

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP
Form 424B2
November 13, 2003
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)

Registration Number 333-109657

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated October 23, 2003)

1,500,000 Shares

Chesapeake Energy Corporation

5% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock

(Liquidation Preference \$100 per Share)

We are offering 1,500,000 shares of 5% cumulative convertible preferred stock. The annual dividend on each share of preferred stock is \$5.00 and is payable quarterly in cash, in arrears, on each February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15, commencing February 15, 2004. Each share of preferred stock will be convertible at the holder's option at any time into 6.0962 shares of common stock (which is calculated using an initial conversion price of \$16.40 per share of common stock). The conversion price will be adjusted as described herein upon the occurrence of certain change of control transactions and other events. The preferred stock is not redeemable by us at any time. On or after November 18, 2006, if the closing price of our common stock exceeds 130% of the conversion price for 20 trading days during any consecutive 30 trading day period, we may at our option cause the preferred stock to be automatically converted into shares of common stock at the then prevailing conversion price.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CHK. On November 12, 2003, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$11.93 per share.

We expect to list the common stock issuable upon conversion of the preferred stock on the NYSE.

Investing in our preferred stock involves risks. See Supplemental Risk Factors beginning on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement and Risk Factors beginning on page 2 of the accompanying prospectus.

	<u>Per Share</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public Offering Price	\$ 100.00	\$ 150,000,000
Underwriting Discount	\$ 2.75	\$ 4,125,000
Proceeds to Us (before expenses)	\$ 97.25	\$ 145,875,000

The underwriters have an option to purchase up to an additional 225,000 shares of preferred stock on the same terms and conditions as set forth above solely to cover over-allotments, if any.

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

Delivery of the shares of preferred stock in book-entry form will be made on or about November 18, 2003.

Joint Book-Running Managers

LEHMAN BROTHERS BANC OF AMERICA SECURITIES LLC MORGAN STANLEY

BEAR, STEARNS & CO. INC.

CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON

RAYMOND JAMES

HOWARD WEIL INCORPORATED

JOHNSON RICE & COMPANY, L.L.C.

RBC CAPITAL MARKETS

November 12, 2003

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u>		<u>Page</u>
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>		S-1
<u>Supplemental Risk Factors</u>		S-10
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>		S-12
<u>Capitalization</u>		S-13
<u>Price Range of Common Stock</u>		S-14
<u>Dividend Policy</u>		S-15
<u>Description Of Preferred Stock</u>		S-16
<u>U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>		S-26
<u>Underwriting</u>		S-31
<u>Legal Matters</u>		S-33
<u>Experts</u>		S-33

<u>PROSPECTUS</u>		<u>Page</u>
About This Prospectus		1
About Chesapeake Energy Corporation		1
About the Subsidiary Guarantors		1
Risk Factors		2
Where You Can Find More Information		10
Forward Looking Statements		10
Use of Proceeds		12
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges And Combined Fixed Charges And Preferred Dividends		12
Description of Debt Securities		13
Description of Capital Stock		21
Description of Depositary Shares		31
Plan of Distribution		33
Legal Matters		35
Experts		35

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

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, but may not contain all information that may be important to you. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus include specific terms of this offering, information about our business and financial data. We encourage you to read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated herein and therein in their entirety before making an investment decision. Unless otherwise indicated, this prospectus supplement assumes no exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option.

Chesapeake

We are among the ten largest independent natural gas producers in the United States, owning interests in over 14,500 producing oil and gas wells. We estimate that our proved reserves were approximately 3.1 tcf as of September 30, 2003, pro forma for the recently completed Laredo Energy acquisition that closed on October 31, 2003. Approximately 91% of our pro forma proved reserves are natural gas, and approximately 87% of our pro forma proved reserves are located in the Mid-Continent region of the United States, which includes Oklahoma, western Arkansas, southwestern Kansas and the Texas Panhandle. We have smaller operations in the onshore Upper Gulf Coast region, the South Texas area, Deep Giddings field in Texas, the Tuscaloosa Trend in Louisiana, the Permian Basin region of southeastern New Mexico and the Williston Basin of North Dakota and Montana.

On October 31, 2003, we acquired Laredo Energy, L.P. and its partners' interests in certain assets in the Lobo Trend in Zapata County, Texas for approximately \$200 million, which, by our internal estimates, will add approximately 108 bcf to our estimated proved reserves and approximately 30 mmcf to our daily production. We believe we have acquired a high-quality asset base from Laredo Energy, distinguished by proved reserves that are 100% gas and 32% proved developed and with a reserve-to-production index of approximately 10 years. We believe the acquisition of these relatively shorter-lived, less developed properties complements our base of longer-lived, more developed Mid-Continent assets and provides substantial opportunities for additional drilling and exploration activities. There is no assurance that our estimates of the acquired Laredo Energy reserves will prove correct.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering, together with a portion of the net proceeds from our pending private placement of senior notes described below, to repay amounts borrowed under our bank credit facility to finance the Laredo Energy acquisition. Please read "Other Developments," "Pending Private Offering of Senior Notes," and "Use of Proceeds."

Our executive offices are located at 6100 North Western Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118, and our telephone number is (405) 848-8000.

Business Strategy

From our inception in 1989, our business goal has been to create value for our investors by building one of the largest onshore natural gas resource bases in the United States. Since 1998, our business strategy to achieve this goal has been to integrate our aggressive and technologically advanced Mid-Continent drilling program with a Mid-Continent focused producing property consolidation program. We believe this balanced business strategy enables us to achieve greater economies of scale, increase our undrilled acreage inventory and attract and retain talented and motivated land, geoscientific and engineering personnel. We are executing our strategy by:

Consistently Making High-Quality Acquisitions. Our acquisition program is focused on small- to medium-sized acquisitions of Mid-Continent natural gas properties that provide high-quality, long-lived production and significant drilling opportunities. Since January 1, 2000, we have acquired \$2.3 billion of such properties (primarily in 21 separate transactions of greater than \$10 million each) at an estimated average cost of \$1.24 per mcf of proved reserves. The vast majority of these acquisitions either increased our ownership in existing wells or fields or added additional drilling locations in our core Mid-Continent operating area. We believe our recent acquisition of high-quality, shorter-lived

S-1

Table of Contents

assets from Laredo Energy complements our longer-lived Mid-Continent assets. In addition, we believe our expertise in drilling deep natural gas wells into challenging geological environments is well-suited to successfully developing the exploration potential of the Laredo Energy assets. Because the Mid-Continent and South Texas regions contain many small companies seeking market liquidity and larger companies seeking to divest non-core assets, we expect to find additional attractive acquisition opportunities in the future.

Consistently Growing Through the Drillbit. One of our most distinctive characteristics is our ability to increase reserves through the drillbit. We are currently conducting one of the three most active drilling programs in the United States with our program focused on finding gas in the Mid-Continent region. We currently have 43 rigs drilling on Chesapeake-operated prospects, and we are participating in approximately 40 wells being drilled by others. We believe our Mid-Continent drilling program is the most active in the region and is supported by our ownership of an extensive land and 3-D seismic base.

Consistently Focusing on the Mid-Continent. In this region, we believe we are the largest natural gas producer, the most active driller and the most active acquirer of undeveloped leases and producing properties. We believe the Mid-Continent region, which trails only the Gulf Coast and Rocky Mountain basins in U.S. gas production, has many attractive characteristics. These characteristics include long-lived natural gas properties with relatively predictable decline curves; multi-pay geological targets that decrease drilling risk, resulting in our historical Mid-Continent drilling success rate of approximately 93% over the past ten years; favorable basis differentials to benchmark commodity prices; generally lower service costs than in more competitive or more remote basins; and a favorable regulatory environment with virtually no federal land ownership. In addition, we believe the location of our headquarters in Oklahoma City provides us with many competitive advantages over other companies that direct their activities in this region from district offices in Oklahoma City or Tulsa or from out-of-state headquarters.

Consistently Focusing on Low Costs. By minimizing operating costs, we have been able to deliver consistently attractive financial returns through all phases of the commodity price cycle. We believe our general and administrative costs and our lease operating expenses are among the lowest in the industry. We believe these low costs are the result of our management's effective cost-control programs, our high-quality asset base and the extensive and competitive services, gas processing and transportation infrastructures in the Mid-Continent. We believe the recent Laredo Energy acquisition should reduce our overall operating cost structure per mcfe because our production costs per mcfe for these properties are expected to be lower than our current production costs per mcfe.

Consistently Improving our Capitalization. We have made significant progress in improving our balance sheet since the beginning of 1999. Upon completion of this offering of preferred stock, we will have increased our stockholders' equity by \$2.0 billion through a combination of earnings and common and preferred equity issuances. As of December 31, 1999, our debt to total capitalization ratio was 129%. As of September 30, 2003, after giving pro forma effect to this offering and our pending private placement of senior notes and the application of the net proceeds herefrom and therefrom, and assuming our pending tender offer for our 8.5% Senior Notes due 2012 described below is fully subscribed, this ratio would have been 55%. We plan to continue making the reduction of the debt to total capitalization ratio one of our primary financial goals.

Based on our view that natural gas has become the fuel of choice to meet growing power demand and increasing environmental concerns in the United States, we believe our Mid-Continent focused natural gas development strategy should provide substantial growth opportunities in the years ahead. Although U.S. gas production has been declining during the past nine quarters, we have increased our production in each of those quarters. Our goal is to increase our overall production by 10% to 15% per year, with approximately one-third of this growth projected to be generated organically through the drillbit and the remainder from acquisitions.

Table of Contents

Company Strengths

We believe the following six characteristics distinguish our past performance and future growth potential from other natural gas producers:

High-Quality Asset Base. Our producing properties are characterized by long-lived reserves, established production profiles and an emphasis on natural gas. Based upon current production and reserve levels (and pro forma for the Laredo Energy acquisition), our proved reserves-to-production ratio, or reserve life, is approximately 11.5 years. In each of our operating areas, our properties are concentrated in locations that enable us to establish substantial economies of scale in drilling and production operations and facilitate the application of more effective reservoir management practices. We intend to continue building our Mid-Continent asset base by concentrating both our drilling and acquisition efforts in this region.

Low-Cost Producer. Our high-quality asset base has enabled us to achieve a low operating cost structure. During the first three quarters of 2003, our cash operating costs per unit of production were \$0.90 per mcfe, which consisted of general and administrative expenses of \$0.09 per mcfe, production expenses of \$0.52 per mcfe and production taxes of \$0.29 per mcfe. We believe this is one of the lowest operating cost structures among publicly traded independent oil and natural gas producers. We believe the Laredo Energy acquisition should further lower our per unit cash operating costs because we project the Laredo Energy properties will have initial production expenses of approximately \$0.10 per mcfe. We currently operate approximately 79% of our proved reserves. This large percentage of operational control provides us with a high degree of operating flexibility and cost control.

Successful Acquisition Program. Our experienced asset acquisition team focuses on adding to our attractive resource base in the Mid-Continent region and occasionally looks to supplement our Mid-Continent base by evaluating acquisition opportunities in the onshore Gulf Coast, South Texas and Permian Basin regions. These areas are characterized by medium- to long-lived natural gas reserves, low lifting costs, multiple geological targets that provide substantial drilling potential, favorable basis differentials to benchmark commodity prices, a well-developed oil and gas transportation infrastructure and considerable potential for further consolidation of assets. Since 1998 and including the Laredo Energy acquisition, we have completed \$3.1 billion in acquisitions at an average cost of \$1.14 per mcfe of proved reserves. We believe we are well-positioned to continue this consolidation as a result of our large existing asset base, our corporate presence in Oklahoma, our knowledge and expertise in the regions in which we operate and current trends in the industry.

Large Inventory of Drilling Projects. During the past 14 years, we believe we have been one of the ten most active drillers in the United States and the most active driller in the Mid-Continent. We believe we have developed a particular expertise in drilling deep vertical and horizontal wells in search of large natural gas accumulations in challenging reservoir conditions. We actively pursue deep drilling targets because of our view that most undiscovered gas reserves in the Mid-Continent will be found at depths below 12,500 feet. In addition, we believe that our large 3-D seismic inventory, much of which is proprietary to Chesapeake, provides us with an advantage over our competitors, which largely prefer to drill shallower development wells. As a result of our aggressive land acquisition strategies and Oklahoma's favorable forced-pooling regulations, we have been able to accumulate an onshore leasehold position of approximately 2.3 million net acres. In addition, our technical teams have identified over 2,500 exploratory and developmental drillsites, representing approximately five years of future drilling opportunities at our current rate of drilling. The Laredo Energy acquisition added to our existing land inventory and we have identified approximately 70 additional potential drillsites associated with the properties acquired in this transaction.

Hedging Program. We have historically used and intend to continue using hedging programs to reduce the risks inherent in producing oil and natural gas, commodities that are extremely volatile in price.

Table of Contents

We believe this volatility is likely to continue and may even increase in the years ahead. We believe that a producer can use this volatility to its benefit by taking advantage of prices when they exceed historical norms. Over the past three years, we have increased our oil and gas revenues by \$127 million of realized gains through hedging. We currently have gas swaps hedging 55, 144, 46, 26 and 26 bcf for the fourth quarter of 2003 and for all of 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 at average NYMEX prices of \$5.64, \$5.25, \$4.82, \$4.74 and \$4.76 per mcf, respectively. In addition, we have 100% of our projected oil production hedged for the fourth quarter of 2003 and 94% for all of 2004 at average NYMEX prices of \$28.69 and \$28.61 per barrel of oil, respectively.

Entrepreneurial Management. Our management team formed Chesapeake in 1989 with an initial capitalization of \$50,000. Through the following years, this management team has guided our company through operational challenges and extremes of oil and gas prices to create one of the ten largest independent natural gas producers in the United States with an enterprise value of approximately \$5.4 billion (pro forma for this offering and our pending private placement of senior notes). Our co-founders, Aubrey K. McClendon and Tom L. Ward, have been business partners in the oil and gas industry for 20 years and beneficially own, as of September 30, 2003, approximately 14.3 million and 15.8 million of our common shares, respectively. Each of Messrs. McClendon and Ward has indicated his desire to purchase \$5 million of preferred stock in this offering at the price offered to the public.

Other Developments

We recently announced a series of transactions intended to improve our capitalization.

Pending Private Offering of Senior Notes. On November 12, 2003, we priced a private placement of \$200 million of 6.875% Senior Notes due 2016. The senior notes are being offered only to qualified institutional buyers under Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933 and to non-U.S. persons in offshore transactions pursuant to Regulation S under the Securities Act. Net proceeds are expected to be used to fund the tender offer for our 8.5% Senior Notes due 2012 described below and to repay borrowings under our bank credit facility incurred primarily to finance the Laredo Energy acquisition. There is no assurance that the private offering will be completed or, if completed, completed for the amount contemplated. The closing of this offering is not conditioned on the closing of the senior notes offering.

Tender Offer for 8.5% Senior Notes due 2012. On November 12, 2003, we launched a cash tender offer for all of the approximately \$111 million outstanding principal amount of our 8.5% Senior Notes due 2012. The tender offer is conditioned upon the closing of the private placement of senior notes described above and the receipt of consents to remove substantially all of the restrictive covenants on the 8.5% Senior Notes from holders of a majority of the outstanding principal amount of the notes. If fully subscribed, it is expected the tender offer will cost approximately \$118 million, which would be funded with a portion of the net proceeds from the private placement of senior notes described above. There is no assurance that the tender offer, which is expected to be completed on December 10, 2003, will be subscribed for any amount.

Possible Exchange Offer for 8.125% Senior Notes due 2011. On November 11, 2003, we announced that we are considering making a private exchange offer to certain eligible holders for up to \$500 million aggregate principal amount of our 8.125% Senior Notes due 2011. There is currently approximately \$728 million in principal amount of our 8.125% Senior Notes due 2011 outstanding. The offer, if made, will be to exchange our 8.125% Senior Notes due 2011 for notes of one or more series of our senior notes with a final maturity date after 2011, including additional notes of an existing series of our senior notes or additional notes of the new series of senior notes to be offered in our pending private placement. There is no assurance that the exchange offer, if commenced, will be subscribed for any amount.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Securities Offered	1,500,000 shares of 5% cumulative convertible preferred stock; 1,725,000 shares if the underwriters exercise their option in full.
Dividends	Cumulative annual dividends of \$5.00 per share payable quarterly in cash on each February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15, commencing February 15, 2004, when, as and if declared by the board of directors. Dividends will be paid in arrears on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months. Dividends on the preferred stock will accumulate and be cumulative from the date of issuance thereof. Accumulated dividends on the preferred stock will not bear interest.
Liquidation Preference	\$100 per share, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends.
Ranking	<p>The preferred stock will rank with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">senior to all of our common stock and to all of our other capital stock issued in the future unless the terms of that stock expressly provide that it ranks senior to, or on a parity with, the preferred stock;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">on a parity with our existing 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, our existing 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock and with any of our capital stock issued in the future the terms of which expressly provide that it will rank on a parity with the preferred stock; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">junior to all of our capital stock issued in the future the terms of which expressly provide that such stock will rank senior to the preferred stock.</p>
	<p>We currently have 2,998,000 shares of 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock issued and outstanding, with an aggregate liquidation preference of \$149.9 million, and 4,600,000 shares of 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock issued and outstanding, with an aggregate liquidation preference of \$230.0 million.</p>
Redemption	Shares of the preferred stock will not be redeemable by us.
Conversion Rights	Each share of the preferred stock may be converted at any time, at the option of the holder, into 6.0962 shares of common stock (which is calculated using an initial conversion price of \$16.40 per share of common stock) plus cash in lieu of fractional shares. The conversion price is subject to adjustment upon the occurrence of certain events.
Mandatory Conversion	On or after November 18, 2006, we may, at our option, cause the preferred stock to be automatically converted into that number of shares of common stock that are issuable at the then prevailing conversion price. We may exercise our conversion right only if, for 20 trading days within any period of 30 consecutive trading days (including the last trading day of such

period), the closing price of our

S-5

Table of Contents

common stock exceeds 130% of the then prevailing conversion price of the preferred stock.

Change of Control

Except as provided below, upon a change of control, each holder of the preferred stock shall, in the event that the market value of our common stock at such time is less than the conversion price, have a one-time option to convert all of its shares of the preferred stock into shares of common stock at an adjusted conversion price equal to the greater of (x) the market value of the common stock (determined as described herein) and (y) \$7.9533, which is approximately 66²/₃% of the recent common stock price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement.

In lieu of issuing the shares of common stock issuable upon conversion in the event of a change of control, we may, at our option, make a cash payment equal to the market value of such common stock otherwise issuable as of the change of control date.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, upon a change of control in which (1) each holder of our common stock receives consideration consisting solely of common stock of the successor, acquiror or other third party that is listed on a national securities exchange or quoted on the NASDAQ National Market and (2) all our common stock has been exchanged for, converted into or acquired for common stock of the successor, acquiror or other third party and the preferred stock becomes convertible solely into such common stock, the conversion price will not be adjusted as described above.

Voting Rights

Except as required by Oklahoma law and our certificate of incorporation, which will include the certificate of designation for the preferred stock, the holders of preferred stock will have no voting rights unless dividends payable on the preferred stock are in arrears for six or more quarterly periods. In that event, the holders of the preferred stock, voting as a single class with the shares of any other preferred stock or preference securities having similar voting rights (including the existing preferred stock), will be entitled at the next regular or special meeting of our stockholders to elect two directors and the number of directors that comprise our board will be increased by the number of directors so elected. These voting rights and the terms of the directors so elected will continue until such time as the dividend arrearage on the preferred stock has been paid in full. The affirmative consent of holders of at least 66²/₃% of the outstanding preferred stock will be required for the issuance of any class or series of stock (or security convertible into stock) ranking senior to the preferred stock as to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution and for amendments to our certificate of incorporation that would affect adversely the rights of holders of the preferred stock.

Table of Contents

Use of Proceeds	The net proceeds to us from the sale of the preferred stock offered hereby are estimated to be \$145.6 million, after deducting discounts to the underwriters and the estimated expenses of the offering. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering, together with a portion of the net proceeds from the pending private placement of senior notes, to repay borrowings under our bank credit facility incurred primarily to finance the recent Laredo Energy acquisition. Please read Use of Proceeds.
Tax Consequences	The U.S. Federal income tax consequences of purchasing, owning and disposing of the preferred stock and any common stock received upon its conversion are described in Federal Income Tax Considerations. Prospective investors are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of purchasing, owning and disposing of the preferred stock and any common stock received upon its conversion in light of their personal investment circumstances, including consequences resulting from the possibility that actual or constructive distributions on the preferred stock may exceed our current and accumulated earnings and profits, as calculated for U.S. Federal income tax purposes, in which case they would not be treated as dividends for U.S. Federal income tax purposes.
Book-Entry, Delivery and Form	Initially, the preferred stock will be represented by one or more permanent global certificates in definitive, fully registered form deposited with a custodian for, and registered in the name of, a nominee of DTC.
Common Stock	Our common stock is listed for trading on the NYSE under the symbol CHK.

Risk Factors

You should carefully consider all information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein. In particular, you should evaluate the specific risk factors set forth in the section entitled Supplemental Risk Factors in this prospectus supplement and the section entitled Risk Factors in the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of risks relating to an investment in our preferred stock.

Table of Contents**Summary Consolidated Financial Data**

The following tables set forth summary consolidated financial data as of and for each of the three years ended December 31, 2000, 2001 and 2002 and the nine months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003. These data were derived from our audited consolidated financial statements included in our annual report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2002, which is incorporated by reference herein, and from our unaudited consolidated financial statements included in our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2003, which is incorporated by reference herein. The financial data below should be read together with, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, our historical consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes and the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations which are set forth in our annual report on Form 10-K/A and in our quarterly report on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference herein.

	Years Ended December 31,			Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2000	2001	2002	2002	2003
	(unaudited)				
	(in thousands, except ratios and per share data)				
Statement of Operations Data:					
Revenues:					
Oil and gas sales	\$ 470,170	\$ 820,318	\$ 568,187	\$ 367,810	\$ 951,125
Oil and gas marketing sales	157,782	148,733	170,315	112,334	309,566
Total revenues	627,952	969,051	738,502	480,144	1,260,691
Operating costs:					
Production expenses	50,085	75,374	98,191	71,252	101,664
Production taxes	24,840	33,010	30,101	19,934	57,336
General and administrative	13,177	14,449	17,618	11,930	17,254
Oil and gas marketing expenses	152,309	144,373	165,736	108,836	302,064
Oil and gas depreciation, depletion and amortization	101,291	172,902	221,189	157,731	266,131
Depreciation and amortization of other assets	7,481	8,663	14,009	10,489	12,647
Total operating costs	349,183	448,771	546,844	380,172	757,096
Income from operations	278,769	520,280	191,658	99,972	503,595
Other income (expense):					
Interest and other income	3,649	2,877	7,340	7,343	1,356
Interest expense	(86,256)	(98,321)	(112,031)	(77,779)	(115,891)
Loss on investment in Seven Seas			(17,201)	(4,770)	
Impairment of investment in securities		(10,079)			
Loss on repurchases of Chesapeake debt		(76,667)	(2,626)	(1,353)	
Gain on sale of Canadian subsidiary		27,000			
Gothic standby credit facility costs		(3,392)			
Total other income (expense)	(82,607)	(158,582)	(124,518)	(76,559)	(114,535)
Income before income taxes and cumulative effect of accounting change	196,162	361,698	67,140	23,413	389,060
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(259,408)	144,292	26,854	9,366	147,841
Net income before cumulative effect of accounting change	455,570	217,406	40,286	14,047	241,219
Cumulative effect of accounting change					2,389

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

Net income	455,570	217,406	40,286	14,047	243,608
Preferred stock dividends	(8,484)	(2,050)	(10,117)	(7,588)	(15,484)
Gain on redemption of preferred stock	6,574				
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 453,660	\$ 215,356	\$ 30,169	\$ 6,459	\$ 228,124
Earnings per common share basic:					
Income before cumulative effect of accounting change	\$ 3.52	\$ 1.33	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.04	\$ 1.08
Cumulative effect of accounting change					0.01
Net income	\$ 3.52	\$ 1.33	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.04	\$ 1.09
Earnings per common share assuming dilution:					
Income before cumulative effect of accounting change	\$ 3.01	\$ 1.25	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.95
Cumulative effect of accounting change					0.01
Net income	\$ 3.01	\$ 1.25	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.96
Other Financial Data:					
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (1)	3.1x	4.4x	1.5x	1.2x	4.1x
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preference dividends (1)	2.8x	4.2x	1.3x	1.1x	3.4x

S-8

Table of Contents

	As of December 31,			As of September 30, 2003		
	2000	2001	2002	Historical	(unaudited) Pro Forma (2)	Pro Forma As Adjusted (3)
(in thousands)						
Balance Sheet Data:						
Total assets	\$ 1,440,426	\$ 2,286,768	\$ 2,875,608	\$ 4,257,489	\$ 4,457,489	\$ 4,420,756
Long-term debt, net of current maturities and discounts	944,845	1,329,453	1,651,198	2,024,336	2,224,172	2,066,084(4)
Stockholders' equity	313,232	767,407	907,875	1,584,370	1,584,370	1,714,948

- (1) For purposes of determining the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and earnings to fixed charges and preference dividends, earnings are defined as net income before income taxes, cumulative effect of accounting change, amortization of capitalized interest and fixed charges, less capitalized interest. Fixed charges consist of interest (whether expensed or capitalized) and amortization of debt expenses and discount or premium relating to any indebtedness. Preference dividends consist of preferred stock dividends grossed up to reflect the pre-tax amount.
- (2) On a pro forma basis to reflect the borrowings incurred under our bank credit facility to finance the recent Laredo Energy acquisition.
- (3) On a pro forma basis as further adjusted to reflect (1) this preferred stock offering (assuming no exercise of the underwriters' option) and the application of the net proceeds herefrom, (2) our \$200 million private placement of 6.875% Senior Notes due 2016 and the application of the net proceeds therefrom and (3) completion of our tender offer for our 8.5% Senior Notes due 2012 (assuming the tender offer is fully subscribed). There is no assurance that the private placement or the tender offer will be completed or completed for the amounts contemplated.
- (4) We are considering making a private exchange offer to certain eligible holders for up to \$500 million aggregate principal amount of our \$728.3 million outstanding 8.125% Senior Notes due 2011. The offer, if made, will be to exchange the 8.125% Senior Notes due 2011 for notes of one or more series of our senior notes with a final maturity after 2011, including additional notes of an existing series of our senior notes or the new series of senior notes to be offered in our pending private placement of senior notes. There is no assurance that the exchange offer, if made, will be subscribed for any amount.

Table of Contents

SUPPLEMENTAL RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the following factors as well as other information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents we have incorporated herein by reference before deciding to invest in our preferred stock.

Our level of indebtedness and preferred stock may adversely affect operations and limit our growth, and we may have difficulty making debt service and preferred stock dividend payments on our indebtedness and preferred stock as such payments become due.

As of September 30, 2003, we had \$2.06 billion in aggregate principal amount of long-term indebtedness outstanding, \$72 million of which was secured indebtedness, plus preferred stock outstanding having an aggregate liquidation preference of \$379.9 million. Our long-term indebtedness represented 57% of our total book capitalization at September 30, 2003.

Our level of indebtedness and preferred stock affects our operations in several ways, including the following:

a significant portion of our cash flows must be used to service our indebtedness, and our business may not generate sufficient cash flows from operations to enable us to continue to meet our obligations under our indebtedness and our stated dividends on our preferred stock;

a high level of debt and preferred stock increases our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions;

the covenants contained in the agreements governing our outstanding indebtedness limit our ability to borrow additional funds, dispose of assets, pay dividends and make certain investments;

our debt covenants may also affect our flexibility in planning for, and reacting to, changes in the economy and in our industry, and the rights and preferences applicable to our preferred stock may limit our ability to pay dividends on our common stock; and

a high level of debt and preferred stock may impair our ability to obtain additional financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, general corporate or other purposes.

We may incur additional debt, including significant secured indebtedness, or issue additional series of preferred stock in order to make future acquisitions or to develop our properties. A higher level of indebtedness and additional preferred stock increases the risk that we may default on our debt obligations. Our ability to meet our debt and preferred stock obligations and to reduce our level of indebtedness depends on our future performance. General economic conditions, oil and gas prices and financial, business and other factors affect our operations and our future performance. Many of these factors are beyond our control. We may not be able to generate sufficient cash flow to pay the interest on our debt or dividends on our preferred stock, and future working capital, borrowings or equity financing may not be available to pay or refinance such debt. Factors that will affect our ability to raise cash through an offering of our capital stock or a refinancing of our debt include financial market conditions, the value of our assets and our performance at the time we need capital.

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

In addition, our bank borrowing base is subject to periodic redeterminations. We could be forced to repay a portion of our bank borrowings due to redeterminations of our borrowing base. If we are forced to do so, we may not have sufficient funds to make such repayments. If we do not have sufficient funds and are otherwise unable to negotiate renewals of our borrowings or arrange new financings, we may have to sell significant assets. Any such sale could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial results.

Our commodity price risk management activities may reduce the realized prices received for our oil and gas sales.

In order to manage our exposure to price volatility in marketing our oil and gas, we enter into oil and gas price risk management arrangements for a portion of our expected production. Commodity price risk

S-10

Table of Contents

management transactions may limit the prices we actually realize, and we may experience reductions in oil and gas revenues from our commodity price risk management activities in the future. In addition, our commodity price risk management transactions may expose us to the risk of financial loss in certain circumstances, including instances in which:

our production is less than expected;

there is a widening of price differentials between delivery points for our production and the delivery point assumed in the hedge arrangement; or

the counterparties to our contracts fail to perform under the contracts.

Some of our commodity price and interest rate risk management arrangements require us to deliver cash collateral or other assurances of performance to the counterparties in the event that our payment obligations with respect to our risk management transactions exceed certain levels. As of September 30, 2003, we were required to post \$8.0 million of collateral through letters of credit issued under our bank credit facility. Future collateral requirements are uncertain and will depend on arrangements with our counterparties and highly volatile natural gas and oil prices.

We may not be able to pay cash dividends on the preferred stock.

We are required to pay all declared dividends on the preferred stock in cash. Our existing indentures limit, and any indentures and other financing agreements that we enter into in the future will likely limit, our ability to pay cash dividends on our capital stock. Specifically, under our existing indentures and bank credit agreement, we may pay cash dividends and make other distributions on or in respect of our capital stock, including the preferred stock, only if certain financial tests are met. In the event that any of our indentures or other financing agreements in the future restrict our ability to pay cash dividends on the preferred stock, we will be unable to pay cash dividends on the preferred stock unless we can refinance amounts outstanding under those agreements.

Under Oklahoma law, cash dividends on capital stock may only be paid from surplus or, if there is no surplus, from the corporation's net profits for the then current or the preceding fiscal year. Unless we continue to operate profitably, our ability to pay cash dividends on the preferred stock would require the availability of adequate surplus, which is defined as the excess, if any, of our net assets (total assets less total liabilities) over our capital. Further, even if adequate surplus is available to pay cash dividends on the preferred stock, we may not have sufficient cash to pay dividends on the preferred stock.

There is no current public market for the preferred stock.

The preferred stock will be a new issue of securities for which there is currently no market. Although the underwriters currently intend to make a market in the preferred stock, they are not obligated to do so and any market-making activities may be discontinued at any time without notice. Accordingly, there may not be development of or liquidity in any market for the preferred stock. If a market for the preferred stock were to develop, the preferred stock could trade at prices that may be higher or lower than the initial offering price depending upon many factors, including prevailing interest rates, our operating results and the markets for similar securities.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$145.6 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and the estimated expenses of the offering. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering, together with a portion of the net proceeds from our proposed private placement of senior notes, to repay a portion of the amounts outstanding under our revolving bank credit facility. As of November 10, 2003, we had approximately \$223 million outstanding under our bank revolving credit facility with an average interest rate of 3.32%. These borrowings were incurred primarily to finance our recent Laredo Energy acquisition.

S-12

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table shows our unaudited capitalization as of September 30, 2003:

on a historical basis;

on a pro forma basis to reflect the borrowings incurred under our bank credit facility to finance the recent Laredo Energy acquisition and to reflect two senior notes private exchange offers completed since September 30, 2003; and

on a pro forma basis as further adjusted to reflect (1) this preferred stock offering and the application of the net proceeds herefrom, (2) our \$200 million private placement of 6.875% Senior Notes due 2016 and the application of the net proceeds therefrom and (3) our tender offer for all of our 8.5% Senior Notes due 2012 (assuming the tender offer is fully subscribed).

This table should be read in conjunction with, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, our historical financial statements and the accompanying notes included in our annual report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2002 and our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003 which are incorporated by reference herein.

	As of September 30, 2003		
	Historical	Pro Forma	As Adjusted
	(in thousands)		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 38,478	\$ 38,478	\$
Long-term debt:			
Bank revolving credit facility	\$ 72,000	\$ 272,000	\$ 10,862
7.875% Senior Notes due 2004	42,137	42,137	42,137
8.375% Senior Notes due 2008	222,150	209,815	209,815
8.125% Senior Notes due 2011 (1)	800,000	728,255	728,255
8.500% Senior Notes due 2012 (2)	110,669	110,669	
9.000% Senior Notes due 2012	300,000	300,000	300,000
7.500% Senior Notes due 2013	300,000	363,823	363,823
7.750% Senior Notes due 2015	213,001	236,691	236,691
6.875% Senior Notes due 2016 (3)			200,000
Interest rate derivatives	(12,805)	(12,805)	2,613
Discount, net of premium, on senior notes	(22,816)	(26,413)	(28,112)
Total long-term debt	2,024,336	2,224,172	2,066,084
Stockholders equity:			
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, 10,000,000 authorized			
6.75% cumulative convertible preferred stock, 2,998,000 shares issued and outstanding, entitled in liquidation to \$149.9 million	149,900	149,900	149,900
	230,000	230,000	230,000

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

6.00% cumulative convertible preferred stock, 4,600,000 shares issued and outstanding, entitled in liquidation to \$230.0 million			
5.00% cumulative convertible preferred stock, 1,500,000 shares issued and outstanding, entitled in liquidation to \$150.0 million			150,000
Common stock, \$.01 par value, 350,000,000 shares authorized, 221,474,389 shares issued and outstanding	2,215	2,215	2,215
Paid-in capital	1,390,730	1,390,730	1,386,355
Accumulated deficit	(222,338)	(222,338)	(237,385)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	55,954	55,954	55,954
Less: treasury stock, at cost, 5,071,571 common shares	(22,091)	(22,091)	(22,091)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total stockholders' equity	1,584,370	1,584,370	1,714,948
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total capitalization	\$ 3,608,706	\$ 3,808,542	\$ 3,781,032
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

S-13

Table of Contents

- (1) We are considering making a private exchange offer to certain eligible holders for up to \$500 million aggregate principal amount of our 8.125% Senior Notes due 2011. The offer, if made, will be to exchange the 8.125% Senior Notes due 2011 for notes of one or more series of our senior notes with a final maturity date after 2011, including additional notes of an existing series of our senior notes or additional notes of the new series of senior notes to be offered in our pending private placement of senior notes. There is no assurance that the exchange offer, if made, will be completed for any amount.
- (2) In the event that our tender offer for this series is not fully subscribed, any excess proceeds from the private placement of senior notes will be applied to repay remaining amounts outstanding under our bank credit facility and for general corporate purposes.
- (3) There is no assurance that our private placement of senior notes will be completed or completed for the amount contemplated.

PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **CHK**. The following table sets forth the range of high and low sales prices per share of our common stock for each calendar quarter.

	Sales Price	
	High	Low
2001:		
First Quarter	\$ 11.06	\$ 7.65
Second Quarter	\$ 9.45	\$ 6.20
Third Quarter	\$ 6.96	\$ 4.50
Fourth Quarter	\$ 7.59	\$ 5.26
2002:		
First Quarter	\$ 7.78	\$ 5.05
Second Quarter	\$ 8.55	\$ 6.81
Third Quarter	\$ 7.25	\$ 4.50
Fourth Quarter	\$ 8.06	\$ 5.89
2003:		
First Quarter	\$ 8.64	\$ 7.27
Second Quarter	\$ 11.45	\$ 7.45
Third Quarter	\$ 10.97	\$ 9.17
Fourth Quarter (through November 12, 2003)	\$ 12.45	\$ 10.66

On November 12, 2003, the closing sale price of our common stock, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange, was \$11.93 per share. On that date, there were approximately 1,180 holders of record.

Table of Contents

DIVIDEND POLICY

In the third quarter of 2002 we began paying a \$0.03 per quarter cash dividend on our common stock. In the second quarter of 2003 we increased this dividend to \$0.035. We intend to continue to pay this quarterly dividend; however, the payment of future cash dividends will depend upon, among other things, our financial condition, funds from operations, the level of our capital and development expenditures, our future business prospects and any contractual restrictions.

The indentures governing substantially all of our senior notes contain restrictions on our ability to declare and pay cash dividends. Under those indentures, we may not pay dividends on our common stock if an event of default has occurred, if we have not met the debt incurrence tests set forth in the indentures or if immediately after giving effect to the dividend payment, we have paid total dividends and made other restricted payments in excess of the permitted amount. The credit agreement governing our revolving bank credit facility also contains restrictions on our ability to declare and pay cash dividends.

The certificates of designation for our 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, our 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock and the preferred stock offered hereby prohibit, or will prohibit, payment of cash dividends on our common stock unless we have declared and paid (or set apart for payment) full accumulated dividends on such series of our preferred stock.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

The following is a summary of certain provisions of the certificate of designation for our 5% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock (which we will refer to as the Convertible Preferred Stock). A copy of the certificate of designation and the form of Convertible Preferred Stock share certificate are available upon request from us at the address set forth under Where You Can Find More Information on page 10 of the base prospectus. The following summary of the terms of Convertible Preferred Stock does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the provisions of the certificate of designation. As used in this section, the terms the Company, us, we or our refer to Chesapeake Energy Corporation and not any of its subsidiaries.

General

Under our certificate of incorporation, our board of directors is authorized, without further stockholder action, to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share, in one or more series, with such voting powers or without voting powers, and with such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, and qualifications, limitations or restrictions, as shall be set forth in the resolutions providing therefor. We have 2,152,000 shares of authorized preferred stock which are undesignated. We have 2,998,000 shares of preferred stock which are designated as 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, of which all are currently outstanding, and 4,600,000 shares of preferred stock which are designated as 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, of which all are currently outstanding. The board of directors has also authorized the issuance of up to 250,000 shares of Series A Junior Participating Convertible Preferred Stock in connection with the adoption of our share rights plan in July 1998. None of these shares are currently outstanding. At the consummation of this offering, we will issue 1,500,000 shares of Convertible Preferred Stock. In addition, we have granted the underwriters an option to purchase up to 225,000 additional shares. Please read Description of Capital Stock in the accompanying prospectus.

When issued, the Convertible Preferred Stock and any common stock issued upon the conversion of the Convertible Preferred Stock will be fully paid and nonassessable. The holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock will have no preemptive or preferential right to purchase or subscribe to stock, obligations, warrants or other securities of the Company of any class. The transfer agent, registrar, redemption, conversion and dividend disbursing agent for shares of both the Convertible Preferred Stock and common stock is UMB Bank, N.A.

The Convertible Preferred Stock is subject to mandatory conversion, as described below in Mandatory Conversion, but is not redeemable by us.

Ranking

The Convertible Preferred Stock, with respect to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution, ranks:

senior to all classes of our common stock and to the Series A Junior Participating Convertible Preferred Stock and each other class of capital stock or series of preferred stock established after the original issue date of the Convertible Preferred Stock (which we will refer to as the Issue Date), the terms of which do not expressly provide that such class or series ranks senior to or on a parity with the Convertible Preferred Stock as to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution (which we will refer to collectively as Junior Stock);

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

on a parity, in all respects, with our existing 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, our existing 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock and with any class of capital stock or series of preferred stock established after the Issue Date, the terms of which expressly provide that such class or series will rank on a parity with the Convertible Preferred Stock as to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution (which we will refer to collectively as Parity Stock); and

S-16

Table of Contents

junior to each class of capital stock or series of preferred stock established after the Issue Date, the terms of which expressly provide that such class or series will rank senior to the Convertible Preferred Stock as to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution (which we will refer to collectively as Senior Stock).

While any shares of Convertible Preferred Stock are outstanding, we may not authorize or issue any class or series of Senior Stock (or any security convertible into Senior Stock) without the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 ²/₃% of the outstanding shares of Convertible Preferred Stock. Without the consent of any holder of Convertible Preferred Stock, however, we may authorize, increase the authorized amount of, or issue any class or series of Parity Stock or Junior Stock. See Voting Rights below.

Dividends

Holders of shares of Convertible Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for payment, cumulative cash dividends at the rate per annum of 5% per share on the liquidation preference thereof of \$100 per share of Convertible Preferred Stock (equivalent to \$5.00 per annum per share). Dividends on the Convertible Preferred Stock will be payable quarterly on February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15 of each year, commencing February 15, 2004 (each, a Dividend Payment Date) at such annual rate, and shall accumulate from the most recent date as to which dividends shall have been paid or, if no dividends have been paid, from the Issue Date of the Convertible Preferred Stock, whether or not in any dividend period or periods there have been funds legally available for the payment of such dividends. Dividends will be payable to holders of record as they appear on our stock register on the immediately preceding February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1 (each, a Record Date). Accumulations of dividends on shares of Convertible Preferred Stock do not bear interest. Dividends payable on the Convertible Preferred Stock for any period less than a full dividend period (based upon the number of days elapsed during the period) are computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

No dividend will be declared or paid upon, or any sum set apart for the payment of dividends upon, any outstanding share of the Convertible Preferred Stock with respect to any dividend period unless all dividends for all preceding dividend periods have been declared and paid or declared and a sufficient sum set apart for the payment of such dividend, upon all outstanding shares of Convertible Preferred Stock.

No dividends or other distributions (other than a dividend or distribution payable solely in shares of Parity Stock or Junior Stock (in the case of Parity Stock) or Junior Stock (in the case of Junior Stock) and cash in lieu of fractional shares) may be declared, made or paid, or set apart for payment upon, any Parity Stock or Junior Stock, nor may any Parity Stock or Junior Stock be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired for any consideration (or any money paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any Parity Stock or Junior Stock) by us or on our behalf (except by conversion into or exchange for shares of Parity Stock or Junior Stock (in the case of Parity Stock) or Junior Stock (in the case of Junior Stock)) unless all accumulated and unpaid dividends have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid, or are declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof is set apart for such payment, on the Convertible Preferred Stock and any Parity Stock for all dividend payment periods terminating on or prior to the date of such declaration, payment, redemption, purchase or acquisition. Notwithstanding the preceding, if full dividends have not been paid on the Convertible Preferred Stock and any Parity Stock, dividends may be declared and paid on the Convertible Preferred Stock and such Parity Stock so long as the dividends are declared and paid pro rata so that the amounts of dividends declared per share on the Convertible Preferred Stock and such Parity Stock will in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accumulated and unpaid dividends per share on the shares of the Convertible Preferred Stock and such Parity Stock bear to each other. Holders of shares of the Convertible Preferred Stock will not be entitled to any dividend, whether payable in cash, property or stock, in excess of full cumulative dividends.

Table of Contents

Our ability to declare and pay cash dividends and make other distributions with respect to our capital stock, including the Convertible Preferred Stock, is limited by the terms of the Company's outstanding indebtedness. In addition, our ability to declare and pay dividends may be limited by applicable Oklahoma law. See "Supplemental Risk Factors" We may not be able to pay cash dividends on the preferred stock.

Liquidation Preference

In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, winding-up or dissolution, each holder of Convertible Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive and to be paid out of our assets available for distribution to our stockholders, before any payment or distribution is made to holders of Junior Stock (including common stock), a liquidation preference in the amount of \$100 per share of the Convertible Preferred Stock, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends on the shares to the date fixed for liquidation, winding-up or dissolution. If, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, winding-up or dissolution, the amounts payable with respect to the liquidation preference of the Convertible Preferred Stock and all Parity Stock are not paid in full, the holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock and the Parity Stock will share equally and ratably in any distribution of our assets in proportion to the full liquidation preference and accumulated and unpaid dividends to which they are entitled. After payment of the full amount of the liquidation preference and accumulated and unpaid dividends to which they are entitled, the holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. Neither the sale of all or substantially all our assets or business (other than in connection with our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution), nor our merger or consolidation into or with any other person, will be deemed to be our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, winding-up or dissolution.

The certificate of designation will not contain any provision requiring funds to be set aside to protect the liquidation preference of the Convertible Preferred Stock even though it is substantially in excess of the par value thereof.

Voting Rights

The holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock will have no voting rights except as set forth below or as otherwise required by Oklahoma law from time to time.

If dividends on the Convertible Preferred Stock are in arrears and unpaid for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive), the holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock, voting as a single class with any other preferred stock or preference securities having similar voting rights that are exercisable (including our existing 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock and our existing 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock), will be entitled at our next regular or special meeting of stockholders to elect two additional directors to our board of directors. Upon the election of any additional directors, the number of directors that comprise our board shall be increased by such number of additional directors. Such voting rights and the terms of the directors so elected will continue until such time as the dividend arrearage on the Convertible Preferred Stock has been paid in full.

In addition, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least 66²/₃% of the outstanding Convertible Preferred Stock will be required for the authorization or issuance of any class or series of Senior Stock (or any security convertible into Senior Stock) and for amendments to our certificate of incorporation that would affect adversely the rights of holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock. The certificate of designation will provide that the authorization of, the increase in the authorized amount of, or the issuance of any shares of any class or series of Parity Stock or Junior Stock will not require the consent of the holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock, and will not be deemed to affect adversely the rights of the holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock.

In all cases in which the holders of Convertible Preferred Stock shall be entitled to vote, each share of Convertible Preferred Stock shall be entitled to one vote.

S-18

Table of Contents

Conversion Rights

Each share of Convertible Preferred Stock will be convertible at any time at the option of the holder thereof into 6.0962 shares of common stock (which is calculated using an initial conversion price of \$16.40 per share of common stock) subject to adjustment as described below (and we refer to such price or adjusted price as the Conversion Price).

The holders of shares of Convertible Preferred Stock at the close of business on a Record Date will be entitled to receive the dividend payment on those shares on the corresponding Dividend Payment Date notwithstanding the conversion of such shares following that Record Date or our default in payment of the dividend due on that Dividend Payment Date. However, shares of Convertible Preferred Stock surrendered for conversion during the period between the close of business on any Record Date and the close of business on the business day immediately preceding the applicable Dividend Payment Date must be accompanied by payment of an amount equal to the dividend payable on such shares on that Dividend Payment Date. A holder of shares of Convertible Preferred Stock on a Record Date who (or whose transferee) tenders any shares for conversion on the corresponding Dividend Payment Date will receive the dividend payable by us on the Convertible Preferred Stock on that date, and the converting holder need not include payment in the amount of such dividend upon surrender of shares of Convertible Preferred Stock for conversion. Except as provided above with respect to a voluntary conversion, we will make no payment or allowance for unpaid dividends, whether or not in arrears, on converted shares or for dividends on the shares of common stock issued upon conversion.

Mandatory Conversion

At any time on or after November 18, 2006, we may at our option cause the Convertible Preferred Stock to be automatically converted into that number of shares of common stock for each share of Convertible Preferred Stock equal to \$100.00 (the liquidation preference per share of Convertible Preferred Stock) divided by the then prevailing Conversion Price. We may exercise this right only if the closing price of our common stock equals or exceeds 130% of the then prevailing Conversion Price for at least 20 trading days in any consecutive 30-day trading period, including the last trading day of such 30-day period, ending on the trading day prior to our issuance of a press release announcing the mandatory conversion as described below.

To exercise the mandatory conversion right described above, we must issue a press release for publication on the Dow Jones News Service prior to the opening of business on the first trading day following any date on which the conditions described in the preceding paragraph are met, announcing such a mandatory conversion. We will also give notice by mail or by publication (with subsequent prompt notice by mail) to the holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock (not more than four business days after the date of the press release) of the mandatory conversion announcing our intention to convert the Convertible Preferred Stock. The conversion date will be a date selected by us (which we will refer to as the Mandatory Conversion Date) and will be no more than five days after the date on which we issue such press release.

In addition to any information required by applicable law or regulation, the press release and notice of a mandatory conversion shall state, as appropriate:

the Mandatory Conversion Date;

the number of shares of common stock to be issued upon conversion of each share of Convertible Preferred Stock;

the number of shares of Convertible Preferred Stock to be converted; and

that dividends on the Convertible Preferred Stock to be converted will cease to accrue on the Mandatory Conversion Date.

On and after the Mandatory Conversion Date, dividends will cease to accrue on the Convertible Preferred Stock called for a mandatory conversion and all rights of holders of such Convertible Preferred Stock will terminate except for the right to receive the shares of common stock issuable upon conversion thereof. The

S-19

Table of Contents

dividend payment with respect to the Convertible Preferred Stock called for a mandatory conversion on a date during the period between the close of business on any Record Date for the payment of dividends to the close of business on the corresponding Dividend Payment Date will be payable on such Dividend Payment Date to the record holder of such share on such Record Date if such share has been converted after such Record Date and prior to such Dividend Payment Date. Except as provided in the immediately preceding sentence with respect to a mandatory conversion, no payment or adjustment will be made upon conversion of Convertible Preferred Stock for accumulated and unpaid dividends or for dividends with respect to the common stock issued upon such conversion.

We may not authorize, issue a press release or give notice of any mandatory conversion unless, prior to giving the conversion notice, all accumulated and unpaid dividends on the Convertible Preferred Stock for periods ended prior to the date of such conversion notice shall have been paid in cash.

In addition to the mandatory conversion provision described above, if there are less than 250,000 shares of Convertible Preferred Stock outstanding, we may, at any time on or after November 18, 2008, at our option, cause the Convertible Preferred Stock to be automatically converted into that number of shares of common stock equal to \$100.00 (the liquidation preference per share of Convertible Preferred Stock) divided by the lesser of the then prevailing Conversion Price and the Market Value (as defined below under Conversion Price Adjustment) for the five trading day period ending on the second trading day immediately prior to the Mandatory Conversion Date. The provisions of the immediately preceding four paragraphs shall apply to any such mandatory conversion; *provided, however*, that (1) the Mandatory Conversion Date will not be less than 15 days nor more than 30 days after the date on which we issue a press release announcing such mandatory conversion and (2) the press release and notice of mandatory conversion will not state the number of shares of common stock to be issued upon conversion of each share of Convertible Preferred Stock.

Fractional Shares

No fractional shares of common stock or securities representing fractional shares of common stock will be issued upon conversion, whether voluntary or mandatory. Any fractional interest in a share of common stock resulting from conversion will be paid in cash based on the last reported sale price of the common stock on the New York Stock Exchange (or such other national securities exchange or automated quotation system on which the common stock is then listed or authorized for quotation or, if not so listed or authorized for quotation, an amount determined in good faith by our board of directors to be the fair value of the common stock) at the close of business on the trading day next preceding the date of conversion.

Conversion Price Adjustment

The Conversion Price is subject to adjustment (in accordance with formulas set forth in the certificate of designation) in certain events, including:

any payment of a dividend (or other distribution) payable in shares of common stock on any class of our capital stock;

any issuance to all holders of shares of common stock of rights, options or warrants entitling them to subscribe for or purchase shares of common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock at less than the Market Value (as defined below) for the period ending on the date of issuance; *provided, however*, that no adjustment shall be made with respect to such a distribution if the holder of shares of Convertible Preferred Stock would be entitled to receive such rights, options or warrants upon

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

conversion at any time of shares of Convertible Preferred Stock into common stock; *provided further, however*, that if such rights, options or warrants are only exercisable upon the occurrence of certain triggering events, then the Conversion Price will not be adjusted until such triggering events occur;

any subdivision, combination or reclassification of the common stock;

S-20

Table of Contents

any dividend or distribution to all holders of shares of common stock (other than a dividend or distribution referred to in the second bullet point above) made pursuant to any shareholder rights plan, poison pill or similar arrangement and excluding dividends payable upon the Convertible Preferred Stock;

any distribution by us consisting exclusively of cash to all holders of our common stock, excluding any cash dividend on our common stock to the extent that the aggregate cash dividend per share of our common stock in any quarterly period does not exceed \$0.05 (the dividend threshold amount); the dividend threshold amount is subject to adjustment under the same circumstances under which the Conversion Price is subject to adjustment; *provided, however*, that no adjustment will be made to the dividend threshold amount for any adjustment made to the Conversion Price pursuant to this clause, in which event the Conversion Price will be adjusted by multiplying:

- (1) the Conversion Price by
- (2) a fraction, the numerator of which will be the current market price of a share of our common stock minus the amount per share of such dividend increase (as determined below) or distribution and the denominator of which will be the current market price of a share of our common stock.

If an adjustment is required to be made under this clause as a result of a cash dividend in any quarterly period that exceeds the dividend threshold amount, the adjustment would be based upon the amount by which the distribution exceeds the dividend threshold amount (the dividend increase). If an adjustment is otherwise required to be made under this clause, the adjustment would be based upon the full amount of the distribution;

the completion of a tender or exchange offer made by us or any of our subsidiaries for shares of common stock that involves an aggregate consideration that, together with (a) any cash and other consideration payable in a tender or exchange offer by us or any of our subsidiaries for shares of common stock expiring within the then-preceding 12 months in respect of which no adjustment has been made and (b) the aggregate amount of any such all-cash distributions referred to in the preceding bullet point to all holders of shares of common stock within the then-preceding 12 months in respect of which no adjustments have been made, exceeds 15% of our market capitalization on the expiration of such tender offer; or

a distribution to all holders of common stock consisting of evidences of indebtedness, shares of capital stock other than common stock or assets (including securities, but excluding those dividends, rights, options, warrants and distributions referred to above).

No adjustment of the Conversion Price will be required to be made until the cumulative adjustments (whether or not made) amount to 1.0% or more of the Conversion Price as last adjusted. We reserve the right to make such reductions in the Conversion Price in addition to those required in the foregoing provisions as we consider to be advisable in order that any event treated for Federal income tax purposes as a dividend of stock or stock rights will not be taxable to the recipients. If we elect to make such a reduction in the Conversion Price, we

Table of Contents

will comply with the requirements of securities laws and regulations thereunder if and to the extent that such laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the reduction of the Conversion Price.

The term **Market Value** means the average closing price of the common stock for a five consecutive trading day period on the New York Stock Exchange (or such other national securities exchange or automated quotation system on which the common stock is then listed or authorized for quotation or, if not so listed or authorized for quotation, an amount determined in good faith by our board of directors to be the fair value of the common stock).

If we distribute rights or warrants (other than those referred to in the second bullet point of the third preceding paragraph) pro rata to holders of shares of common stock, so long as any such rights or warrants have not expired or been redeemed by us, the holder of any Convertible Preferred Stock surrendered for conversion will be entitled to receive upon such conversion, in addition to the shares of common stock then issuable upon such conversion (which we will refer to as the **Conversion Shares**), a number of rights or warrants to be determined as follows:

if such conversion occurs on or prior to the date for the distribution to the holders of rights or warrants of separate certificates evidencing such rights or warrants (which we will refer to as the **Distribution Date**), the same number of rights or warrants to which a holder of a number of shares of common stock equal to the number of Conversion Shares is entitled at the time of such conversion in accordance with the terms and provisions applicable to the rights or warrants; and

if such conversion occurs after such Distribution Date, the same number of rights or warrants to which a holder of the number of shares of common stock into which such Convertible Preferred Stock was convertible immediately prior to such Distribution Date would have been entitled on such Distribution Date had such Convertible Preferred Stock been converted immediately prior to such Distribution Date in accordance with the terms and provisions applicable to the rights or warrants.

The Conversion Price will not be subject to adjustment on account of any declaration, distribution or exercise of such rights or warrants.

Following any reclassification, consolidation or merger of our company with or into another person or any merger of another person with or into us (with certain exceptions), or any sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets (computed on a consolidated basis), each share of Convertible Preferred Stock then outstanding will, without the consent of any holder of Convertible Preferred Stock, be convertible at any time at the option of the holder thereof only into the kind and amount of securities, cash and other property receivable upon such reclassification, consolidation, merger, sale or other disposition by a holder of the number of shares of common stock into which such Convertible Preferred Stock was convertible immediately prior thereto, after giving effect to any adjustment event.

Change of Control

Except as provided below, upon a Change of Control (as defined below), holders of Convertible Preferred Stock shall, if the Market Value at such time is less than the Conversion Price, have a one-time option to convert all of their outstanding shares of Convertible Preferred Stock into shares of common stock at an adjusted Conversion Price equal to the greater of (1) the Market Value as of the Change of Control Date and (2) \$7.9533. This option shall be exercisable during a period of not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days commencing on the third business day after notice of the Change of Control is given by us in the manner specified in the certificate of designation. In lieu of issuing the shares of common stock issuable upon conversion in the event of a Change of Control, we may, at our option, make a cash payment equal to the Market Value for each share of such common stock otherwise issuable determined for the period ending on the Change of Control Date. Notwithstanding the preceding, upon a Change of Control in which (x) each holder of our common stock receives consideration consisting

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

solely of common stock of the successor, acquiror or other third party (and cash paid in lieu of fractional shares) that is listed on a national securities exchange or quoted on the NASDAQ National Market and (y) all our

S-22

Table of Contents

common stock has been exchanged for, converted into or acquired for common stock of the successor, acquiror or other third party (and cash in lieu of fractional shares), and the Convertible Preferred Stock becomes convertible solely into such common stock, the Conversion Price will not be adjusted as described in this paragraph.

The certificate of designation defines "Change of Control" as any of the following events:

the sale, lease or transfer, in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of our assets (determined on a consolidated basis) to any person or group (as such term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")), other than to Permitted Holders;

the adoption of a plan the consummation of which would result in our liquidation or dissolution;

the acquisition, directly or indirectly, by any person or group (as such term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act), other than Permitted Holders, of beneficial ownership (as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act) of more than 50% of the aggregate voting power of our voting stock; *provided, however*, that the Permitted Holders beneficially own (as defined in Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, in the aggregate a lesser percentage of the total voting power of our voting stock than such other person or group and do not have the right or ability by voting power, contract or otherwise to elect or designate for election a majority of our board of directors (for the purposes of this definition, such other person or group shall be deemed to beneficially own any voting stock of a specified corporation held by a parent corporation, if such other person or group is the beneficial owner (as defined above), directly or indirectly, of more than 35% of the voting power of the voting stock of such parent corporation and the Permitted Holders beneficially own (as defined in this proviso), directly or indirectly, in the aggregate a lesser percentage of the voting power of the voting stock of such parent corporation and do not have the right or ability by voting power, contract or otherwise to elect or designate for election a majority of the board of directors of such parent corporation); or

during any period of two consecutive years, individuals who at the beginning of such period comprised our board of directors (together with any new directors whose election by such board of directors or whose nomination for election by our shareholders was approved by a vote of 66 2/3% of our directors then still in office who were either directors at the beginning of such period or whose election or nomination for election was previously so approved) cease for any reason to constitute a majority of our board of directors then in office.

For purposes of the definition of "Change of Control", the term "Permitted Holders" means Aubrey K. McClendon and Tom L. Ward and their respective Affiliates (as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act).

The phrase "all or substantially all" of our assets is likely to be interpreted by reference to applicable state law at the relevant time, and will be dependent on the facts and circumstances existing at such time. As a result, there may be a degree of uncertainty in ascertaining whether a sale or transfer is of "all or substantially all" of our assets.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

The certificate of designation provides that we may, without the consent of the holders of any of the outstanding Convertible Preferred Stock, consolidate with or merge into any other person or convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all our assets to any person or may permit any person to consolidate with or merge into, or transfer or lease all or substantially all its properties to, us; *provided, however*, that (a) the successor,

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

transferee or lessee is organized under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof; (b) the shares of Convertible Preferred Stock will become shares of such successor, transferee or lessee, having in respect of such successor, transferee or lessee the same powers, preferences and relative participating, optional or other special rights and the qualification, limitations or restrictions thereon, the Convertible Preferred Stock had immediately prior to such transaction; and (c) certain procedural conditions are met.

S-23

Table of Contents

Under any consolidation by us with, or merger by us into, any other person or any conveyance, transfer or lease of all or substantially all our assets as described in the preceding paragraph, the successor resulting from such consolidation or into which we are merged or the transferee or lessee to which such conveyance, transfer or lease is made, will succeed to, and be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of, ours under the shares of Convertible Preferred Stock, and thereafter, except in the case of a lease, the predecessor (if still in existence) will be released from its obligations and covenants with respect to the Convertible Preferred Stock.

SEC Reports

Whether or not we are required to file reports with the SEC, if any shares of Convertible Preferred Stock are outstanding, we will file with the SEC all such reports and other information as we would be required to file with the SEC by Section 13(a) or 15(d) under the Exchange Act. See

Where You Can Find More Information on page 11 of the base prospectus. We will supply each holder of Convertible Preferred Stock, upon request, without cost to such holder, copies of such reports or other information.

Book-Entry, Delivery and Form

We will initially issue the Convertible Preferred Stock in the form of one or more global securities. The global securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, the Depositary and registered in the name of the Depositary or its nominee. Except as set forth below, the global securities may be transferred, in whole and not in part, only to the Depositary or another nominee of the Depositary. Investors may hold their beneficial interests in the global securities directly through the Depositary if they have an account with the Depositary or indirectly through organizations which have accounts with the Depositary.

Shares of Convertible Preferred Stock that are issued as described below under Certificated Convertible Preferred Stock will be issued in definitive form. Upon the transfer of Convertible Preferred Stock in definitive form, such Convertible Preferred Stock will, unless the global securities have previously been exchanged for Convertible Preferred Stock in definitive form, be exchanged for an interest in the global securities representing the liquidation preference of Convertible Preferred Stock being transferred.

The Depositary has advised us as follows: The Depositary is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. The Depositary was created to hold securities of institutions that have accounts with the Depositary (participants) and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among its participants in such securities through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. The Depositary's participants include securities brokers and dealers (which may include the underwriters), banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Access to the Depositary's book-entry system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies (indirect participants) that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, whether directly or indirectly.

We expect that pursuant to procedures established by the Depositary, upon the deposit of the global securities with, or on behalf of, the Depositary, the Depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the liquidation preference of the Convertible Preferred Stock represented by such global securities to the accounts of participants. The accounts to be credited shall be designated by the underwriters of such Convertible Preferred Stock. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global securities will be limited to participants or persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global securities will be shown on, and the transfer of those ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the Depositary (with respect to participants' interests) and such

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

participants and indirect participants (with respect to the owners of beneficial interests in the global securities other than participants). The laws of some jurisdictions may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such

S-24

Table of Contents

securities in definitive form. Such limits and laws may impair the ability to transfer or pledge beneficial interests in the global securities.

So long as the Depositary, or its nominee, is the registered holder and owner of the global securities, the Depositary or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole legal owner and holder of the Convertible Preferred Stock evidenced by the global certificates for all purposes of such Convertible Preferred Stock and the certificate of designation. Except as set forth below as an owner of a beneficial interest in the global certificates, you will not be entitled to have the Convertible Preferred Stock represented by the global securities registered in your name, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificated Convertible Preferred Stock in definitive form and will not be considered to be the owner or holder of any Convertible Preferred Stock under the global securities. We understand that under existing industry practice, in the event an owner of a beneficial interest in the global securities desires to take any action that the Depositary, as the holder of the global securities, is entitled to take, the Depositary will authorize the participants to take such action, and that the participants will authorize beneficial owners owning through such participants to take such action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

All payments on Convertible Preferred Stock represented by the global securities registered in the name of and held by the Depositary or its nominee will be made to the Depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner and holder of the global securities.

We expect that the Depositary or its nominee, upon receipt of any payment on the global securities, will credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the liquidation preference of the global securities as shown on the records of the Depositary or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants or indirect participants to owners of beneficial interest in the global securities held through such participants or indirect participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices and will be the responsibility of such participants or indirect participants. We will not have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in the global securities for any Convertible Preferred Stock or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests or for any other aspect of the relationship between the Depositary and its participants or indirect participants or the relationship between such participants or indirect participants and the owners of beneficial interests in the global securities owning through such participants or indirect participants.

Although the Depositary has agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of interests in the global securities among participants or indirect participants of the Depositary, it is under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures, and such procedures may be discontinued at any time. Neither we nor the transfer agent will have any responsibility or liability for the performance by the Depositary or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

Certificated Convertible Preferred Stock

Subject to certain conditions, the Convertible Preferred Stock represented by the global securities is exchangeable for certificated Convertible Preferred Stock in definitive form of like tenor as such Convertible Preferred Stock if (1) the Depositary notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as Depositary for the global securities or if at any time the Depositary ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act and, in either case, a successor is not appointed within 90 days or (2) we in our discretion at any time determine not to have all of the Convertible Preferred Stock represented by the global securities. Any Convertible Preferred Stock that is exchangeable pursuant to the preceding sentence is exchangeable for certificated Convertible Preferred Stock issuable for such number of shares and registered in such names as the Depositary shall direct. Subject to the foregoing, the global securities are not exchangeable, except for global securities representing the same aggregate number of shares and registered in the name of the Depositary or its nominee.

Table of Contents

U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following discussion summarizes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences to holders (as defined below) of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the preferred stock and any common stock received upon its conversion. This discussion is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), the final and temporary Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder and administrative rulings and judicial decisions now in effect, all of which are subject to change (possibly with retroactive effect) or different interpretations. This summary does not purport to deal with all aspects of U.S. Federal income taxation that may be relevant to an investor's decision to purchase shares of preferred stock, nor any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, locality or foreign jurisdiction. This summary is not intended to be applicable to all categories of investors, such as dealers in securities, banks, insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, persons that hold the preferred stock or common stock as part of a straddle or conversion transaction or holders subject to the alternative minimum tax, which may be subject to special rules. In addition, this discussion is limited to persons who hold the preferred stock or common stock as capital assets (generally, property held for investment) within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code. As used in this section, a U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of preferred stock or common stock that is for U.S. Federal income tax purposes:

an individual U.S. citizen or resident alien;

a corporation, or entity taxable as a corporation that was created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate whose world-wide income is subject to U.S. Federal income tax; or

a trust if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or that has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations to be treated as a United States person.

A non-U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of preferred stock or common stock that is not a U.S. holder.

If a partnership holds preferred stock or common stock, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership.

YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR OWN TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP, CONVERSION AND DISPOSITION OF PREFERRED STOCK AND COMMON STOCK RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF A CONVERSION OF PREFERRED STOCK.

Consequences to U.S. Holders of Preferred Stock or Common Stock

Distributions. The amount of any distribution to you with respect to preferred stock or common stock will be treated as a dividend, to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (earnings and profits) as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. Dividends are generally taxed as ordinary income, however, dividends paid to non-corporate holders may qualify for taxation at lower capital gain rates. To the extent the amount of such distribution exceeds our earnings and profits, the excess will be applied against and will reduce your tax basis (on a

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

dollar-for-dollar basis) in the preferred stock or common stock, as the case may be. Any amount in excess of your tax basis will be treated as capital gain. If we are not able to make distributions on the preferred stock, the accreted liquidation preference of the preferred stock will increase and such increase may give rise to deemed dividend income to holders of the preferred stock in the amount of all, or a portion of, such increase.

Dividends to Corporate Shareholders. In general, a distribution which is treated as a dividend for U.S. Federal income tax purposes and is made to a corporate shareholder with respect to the preferred stock or

S-26

Table of Contents

common stock will qualify for the 70% dividends-received deduction under Section 243 of the Code. Corporate shareholders should note, however, there can be no assurance that the amount of distributions made with respect to the preferred stock or the common stock will not exceed the amount of our earnings and profits in the future. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the dividends-received deduction will be available in respect of distributions on the preferred stock or common stock.

In addition, there are many exceptions and restrictions relating to the availability of such dividends-received deduction such as restrictions relating to:

the holding period of stock the dividends on which are sought to be deducted;

debt-financed portfolio stock;

dividends treated as extraordinary dividends for purposes of Section 1059 of the Code; and

taxpayers that pay corporate alternative minimum tax.

Corporate shareholders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the extent, if any, to which such exceptions and restrictions may apply to their particular factual situation.

Sale or Other Disposition. Upon a sale or other disposition of preferred stock or common stock (other than an exchange of preferred stock for common stock pursuant to the conversion privilege), you generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount of cash and the fair market value of property you receive on the sale or other disposition and your adjusted tax basis in the preferred stock or common stock. Such capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if your holding period for the preferred stock or common stock, as applicable, is more than one year.

If, following a change of control, a holder of the preferred stock exercises the option described in Description of Preferred Stock Change of Control and we elect to satisfy payment in cash, the transaction will generally be treated as a redemption for U.S. Federal income tax purposes. The U.S. Federal income tax treatment of such a redemption to a holder will depend on the particular facts relating to such holder at the time of the redemption. The receipt of cash in connection with such redemption will be treated as gain or loss from the sale or other disposition of the preferred stock (as discussed in the preceding paragraph), if, taking into account stock that is actually or constructively owned as determined under Section 318 of the Code:

your interest in our common and preferred stock is completely terminated as a result of such redemption;

your percentage ownership in our voting stock immediately after such redemption is less than 80% of your percentage ownership immediately before such redemption; or

such redemption is not essentially equivalent to a dividend (within the meaning of Section 302(b)(1) of the Code).

If none of the above tests giving rise to sale treatment is satisfied, then a payment made in redemption of the preferred stock will be treated as a distribution that is taxable in the same manner as described above under Distributions, and your adjusted tax basis in the redeemed preferred stock will be transferred to any remaining shares you hold in us. If you do not retain any stock ownership in us following such redemption, then you may lose your basis completely.

Conversion of Preferred Stock in Exchange for Common Stock. You generally will not recognize gain or loss by reason of receiving common stock in exchange for preferred stock upon conversion of the preferred stock, except gain or loss will be recognized with respect to any cash received in lieu of fractional shares and the fair market value of any shares of common stock attributable to dividend arrearages will be treated as a constructive distribution as described above under Distributions. The adjusted tax basis of the common stock (including fractional share interests) so acquired will be equal to the tax basis of the shares of preferred stock

S-27

Table of Contents

exchanged and the holding period of the common stock received will include the holding period of the preferred stock exchanged. The tax basis of any common stock treated as a constructive distribution will be equal to its fair market value on the date of the exchange.

Adjustment of Conversion Price. Holders of preferred stock may, in certain circumstances, be deemed to have received constructive distributions of stock if the conversion rate for the preferred stock is adjusted. Adjustments to the conversion price made pursuant to a bona fide reasonable adjustment formula which has the effect of preventing the dilution of the interest of the holders of the preferred stock, however, generally will not be considered to result in a constructive distribution of stock. Certain of the possible adjustments provided in the anti-dilution provisions of the preferred stock, including, without limitation, adjustments in respect of stock dividends or the distribution of rights to subscribe for common stock should qualify as being pursuant to a bona fide reasonable adjustment formula and should not result in a constructive distribution. In contrast, adjustments in respect of distributions of our indebtedness, cash or assets to our stockholders (including adjustments with respect to distributions to common stockholders in excess of the dividend threshold amount), for example, will not qualify as being pursuant to a bona fide reasonable adjustment formula. In addition, an adjustment triggered by a change of control as described under Description of Preferred Stock may not so qualify. If such adjustments are made, the holders generally will be deemed to have received constructive distributions in amounts based upon the value of such holders' increased interests in our equity resulting from such adjustments. The amount of the distribution will be treated as a distribution to a holder with the tax consequences specified above under Distributions. Accordingly, you could be considered to have received distributions taxable as dividends to the extent of our earnings and profits even though you did not receive any cash or property as a result of such adjustments.

Conversion of Preferred Stock After Dividend Record Date. If a holder exercises its right to convert the preferred stock into shares of common stock after a dividend record date but before payment of the dividend, then upon conversion, the holder generally will be required to pay to us in cash an amount equal to the portion of such dividend attributable to the current quarterly dividend period, which amount would increase the tax basis of the common stock received. When the dividend is received, the holder would recognize the dividend payment in accordance with the rules described under Distributions above.

Backup Withholding. Under the backup withholding provisions of the Code and applicable Treasury Regulations, you may be subject to backup withholding with respect to dividends paid on, or the proceeds of a sale, exchange or redemption of, preferred stock or common stock unless:

you are a corporation or come within certain other exempt categories and when required demonstrate this fact, or

within a reasonable period of time, you provide a taxpayer identification number, certified under penalties of perjury as well as certain other information or otherwise establish an exemption from the backup withholding rules.

The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to you will be allowed as a credit against your U.S. Federal income tax liability and may entitle you to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders of Preferred or Common Stock

Dividends. In general, dividends received by you with respect to our preferred stock or common stock will be subject to withholding of U.S. Federal income tax at a 30% rate, unless such rate is reduced by an applicable income tax treaty. Dividends that are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and if a tax treaty applies, dividends that are attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment) are generally subject to U.S. Federal income tax on a net income basis and are exempt from the 30% withholding tax (assuming compliance with certain certification requirements). Any such effectively connected dividends received by a non-U.S. holder that is a

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

corporation may also, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be applicable under an income tax treaty.

S-28

Table of Contents

For purposes of obtaining a reduced rate of withholding under an income tax treaty, you generally will be required to provide a U.S. taxpayer identification number as well as certain information concerning your country of residence and entitlement to tax treaty benefits. Generally, this will be accomplished by providing a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN. If you instead are claiming an exemption from withholding with respect to dividends effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States, you will be required to provide an appropriate certification to us or our paying agent (generally by providing a properly completed IRS Form W-8ECI).

Sale or Other Disposition. As a non-U.S. Holder, you generally will not be subject to U.S. Federal income tax on any gain recognized on the sale or other disposition of preferred stock or common stock unless:

the gain is considered effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by you within the United States and, where a tax treaty applies, is attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment of yours (and, in which case, if you are a foreign corporation, you may be subject to an additional branch profits tax equal to 30% or a lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty);

you are an individual who holds the preferred stock or common stock as a capital asset and are present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the sale or other disposition and other conditions are met; or

we are or have been a United States real property holding corporation, or a USRPHC, for U.S. Federal income tax purposes.

We believe we currently are a USRPHC. In general, gain on the sale or other disposition of stock of a USRPHC that is regularly traded on an established securities market will be subject to U.S. federal income tax only in the case of a holder that owns more than 5% of that class of stock at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of disposition. If a non-regularly traded class of stock is convertible into a regularly traded class of stock, gain on the sale of that non-regularly traded stock will be subject to U.S. federal income tax only if, on any date on which such stock was acquired by the holder, the non-regularly traded stock acquired by such holder (including all previously acquired stock of the same class) had a fair market value greater than 5% of the regularly traded class of the corporation's stock into which it is convertible.

Although it is possible that, in the future, the preferred stock will be listed on an established securities market, there can be no assurance that such stock will be listed or, if listed, that it will qualify as regularly traded under the relevant rules. If the preferred stock is so listed and if it is considered to be regularly traded, gain recognized by a holder that owns more than 5% of the preferred stock would be subject to U.S. federal income tax. If the preferred stock is not listed on an established securities market, or, if listed, does not qualify as regularly traded, gain recognized on a sale of preferred stock would be subject to U.S. federal income tax only in the case of a holder that owned, as of the date of any acquisition of such preferred stock, an amount of preferred stock having a fair market value greater than 5% of the class of common stock into which it is convertible.

Non-U.S. holders that may be treated as beneficially owning more than 5% of our preferred or common stock should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the United States tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of preferred or common stock.

Conversion of Preferred Stock in Exchange for Common Stock. You generally will not recognize any gain or loss by reason of receiving common stock in exchange for preferred stock upon conversion of the preferred stock, except gain or loss will be recognized with respect to any cash received in lieu of fractional shares, as described above under *Sale or Other Disposition*, and the fair market value of any shares of common stock attributable to dividend arrearages will be treated as a constructive distribution, and will be taxable, as described above under *Dividends*, to you to the extent of our earnings and profits.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding. We must report annually to the IRS and to you the amount of dividends paid to you and the tax withheld with respect to those dividends, regardless of whether

S-29

Table of Contents

withholding was required. Copies of the information returns reporting those dividends and withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which you reside under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty or other applicable agreements.

Backup withholding is generally imposed on certain payments to persons that fail to furnish the necessary identifying information to the payor. You generally will be subject to backup withholding tax with respect to dividends paid on your preferred stock or common stock unless you certify your non-U.S. status, provided we do not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a U.S. holder.

The payment of proceeds of a sale of preferred stock or common stock effected by or through a U.S. office of a broker is subject to both backup withholding and information reporting unless you provide the payor with your name and address and you certify under penalties of perjury as to your non-U.S. status or you otherwise establish an exemption. In general, backup withholding and information reporting will not apply to the payment of the proceeds of a sale of preferred stock or common stock by or through a foreign office of a broker. If, however, such broker is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a United States person, a controlled foreign corporation, a foreign person that derives 50% or more of its gross income for certain periods from the conduct of a trade or business in the United States or a foreign partnership that at any time during its tax year either is engaged in the conduct of a trade or business in the United States or has as partners one or more United States persons that, in the aggregate, hold more than 50% of the income or capital interest in the partnership, such payments will be subject to information reporting, but not backup withholding, unless such broker has documentary evidence in its records that you are a non-U.S. Holder and certain other conditions are met or you otherwise establish an exemption.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules generally will be allowed as a refund or a credit against your U.S. Federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished in a timely manner to the IRS.

THE FOREGOING SUMMARY DOES NOT DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS OF U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION THAT MAY BE RELEVANT TO YOU IN LIGHT OF YOUR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES AND INCOME TAX SITUATION. YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR OWN TAX ADVISOR AS TO THE SPECIFIC TAX CONSEQUENCES THAT WOULD RESULT FROM YOUR PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF THE PREFERRED STOCK AND ANY COMMON STOCK RECEIVED UPON ITS CONVERSION, INCLUDING THE APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF STATE, LOCAL, FOREIGN AND OTHER TAX LAWS AND THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN FEDERAL OR OTHER TAX LAWS.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Under the terms and conditions contained in an underwriting agreement dated November 12, 2003, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters named below, for whom Lehman Brothers Inc., Banc of America Securities LLC and Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated are acting as representatives, the following respective numbers of shares of preferred stock.

Underwriters	Number of Shares
Lehman Brothers Inc.	450,000
Banc of America Securities LLC	300,000
Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated	300,000
Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.	112,500
Credit Suisse First Boston LLC	112,500
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.	112,500
Howard Weil Incorporated	37,500
Johnson Rice & Company, L.L.C.	37,500
RBC Dain Rauscher Inc.	37,500
Total	1,500,000

The underwriters are committed to take and pay for all of the shares of preferred stock if any are taken.

We have been advised by the underwriters that they propose to offer the preferred stock initially at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to certain selected dealers (who may include the underwriters) at such public offering price less a concession not to exceed \$1.65 per share. The underwriters or such selected dealers may reallow a commission to certain other dealers not to exceed \$0.10 per share. After the initial public offering of the preferred stock, the public offering price, the concession to selected dealers and the reallowance to the other dealers may be changed by the underwriters.

Over-Allotment Options

We have granted to the underwriters an option to purchase up to an additional 225,000 shares of preferred stock at the initial public offering price to the public, less the underwriting discounts and commissions, shown on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, solely to cover over-allotments, if any. This option may be exercised at any time up to 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement. If the underwriters exercise this option, each of the underwriters will be committed (subject to certain conditions) to purchase a number of additional shares of preferred stock proportionate to its initial commitment as indicated in the preceding table.

Commissions and Expenses

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

The following table summarizes the underwriting discount we will pay. The underwriting discount is equal to the public offering price less the amount paid to us. The underwriting discount is equal to 2.75% of the public offering price.

	<u>No Exercise</u>	<u>Full Exercise</u>
Per share	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.75
Total	\$ 4,125,000	\$ 4,743,750

We estimate that the total expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, will be approximately \$250,000. The underwriters have agreed to pay certain expenses in connection with the offering.

S-31

Table of Contents

Indemnification

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the federal securities acts.

Lock-Up Agreements

Except for the preferred stock offered hereby and the common stock to be issued upon conversion of the preferred stock, we have agreed not to offer, sell, contract to sell or otherwise issue any shares of common stock or other capital stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for, or any rights to acquire, common stock or other capital stock, with certain exceptions, prior to the expiration of 90 days from the date of this prospectus supplement without the prior written consent of Lehman Brothers on behalf of the underwriters. Aubrey K. McClendon and Tom L. Ward have agreed not to, directly or indirectly, offer, sell or otherwise dispose of shares of our common stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for, or any rights to acquire, our common stock or our other capital stock for 90 days following the date of this prospectus supplement without the prior written consent of Lehman Brothers.

Stabilizations, Short Positions and Penalty Bids

Until the distribution of the preferred stock is completed, rules of the Commission may limit the ability of the underwriters and certain selling group members to bid for and purchase the preferred stock. As an exception to these rules, the underwriters are permitted to engage in certain transactions that stabilize the price of the preferred stock and our common stock. Such transactions may consist of bids or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the preferred stock or our common stock.

If the underwriters create a short position in the preferred stock in connection with the offering (that is, if they sell more shares of preferred stock than are set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement), the underwriters may reduce that short position by purchasing preferred stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed. The underwriters may also elect to reduce any short position by exercising all or part of the over-allotment option described herein.

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid on certain underwriters and selling group members. This means that if the underwriters purchase preferred stock in the open market to reduce the underwriters' short position or to stabilize the price of the preferred stock, they may reclaim the amount of the selling concession from the underwriters and selling group members who sold those shares of preferred stock as part of the offering.

Neither we nor any of the underwriters makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the preferred stock or the common stock. In addition, neither we nor any of the underwriters makes any representation that the underwriters will engage in such transactions or that such transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

The common stock issuable on conversion of the preferred stock is expected to be listed on the NYSE. Our common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol CHK .

It is expected that delivery of the preferred stock will be made against payment therefor on or about the date specified in the last paragraph of the cover page of this prospectus supplement.

Each of Lehman Brothers Inc; Banc of America Securities LLC; Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated; Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.; Credit Suisse First Boston LLC; Johnson Rice & Company, L.L.C.; and RBC Dain Rauscher Inc. have from time to time provided, and in the future may provide, certain investment banking services to us and our affiliates, for which they have received, and in the future would receive, customary fees. In addition,

S-32

Table of Contents

each of Lehman Brothers Inc.; Banc of America Securities LLC; Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated; Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.; and Credit Suisse First Boston LLC may act as an initial purchaser for our pending private placement of senior notes and will receive customary fees in connection therewith. Banc of America Securities LLC is also acting as dealer manager and solicitation agent with respect to the tender offer for our 8.5% Senior Notes due 2012. Furthermore, affiliates of each of Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. and Credit Suisse First Boston LLC are lenders under our existing bank credit facility and will receive a portion of the net proceeds of this offering. Frederick B. Whittemore, a member of our board of directors, is an advisory director of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., an affiliate of Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated.

Electronic Distribution

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the internet sites or through other online services maintained by one or more of the underwriters and/or selling group members participating in this offering, or by their affiliates. In those cases, prospective investors may view offering terms online and, depending upon the particular underwriter or selling group member, prospective investors may be allowed to place orders online. The underwriters may agree with us to allocate a specific number of shares for sale to online brokerage account holders. Any such allocation for online distributions will be made by the representatives on the same basis as other allocations.

Other than the prospectus in electronic format, the information on any underwriter's or selling group member's website and any information contained in any other website maintained by an underwriter or selling group member is not part of the prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, has not been approved and/or endorsed by us or any underwriter or selling group member in its capacity as underwriter or selling group member and should not be relied upon by investors.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the issuance of the preferred stock offered by this prospectus supplement will be passed upon for us by Commercial Law Group, P.C. Certain other legal matters will be passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Houston, Texas. The underwriters are being represented by Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, New York, New York. Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. and Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP will rely upon Commercial Law Group, P.C., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as to all matters of Oklahoma law. Shannon T. Self, a shareholder in Commercial Law Group, P.C., is a director of Chesapeake. As of September 30, 2003, Mr. Self owned 104,992 shares of our common stock.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Chesapeake Energy Corporation, incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to the amended annual report on Form 10-K/A of Chesapeake Energy Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2002, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Estimates of the oil and gas reserves of Chesapeake Energy Corporation and related future net cash flows and the present values thereof, included in Chesapeake's amended annual report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2002, were based upon reserve reports prepared by Williamson Petroleum Consultants, Inc., Ryder Scott Company, L.P., Netherland, Sewell and Associates, Inc. and Lee Keeling and Associates, Inc., independent petroleum engineers. We have incorporated these estimates in reliance on the authority of each such firm as experts in such matters.

Table of Contents

Prospectus

\$500,000,000

Chesapeake Energy Corporation

Debt Securities

Preferred Stock

Depository Shares

Common Stock

Guarantees of Debt Securities of Chesapeake Energy Corporation by:

The Ames Company, L.L.C.	Chesapeake Mountain Front, L.L.C.
Carmen Acquisition, L.L.C.	Chesapeake ORC, L.L.C.
Chesapeake Acquisition, L.L.C.	Sap Acquisition, L.L.C.
Chesapeake Energy Louisiana Corporation	Chesapeake-Staghorn Acquisition L.P.
Chesapeake EP Corporation	Chesapeake KNAN Acquisition, L.L.C.
Chesapeake Exploration Limited Partnership	Chesapeake ENO Acquisition, L.L.C.
Chesapeake Louisiana, L.P.	Chesapeake South Texas Corp.
Chesapeake Operating, Inc.	Chesapeake Focus, L.L.C.
Chesapeake Panhandle Limited Partnership	Chesapeake Sigma, L.P.
Chesapeake Royalty, L.L.C.	MC Mineral Company, L.L.C.
Gothic Energy, L.L.C.	Oxley Petroleum Co.

Gothic Production, L.L.C.

John C. Oxley, L.L.C.

Nomac Drilling Corporation

We may from time to time offer and sell common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares and debt securities that will be fully, irrevocably and unconditionally guaranteed by certain of our subsidiaries, The Ames Company, L.L.C., Carmen Acquisition, L.L.C., Chesapeake Acquisition, L.L.C., Chesapeake Energy Louisiana Corporation, Chesapeake EP Corporation, Chesapeake Exploration Limited Partnership, Chesapeake Louisiana, L.P., Chesapeake Operating, Inc., Chesapeake Panhandle Limited Partnership, Chesapeake Royalty, L.L.C., Gothic Energy, L.L.C., Gothic Production, L.L.C., Nomac Drilling Corporation, Chesapeake Mountain Front, L.L.C., Chesapeake ORC, L.L.C., Sap Acquisition, L.L.C., Chesapeake-Staghorn Acquisition L.P., Chesapeake KNAN Acquisition, L.L.C., Chesapeake ENO Acquisition, L.L.C., Chesapeake South Texas Corp., Chesapeake Focus, L.L.C., Chesapeake Sigma, L.P., MC Mineral Company, L.L.C., Oxley Petroleum Co. and John C. Oxley, L.L.C.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that may be offered. Each time securities are sold, we will provide one or more supplements to this prospectus that will contain additional information about the specific offering and the terms of the securities being offered. The supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement before you invest in any of our securities.

Our common stock is listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **CHK**. Our executive offices are located at 6100 North Western Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118, and our telephone number is (405) 848-8000.

Investing in our securities involves risks. Please read carefully the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page 2 of this prospectus.

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

The date of this prospectus is October 23, 2003.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>About Chesapeake Energy Corporation</u>	1
<u>About the Subsidiary Guarantors</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	2
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	10
<u>Forward Looking Statements</u>	10
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	12
<u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividends</u>	12
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	13
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	21
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	31
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	33
<u>Legal Matters</u>	35
<u>Experts</u>	35

You should rely only on the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to provide you with additional or different information. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement are not an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the securities to which they relate and are not an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation in that jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or in any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document containing the information.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, over time, sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$500 million. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer pursuant to this prospectus. Each time we sell securities, we will provide one or more prospectus supplements that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For a complete understanding of the offering of securities, you should refer to the registration statement relating to this prospectus, including its exhibits. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

ABOUT CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORPORATION

We are among the ten largest independent natural gas producers in the United States in terms of natural gas produced. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, our operations are focused on 3-D seismic delineated exploratory drilling combined with developmental drilling and producing property acquisitions in the Mid-Continent region of the United States which includes Oklahoma, western Arkansas, southwestern Kansas and the Texas Panhandle. We have smaller operations in the Deep Giddings field in Texas, the Tuscaloosa Trend in Louisiana, the Permian Basin region of southeastern New Mexico and the Williston Basin of North Dakota and Montana.

Unless the context requires otherwise or unless otherwise noted, all references in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement to Chesapeake, we, us or our are to Chesapeake Energy Corporation and its subsidiaries.

ABOUT THE SUBSIDIARY GUARANTORS

The Ames Company, L.L.C., Carmen Acquisition, L.L.C., Chesapeake Acquisition, L.L.C., Chesapeake Energy Louisiana Corporation, Chesapeake EP Corporation, Chesapeake Exploration Limited Partnership, Chesapeake Louisiana, L.P., Chesapeake Operating, Inc., Chesapeake Panhandle Limited Partnership, Chesapeake Royalty, L.L.C., Gothic Energy, L.L.C., Gothic Production, L.L.C., Nomac Drilling Corporation, Chesapeake Mountain Front, L.L.C., Chesapeake ORC, L.L.C., Sap Acquisition, L.L.C., Chesapeake-Staghorn Acquisition L.P., Chesapeake KNAN Acquisition, L.L.C., Chesapeake ENO Acquisition, L.L.C., Chesapeake South Texas Corp., Chesapeake Focus, L.L.C., Chesapeake Sigma, L.P., MC Mineral Company, L.L.C., Oxley Petroleum Co. and John C. Oxley, L.L.C. constitute substantially all of our subsidiaries as of the date of this prospectus other than Chesapeake Energy Marketing, Inc., Mayfield Processing, L.L.C. and Midcon Compression, L.P. and, unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, each will jointly and severally, fully, irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee our payment obligations under any series of debt securities offered by this prospectus. We refer to these subsidiaries guarantors in this prospectus as the Subsidiary Guarantors. Financial information concerning our Subsidiary Guarantors and non-guarantor subsidiaries will be included in our consolidated financial statements filed as a part of our periodic reports filed pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, to the extent required by the rules and regulations of the SEC.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Your investment in our securities will involve risks. You should carefully consider, in addition to the other information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, the risks described below before deciding whether an investment in our securities is appropriate for you.

Risks Related to Our Business

Oil and gas prices are volatile. A decline in prices could adversely affect our financial results, cash flows, access to capital and ability to grow.

Our revenues, operating results, profitability, future rate of growth and the carrying value of our oil and gas properties depend primarily upon the prices we receive for the oil and gas we sell. Prices also affect the amount of cash flow available for capital expenditures and our ability to borrow money or raise additional capital. The amount we can borrow from banks is subject to periodic redeterminations based on prices specified by our bank group at the time of redetermination. In addition, we may have ceiling test writedowns in the future if prices fall significantly.

Historically, the markets for oil and gas have been volatile and they are likely to continue to be volatile. Wide fluctuations in oil and gas prices may result from relatively minor changes in the supply of and demand for oil and natural gas, market uncertainty and other factors that are beyond our control, including:

worldwide and domestic supplies of oil and gas;

weather conditions;

the level of consumer demand;

the price and availability of alternative fuels;

risks associated with owning and operating drilling rigs;

the availability of pipeline capacity;

the price and level of foreign imports;

domestic and foreign governmental regulations and taxes;

the ability of the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to agree to and maintain oil price and production controls;

political instability or armed conflict in oil-producing regions; and

the overall economic environment.

These factors and the volatility of the energy markets make it extremely difficult to predict future oil and gas price movements with any certainty. Declines in oil and gas prices would not only reduce revenue, but could reduce the amount of oil and gas that we can produce economically and, as a result, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and reserves. Further, oil and gas prices do not necessarily move in tandem. Because approximately 91% of our proved reserves are currently natural gas reserves, we are more affected by movements in natural gas prices.

Our level of indebtedness and preferred stock may adversely affect operations and limit our growth, and we may have difficulty making debt service and preferred stock dividend payments on our indebtedness and preferred stock as such payments become due.

As of June 30, 2003, we had \$2.01 billion in aggregate principal amount of long-term indebtedness outstanding, \$26 million of which was secured indebtedness, plus preferred stock outstanding having an aggregate liquidation preference of \$379.9 million. Our long-term indebtedness represented 57% of our total book capitalization at June 30, 2003.

Table of Contents

Our level of indebtedness and preferred stock affects our operations in several ways, including the following:

a significant portion of our cash flows must be used to service our indebtedness, and our business may not generate sufficient cash flows from operations to enable us to continue to meet our obligations under our indebtedness and our stated dividends on our preferred stock;

a high level of debt increases our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions;

the covenants contained in the agreements governing our outstanding indebtedness limit our ability to borrow additional funds, dispose of assets, pay dividends and make certain investments;

our debt covenants may also affect our flexibility in planning for, and reacting to, changes in the economy and in our industry and the rights and preferences applicable to our preferred stock may limit our ability to pay dividends on our common stock; and

a high level of debt and preferred stock may impair our ability to obtain additional financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, general corporate or other purposes.

We may incur additional debt, including significant secured indebtedness, or issue additional series of preferred stock, in order to make future acquisitions or to develop our properties. A higher level of indebtedness increases the risk that we may default on our debt obligations, including debt securities issued pursuant to this prospectus. Our ability to meet our debt obligations and to reduce our level of indebtedness depends on our future performance. General economic conditions, oil and gas prices and financial, business and other factors affect our operations and our future performance. Many of these factors are beyond our control. We may not be able to generate sufficient cash flow to pay the interest on our debt, and future working capital, borrowings or equity financing may not be available to pay or refinance such debt. Factors that will affect our ability to raise cash through an offering of our capital stock or a refinancing of our debt include financial market conditions, the value of our assets and our performance at the time we need capital.

In addition, our bank borrowing base is subject to periodic redeterminations. We could be forced to repay a portion of our bank borrowings due to redeterminations of our borrowing base. If we are forced to do so, we may not have sufficient funds to make such repayments. If we do not have sufficient funds and are otherwise unable to negotiate renewals of our borrowings or arrange new financing, we may have to sell significant assets. Any such sale could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial results.

Competition in the oil and natural gas industry is intense, and many of our competitors have greater financial and other resources than we do.

We operate in the highly competitive areas of oil and natural gas acquisition, development, exploitation, exploration and production. We face intense competition from both major and other independent oil and natural gas companies in each of the following areas:

seeking to acquire desirable producing properties or new leases for future exploration; and

seeking to acquire the equipment and expertise necessary to develop and operate our properties.

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

Many of our competitors have financial and other resources substantially greater than ours, and some of them are fully integrated oil companies. These companies may be able to pay more for development prospects and productive oil and natural gas properties and may be able to define, evaluate, bid for and purchase a greater number of properties and prospects than our financial or human resources permit. Our ability to develop and exploit our oil and natural gas properties and to acquire additional properties in the future will depend upon our ability to successfully conduct operations, evaluate and select suitable properties and consummate transactions in this highly competitive environment.

Our commodity price risk management transactions may expose us to the risk of financial loss.

In order to manage our exposure to price volatility in marketing our oil and gas, we enter into oil and gas price risk management arrangements for a portion of our expected production. Commodity price risk

Table of Contents

management transactions may limit the prices we actually realize and we may experience reductions in oil and gas revenues from our commodity price risk management activities in the future. In addition, our commodity price risk management transactions may expose us to the risk of financial loss in certain circumstances, including instances in which:

our production is less than expected;

there is a widening of price differentials between delivery points for our production and the delivery point assumed in the hedge arrangement; or

the counterparties to our contracts fail to perform under the contracts.

Some of our commodity price and interest rate risk management arrangements require us to deliver cash collateral or other assurances of performance to the counterparties in the event that our payment obligations with respect to our risk management transactions exceed certain levels. As of June 30, 2003, we were required to post \$23.0 million of collateral through letters of credit issued under our bank credit facility. Future collateral requirements are uncertain and will depend on arrangements with our counterparties and highly volatile natural gas and oil prices.

The actual quantities and present value of our proved reserves may prove to be lower than we have estimated.

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus contain estimates of our proved reserves and the estimated future net revenues from our proved reserves as well as estimates relating to our recent acquisitions. These estimates are based upon various assumptions, including assumptions required by the SEC relating to oil and gas prices, drilling and operating expenses, capital expenditures, taxes and availability of funds. The process of estimating oil and gas reserves is complex. The process involves significant decisions and assumptions in the evaluation of available geological, geophysical, engineering and economic data for each reservoir. Therefore, these estimates are inherently imprecise.

Actual future production, oil and gas prices, revenues, taxes, development expenditures, operating expenses and quantities of recoverable oil and gas reserves most likely will vary from these estimates. Such variations may be significant and could materially affect the estimated quantities and present value of our proved reserves. In addition, we may adjust estimates of proved reserves to reflect production history, results of exploration and development drilling, prevailing oil and gas prices and other factors, many of which are beyond our control. Our properties may also be susceptible to hydrocarbon drainage from production by operators on adjacent properties.

At December 31, 2002 approximately 26% by volume of our estimated proved reserves were undeveloped. Recovery of undeveloped reserves requires significant capital expenditures and successful drilling operations. The estimates of these reserves include the assumption that we will make significant capital expenditures to develop the reserves, including \$248 million in 2003. You should be aware that the estimated costs may not be accurate, development may not occur as scheduled and the results may not be as estimated.

You should not assume that the present values referred to in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus represent the current market value of our estimated oil and gas reserves. In accordance with SEC requirements, the estimates of our present values are based on prices and costs as of the date of the estimates. The December 31, 2002 present value is based on weighted average oil and gas prices of \$30.18 per barrel of oil and \$4.28 per mcf of natural gas. Actual future prices and costs may be materially higher or lower than the prices and costs as of the

date of an estimate.

Any changes in consumption by oil and gas purchasers or in governmental regulations or taxation will also affect actual future net cash flows.

The timing of both the production and the expenses from the development and production of oil and gas properties will affect both the timing of actual future net cash flows from our proved reserves and their present

Table of Contents

value. In addition, the 10% discount factor, which is required by the SEC to be used in calculating discounted future net cash flows for reporting purposes, is not necessarily the most accurate discount factor. The effective interest rate at various times and the risks associated with our business or the oil and gas industry in general will affect the accuracy of the 10% discount factor.

We may not have funds sufficient to make the significant capital expenditures required to replace our reserves.

Our exploration, development and acquisition activities require substantial capital expenditures. Historically, we have funded our capital expenditures through a combination of cash flows from operations, our bank credit facility and debt and equity issuances. Future cash flows are subject to a number of variables, such as the level of production from existing wells, prices of oil and gas, and our success in developing and producing new reserves. If revenue were to decrease as a result of lower oil and gas prices or decreased production, and our access to capital were limited, we would have a reduced ability to replace our reserves. If our cash flow from operations is not sufficient to fund our capital expenditure budget, we may not be able to access additional bank debt, debt or equity or other methods of financing to meet these requirements.

Reserve estimates of properties acquired in 2003 have not been prepared by independent petroleum engineers. Our internal estimates may not be as reliable as estimates of those reserves by independent engineers.

Our estimates of proved reserves attributed to our 2003 acquisitions incorporated by reference in this prospectus have not been reviewed or reported on by independent petroleum engineers. These estimates were prepared by our own engineers and professionals using criteria otherwise in compliance with SEC rules. Furthermore, our internal reserve estimates for these acquisitions are based upon data available to us which may not be as complete as data available on our other properties. Oil and gas pricing can affect estimates of quantities of proved reserves due to the impact of pricing on ultimate economic recovery. Estimates prepared by independent engineers might be different than our internal estimates.

If we are not able to replace reserves, we may not be able to sustain production.

Our future success depends largely upon our ability to find, develop or acquire additional oil and gas reserves that are economically recoverable. Unless we replace the reserves we produce through successful development, exploration or acquisition, our proved reserves will decline over time. In addition, approximately 26% by volume of our total estimated proved reserves at December 31, 2002 were undeveloped. By their nature, estimates of undeveloped reserves are less certain. Recovery of such reserves will require significant capital expenditures and successful drilling operations. We may not be able to successfully find and produce reserves economically in the future. In addition, we may not be able to acquire proved reserves at acceptable costs.

Acquisitions may prove to be worth less than we paid because of uncertainties in evaluating recoverable reserves and potential liabilities.

Our recent growth is due in part to acquisitions of exploration and production companies and producing properties. We expect acquisitions will also contribute to our future growth. Successful acquisitions require an assessment of a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include recoverable reserves, exploration potential, future oil and gas prices, operating costs and potential environmental and other liabilities. Such assessments are inexact and their accuracy is inherently uncertain. In connection with our assessments, we perform a review of the acquired properties. However, such a review will not reveal all existing or potential problems. In addition, our review may not permit us to become sufficiently familiar with the properties to fully assess their deficiencies and capabilities. We do not inspect every well. Even when we inspect a well, we do not always discover structural, subsurface and environmental problems that may exist or arise. Our review

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

prior to signing a definitive purchase agreement may be even more limited. For example, based on our knowledge of the properties and in exchange for concessions in the negotiations for the El Paso acquisition, we elected to forego most due diligence review including environmental site inspections prior to signing a definitive agreement which contains limited remedies against the seller.

Table of Contents

We are generally not entitled to contractual indemnification for preclosing liabilities, including environmental liabilities, on acquisitions, including our recent El Paso and Vintage acquisitions. Normally, we acquire interests in properties on an as is basis with limited remedies for breaches of representations and warranties. We could incur significant unknown liabilities, including environmental liabilities, or experience losses due to title defects, in our recent acquisitions for which we have limited or no contractual remedies or insurance coverage.

In addition, competition for producing oil and gas properties is intense and many of our competitors have financial and other resources that are substantially greater than those available to us. Therefore, we may not be able to acquire oil and gas properties that contain economically recoverable reserves or be able to complete such acquisitions on acceptable terms.

Additionally, significant acquisitions can change the nature of our operations and business depending upon the character of the acquired properties, which may have substantially different operating and geological characteristics or be in different geographic locations than our existing properties. For example, we might decide to pursue acquisitions or properties located in geographic regions other than the Mid-Continent region. To the extent that such acquired properties are substantially different than our existing properties, our ability to efficiently realize the economic benefits of such transactions may be limited.

Future price declines may result in a write-down of our asset carrying values.

We utilize the full cost method of accounting for costs related to our oil and gas properties. Under this method, all such costs (productive and nonproductive) are capitalized and amortized on an aggregate basis over the estimated lives of the properties using the units-of-production method. These capitalized costs are subject to a ceiling test, however, which limits such pooled costs to the aggregate of the present value of future net revenues attributable to proved oil and gas reserves discounted at 10% plus the lower of cost or market value of unproved properties. The full cost ceiling is evaluated at the end of each quarter utilizing the prices for oil and gas at that date. A significant decline in oil and gas prices from current levels, or other factors, without other mitigating circumstances, could cause a future write-down of capitalized costs and a non-cash charge against future earnings.

Oil and gas drilling and producing operations are hazardous and expose us to environmental liabilities.

Oil and gas operations are subject to many risks, including well blowouts, cratering and explosions, pipe failure, fires, formations with abnormal pressures, uncontrollable flows of oil, natural gas, brine or well fluids, and other environmental hazards and risks. Our drilling operations involve risks from high pressures and from mechanical difficulties such as stuck pipes, collapsed casings and separated cables. If any of these risks occurs, we could sustain substantial losses as a result of:

injury or loss of life;

severe damage to or destruction of property, natural resources and equipment;

pollution or other environmental damage;

clean-up responsibilities;

regulatory investigations and penalties; and

suspension of operations.

Our liability for environmental hazards includes those created either by the previous owners of properties that we purchase or lease or by acquired companies prior to the date we acquire them. We maintain insurance against some, but not all, of the risks described above. Our insurance may not be adequate to cover casualty losses or liabilities. Also, in the future we may not be able to obtain insurance at premium levels that justify its purchase.

Table of Contents

Exploration and development drilling may not result in commercially productive reserves.

We do not always encounter commercially productive reservoirs through our drilling operations. The new wells we drill or participate in may not be productive and we may not recover all or any portion of our investment in wells we drill or participate in. The seismic data and other technologies we use do not allow us to know conclusively prior to drilling a well that oil or gas is present or may be produced economically. The cost of drilling, completing and operating a well is often uncertain, and cost factors can adversely affect the economics of a project. Our efforts will be unprofitable if we drill dry wells or wells that are productive but do not produce enough reserves to return a profit after drilling, operating and other costs. Further, our drilling operations may be curtailed, delayed or canceled as a result of a variety of factors, including:

unexpected drilling conditions;

title problems;

pressure or irregularities in formations;

equipment failures or accidents;

adverse weather conditions;

compliance with environmental and other governmental requirements; and

cost of, or shortages or delays in the availability of, drilling rigs and equipment.

The loss of key personnel could adversely affect our ability to operate.

We depend, and will continue to depend in the foreseeable future, on the services of our officers and key employees with extensive experience and expertise in evaluating and analyzing producing oil and gas properties and drilling prospects, maximizing production from oil and gas properties, marketing oil and gas production, and developing and executing financing and hedging strategies. Our ability to retain our officers and key employees is important to our continued success and growth. The unexpected loss of the services of one or more of these individuals could have a detrimental effect on our business. We do not maintain key person life insurance on any of our personnel.

Lower oil and gas prices could negatively impact our ability to borrow.

Our current bank credit facility limits our borrowings to a borrowing base of \$350 million as of the date of this prospectus. The borrowing base is determined periodically at the discretion of a majority of the banks and is based in part on oil and gas prices. Additionally, some of our indentures contain covenants limiting our ability to incur indebtedness in addition to that incurred under our bank credit facility. These indentures limit our ability to incur additional indebtedness unless we meet one of two alternative tests. The first alternative is based on a

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

percentage of our adjusted consolidated net tangible assets, which is determined using discounted future net revenues from proved oil and gas reserves as of the end of each year. As of the date of this prospectus, we cannot incur additional indebtedness under this first alternative of the debt incurrence test. The second alternative is based on the ratio of our adjusted consolidated EBITDA (as defined in the agreement) to our adjusted consolidated interest expense over a trailing twelve-month period. As of the date of this prospectus, we are permitted to incur significant additional indebtedness under this second alternative of the debt incurrence test. Lower oil and gas prices in the future could reduce our adjusted consolidated EBITDA (as defined in the agreement), as well as our adjusted consolidated net tangible assets, and thus could reduce our ability to incur additional indebtedness.

Our oil and gas marketing activities may expose us to claims from royalty owners.

In addition to marketing our own oil and gas production, our marketing activities include marketing oil and gas production for working interest owners and royalty owners in the wells that we operate. These activities

Table of Contents

include the operation of gathering systems and the sale of oil and natural gas under various arrangements. Royalty owners have commenced litigation against a number of companies in the oil and gas production business claiming that amounts paid for production attributable to the royalty owners' interest violated the terms of the applicable leases and state law, that deductions from the proceeds of oil and gas production were unauthorized under the applicable leases and that amounts received by upstream sellers should be used to compute the amounts paid to the royalty owners. Chesapeake presently is a defendant in four such cases commenced as class action suits. As new cases are decided and the law in this area continues to develop, our liability relating to the marketing of oil and gas may increase.

Risks Related to Our Capital Stock

We may not be able to pay cash dividends on our capital stock.

We are required to pay all declared dividends on our preferred stock in cash. Our existing indentures limit, and any indentures and other financing agreements that we enter into in the future will likely limit, our ability to pay cash dividends on our capital stock. Specifically, under our existing indentures, we may pay cash dividends and make other distributions on or in respect of our capital stock, including our preferred and common stock, only if certain financial tests are met.

Under Oklahoma law, cash dividends on capital stock may only be paid from surplus or, if there is no surplus, from the corporation's net profits for the then current or the preceding fiscal year. Unless we continue to operate profitably, our ability to pay cash dividends on our capital stock would require the availability of adequate surplus, which is defined as the excess, if any, of our net assets (total assets less total liabilities) over our capital. Further, even if adequate surplus is available to pay cash dividends on the preferred stock and common stock (if declared), we may not have sufficient cash to pay dividends on our preferred stock or common stock, as the case maybe.

Our certificate of incorporation, bylaws, the Oklahoma General Corporation Act and our shareholder rights agreement contain provisions that could discourage an acquisition or change of control of our company.

Our shareholder rights agreement and the Oklahoma Business Combination Statute, together with certain provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, may make it more difficult to effect a change in control of our company, to acquire us or to replace incumbent management. These provisions could potentially deprive our stockholders of opportunities to sell shares of our stock at above-market prices. Please read Description of Capital Stock Anti-Takeover Provisions.

Risks Related to Debt Securities

If an active trading market does not develop for a series of debt securities sold pursuant to this prospectus, you may be unable to sell any such debt securities or to sell any such debt securities at a price that you deem sufficient.

Unless otherwise specified in an accompanying prospectus supplement, any debt securities sold pursuant to this prospectus will be new securities for which there currently is no established trading market. We may not list any debt securities sold pursuant to this prospectus on a

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

national securities exchange. While the underwriters of a particular offering of debt securities may advise us that they intend to make a market in those debt securities, the underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may stop their market making at any time. No assurance can be given:

that a market for any series of debt securities will develop or continue;

as to the liquidity of any market that does develop; or

as to your ability to sell any debt securities you may own or the price at which you may be able to sell your debt securities.

Table of Contents

A guarantee of debt securities could be voided if the guarantors fraudulently transferred their guarantees at the time they incurred the indebtedness, which could result in the holders of debt securities being able to rely on only Chesapeake Energy Corporation to satisfy claims.

Any series of debt securities issued pursuant to this prospectus will be fully, irrevocably and unconditionally guaranteed by the Subsidiary Guarantors. However, under U.S. bankruptcy law and comparable provisions of state fraudulent transfer laws, such a guarantee can be voided, or claims under a guarantee may be subordinated to all other debts of that guarantor if, among other things, the guarantor, at the time it incurred the indebtedness evidenced by its guarantee:

intended to hinder, delay or defraud any present or future creditor or received less than reasonably equivalent value or fair consideration for the incurrence of the guarantee;

was insolvent or rendered insolvent by reason of such incurrence;

was engaged in a business or transaction for which the guarantor's remaining assets constituted unreasonably small capital; or

intended to incur, or believed that it would incur, debts beyond its ability to pay those debts as they mature.

In addition, any payment by that guarantor under a guarantee could be voided and required to be returned to the guarantor or to a fund for the benefit of the creditors of the guarantor.

The measures of insolvency for purposes of fraudulent transfer laws vary depending upon the governing law. Generally, a guarantor would be considered insolvent if:

the sum of its debts, including contingent liabilities, was greater than the fair saleable value of all of its assets;

the present fair saleable value of its assets was less than the amount that would be required to pay its probable liability on its existing debts, including contingent liabilities, as they became absolute and mature; or

it could not pay its debts as they became due.

Holders of any debt securities sold pursuant to this prospectus will be effectively subordinated to all of our and the Subsidiary Guarantors secured indebtedness and to all liabilities of our non-guarantor subsidiaries.

Holders of our secured indebtedness, including the indebtedness under our credit facilities, have claims with respect to our assets constituting collateral for their indebtedness that are prior to the claims of any debt securities sold pursuant to this prospectus. In the event of a default on such debt securities or our bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization, those assets would be available to satisfy obligations with respect to the indebtedness secured thereby before any payment could be made on debt securities sold pursuant to this prospectus. Accordingly, the secured indebtedness would effectively be senior to such series of debt securities to the extent of the value of the collateral securing the indebtedness. To

the extent the value of the collateral is not sufficient to satisfy the secured indebtedness, the holders of that indebtedness would be entitled to share with the holders of the debt securities issued pursuant to this prospectus and the holders of other claims against us with respect to our other assets.

In addition, the Subsidiary Guarantors do not constitute all of our subsidiaries and any series of debt securities issued and sold pursuant to this prospectus will not be guaranteed by all of our subsidiaries, and our non-guarantor subsidiaries will be permitted to incur additional indebtedness under the indenture. As a result, holders of such debt securities will be effectively subordinated to claims of third party creditors, including holders of indebtedness, and preferred shareholders of these non-guarantor subsidiaries. Claims of those other creditors, including trade creditors, secured creditors, governmental taxing authorities, holders of indebtedness or guarantees issued by the non-guarantor subsidiaries and preferred shareholders of the non-guarantor subsidiaries, will generally have priority as to the assets of the non-guarantor subsidiaries over our claims and equity interests. As a result, holders of our indebtedness, including the holders of the debt securities sold pursuant to this prospectus, will be effectively subordinated to all those claims.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports and other information with the SEC. You may inspect and copy such material at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information on the public reference room. You can also find our SEC filings at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and on our website at www.chkenergy.com. Information contained on our website is not part of this prospectus.

In addition, our reports and other information concerning us can be inspected at the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005, where our common stock is listed.

The following documents we filed with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act are incorporated herein by reference:

our amended annual report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002;

our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2003;

our amended quarterly report on Form 10-Q/A for the quarter ended June 30, 2003; and

our current reports on Form 8-K filed on January 10, 2003, February 4, 2003, February 28, 2003, March 4, 2003, March 14, 2003, March 19, 2003, April 29, 2003, June 6, 2003, June 25, 2003, September 22, 2003 and October 7, 2003 (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 9 or Item 12 on any such current report on Form 8-K).

All documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 9 or Item 12 on any current report on Form 8-K) subsequent to the date of this filing and prior to the termination of this offering shall be deemed to be incorporated in this prospectus and to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such document. Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for all purposes to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus, or in any other subsequently filed document which is also incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference, modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We will provide without charge to each person to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request of such person, a copy of any or all documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Requests for such copies should be directed to Jennifer M. Grigsby, Secretary, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, 6100 North Western Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118, by mail, or if by telephone at (405) 848-8000.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

This prospectus includes and incorporates by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Forward-looking statements give our current expectations or forecasts of future events. They include statements regarding oil and gas reserve estimates, planned capital expenditures, the drilling of oil and gas wells and future acquisitions, the impact of the El Paso, ONEOK and Vintage acquisitions, expected oil and gas production, cash flow and anticipated liquidity, business strategy and other plans and objectives for future operations, expected future expenses and utilization of net operating loss carryforwards. Statements concerning the fair values of derivative contracts and their estimated contribution to our future results of operations are based upon market information as of a specific date. These market prices are subject to significant volatility.

Although we believe the expectations and forecasts reflected in these and other forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance they will prove to have been correct. They can be affected by inaccurate

Table of Contents

assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from expected results are described under Risk Factors and include:

the volatility of oil and gas prices;

our substantial indebtedness;

the cost and availability of drilling and production services;

our commodity price risk management activities, including counterparty contract performance risk;

uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of oil and gas reserves, projecting future rates of production and the timing of development expenditures;

our ability to replace reserves;

the availability of capital;

uncertainties in evaluating oil and gas reserves of acquired properties and associated potential liabilities;

future oil and gas price declines which could result in a write-down of our asset carrying values;

drilling and operating risks;

our ability to generate future income sufficient to utilize our federal and state income tax net operating loss (NOL) carryforwards before expiration;

future ownership changes which could result in additional limitations to our NOLs;

adverse effects of governmental and environmental regulation;

losses possible from pending or future litigation; and

the loss of officers or key employees.

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

We caution you not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus or as of the date of the report or document in which they are contained, and we undertake no obligation to update such information. We urge you to carefully review and consider the disclosures made in this prospectus and our reports filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference herein that attempt to advise interested parties of the risks and factors that may affect our business.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Except as may otherwise be described in an accompanying prospectus supplement, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement will be used for general corporate purposes. Any specific allocation of the net proceeds of an offering of securities to a specific purpose will be determined at the time of the offering and will be described in an accompanying prospectus supplement.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED DIVIDENDS

For purposes of determining the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and combined fixed charges and preferred dividends, earnings are defined as net income (loss) before income taxes, extraordinary items, amortization of capitalized interest and fixed charges, less capitalized interest. Fixed charges consist of interest (whether expensed or capitalized), and amortization of debt expenses and discount or premium relating to any indebtedness. Preferred dividends consist of preferred stock dividends grossed up to reflect the pre-tax amount.

	Year Ended December 31,					Six
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Months
						Ended
						June 30,
						2003
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	(a)	1.4x	3.1x	4.4x	1.5x	4.0x
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends	(b)	1.1x	2.8x	4.2x	1.3x	3.3x

(a) Earnings for such year were insufficient to cover fixed charges by approximately \$915 million.

(b) Earnings for such year were insufficient to cover combined fixed charges and preferred dividends by approximately \$927 million.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We will issue our debt securities under an indenture, among us, as issuer, The Bank of New York, as Trustee, and the Subsidiary Guarantors. The debt securities will be governed by the provisions of the Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. We, the Trustee and the Subsidiary Guarantors may enter into supplements to the Indenture from time to time.

This description is a summary of the material provisions of the debt securities and the Indenture. We urge you to read the form of the Indenture filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part because the Indenture, and not this description, govern your rights as a holder of debt securities.

General

The Debt Securities. Any series of debt securities that we issue:

will be our general obligations; and

will be general obligations of the Subsidiary Guarantors.

The Indenture does not limit the total amount of debt securities that we may issue. We may issue debt securities under the Indenture 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 an indenture supplement or a resolution of our board of directors and an 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:

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 optional redemption provisions;

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

whether the debt securities are entitled to the benefits of any guarantees by the Subsidiary Guarantors;

any changes to or additional Events of Default;

any affirmative or negative covenants relating to such series, including, without limitation, financial and other covenants that restrict our and our Restricted Subsidiaries' ability to:

incur additional indebtedness;

pay dividends on our capital stock or redeem, repurchase or retire our capital stock or subordinated indebtedness;

make investments and other restricted payments;

Table of Contents

create restrictions on the payment of dividends or other amounts to us from our Restricted Subsidiaries;

incur liens;

engage in transactions with affiliates;

sell assets;

consolidate, merge or transfer assets; and

designate a Restricted Subsidiary as an Unrestricted Subsidiary; and

any other terms of the debt securities.

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.

At our option, we may make interest payments by check mailed to the registered holders of debt securities 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, fully registered 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 governmental charge.

Any funds we pay to a 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.

The Subsidiary Guarantees. The Subsidiary Guarantors, which currently constitute all of our subsidiaries other than Chesapeake Energy Marketing, Inc. and its subsidiaries Mayfield Processing, L.L.C. and Midcon Compression, L.P., will fully and unconditionally guarantee, on a joint and several basis, our obligations to pay principal of, premium, if any, and interest on any series of debt securities. Each entity that becomes a Restricted Subsidiary after the date of original issuance of any series of debt securities will guarantee the payment of such series.

Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, Restricted Subsidiary means any subsidiary of our company other than an Unrestricted Subsidiary. Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of debt securities, our board of directors may designate any Unrestricted Subsidiary to be a Restricted Subsidiary.

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, Unrestricted Subsidiary means:

(a) Chesapeake Energy Marketing, Inc. until it is designated as a Restricted Subsidiary;

(b) any subsidiary of an Unrestricted Subsidiary; and

(c) any subsidiary of our company or of a Restricted Subsidiary that is designated as an Unrestricted Subsidiary by a resolution adopted by our board of directors.

The obligations of each Subsidiary Guarantor under its guarantee will be limited as necessary to prevent that guarantee from constituting a fraudulent conveyance or fraudulent transfer under federal, state or foreign law. Each Subsidiary Guarantor that makes a payment or distribution under a guarantee shall be entitled to a contribution from each other Subsidiary Guarantor in a pro rata amount based on the respective net assets of each Subsidiary Guarantor at the time of such payment determined in accordance with GAAP.

If a guarantee were rendered voidable, it could be subordinated by a court to all other indebtedness (including guarantees and other contingent liabilities) of the applicable Subsidiary Guarantor, and, depending on the amount of such indebtedness, a Subsidiary Guarantor's liability on its guarantee could be reduced to zero. See Risk Factors Risks Related to Debt Securities A guarantee of debt securities could be voided if the guarantors fraudulently transferred their guarantees at the time they incurred the indebtedness, which could result in the holders of debt securities being able to rely on only Chesapeake Energy Corporation to satisfy claims.

Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement and subject to the next paragraph, no Subsidiary Guarantor may consolidate or merge with or into (whether or not such Subsidiary Guarantor is the surviving entity) another entity unless:

the entity formed by or surviving any such consolidation or merger (if other than such Subsidiary Guarantor) assumes all the obligations of such Subsidiary Guarantor under the Indenture and the Debt Securities pursuant to a supplemental indenture, in a form reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee; and

immediately after such transaction, no Default or Event of Default exists.

The preceding does not prohibit a merger between Subsidiary Guarantors or a merger between our company and a Subsidiary Guarantor.

In the event of a sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of any Subsidiary Guarantor, or a sale or other disposition of all the capital stock of such Subsidiary Guarantor, in any case whether by way of merger, consolidation or otherwise, or a Subsidiary Guarantor otherwise ceases to be a Subsidiary Guarantor, then the person acquiring the assets (in the event of a sale or other disposition, by way of such a merger, consolidation or otherwise, of all or substantially all of the assets of such Subsidiary Guarantor) or such Subsidiary Guarantor (in any other event) will be released and relieved of any obligations under its guarantee.

Covenants

Reports. The Indenture contains the following covenant for the benefit of the holders of all series of debt securities:

Notwithstanding that we may not be required to remain subject to the reporting requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, we will file with the SEC and provide the Trustee and holders of Debt Securities with annual reports and such information, documents and other reports specified in Sections 13 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

A series of debt securities may provide for other covenants applicable to us and our subsidiaries. A description of any such affirmative and negative covenants will be contained in a prospectus supplement applicable to such series.

Table of Contents

Events of Default, Remedies and Notice

Events of Default. Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, 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, if any, on any debt securities of that series when due;

failure by us or by a Subsidiary Guarantor to comply for 60 days after notice with the other agreements contained in the Indenture, any supplement to the Indenture or any board resolution authorizing the issuance of that series;

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us or of the Subsidiary Guarantors;

any of the guarantees by the Subsidiary Guarantors ceases to be in full force and effect, except as otherwise provided in the Indenture;

any of the guarantees by the Subsidiary Guarantors is declared null and void in a judicial proceeding; or

any Subsidiary Guarantor denies or disaffirms its obligations under the Indenture or its guarantee.

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.

A default under the fourth bullet point above will not constitute an Event of Default until the Trustee or the holders of 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series notify us and the Subsidiary Guarantors 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 and is continuing, 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:

waive all past defaults, except with respect to nonpayment of principal, premium or interest or any other provision of the Indenture that cannot be amended without the consent of each holder that is affected; and

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 have been cured or waived, other than the nonpayment of principal, premium or interest on the debt securities of that series that have 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 when due, unless:

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

Table of Contents

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, in the opinion of the Trustee, 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 Events of Default. Upon 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 propose to take to cure the default. In addition, we are required to deliver to the Trustee, within 90 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.

If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing and is known to the Trustee, the Trustee must mail to each holder a notice of the Event of Default by the later of 90 days after the Event of Default occurs or 30 days after the Trustee knows of the Event of 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 amend the Indenture without the consent of any holder of debt securities to:

cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;

convey, transfer, assign, mortgage or pledge any property to or with the Trustee;

provide for the assumption by a successor of our obligations under the Indenture;

add Subsidiary Guarantors with respect to the debt securities;

evidence the removal of a Subsidiary Guarantor with respect to the debt securities as permitted by the Indenture and as described under The Subsidiary Guarantees or an accompanying prospectus supplement;

secure the debt securities;

add covenants for the benefit of the holders or surrender any right or power conferred upon us or any Subsidiary Guarantor;

Table of Contents

make any change that does not adversely affect the rights of any holder;

add or appoint a successor or separate Trustee; or

comply with any requirement of the SEC in connection with the qualification of the Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act.

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 other than U.S. dollars;

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 to an amendment or waiver provision which requires each holder's consent;

make any change in the waiver provisions; or

release a Subsidiary Guarantor or modify such Subsidiary Guarantor's guarantee in any manner adverse to the holders other than as provided under The Subsidiary Guarantees.

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 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 by us or a Subsidiary Guarantor with certain restrictive provisions of the Indenture; and

any past default under the Indenture, subject to certain rights of the Trustee 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 are affected.

Table of Contents

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:

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.

If we exercise our legal defeasance option, any subsidiary guarantee will terminate with respect to that series of debt securities.

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;

the bankruptcy provisions with respect to the Subsidiary Guarantors, if any; and

the guarantee provision described under Events of Default above with respect to a series of debt securities.

We may exercise our legal defeasance option notwithstanding our prior exercise of our covenant defeasance option. If we exercise our legal defeasance option, payment of the affected series of debt securities may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default with respect to that series. If we exercise our covenant defeasance option, payment of the affected series of debt securities may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default specified in the fourth, fifth (with respect only to a Subsidiary Guarantor) or sixth bullet points under 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 maturity, as the case may be;

comply with certain other conditions, including that no default has occurred and is continuing after the deposit in trust; and

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

deliver to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that holders of the 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 amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit and 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 other change in applicable Federal income tax law.

Book Entry, Delivery and Form. We may issue debt securities of a series in the form of one or more global certificates deposited with a depository. We expect that The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, or DTC, will act as depository. If we issue debt securities of a series in book-entry form, we will issue one or more global certificates that will be deposited with or on behalf of DTC and will not issue physical certificates to each holder. A global security may not be transferred unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for a certificated security, except that DTC, its nominees and their successors may transfer a global security as a whole to one another.

DTC will keep a computerized record of its participants, such as a broker, whose clients have purchased the debt securities. The participants will then keep records of their clients who purchased the debt securities.

Table of Contents

Beneficial interests in global securities will be shown on, and transfers of beneficial interests in global securities will be made only through, records maintained by DTC and its participants.

DTC advises us that it 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 Exchange Act.

DTC is owned by a number of its participants and by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., The American Stock Exchange, Inc. and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. The rules that apply to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC. DTC also records the settlement among participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through computerized records for participants' accounts. This eliminates the need to exchange certificates. Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations.

We will wire principal, premium, if any, and interest payments due on the global securities to DTC's nominee. We, the Trustee and any paying agent will treat DTC's nominee as the owner of the global 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 securities to owners of beneficial interests in the global securities.

It is DTC's current practice, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, to credit participants' accounts on the payment date according to their respective holdings of beneficial interests in the global securities as shown on DTC's records. In addition, it is DTC's current practice to assign any consenting or voting rights to 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 securities, as well as voting by participants, will be governed by the customary practices between the participants and the owners of beneficial interests, as is the case with debt securities held for the account of customers registered in street name. Payments to holders of beneficial interests are the responsibility of the participants and not of DTC, the Trustee or us.

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

Beneficial interests in global securities will be exchangeable for certificated 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 a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days; or

we determine not to require all of the debt securities of a series to be represented by a global security and notify the Trustee of our decision.

The Trustee. The Bank of New York will be the Trustee under the Indenture. The Bank of New York also serves as trustee for our 7.875% Senior Notes due 2004, our 8.375% Senior Notes due 2008, our 8.125% Senior Notes due 2011, our 8.5% Senior Notes due 2012, our 9% Senior Notes due 2012, our 7.5% Senior Notes due 2013 and our 7.75% Senior Notes due 2015. We may also maintain banking and other commercial relationships with the Trustee and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business, and the Trustee may own our debt securities.

Governing Law. The Indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Set forth below is a description of the material terms of our capital stock. However, this description is not complete and is qualified by reference to our certificate of incorporation (including our certificates of designation) and bylaws. Copies of our certificate of incorporation (including our certificates of designation) and bylaws are available from us upon request. These documents have also been filed with the SEC. Please read [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Authorized Capital Stock

Our authorized capital stock consists of 350,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share, of which 250,000 shares are designated as Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, 2,998,000 shares are designated 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock and 4,600,000 shares are designated as 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock.

Common Stock

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding preferred stock, holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends as may be declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available for dividends. In the event of our liquidation or dissolution, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and the liquidation preference of any outstanding preferred stock.

Holders of our common stock have no preemptive rights and have no rights to convert their common stock into any other securities. All of the outstanding shares of common stock are duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Preferred Stock

We have 2,152,000 shares of authorized preferred stock which are undesignated. Currently 2,998,000 shares of preferred stock are designated as 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, all of which are currently outstanding, and 4,600,000 shares of preferred stock, which are designated as 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, of which all are currently outstanding. Our board of directors has also authorized the issuance of up to 250,000 shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock in connection with the adoption of our shareholder rights plan in July 1998. None of these shares are currently outstanding. The Series A Preferred Stock is described below under [Share Rights Plan](#).

Our board of directors has the authority, without further shareholder approval, to issue shares of preferred stock from time to time in one or more series, with such voting powers or without voting powers, and with such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, and qualifications, limitations or restrictions, as shall be set forth in the resolutions providing thereof.

While providing desirable flexibility for possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, and eliminating delays associated with a shareholder vote on specific issuances, the issuance of preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power of holders of common stock, as well as dividend and liquidation payments on both common and preferred stock. It also could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control.

The prospectus supplement relating to an offering of preferred stock will specify the terms of any series of preferred stock offered by it including:

the series, the number of shares offered and the liquidation value of the preferred stock;

the price at which the preferred stock will be issued;

Table of Contents

the dividend rate, the dates on which the dividends will be payable and other terms relating to the payment of dividends on the preferred stock;

the liquidation preference of the preferred stock;

whether the preferred stock is redeemable or subject to a sinking fund, and the terms of any such redemption or sinking fund;

whether the preferred stock is convertible into or exchangeable for any other securities, and the terms of any such conversion or exchange; and

any additional rights, preferences, qualifications, limitations or restrictions of the preferred stock.

The description of the terms of the preferred stock to be set forth in an applicable prospectus supplement will not be complete and will be subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the statement of resolution relating to the applicable series of preferred stock. The registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part will include the statement of resolution as an exhibit or incorporate it by reference.

Outstanding Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock

General. We have two series of Convertible Preferred Stock outstanding, both with substantially similar terms: the 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock and the 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock. Where the terms of the two series of preferred stock are similar, we refer to both series of outstanding preferred stock as the Convertible Preferred Stock.

Ranking. Both series of Convertible Preferred Stock, with respect to dividend rights or rights upon the liquidation, winding-up or dissolution, rank:

senior to all classes of our common stock and to the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock and each other class of capital stock or series of preferred stock established after the original issue date of the series of Convertible Preferred Stock (which we will refer to as the Issue Date) the terms of which do not expressly provide that such class or series ranks senior to or on a parity with the series of Convertible Preferred Stock as to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution (which we will refer to collectively as Junior Stock);

on a parity with each other and any class of capital stock or series of preferred stock established after the Issue Date the terms of which expressly provide that such class or series will rank on a parity with the series of Convertible Preferred Stock as to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution (which we will refer to collectively as Parity Stock); and

junior to each class of capital stock or series of preferred stock established after the Issue Date the terms of which expressly provide that such class or series will rank senior to the series of Convertible Preferred Stock as to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution (which we will refer to collectively as Senior Stock).

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

While any shares of either series of our Convertible Preferred Stock are outstanding, we may not authorize, increase the authorized amount of, or issue any shares of, any class or series of Senior Stock (or any security convertible into Senior Stock) without the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the outstanding shares each series of Convertible Preferred Stock voting separately as a class. Without the consent of any holder of Convertible Preferred Stock, however, we may authorize, increase the authorized amount of, or issue any shares of, any class or series of Parity Stock or Junior Stock. See [Voting Rights](#) below.

Dividends. Holders of shares of 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for payment, cumulative cash dividends at the rate per annum of 6.75% per share on the liquidation preference thereof of \$50 per share of Convertible Preferred Stock (equivalent to \$3.375 per annum per share). Dividends on the 6.75% Cumulative

Table of Contents

Convertible Preferred Stock are payable quarterly on February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15 of each year at such annual rate, and accumulate from the most recent date as to which dividends have been paid or, if no dividends have been paid, from the Issue Date of the 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, whether or not in any dividend period or periods there have been funds legally available for the payment of such dividends.

Holders of shares of 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors out of funds legally available for payment, cumulative cash dividends at the rate per annum of 6.00% per share on the liquidation preference thereof of \$50 per share of 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock (equivalent to \$3.00 per annum per share). Dividends on the 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock will be payable quarterly on March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15 of each year at such annual rate, and shall accumulate from the most recent date as to which dividends shall have been paid or, if no dividends have been paid, from the Issue Date of the 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, whether or not in any dividend period or periods there shall be funds legally available for the payment of such dividends.

Accumulations of dividends on shares of Convertible Preferred Stock do not bear interest. Dividends payable on the Convertible Preferred Stock for any period less than a full dividend period (based upon the number of days elapsed during the period) are computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

No dividends or other distributions (other than a dividend or distribution payable solely in shares of Parity Stock or Junior Stock (in the case of Parity Stock) or Junior Stock (in the case of Junior Stock) and cash in lieu of fractional shares) may be declared, made or paid, or set apart for payment upon, any Parity Stock or Junior Stock, nor may any Parity Stock or Junior Stock be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired for any consideration (or any money paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any Parity Stock or Junior Stock) by us or on our behalf (except by conversion into or exchange for shares of Parity Stock or Junior Stock (in the case of Parity Stock) or Junior Stock (in the case of Junior Stock)) unless all accumulated and unpaid dividends have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid, or are declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof is set apart for such payment, on the Convertible Preferred Stock and any Parity Stock for all dividend payment periods terminating on or prior to the date of such declaration, payment, redemption, purchase or acquisition. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if full dividends have not been paid on the Convertible Preferred Stock and any Parity Stock, dividends may be declared and paid on the Convertible Preferred Stock and such Parity Stock so long as the dividends are declared and paid pro rata so that the amounts of dividends declared per share on the Convertible Preferred Stock and such Parity Stock will in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accumulated and unpaid dividends per share on the shares of the Convertible Preferred Stock and such Parity Stock bear to each other. Holders of shares of the Convertible Preferred Stock are not entitled to any dividend, whether payable in cash, property or stock, in excess of full cumulative dividends.

Our ability to declare and pay cash dividends and make other distributions with respect to our capital stock, including the Convertible Preferred Stock, is limited by the terms of our outstanding indebtedness. In addition, our ability to declare and pay dividends may be limited by applicable Oklahoma law.

Liquidation Preference. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, winding-up or dissolution, each holder of Convertible Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive and to be paid out of our assets available for distribution to our stockholders, before any payment or distribution is made to holders of Junior Stock (including common stock), a liquidation preference in the amount of \$50 per share of the Convertible Preferred Stock, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon to the date fixed for liquidation, winding-up or dissolution. If, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, winding-up or dissolution, the amounts payable with respect to the liquidation preference of the Convertible Preferred Stock and all Parity Stock are not paid in full, the holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock and the Parity Stock will share equally and ratably in any distribution of our assets in proportion to the full liquidation preference and accumulated and unpaid dividends to which they are entitled. After payment of the full amount of the liquidation preference and accumulated and

Table of Contents

unpaid dividends to which they are entitled, the holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. Neither the sale of all or substantially all of our assets or business (other than in connection with the liquidation, winding-up or dissolution of its business), nor our merger or consolidation into or with any other person, will be deemed to be our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, winding-up or dissolution.

The certificates of designation do not contain any provisions requiring funds to be set aside to protect the liquidation preference of the Convertible Preferred Stock even though it is substantially in excess of the par value thereof.

Voting Rights. The holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock have no voting rights except as set forth below or as otherwise required by Oklahoma law.

If dividends on a series of Convertible Preferred Stock are in arrears and unpaid for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive), the holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock, voting as a single class with any other preferred stock or preference securities having similar voting rights that are exercisable, will be entitled at our next regular or special meeting of stockholders to elect two additional directors to our board of directors unless our board is comprised of fewer than six directors at such time, in which case such holders will be entitled to elect one additional director. Upon the election of any additional directors, the number of directors that compose our board shall be increased by such number of additional directors. Such voting rights and the terms of the directors so elected will continue until such time as the dividend arrearage on the Convertible Preferred Stock has been paid in full.

In addition, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of each series of outstanding Convertible Preferred Stock, voting separately as a class, is required for the issuance of any class or series of Senior Stock (or any security convertible into Senior Stock) and for amendments to our certificate of incorporation that would affect adversely the rights of holders of that series of Convertible Preferred Stock. The certificates of designation provide that the authorization of, the increase in the authorized amount of, or the issuance of any shares of any class or series of Parity Stock or Junior Stock does not require the consent of the holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock, and is not deemed to affect adversely the rights of the holders of the Convertible Preferred Stock.

In all cases in which the holders of Convertible Preferred Stock are entitled to vote, each share of Convertible Preferred Stock shall be entitled to one vote.

Conversion Rights. Each share of 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock is convertible at any time at the option of the holder thereof into 6.4935 shares of common stock (which was calculated using an initial conversion price of \$7.70 per share of common stock) subject to adjustment for certain dilutive events (we refer to such price or adjusted price applicable to a particular series of Convertible Preferred Stock as the Conversion Price). Each share of 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock is convertible at any time at the option of the holder thereof into 4.8605 shares of common stock (which is calculated using an initial conversion price of \$10.287 per share of common stock) subject to adjustment for certain dilutive events.

Mandatory Conversion. At any time on or after November 20, 2004 (with respect to the 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock) or any time on or after March 20, 2006 (with respect to the 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock), we may at our option cause the Convertible Preferred Stock to be automatically converted into that number of shares of common stock for each share of Convertible Preferred Stock equal to \$50.00 (the liquidation preference per share of Convertible Preferred Stock) divided by the then prevailing Conversion Price. We may exercise this right only if the closing price of our common stock equals or exceeds 130% of the then prevailing Conversion Price for at least 20 trading days in any consecutive 30-day trading period, including the last trading day of such 30-day period, ending on the trading day prior to

our issuance of a press release announcing the mandatory conversion as described below.

Table of Contents

We may not authorize, issue a press release or give notice of any mandatory conversion unless, prior to giving the conversion notice, all accumulated and unpaid dividends on such series of Convertible Preferred Stock for periods ended prior to the date of such conversion notice shall have been paid in cash.

In addition to the mandatory conversion provision described above, if there are less than 250,000 shares of a series of Convertible Preferred Stock outstanding, we may, at any time on or after November 20, 2006 (with respect to the 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock) or any time on or after March 20, 2008 (with respect to the 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock), at our option, cause such series of Convertible Preferred Stock to be automatically converted into that number of shares of common stock equal to \$50.00 (the liquidation preference per share of Convertible Preferred Stock) divided by the lesser of the then prevailing Conversion Price and the Market Value for the five trading day period ending on the second trading day immediately prior to the date set for conversion.

The term *Market Value* means the average closing price of the common stock for a five consecutive trading day period on the New York Stock Exchange (or such other national securities exchange or automated quotation system on which the common stock is then listed or authorized for quotation or, if not so listed or authorized for quotation, an amount determined in good faith by our board of directors to be the fair value of the common stock).

Change of Control. Except as provided below, upon a Change of Control (as defined below), holders of each series of Convertible Preferred Stock shall, in the event that the Market Value at such time is less than the Conversion Price applicable to such series, have a one-time option to convert all of their outstanding shares of Convertible Preferred Stock into shares of common stock at an adjusted Conversion Price equal to the greater of (i) the Market Value as of the Change of Control Date and (ii) \$4.0733 (with respect to the 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock) and \$5.47 (with respect to the 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock). This option shall be exercisable during a period of not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days commencing on the third business day after notice of the Change of Control is given by us in the manner specified in the certificates of designation. In lieu of issuing the shares of common stock issuable upon conversion in the event of a Change of Control, we may, at our option, make a cash payment equal to the Market Value for each share of such common stock otherwise issuable determined for the period ending on the Change of Control Date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, upon a Change of Control in which (x) each holder of our common stock receives consideration consisting solely of common stock of the successor, acquiror or other third party (and cash paid in lieu of fractional shares) that is listed on a national securities exchange or quoted on the NASDAQ National Market and (y) all our common stock has been exchanged for, converted into or acquired for common stock of the successor, acquiror or other third party (and cash in lieu of fractional shares), and the Convertible Preferred Stock becomes convertible solely into such common stock, the Conversion Price will not be adjusted as described in this paragraph.

The certificates of designation define *Change of Control* as any of the following events:

the sale, lease or transfer, in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of our assets (determined on a consolidated basis) to any person or group (as such term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act), other than to Permitted Holders (as defined below);

the adoption of a plan the consummation of which would result in the liquidation or dissolution of our company;

the acquisition, directly or indirectly, by any person or group (as such term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act), other than Permitted Holders, of beneficial ownership (as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act) of more than 50% of our aggregate voting power of the voting stock; provided, however, that the Permitted Holders beneficially own (as defined in Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, in the aggregate a lesser percentage of the total voting power of our voting stock than such other person and do not have the right or ability by voting power, contract or otherwise to elect or designate for

election a majority of the board of directors (for the purposes of this

Table of Contents

definition, such other person shall be deemed to beneficially own any voting stock of a specified corporation held by a parent corporation, if such other person is the beneficial owner (as defined above), directly or indirectly, of more than 35% of the voting power of the voting stock of such parent corporation and the Permitted Holders beneficially own (as defined in this proviso), directly or indirectly, in the aggregate a lesser percentage of the voting power of the voting stock of such parent corporation and do not have the right or ability by voting power, contract or otherwise to elect or designate for election a majority of our board of directors of such parent corporation); or

during any period of two consecutive years, individuals who at the beginning of such period composed our board of directors (together with any new directors whose election by such board of directors or whose nomination for election by our shareholders was approved by a vote of 66 2/3% of our directors then still in office who were either directors at the beginning of such period or whose election or nomination for election was previously so approved) cease for any reason to constitute a majority of our board of directors then in office.

For purposes of the definition of Change of Control, the term Permitted Holders means Aubrey K. McClendon and Tom L. Ward and their respective Affiliates.

The phrase all or substantially all of the assets of our company is likely to be interpreted by reference to applicable state law at the relevant time, and will be dependent on the facts and circumstances existing at such time. As a result, there may be a degree of uncertainty in ascertaining whether a sale or transfer is of all or substantially all of our assets.

Anti-Takeover Provisions

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws and the Oklahoma General Corporation Act include a number of provisions which may have the effect of encouraging persons considering unsolicited tender offers or other unilateral takeover proposals to negotiate with our board of directors rather than pursue non-negotiated takeover attempts. These provisions include a classified board of directors, authorized blank check preferred stock, restrictions on business combinations and the availability of authorized but unissued common stock.

Classified Board of Directors. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions for a staggered board of directors with only one-third of the board standing for election each year. Directors can only be removed for cause. A staggered board makes it more difficult for shareholders to change the majority of the directors.

Oklahoma Business Combination Statute. Section 1090.3 of the Oklahoma General Corporation Act prevents an interested shareholder from engaging in a business combination with an Oklahoma corporation for three years following the date the person became an interested shareholder, unless:

prior to the date the person became an interested shareholder, the board of directors of the corporation approved the transaction in which the interested shareholder became an interested shareholder or approved the business combination;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the interested shareholder becoming an interested shareholder, the interested shareholder owns stock having at least 85% of all voting power of the corporation at the time the transaction commenced, excluding stock held by directors who are also officers of the corporation and stock held by certain employee stock plans; or

on or subsequent to the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested shareholder, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation and authorized at a meeting of shareholders by the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of all voting power not attributable to shares owned by the interested shareholder.

The statute defines a business combination to include:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and an interested shareholder;

Table of Contents

any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer or other disposition to or with an interested shareholder of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation;

subject to certain exceptions, any transaction which results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to an interested shareholder;

any transaction involving the corporation which has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock of any class or series or voting power of the corporation owned by the interested shareholder;

the receipt by an interested shareholder of any loans, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation; or

any share acquisition by the interested shareholder pursuant to Section 1090.1 of the Oklahoma General Corporation Act.

For purposes of Section 1090.3, the term "corporation" also includes the corporation's majority-owned subsidiaries.

In addition, Section 1090.3 defines an "interested shareholder," generally, as any person that owns stock having 15% or more of all voting power of the corporation, any person that is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and owned stock having 15% or more of all voting power of the corporation at any time within the three-year period prior to the time of determination of interested shareholder status, and any affiliate or associate of such person.

Stock Purchase Provisions. Our certificate of incorporation includes a provision which requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes cast by the holders, voting together as a single class, of all then outstanding shares of capital stock, excluding the votes by an interested shareholder, to approve the purchase of any of our capital stock from the interested shareholder at a price in excess of fair market value, unless the purchase is either (1) made on the same terms offered to all holders of the same securities or (2) made on the open market and not the result of a privately negotiated transaction.

Share Rights Plan

The Rights. On July 7, 1998, our board of directors declared a dividend distribution of one preferred stock purchase right for each outstanding share of common stock. The distribution was paid on July 27, 1998 to the shareholders of record on that date. Each right entitles the registered holder to purchase from us one one-thousandth of a share of Series A Preferred Stock at a price of \$25.00, subject to adjustment.

The following is a summary of these rights. The full description and terms of the rights are set forth in a rights agreement with UMB Bank, N.A., as rights agent. Copies of the rights agreement and the certificate of designation for the Series A Preferred Stock are available free of charge. This summary description of the rights and the Series A Preferred Stock does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to all the provisions of the rights agreement and the certificate of designation for the Series A Preferred Stock.

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

Initially, the rights attached to all certificates representing shares of our outstanding common stock, and no separate rights certificates were distributed. The rights will separate from our common stock and the distribution date will occur upon the earlier of:

ten days following the date of public announcement that a person or group of persons has become an acquiring person; or

ten business days (or a later date set by the board of directors prior to the time a person becomes an acquiring person) following the commencement of, or the announcement of an intention to make, a tender offer or exchange offer upon consummation of which the offeror would, if successful, become an acquiring person.

The earlier of these dates is called the distribution date.

Table of Contents

The term **acquiring person** means any person who or which, together with all of its affiliates and associates, is the beneficial owner of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock, but does not include:

us or any of our subsidiaries or employee benefit plans;

Aubrey K. McClendon, his spouse, lineal descendants and ascendants, heirs, executors or other legal representatives and any trusts established for the benefit of the foregoing or any other person or entity in which the foregoing persons or entities are at the time of determination the direct record and beneficial owners of all outstanding voting securities (each a **McClendon shareholder**);

Tom L. Ward, his spouse, lineal descendants and ascendants, heirs, executors or other legal representatives and any trusts established for the benefit of the foregoing, or any other person or entity in which the foregoing persons or entities are at the time of determination the direct record and beneficial owners of all outstanding voting securities (each a **Ward shareholder**);

Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, in its capacity as pledgee of shares beneficially owned by a McClendon or Ward shareholder, or both, under any pledge agreement in effect on September 11, 1998, to the extent that upon the exercise by the pledgee of any of its rights or duties as pledgee, other than the exercise of any voting power by the pledgee or the acquisition of ownership by the pledgee, such pledgee becomes a beneficial owner of pledged shares; or

any person (other than the pledgee just described) that is neither a McClendon nor Ward shareholder, but who or which is the beneficial owner of common stock beneficially owned by a McClendon or Ward shareholder (a **second tier shareholder**), but only if the shares of common stock otherwise beneficially owned by a second tier shareholder (**second tier holder shares**) do not exceed the sum of (A) the holder's second tier holder shares held on September 11, 1998 and (B) 1% of the shares of our common stock then outstanding (collectively, **exempt persons**).

The rights agreement provides that, until the distribution date, the rights will be transferred with and only with the common stock. Until the distribution date (or earlier redemption or expiration of the rights), new common stock certificates issued after July 27, 1998, upon transfer or new issuance of common stock, will contain a notation incorporating the rights agreement by reference. Until the distribution date or earlier redemption or expiration of the rights, the surrender for transfer of any certificate for common stock, outstanding as of July 27, 1998, even without a notation or a copy of a summary of the rights being attached, will also constitute the transfer of the rights associated with the common stock represented by the certificate. As soon as practicable following the distribution date, separate certificates evidencing the rights will be mailed to holders of record of the common stock as of the close of business on the distribution date and these separate rights certificates alone will evidence the rights.

The rights are not exercisable until the distribution date. The rights will expire on July 27, 2008.

The purchase price payable, and the number of one one-thousandths of a share of Series A Preferred Stock or other securities or property issuable, upon exercise of the rights are subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution:

in the event of a stock dividend on, or a subdivision, combination or reclassification of, the Series A Preferred Stock;

upon the grant to holders of the Series A Preferred Stock of certain rights or warrants to subscribe for or purchase shares of Series A Preferred Stock at a price, or securities convertible into Series A Preferred Stock with a conversion price, less than the then current

market price of the Series A Preferred Stock; or

upon the distribution to holders of the Series A Preferred Stock of evidences of indebtedness or assets (excluding regular periodic cash dividends paid or dividends payable in Series A Preferred Stock) or of subscription rights or warrants (other than those referred to above).

Table of Contents

The number of outstanding rights and the number of one one-thousandths of a share of Series A Preferred Stock issuable upon exercise of each right are also subject to adjustment in the event of a stock split of the common stock or a stock dividend on the common stock payable in the common stock or subdivisions, consolidations or combinations of the common stock occurring, in any such case, prior to the distribution date.

In the event that following the date of public announcement that a person has become an acquiring person, we are acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction or more than 50% of our consolidated assets or earning power is sold, proper provision will be made so that each holder of a right will thereafter have the right to receive, upon the exercise of the right at the then current exercise price of the right, that number of shares of common stock of the acquiring company which at the time of such transaction will have a market value of two times the exercise price of the right (the flip-over right).

In the event that a person, other than an exempt person, becomes an acquiring person, proper provision will be made so that each holder of a right, other than the acquiring person and its affiliates and associates, will thereafter have the right to receive upon exercise that number of shares of common stock, or, if applicable, cash, other equity securities or property of us, having a market value equal to two times the purchase price of the rights (the flip-in right). Any rights that are or were at any time owned by an acquiring person will then become void.

With certain exceptions, no adjustment in the purchase price will be required until cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% in the purchase price. Upon exercise of the rights, no fractional shares of Series A Preferred Stock will be issued other than fractions which are integral multiples of one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Preferred Stock. Cash will be paid in lieu of fractional shares of Series A Preferred Stock that are not integral multiples of one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Preferred Stock.

At any time prior to the earlier to occur of (1) 5:00 p.m., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma time on the tenth day after the stock acquisition date or (2) the expiration of the rights, we may redeem the rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$0.01 per right; provided, that (a) if the board of directors authorizes redemption on or after the time a person becomes an acquiring person, then the authorization must be by board approval and (b) the period for redemption may, upon board approval, be extended by amending the rights agreement. Board approval means the approval of a majority of our directors. Immediately upon any redemption of the rights described in this paragraph, the right to exercise the rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of rights will be to receive the redemption price.

Our board of directors may amend the terms of the rights without the consent of the holders of the rights at any time and from time to time provided that any amendment does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the rights. In addition, during any time that the rights are subject to redemption, the terms of the rights may be amended by the approval of a majority of the directors, including an amendment that adversely affects the interests of the holders of the rights, without the consent of the holders of rights.

Until a right is exercised, a holder will have no rights as a shareholder, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends. While the distribution of the rights will not be taxable to us or our shareholders, shareholders may, depending upon the circumstances, recognize taxable income in the event that the rights become exercisable for Series A Preferred Stock, or other consideration.

The Series A Preferred Stock. Each one-thousandth of a share of the Series A Preferred Stock (a preferred share fraction) that may be acquired upon exercise of the rights will be nonredeemable and junior to any other shares of preferred stock that we may issue.

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

Each preferred share fraction will have a minimum preferential quarterly dividend rate of \$0.01 per preferred share fraction but will, in any event, be entitled to a dividend equal to the per share dividend declared on the common stock.

Table of Contents

In the event of liquidation, the holder of a preferred share fraction will receive a preferred liquidation payment equal to the greater of \$0.01 per preferred share fraction or the per share amount paid in respect of a share of common stock.

Each preferred share fraction will have one vote, voting together with the common stock. The holders of preferred share fractions, voting as a separate class, will be entitled to elect two directors if dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock are in arrears for six fiscal quarters.

In the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which shares of common stock are exchanged, each preferred share fraction will be entitled to receive the per share amount paid in respect of each share of common stock.

The rights of holders of the Series A Preferred Stock to dividends, liquidation and voting, and in the event of mergers and consolidations, are protected by customary antidilution provisions.

Because of the nature of the Series A Preferred Stock's dividend, liquidation and voting rights, the economic value of one preferred share fraction that may be acquired upon the exercise of each right should approximate the economic value of one share of our common stock.

Shareholder Action

Except as otherwise provided by law or in our certificate of incorporation or bylaws, the approval by holders of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at a meeting and entitled to vote is sufficient to authorize, affirm, ratify or consent to a matter voted on by shareholders. Our bylaws provide that all questions submitted to shareholders will be decided by a plurality of the votes cast, unless otherwise required by law, our certificate of incorporation, stock exchange requirements or any certificate of designation. The Oklahoma General Corporation Act requires the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding stock entitled to vote for certain extraordinary corporate transactions, such as a merger, sale of substantially all assets, dissolution or amendment of the certificate of incorporation. Our certificate of incorporation provides for a vote of the holders of two-thirds of the issued and outstanding stock having voting power, voting as a single class, to amend, repeal or adopt any provision inconsistent with the provisions of the certificate of incorporation limiting director liability and stock purchases by us, and providing for staggered terms of directors and indemnity for directors. The same vote is also required for shareholders to amend, repeal or adopt any provision of our bylaws.

Under Oklahoma law, shareholders may take actions without the holding of a meeting by written consent or consents signed by the holders of a sufficient number of shares to approve the transaction had all of the outstanding shares of our capital stock entitled to vote thereon been present at a meeting. If shareholder action is taken by written consent, the rules and regulations of the SEC require us to send each shareholder entitled to vote on the matter, but whose consent was not solicited, an information statement containing information substantially similar to that which would have been contained in a proxy statement.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

UMB Bank, N.A. is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock, our 6.75% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock and our 6.00% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

We may offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we decide to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, we will issue receipts for depositary shares. Each depositary share will represent a fraction of a share of a particular series of preferred stock. The prospectus supplement will indicate that fraction. The shares of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a depositary agreement between us and a bank or trust company that meets certain requirements and is selected by us (the Bank Depositary). Each owner of a depositary share will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by the depositary share. The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the depositary agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock in accordance with the terms of the offering.

We have summarized selected provisions of a depositary agreement and the related depositary receipts. The summary is not complete. The forms of the deposit agreement and the depositary receipts relating to any particular issue of depositary shares will be filed with the SEC on a Current Report on Form 8-K prior to our offering of the depositary shares, and you should read such documents for provisions that may be important to you.

Dividends and Other Distributions

If we pay a cash distribution or dividend on a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the Bank Depositary will distribute such dividends to the record holders of such depositary shares. If the distributions are in property other than cash, the Bank Depositary will distribute the property to the record holders of the depositary shares. If the Bank Depositary, however, determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution of property, the Bank Depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to the record holders of the depositary shares.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If we redeem a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the Bank Depositary will redeem the depositary shares from the proceeds received by the Bank Depositary in connection with the redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will equal the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share of the preferred stock. If fewer than all the depositary shares are redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as the Bank Depositary may determine.

Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock represented by depositary shares are entitled to vote, the Bank Depositary will mail the notice to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to such preferred stock. Each record holder of these depositary shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock) may instruct the Bank Depositary as

to how to vote the preferred stock represented by such holder's depositary shares. The Bank Depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the amount of the preferred stock represented by such depositary shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will take all action which the Bank Depositary deems necessary in order to enable the Bank Depositary to do so. The Bank Depositary will abstain from voting shares of the preferred stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing such preferred stock.

Amendment and Termination of the Depositary Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the depositary agreement may be amended by agreement between the Bank Depositary and us. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless such

Table of Contents

amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. The depositary agreement may be terminated by the Bank Depositary or us only if (i) all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or (ii) there has been a final distribution in respect of the preferred stock in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company and such distribution has been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts.

Charges of Bank Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the Bank Depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges, including a fee for the withdrawal of shares of preferred stock upon surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the depositary agreement to be for their accounts.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

Upon surrender of depositary receipts at the principal office of the Bank Depositary, subject to the terms of the depositary agreement, the owner of the depositary shares may demand delivery of the number of whole shares of preferred stock and all money and other property, if any, represented by those depositary shares. Partial shares of preferred stock will not be issued. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the Bank Depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. Holders of preferred stock thus withdrawn may not thereafter deposit those shares under the depositary agreement or receive depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares therefor.

Resignation and Removal of Bank Depositary

The Bank Depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the Bank Depositary. Any such resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor Bank Depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. Such successor Bank Depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company meeting the requirements of the depositary agreement.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Any of the securities being offered hereby may be sold in any one or more of the following ways from time to time:

through agents;

to or through underwriters;

through dealers; or

directly by us.

The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

Offers to purchase securities may be solicited by agents designated by us from time to time. Any such agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by us to such agent will be set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in such prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a reasonable best efforts basis for the period of its appointment. Any such agent may be deemed to be an underwriter, as that term is defined in the Securities Act, of the securities so offered and sold. We may periodically engage agents or underwriters in connection with at-the-market offerings or negotiated transactions involving our common stock.

If securities are sold by means of an underwritten offering, we will execute an underwriting agreement with an underwriter or underwriters at the time an agreement for such sale is reached, and the names of the specific managing underwriter or underwriters, as well as any other underwriters, the respective amounts underwritten and the terms of the transaction, including commissions, discounts and any other compensation of the underwriters and dealers, if any, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement which will be used by the underwriters to make resales of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered to the public. If underwriters are utilized in the sale of any securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, such securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at fixed public offering prices or at varying prices determined by the underwriters at the time of sale. Securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or directly by one or more underwriters. If any underwriter or underwriters are utilized in the sale of securities, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the underwriting agreement will provide that the obligations of the underwriters are subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriters with respect to a sale of such securities will be obligated to purchase all such securities if any are purchased.

We may grant to the underwriters options to purchase additional securities, to cover over-allotments, if any, at the price at which securities are first offered to the public (with additional underwriting commissions or discounts), as may be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. If we grant any over-allotment option, the terms of such over-allotment option will be set forth in the prospectus supplement for such securities.

Edgar Filing: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORP - Form 424B2

If a dealer is utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will sell such securities to the dealer as principal. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale. Any such dealer may be deemed to be an underwriter, as such term is defined in the Securities Act, of the securities so offered and sold. The name of the dealer and their terms of the transaction will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto.

Offers to purchase securities may be solicited directly by us and the sale thereof may be made by us directly to institutional investors or others, who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the

Table of Contents

Securities Act with respect to any resale thereof. The terms of any such sales will be described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto.

If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents and underwriters to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date or dates stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Such delayed delivery contracts will be subject to only those conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. A commission indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement will be paid to underwriters and agents soliciting purchases of securities pursuant to delayed delivery contracts accepted by us.

Agents, underwriters and dealers may be entitled under relevant agreements with us to indemnification by us against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which such agents, underwriters and dealers may be required to make in respect thereof.

Each series of securities will be a new issue and, other than our common stock, which is listed on The New York Stock Exchange, will have no established trading market. We may elect to list any series of securities on an exchange, and in the case of common stock, on any additional exchange, but, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we shall not be obligated to do so. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the securities.

Agents, underwriters and dealers may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us and our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the debt securities, guarantees and depositary shares offered by this prospectus have been passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. The validity of the preferred stock (including any preferred stock underlying any depositary shares) and the common stock (including any common stock issuable upon the conversion of any preferred stock) offered by this prospectus have been passed upon for us by Commercial Law Group, P.C. Legal counsel to any underwriters may pass upon legal matters for such underwriters.

Shannon T. Self, a shareholder in Commercial Law Group, P.C., is a director of Chesapeake, and he owns 104,992 shares of our common stock.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Chesapeake Energy Corporation, incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the amended annual report on Form 10-K/A of Chesapeake Energy Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2002, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Certain estimates of proved oil and gas reserves for Chesapeake Energy Corporation referred to and incorporated by reference herein were based in part upon engineering reports prepared by Williamson Petroleum Consultants, Inc., Ryder Scott Company L.P., Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc. and Lee Keeling and Associates, Inc., independent petroleum engineers. These estimates are included and incorporated herein in reliance on the authority of each such firm as experts in such matters.

Table of Contents

1,500,000 Shares

5% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

November 12, 2003

LEHMAN BROTHERS

BANC OF AMERICA SECURITIES LLC

MORGAN STANLEY

BEAR, STEARNS & CO. INC.

CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON

RAYMOND JAMES

HOWARD WEIL INCORPORATED

JOHNSON RICE & COMPANY, L.L.C.

RBC CAPITAL MARKETS