 15 of the year following the transaction in the case of a seller). Upon receiving such notifications, we are required to notify the IRS of that transaction and to furnish specified information to the transferor and transferee. Failure to notify us of a transfer of units may, in some cases, lead to the imposition of penalties. However, these reporting requirements do not apply to a sale by an individual who is a citizen of the United States and who effects the sale or exchange through a broker who will satisfy such requirements.

### Constructive Termination

We will be considered to have “constructively” terminated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes upon the sale or exchange of 50% or more of the total interests in our capital and profits within a twelve-month period. For purposes of measuring whether the 50% threshold is reached, multiple sales of the same unit are counted only once. A constructive termination results in the closing of our taxable year for all unitholders. In the case of a unitholder reporting on a taxable year other than the calendar year, the closing of our taxable year may result in more than twelve months of our taxable income or loss being includable in such unitholder’s taxable income for the year of termination. A constructive termination occurring on a date other than December 31 would require that we file two tax returns for one fiscal year thereby increasing our administration and tax preparation costs. However, pursuant to an IRS relief procedure the IRS may allow a constructively terminated partnership to provide a single Schedule K-1 for the calendar year in which a termination occurs. Following a constructive termination, we would be required to make new tax elections, including a new election under Section 754 of the Code, and the termination would result in a deferral of our deductions for depreciation. A termination could also result in penalties if we were unable to determine that the termination had occurred. Moreover, a termination may either accelerate the application of, or subject us to, any tax legislation enacted before the termination that would not otherwise have been applied to us as a continuing as opposed to a terminating partnership.

### Uniformity of Units

Because we cannot match transferors and transferees of units and for other reasons, we must maintain uniformity of the economic and tax characteristics of the units to a purchaser of these units. As a result of the need to preserve uniformity, we may be unable to completely comply with a number of federal income tax requirements. Any non-uniformity could have a negative impact on the value of the units. Please read “— Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership — Section 754 Election.”

Our partnership agreement permits our general partner to take positions in filing our tax returns that preserve the uniformity of our units. These positions may include reducing the depreciation, amortization or loss deductions to which a unitholder would otherwise be entitled or reporting a slower amortization of Section 743(b) adjustments for some unitholders than that to which they would otherwise be entitled. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP is unable to opine as to the validity of such filing positions.

A unitholder’s adjusted tax basis in units is reduced by its share of our deductions (whether or not such deductions were claimed on an individual income tax return) so that any position that we take that understates deductions will overstate the unitholder’s basis in its units, and may cause the unitholder to understate gain or overstate loss on any sale of such units. Please read “— Disposition of Units — Recognition of Gain or Loss” and “— Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership — Section 754 Election” above. The IRS may challenge one or more of any positions we take to preserve the uniformity of units. If such a challenge were sustained, the uniformity of units might be affected, and, under some circumstances, the gain from the sale of units might be increased without the benefit of additional deductions.

In addition, as described above at “— Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership — Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction,” if we aggregate multiple issuances of units for purposes of making adjustments to “book” basis and related tax allocations, we will treat each of our units as having the same capital account balance, regardless of the price actually paid by each purchaser of units in the aggregated offerings.



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Our counsel, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, is unable to opine as to validity of such an approach. We do not expect the number of affected units, or the differences between the purchase price of a unit and the initial capital account balance assigned to the unit, to be material, and we do not expect this convention to have a material effect upon the trading of our units.

### Tax-Exempt Organizations and Other Investors

Ownership of units by employee benefit plans and other tax-exempt entities, as well as by non-resident alien individuals, non-U.S. corporations and other non-U.S. persons (collectively, “Non-U.S. Unitholders”) raises issues unique to those investors and, as described below, may have substantially adverse tax consequences to them. Prospective unitholders that are tax-exempt entities or non-U.S. persons should consult their tax advisors before investing in our units. Employee benefit plans and most other tax-exempt organizations, including IRAs and other retirement plans, are subject to federal income tax on unrelated business taxable income. Virtually all of our income will be unrelated business taxable income and will be taxable to a tax-exempt unitholder.

Non-U.S. Unitholders are taxed by the United States on income effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business (“effectively connected income”) and on certain types of U.S.-source non-effectively connected income (such as dividends), unless exempted or further limited by an income tax treaty. Non-U.S. Unitholders will be considered to be engaged in business in the United States because of their ownership of our units. Furthermore, it is probable that they will be deemed to conduct such activities through permanent establishments in the United States within the meaning of applicable tax treaties. Consequently, they will be required to file U.S. federal tax returns to report their share of our income, gain, loss or deduction and pay federal income tax on their share of our net income or gain in a manner similar to a taxable U.S. unitholder. Moreover, under rules applicable to publicly traded partnerships, distributions to Non-U.S. Unitholders are subject to withholding at the highest applicable U.S. federal effective tax rate. Each Non-U.S. Unitholder must obtain a taxpayer identification number from the IRS and submit that number to our transfer agent on a Form W-8BEN, W-8BENE or applicable substitute form in order to obtain credit for these withholding taxes. A change in applicable law may require us to change these procedures.

In addition, because a Non-U.S. Unitholder classified as a corporation will be treated as engaged in a United States trade or business, that corporation may be subject to the U.S. branch profits tax at a rate of 30%, in addition to regular federal income tax, on its share of our income and gain as adjusted for changes in the foreign corporation’s “U.S. net equity,” to the extent reflected in the corporation’s effectively connected earnings and profits. That tax may be reduced or eliminated by an income tax treaty between the United States and the country in which the foreign corporate unitholder is a “qualified resident.” In addition, this type of unitholder is subject to special information reporting requirements under Section 6038C of the Code.

A Non-U.S. Unitholder who sells or otherwise disposes of a unit will be subject to federal income tax on any gain realized from the sale or disposition of that unit to the extent the gain is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the Non-U.S. Unitholder. Under a ruling published by the IRS interpreting the scope of “effectively connected income,” gain recognized by a non-U.S. person from the sale of its interest in a partnership that is engaged in a trade or business in the United States will be considered to be effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, although the interpretation articulated in this published ruling is the subject of ongoing litigation, and one court has disagreed with the interpretation. Thus, part or all of a Non-U.S. Unitholder’s gain from the sale or other disposition of its units may be treated as effectively connected with a unitholder’s indirect U.S. trade or business constituted by its investment in us. Moreover, under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act, as long as our partnership units continue to be regularly traded on an established securities market, a Non-U.S. Unitholder will be subject to federal income tax upon the sale or disposition of a unit if (i) it owned (directly or constructively applying certain attribution rules) more than 5% of our units at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of such disposition and (ii) 50% or more of the fair market value of our worldwide real property interests and our other assets used or held for use in a trade or business consisted of U.S. real property interests (which include U.S. real estate (including land, improvements, and certain associated personal property) and interests in certain entities holding U.S. real estate) at any time during the shorter of the

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period during which such unitholder held the units or the 5-year period ending on the date of disposition. More than 50% of our assets may consist of U.S. real property interests. Moreover, if our units were not considered to be regularly traded on an established securities market, such Non-U.S. Unitholder (regardless of the percentage of units owned) would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a taxable disposition of our units, and a 15% withholding tax would apply to the gross proceeds from such disposition. Therefore, Non-U.S. Unitholders may be subject to federal income tax (and in the case of a Non-U.S. Unitholder that is classified as a corporation, possible branch profits tax) on gain from the sale or disposition of their units.

### Administrative Matters

#### Information Returns and Audit Procedures

We intend to furnish to each unitholder, within 90 days after the close of each taxable year, specific tax information, including a Schedule K-1, which describes its share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for our preceding taxable year. In preparing this information, which will not be reviewed by counsel, we will take various accounting and reporting positions, some of which have been mentioned earlier, to determine each unitholder's share of income, gain, loss and deduction. We cannot assure our unitholders that those positions will yield a result that conforms to all of the requirements of the Code, Treasury Regulations or administrative interpretations of the IRS.

The IRS may audit our federal income tax information returns. Neither we nor Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP can assure prospective unitholders that the IRS will not successfully challenge the positions we adopt, and such a challenge could adversely affect the value of the units. On November 2, 2015, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (the Budget Act) was enacted. The Budget Act adopts new partnership audit rules and procedures effective for partnership taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. Below, we briefly describe both the currently-applicable rules and the Budget Act rules that will be effective beginning in 2018.

#### Current Rules

Publicly traded partnerships are treated as entities separate from their owners for purposes of federal income tax audits, judicial review of administrative adjustments by the IRS and tax settlement proceedings. The tax treatment of partnership items of income, gain, loss and deduction are determined in a partnership proceeding rather than in separate proceedings of the partners. The Code requires that one partner be designated as the "Tax Matters Partner" for these purposes, and our partnership agreement designates our general partner.

The Tax Matters Partner can extend the statute of limitations for assessment of tax deficiencies against unitholders for items in our returns. The Tax Matters Partner may bind a unitholder with less than a 1% profits interest in us to a settlement with the IRS unless that unitholder elects, by filing a statement with the IRS, not to give that authority to the Tax Matters Partner. The Tax Matters Partner may seek judicial review, by which all the unitholders are bound, of a final partnership administrative adjustment and, if the Tax Matters Partner fails to seek judicial review, judicial review may be sought by any unitholder having at least a 1% interest in profits or by any group of unitholders having in the aggregate at least a 5% interest in profits. However, only one action for judicial review may go forward, and each unitholder with an interest in the outcome may participate in that action.

Adjustments resulting from an IRS audit may require each unitholder to adjust a prior year's tax liability and may result in an audit of the unitholder's own return. Any audit of a unitholder's return could result in adjustments unrelated to our returns.

A unitholder must file a statement with the IRS identifying the treatment of any item on its federal income tax return that is not consistent with the treatment of the item on our return. Intentional or negligent disregard of this consistency requirement may subject a unitholder to substantial penalties.

#### Budget Act Rules

Under the new Budget Act rules, which will become effective for partnership years beginning after December 31, 2017, any assessment for an underpayment of tax that results from an audit of a partnership like ours with more than 100 partners will be determined and assessed at the partnership level. Although

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the general rule is that the publicly traded partnership (and not its partners) will generally be required to pay any such tax that is assessed notwithstanding that the partnership's partners at the time of the payment are different than the partners during the tax year under audit, there is an elective alternative mechanism that permits the partnership to shift the burden of the tax back to the audit year partners, as an additional tax imposed in the year the audit is completed. Whether we will be able to utilize this alternative mechanism, and exactly how it will work, is not yet clear, in part because no final regulations have yet been promulgated. The Budget Act prescribes that any tax that is assessed will be computed using a number of assumptions, including generally using the highest marginal tax rates unless certain exceptions apply, that could result in a higher aggregate tax burden than might be the case under prior law.

Additionally, pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, the Internal Revenue Code will no longer require that we designate a Tax Matters Partner. Instead, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017, we will be required to designate a partner, or other person, with a substantial presence in the United States as the partnership representative ("Partnership Representative"). The Partnership Representative will have the sole authority to act on our behalf for purposes of, among other things, federal income tax audits and judicial review of administrative adjustments by the IRS. If we do not make such a designation, the IRS can select any person as the Partnership Representative. We currently anticipate that we will designate our general partner as the Partnership Representative. Further, any actions taken by us or by the Partnership Representative on our behalf with respect to, among other things, federal income tax audits and judicial review of administrative adjustments by the IRS, will be binding on us and all of the unitholders.

### Additional Withholding Requirements

Sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code, the Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder and other governmental notices with respect thereto (collectively "FATCA") could impose a withholding tax of 30% on interest, dividends and other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gains, profits and income from sources within the U.S. ("FDAP Income"), or gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of any property of a type which can produce interest or dividends from sources within the U.S. ("Gross Proceeds") paid to a foreign financial institution and certain other non-U.S. entities, unless (i) the foreign financial institution undertakes certain diligence and reporting, (ii) the non-financial foreign entity either certifies it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or furnishes identifying information regarding each substantial U.S. owner or (iii) the foreign financial institution or non-financial foreign entity otherwise qualifies for an exemption from these rules. If the payee is a foreign financial institution and is subject to the diligence and reporting requirements in clause (i) above, it must enter into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury requiring, among other things, that it undertake to identify accounts held by certain U.S. persons or U.S.-owned foreign entities, annually report certain information about such accounts, and withhold 30% on payments to noncompliant foreign financial institutions and certain other account holders. An intergovernmental agreement between the United States and an applicable foreign country, or future Treasury Regulations, may modify these requirements.

These rules currently generally apply to payments of FDAP Income made on or after July 1, 2014 and will generally apply to payments of relevant Gross Proceeds from sales or dispositions occurring after December 31, 2018. Thus, to the extent we have FDAP Income or, after December 31, 2018, Gross Proceeds that are not treated as effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, unitholders who are foreign financial institutions or certain other non-US entities and other unitholders who fail to comply with applicable FATCA certification requirements may be subject to withholding on distributions they receive from us, or their distributive share of our income, pursuant to the rules of FATCA.

Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the potential application of the FATCA withholding provisions to their investment in our common units.

### Nominee Reporting

Persons who hold an interest in us as a nominee for another person are required to furnish to us:

(a) the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the beneficial owner and the nominee;

(b) a statement regarding whether the beneficial owner is:



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- (1)  
a non-U.S. person,
- (2)  
a non-U.S. government, an international organization or any wholly owned agency or instrumentality of either of the foregoing, or
- (3)  
a tax-exempt entity;
- (c)  
the amount and description of units held, acquired or transferred for the beneficial owner; and
- (d)  
specific information including the dates of acquisitions and transfers, means of acquisitions and transfers, and acquisition cost for purchases, as well as the amount of net proceeds from sales.

Brokers and financial institutions are required to furnish additional information, including whether they are U.S. persons and specific information on units they acquire, hold or transfer for their own account. A penalty of \$250 per failure, up to a maximum of \$3 million per calendar year, is imposed by the Code for failure to report that information to us. The nominee is required to supply the beneficial owner of the units with the information furnished to us.

**Accuracy-Related Penalties**

Certain penalties may be imposed as a result of an underpayment of tax that is attributable to one or more specified causes, including negligence or disregard of rules or regulations, substantial understatements of income tax and substantial valuation misstatements. No penalty will be imposed, however, for any portion of an underpayment if it is shown that there was a reasonable cause for the underpayment of that portion and that the taxpayer acted in good faith regarding the underpayment of that portion. We do not anticipate that any accuracy-related penalties will be assessed against us.

**Reportable Transactions**

If we were to engage in a “reportable transaction,” we (and possibly our unitholders and others) would be required to make a detailed disclosure of the transaction to the IRS. A transaction may be a reportable transaction based upon any of several factors, including the fact that it is a type of tax avoidance transaction publicly identified by the IRS as a “listed transaction” or that it produces certain kinds of losses for partnerships, individuals, S corporations, and trusts in excess of \$2 million in any single year, or \$4 million in any combination of six successive tax years. Our participation in a reportable transaction could increase the likelihood that our federal income tax information return (and possibly our unitholders’ tax returns) would be audited by the IRS. Please read “Administrative Matters — Information Returns and Audit Procedures.” Moreover, if we were to participate in a reportable transaction with a significant purpose to avoid or evade tax, or in any listed transaction, our unitholders may be subject to other adverse consequences. We do not expect to engage in any “reportable transactions.”

**State, Local, Non-U.S. and Other Tax Considerations**

In addition to federal income taxes, unitholders may be subject to other taxes, including state and local income taxes, unincorporated business taxes, and estate, inheritance or intangibles taxes that may be imposed by the various jurisdictions in which we conduct business or own property now or in the future or in which the unitholder is a resident. We currently conduct business in many states. Most of these states currently impose a personal income tax on individuals. A majority of these states also impose an income or other entity-level tax on corporations and other entities. In addition, in the future we may also own property or conduct business in other jurisdictions that impose or will impose an income or other similar taxes on nonresident individuals. Although an analysis of those various taxes is not presented here, each prospective unitholder should consider their potential impact on its investment in us. Although a unitholder may not be required to file a return and pay taxes in a jurisdiction because its income from such jurisdiction falls below the filing and payment requirements, a unitholder will be required to file income tax returns

and to pay income taxes in many of the jurisdictions in which we do business or own property and may be subject to penalties for failure to comply with those requirements. Some of the jurisdictions may require us, or we may elect, to withhold a percentage of income from amounts to be

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distributed to a unitholder who is not a resident of the jurisdiction. Withholding, the amount of which may be greater or less than a particular unitholder's income tax liability to the jurisdiction, does not relieve a nonresident unitholder from the obligation to file an income tax return.

It is the responsibility of each unitholder to investigate the legal and tax consequences, under the laws of pertinent states and localities, of its investment in us. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has not rendered an opinion on the state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences of an investment in us. We strongly recommend that each prospective unitholder consult, and depend upon, its own tax counsel or other advisor with regard to those matters. It is the responsibility of each unitholder to file all state, local, and non-U.S. as well as U.S. federal tax returns that may be required of the unitholder.

Tax Consequences of Ownership of Debt Securities

A description of the material federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of any debt securities will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the offering of such debt securities.

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LEGAL MATTERS

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP will pass upon the validity of the securities offered in this prospectus, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. If certain legal matters in connection with an offering of the securities made by this prospectus and a related prospectus supplement are passed on by counsel for the underwriters of such offering, that counsel will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement related to that offering.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements incorporated in this Prospectus by reference from Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the effectiveness of Spectra Energy Partners, LP's internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

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PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

Set forth below are the estimated fees and expenses expected to be incurred in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities registered hereby, other than discounts and commissions.

SEC registration fee	\$ *
Printing expenses	**
Accounting and consulting fees and expenses	**
Legal fees and expenses	**
Transfer agent and registrar fees	**
Trustee fees and expenses	**
Miscellaneous	**
Total	\$ **

\*  
The registrant is deferring payment of the registration fee in reliance on Rule 456(b) and 457(r).

\*\*  
These fees are calculated based on the number of issuances and amount of securities offered and accordingly cannot be estimated at this time.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 17-108 of the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act empowers a Delaware limited partnership to indemnify and hold harmless any partner or other person from and against all claims and demands whatsoever. Under our partnership agreement, in most circumstances, we will indemnify the following persons, to the fullest extent permitted by law, from and against all losses, claims, damages or similar events:

- our general partner;
- any departing general partner;
- any person who is or was an affiliate of our general partner or any departing general partner;
- any person who is or was a director, officer, member, partner, fiduciary or trustee of any entity set forth in the preceding three bullet points;
- any person who is or was serving as director, officer, member, partner, fiduciary or trustee of another person at the request of our general partner or any departing general partner; and
- any person designated by our general partner.

Any indemnification under these provisions will only be out of our assets. Unless it otherwise agrees, our general partner will not be personally liable for, or have any obligation to contribute or lend funds or assets to us to enable us to effectuate, indemnification. We may purchase insurance against liabilities asserted against and expenses incurred by persons for our activities, regardless of whether we would have the power to indemnify the person against liabilities under our partnership agreement.

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Item 16. Exhibits.

Exhibit Number	Description
**1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement.
4.1	<u>Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Spectra Energy Partners, LP, as amended as of October 30, 2015 (filed as Exhibit 3.5 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 25, 2016 (File No. 001-33556) and incorporated herein by reference).</u>
4.2	<u>Certificate of Limited Partnership of Spectra Energy Partners, LP (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on March 30, 2007 (File No. 333-141687) and incorporated herein by reference).</u>
4.3	<u>Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Spectra Energy Partners (DE) GP, LP, dated as of January 4, 2017 (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 24, 2017 (File No. 001-33556) and incorporated herein by reference).</u>
4.4	<u>Certificate of Limited Partnership of Spectra Energy Partners (DE) GP, LP (filed as Exhibit 3.3 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on March 30, 2007 (File No. 333-141687) and incorporated herein by reference).</u>
4.5	<u>Fifth Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Spectra Energy Partners GP, LLC, dated as of December 31, 2015 (filed as Exhibit 3.6 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 25, 2016 (File No. 001-33556) and incorporated herein by reference).</u>
4.6	<u>Certificate of Formation of Spectra Energy Partners GP, LLC (filed as Exhibit 3.5 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on March 30, 2007 (File No. 333-141687) and incorporated herein by reference).</u>
4.7	<u>Indenture, dated June 9, 2011, between Spectra Energy Partners, LP, as Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Form 8-K dated June 9, 2011 (File No. 001-33556) and incorporated herein by reference).</u>
4.8	<u>First Supplemental Indenture, dated June 9, 2011, between Spectra Energy Partners, LP, as Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.2 to Spectra Energy Partners,</u>

LP's Form 8-K dated June 9, 2011 (File No. 001-33556) and incorporated herein by reference).

4.9 Second Supplemental Indenture, dated September 25, 2013, between Spectra Energy Partners, LP, as Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.2 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Form 8-K dated September 25, 2013 (File No. 001-33556) and incorporated herein by reference).

4.10 Third Supplemental Indenture, dated June 30, 2014, between Spectra Energy Partners, LP, as Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2014 (File No. 001-33556) and incorporated herein by reference).

4.11 Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated March 12, 2015, between Spectra Energy Partners, LP, as Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.3 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Form 8-K dated March 12, 2015 (File No. 001-33556) and incorporated herein by reference).

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Exhibit Number	Description
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<u>4.12</u>	<u>Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of October 17, 2016, between Spectra Energy Partners, LP, as Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.4 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Form 8-K dated October 17, 2016 (File No. 001-33556) and incorporated herein by reference).</u>
	—
<u>4.13</u>	<u>Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of June 7, 2017, between Spectra Energy Partners, LP, as Issuer, and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.3 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP's Form 8-K dated June 7, 2017 (File No. 001-33556) and incorporated herein by reference).</u>
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<u>4.14</u>	<u>Form of Subordinated Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities of Spectra Energy Partners, LP (filed as Exhibit 4.2 to Spectra Energy Partners, LP Form S-3 on March 18, 2009 (File No. 333-158097) and incorporated herein by reference).</u>
	—
<u>**4.15</u>	<u>Form of Senior Debt Securities of Spectra Energy Partners, LP.</u>
	—
<u>**4.16</u>	<u>Form of Subordinated Debt Securities of Spectra Energy Partners, LP.</u>
	—
<u>*5.1</u>	<u>Opinion of Gibson, Dunn &amp; Crutcher LLP as to the legality of the securities being registered.</u>
	—
<u>*8.1</u>	<u>Opinion of Gibson, Dunn &amp; Crutcher LLP as to tax matters.</u>
	—
<u>*12.1</u>	<u>Ratio of earnings to fixed charges.</u>
	—
<u>*23.1</u>	<u>Consent of Deloitte &amp; Touche LLP.</u>
	—
<u>*23.2</u>	<u>Consent of Gibson, Dunn &amp; Crutcher LLP (contained in Exhibits 5.1 and 8.1).</u>
	—
<u>*24.1</u>	<u>Powers of Attorney for Officers and Directors of Spectra Energy Partners GP, LLC. (included on the signature page to this registration statement)</u>
	—
<u>*25.1</u>	<u>Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 of the Trustee in respect of the Senior Indenture for Senior Debt Securities of Spectra Energy Partners, LP.</u>

\*25.2 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 of the Trustee in respect of the Subordinated Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities of Spectra Energy Partners, LP.

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Filed herewith.

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To be filed as an exhibit to a report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act or in a post-effective amendment to this registration statement.

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Item 17. Undertakings.

(a)

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1)

To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i)

To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii)

To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of a prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii)

To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement;

(2)

That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3)

To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4)

That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i)

Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii)

Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and

included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

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(5)

That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i)

Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii)

Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii)

The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of such registrant; and

(iv)

Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b)

The registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c)

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(d)

The registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee under its subordinated indenture to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the "Act") in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the SEC under section 305(b)(2) of the Act.



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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on September 22, 2017.

SPECTRA ENERGY PARTNERS, LP

By:

Spectra Energy Partners (DE) GP, LP,  
its General Partner

By:

Spectra Energy Partners GP, LLC,  
its General Partner

By:

/s/ Stephen J. Neyland

Name: Stephen J. Neyland

Title: Vice President — Finance

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below appoints William T. Yardley, Stephen J. Neyland and Valorie J. Wanner, and each of them, any of whom may act without the joinder of the other, as their true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or would do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them or their or his or her substitute and substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following officers and directors of Spectra Energy Partners GP, LLC, as general partner of Spectra Energy Partners (DE) GP, LP, as general partner of Spectra Energy Partners, LP, the registrant, in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ William T. Yardley	Chairman of the Board and President (Principal Executive Officer)	September 22, 2017
William T. Yardley		
/s/ Stephen J. Neyland	Vice President — Finance (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	September 22, 2017
Stephen J. Neyland		
/s/ Nora Mead Brownell	Director	September 22, 2017
Nora Mead Brownell		
/s/ Laura J. Buss Sayavedra	Director	September 22, 2017
Laura J. Buss Sayavedra		

/s/ Michael G. Morris

Director

September 22, 2017

Michael G. Morris

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Signature	Title	Date
/s/ John K. Whelen	Director	September 22, 2017
John K. Whelen		
/s/ J.D. Woodward, III	Director	September 22, 2017
J.D. Woodward, III		
/s/ Vern Yu	Director	September 22, 2017
Vern Yu		

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