

NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS LP

Form 10-Q

November 08, 2011

Table of Contents

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20549
FORM 10-Q**

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2011

OR

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

**Commission file number: 001-31465
NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS L.P.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

35-2164875
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**601 Jefferson Street, Suite 3600
Houston, Texas 77002
(Address of principal executive offices)
(Zip Code)
(713) 751-7507**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

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

Large Accelerated Filer Accelerated Filer Non-accelerated Filer Smaller Reporting Company
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

At November 8, 2011 there were 106,027,836 Common Units outstanding.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
<u>ITEM 1. Financial Statements</u>	
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010</u>	4
<u>Consolidated Statements of Income For the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011 and 2010</u>	5
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011 and 2010</u>	6
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	7
<u>ITEM 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	
<u>Executive Overview</u>	18
<u>Results of Operations</u>	23
<u>Liquidity and Capital Resources</u>	27
<u>Related Party Transactions</u>	29
<u>Environmental</u>	31
<u>ITEM 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	32
<u>ITEM 4. Controls and Procedures</u>	33
<u>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</u>	
<u>ITEM 1. Legal Proceedings</u>	34
<u>ITEM 1A. Risk Factors</u>	34
<u>ITEM 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	34
<u>ITEM 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u>	34
<u>ITEM 4. (Removed and Reserved)</u>	34
<u>ITEM 5. Other Information</u>	34
<u>ITEM 6. Exhibits</u>	35
<u>Signatures</u>	36
<u>EX-31.1</u>	
<u>EX-31.2</u>	
<u>EX-32.1</u>	
<u>EX-32.2</u>	
<u>EX-101 INSTANCE DOCUMENT</u>	
<u>EX-101 SCHEMA DOCUMENT</u>	
<u>EX-101 CALCULATION LINKBASE DOCUMENT</u>	
<u>EX-101 LABELS LINKBASE DOCUMENT</u>	
<u>EX-101 PRESENTATION LINKBASE DOCUMENT</u>	
<u>EX-101 DEFINITION LINKBASE DOCUMENT</u>	

Table of Contents

Forward-Looking Statements

Statements included in this Form 10-Q are forward-looking statements. In addition, we and our representatives may from time to time make other oral or written statements that are also forward-looking statements.

Such forward-looking statements include, among other things, statements regarding capital expenditures, acquisitions and dispositions, expected commencement dates of mining, projected quantities of future production by our lessees and projected demand for or supply of coal and aggregates that will affect sales levels, prices and royalties and other revenues realized by us.

These forward-looking statements are made based upon management's current plans, expectations, estimates, assumptions and beliefs concerning future events impacting us and therefore involve a number of risks and uncertainties. We caution that forward-looking statements are not guarantees and that actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements.

You should not put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. Please read Item 1A. Risk Factors in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 for important factors that could cause our actual results of operations or our actual financial condition to differ.

Table of Contents**Part I. Financial Information****Item 1. Financial Statements**

NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS L.P.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In thousands, except unit data)

	September 30, 2011 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2010
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 150,112	\$ 95,506
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts	34,538	26,195
Accounts receivable affiliates	12,342	7,915
Other	391	910
Total current assets	197,383	130,526
Land	24,533	24,543
Plant and equipment, net	49,228	62,348
Coal and other mineral rights, net	1,289,874	1,281,636
Intangible assets, net	109,885	161,931
Loan financing costs, net	4,782	2,436
Other assets, net	579	616
Total assets	\$ 1,676,264	\$ 1,664,036
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS CAPITAL		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,388
Accounts payable affiliates		499
Obligation related to acquisitions	500	
Current portion of long-term debt	30,801	31,518
Accrued incentive plan expenses current portion	7,690	6,788
Property, franchise and other taxes payable	4,499	6,926
Accrued interest	8,101	9,811
Total current liabilities	53,691	56,930
Deferred revenue	108,093	109,509
Accrued incentive plan expenses	10,431	11,347
Long-term debt	786,268	661,070
Partners capital:		
Common units outstanding (106,027,836)	701,602	806,529
General partner's interest	11,995	14,132
Non-controlling interest	4,691	5,065
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(507)	(546)

Edgar Filing: NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS LP - Form 10-Q

Total partners' capital	717,781	825,180
Total liabilities and partners' capital	\$ 1,676,264	\$ 1,664,036

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

4

Table of Contents

NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS L.P.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(In thousands, except per unit data)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
	(Unaudited)		(Unaudited)	
Revenues:				
Coal royalties	\$ 76,430	\$ 60,142	\$ 211,583	\$ 165,135
Aggregate royalties	2,099	1,606	5,124	2,847
Coal processing fees	3,967	2,343	10,229	6,680
Transportation fees	4,765	4,285	12,608	11,103
Oil and gas royalties	5,059	1,013	10,047	4,200
Property taxes	2,974	3,552	9,563	8,985
Minimums recognized as revenue	1,582	3,782	3,930	10,574
Override royalties	4,131	2,625	10,666	8,749
Other	2,764	1,404	6,282	5,586
 Total revenues	 103,771	 80,752	 280,032	 223,859
Operating costs and expenses:				
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	19,153	16,195	49,641	44,048
Asset impairment	90,932		90,932	
General and administrative	5,521	8,761	22,156	22,103
Property, franchise and other taxes	3,915	4,580	10,918	11,812
Transportation costs	540	614	1,531	1,436
Coal royalty and override payments	233	258	700	1,251
 Total operating costs and expenses	 120,294	 30,408	 175,878	 80,650
 Income (loss) from operations	 (16,523)	 50,344	 104,154	 143,209
Other income (expense):				
Interest expense	(12,779)	(10,204)	(35,795)	(31,279)
Interest income	16	13	40	25
 Income (loss) before non-controlling interest	 (29,286)	 40,153	 68,399	 111,955
Less non-controlling interest			(51)	
 Net income (loss)	 \$ (29,286)	 \$ 40,153	 \$ 68,348	 \$ 111,955
 Net income (loss) attributable to:				
General partner	\$ (586)	\$ 803	\$ 1,367	\$ 1,720
Holder of incentive distribution rights		\$	\$	\$ 25,966
Limited partners	\$ (28,700)	\$ 39,350	\$ 66,981	\$ 84,269
	\$ (0.27)	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.63	\$ 1.14

Edgar Filing: NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS LP - Form 10-Q

Basic and diluted net income (loss) per limited partner
unit

Weighted average number of units outstanding	106,028	77,896	106,028	73,792
--	---------	--------	---------	--------

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

5

Table of Contents

NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS L.P.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(In thousands)

	Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,	
	2011	2010
	(Unaudited)	
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 68,348	\$ 111,955
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	49,641	44,048
Gain on sale of assets	(1,058)	
Asset impairment	90,932	
Non-cash interest charge, net	493	415
Non-controlling interest	51	
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(12,770)	(5,341)
Other assets	556	620
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	213	303
Accrued interest	(1,710)	(7,458)
Deferred revenue	26,067	29,254
Accrued incentive plan expenses	(14)	2,425
Property, franchise and other taxes payable	(2,427)	(561)
Net cash provided by operating activities	218,322	175,660
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Acquisition of land, coal and other mineral rights	(107,509)	(111,176)
Acquisition or construction of plant and equipment	(325)	(4,320)
Proceeds from sale of assets	5,500	808
Net cash used in investing activities	(102,334)	(114,688)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from loans	335,000	85,000
Debt issuance costs	(2,774)	
Proceeds from issuance of units		110,436
Repayment of loans	(210,519)	(106,234)
Capital contribution		2,350
Payment of obligation related to acquisitions	(7,625)	(9,169)
Costs associated with equity transactions	(141)	(152)
Fees associated with the elimination of the IDR s		(2,170)
Distributions to partners	(175,323)	(151,427)
Net cash used in financing activities	(61,382)	(71,366)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	54,606	(10,394)

Edgar Filing: NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS LP - Form 10-Q

Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	95,506	82,634
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 150,112	\$ 72,240
Supplemental cash flow information:		
Cash paid during the period for interest	\$ 37,074	\$ 38,292
Non-cash activities:		
Mineral rights to be received	\$	\$ 13,249
Non-controlling interest	\$ 373	\$ (7,355)
Obligation related to purchase of reserves and infrastructure	\$ 4,100	\$ 6,200
Liability associated with an acquisition	\$	\$ 1,268

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Table of Contents

**NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS L.P.
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1. Basis of Presentation and Organization

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for future periods.

You should refer to the information contained in the footnotes included in Natural Resource Partners L.P.'s 2010 Annual Report on Form 10-K in connection with the reading of these unaudited interim consolidated financial statements.

The Partnership engages principally in the business of owning, managing and leasing mineral properties in the United States. The Partnership owns coal reserves in the three major coal-producing regions of the United States: Appalachia, the Illinois Basin and the Western United States, as well as lignite reserves in the Gulf Coast region. The Partnership also owns aggregate reserves in several states across the country. The Partnership does not operate any mines on its properties, but leases reserves to experienced operators under long-term leases that grant the operators the right to mine the Partnership's reserves in exchange for royalty payments. Lessees are generally required to make payments based on the higher of a percentage of the gross sales price or a fixed royalty per ton, in addition to a minimum payment.

In addition, the Partnership owns transportation and preparation equipment, other coal related rights and oil and gas properties on which it earns revenue.

The general partner of the Partnership is NRP (GP) LP, a Delaware limited partnership, whose general partner is GP Natural Resource Partners LLC, a Delaware limited liability company.

2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2011, the FASB amended the presentation of comprehensive income. The amendments in this update give the Partnership the option to present the total comprehensive income, the components of net income, and the components of other comprehensive income either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. These amendments are effective for fiscal years and interim periods within those years, beginning on or after December 15, 2011. The Partnership has not determined which method of presentation it will elect.

In May 2011, the FASB amended fair value measurement and disclosure requirements. The amendments result in common fair value measurement and disclosure requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs). Some of the amendments clarify the FASB's intent about the application of existing fair value measurement requirements. Other amendments change a particular principal or requirement for measuring fair value or for disclosing information about fair value measurements. The amendment likely to have the most impact on the Partnership relates to the fair value disclosure of the senior notes' quantitative information about unobservable inputs used in fair value measurements, that is categorized within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. These amendments are effective for fiscal years and interim periods within those years, beginning on or after December 15, 2011. The Partnership does not expect this adoption to have a material impact on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Other accounting standards that have been issued or proposed by the FASB or other standards-setting bodies are not expected to have a material impact on the Partnership's financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

3. Significant Acquisitions

NBR Sand. In June 2011, the Partnership acquired an overriding royalty interest in approximately 711 acres of frac sand reserves near Tyler, TX for \$16.5 million.

Table of Contents

CALX Resources. In February 2011, the Partnership acquired approximately 500 acres of mineral and surface rights related to limestone reserves on the Tennessee River near Paducah, Kentucky for \$16.0 million, of which \$15.5 million has been paid at September 30, 2011 and the remaining \$0.5 million will be paid as certain milestones are completed.

BRP LLC. In June 2010, the Partnership and International Paper Company (IPC) formed BRP to own and manage mineral assets previously owned by IPC. Some of these assets are currently subject to leases, and certain other assets are available for future development by the venture. In exchange for a \$42.5 million contribution, NRP became the controlling member with the right to designate two of the three managers of BRP. NRP has a 51% income interest plus a preferential cumulative annual distribution prior to profit sharing. In exchange for the contribution of the producing properties and the properties not currently producing, IPC received \$42.5 million in cash, a minority voting interest and a 49% income interest after the preferential cumulative annual distribution. The amount of the preference is fixed throughout the life of the venture but can be reduced by a portion of the proceeds received from sales of producing properties included in the initial acquisition. Identified tangible assets included in the transaction are oil and gas, coal, and aggregate reserves, as well the rights to other unidentified minerals which may include coal bed methane, geothermal, CO₂ sequestration, water rights, precious metals, industrial minerals and base metals. Certain properties, including oil and gas, coal and aggregates, as well as land leased for cell towers, are currently under lease and generating revenues.

The transaction was accounted for as a business combination and the assets and liabilities of the venture are included in the consolidated balance sheet. The following table summarizes the final allocation of the purchase price fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed for the BRP transaction:

	Final Fair Value (In thousands) (unaudited)
Coal and other mineral rights	\$ 45,329
Intangible assets	\$ 1,863
Capital contribution	\$ 42,500
Non-controlling interests	\$ 4,692

Approximately \$38.3 million of the total \$47.2 million asset fair value, as well as the value of the \$4.7 million non-controlling interest, were estimated using an expected cash flows approach. The remaining assets fair value was determined using a Level 2 market approach.

Operations of the venture are included from June 1, 2010, the effective date of acquisition. Total net income from startup through December 31, 2010 was \$2.3 million and for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was \$4.0 million. The venture operating agreement provides that net income of the venture only be allocated to the non-controlling interests after the preferential cumulative annual distribution.

Transaction expenses related to the acquisition through December 31, 2010 were \$2.5 million. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, transaction expenses were \$0.5 million and are included in general and administrative expenses in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income.

Sierra Silica. In April 2010, the Partnership acquired the rights to silica reserves on approximately 1,000 acres of property in Northern California for \$17.0 million.

Colt. In September 2009, the Partnership signed a definitive agreement to acquire approximately 200 million tons of coal reserves related to the Deer Run Mine in Illinois from Colt, LLC, an affiliate of the Cline Group, through several separate transactions for a total purchase price of \$255 million. As of September 30, 2011, the Partnership had acquired approximately 92.1 million tons of reserves for approximately \$175 million, including \$70.0 million paid during the first quarter 2011. Future closings anticipated through 2012 will be associated with completion of certain milestones related to the new mine.

Table of Contents**4. Asset Impairment**

In October 2011, the Partnership was informed by Gatling LLC, a Cline affiliate, that it was no longer projecting production from the West Virginia mine. The Partnership and Gatling have amended the lease with respect to this property to provide that the existing minimum royalty balance of \$24.1 million is non-recoupable, that Gatling will pay \$3.4 million in non-recoupable minimum royalties over the next two quarters that the minimums will be reduced after the first quarter of 2012, and that Gatling will continue to maintain and ventilate the mine. Considering all information available at this time, the Partnership has determined that its investment in the Gatling West Virginia property will not be fully recovered by future cash flows. The assets include coal reserves, certain above market intangibles and coal transportation equipment.

The unaudited net book value as of September 30, 2011 and calculated fair values of the assets relating to the Gatling West Virginia operation is as follows:

	Fair Value (In thousands)	Net Book Value
Coal and other mineral rights, net	\$ 5,404	\$ 76,003
Intangible assets, net		43,855
Plant and equipment, net	2,600	6,561
Total	\$ 8,004	\$ 126,419

The fair value of the coal rights and transportation equipment was estimated using Level 2 market approaches. The market approaches include references to recent comparable transactions. Since Gatling, LLC is no longer projecting production in the foreseeable future, the related royalty and transportation contract intangible assets were estimated to have no fair value as of the measurement date.

The asset impairment of \$118.4 million was offset by \$24.1 million of recoupable minimum payments received from Gatling, LLC to date and \$3.4 million in cash payments to be received, resulting in a net asset impairment of \$90.9 million, which is included in operating costs and expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Income.

5. Plant and Equipment

The Partnership's plant and equipment consist of the following:

	September 30, 2011 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2010
	(In thousands)	
Plant construction in process	\$	\$ 6,279
Plant and equipment at cost	70,810	81,906
Less accumulated depreciation	(21,582)	(25,837)
Net book value	\$ 49,228	\$ 62,348

Under the provisions of one of the Partnership's tiddle leases, the lessee exercised its option to purchase the tiddle and corresponding land for fair market value, which is greater than the carrying amount of the asset. In May 2011, the lessee paid a \$1.0 million deposit that was nonrefundable. In August 2011, the lessee paid the remaining \$4.5 million to complete the purchase of the tiddle. The Partnership recognized a gain on the sale in the third quarter of \$1.1 million included in Other Revenue on the Consolidated Statements of Income.

Table of Contents

	Nine months ended September 30, 2011 2010 (In thousands) (Unaudited)	
Total depreciation expense on plant and equipment	\$ 6,681	\$ 6,238

6. Coal and Other Mineral Rights

The Partnership's coal and other mineral rights consist of the following:

	September 30, 2011 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2010 (Unaudited)
	(In thousands)	
Coal and other mineral rights	\$ 1,670,147	\$ 1,629,286
Less accumulated depletion and amortization	(380,273)	(347,650)
Net book value	\$ 1,289,874	\$ 1,281,636

	Nine months ended September 30, 2011 2010 (In thousands) (Unaudited)	
Total depletion and amortization expense on coal and other mineral rights	\$ 34,711	\$ 28,285

7. Intangible Assets

Amounts recorded as intangible assets along with the balances and accumulated amortization are reflected in the table below:

	September 30, 2011 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2010 (Unaudited)
	(In thousands)	
Contract intangibles	\$ 124,087	\$ 180,233
Less accumulated amortization	(14,202)	(18,302)
Net book value	\$ 109,885	\$ 161,931

**Nine months ended
September 30,
2011 2010**

	(In thousands)
	(Unaudited)
Total amortization expense on intangible assets	\$ 8,248 \$ 9,524

The estimates of future expense for the periods indicated below are based on current mining plans, which are subject to revision in future periods.

	Estimated
	Amortization
	Expense
	(In thousands)
	(Unaudited)
Remainder of 2011	\$ 2,325
For year ended December 31, 2012	5,173
For year ended December 31, 2013	4,519
For year ended December 31, 2014	4,519
For year ended December 31, 2015	4,519

Table of Contents**8. Long-Term Debt**

Long-term debt consists of the following:

	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
	(In thousands)	
	(Unaudited)	
\$300 million floating rate revolving credit facility, due August 2016	\$	\$ 94,000
5.55% senior notes, with semi-annual interest payments in June and December, maturing June 2013	35,000	35,000
4.91% senior notes, with semi-annual interest payments in June and December, with annual principal payments in June, maturing in June 2018	32,317	37,650
8.38% senior notes, with semi-annual interest payments in March and September, with scheduled principal payments beginning March 2013, maturing in March 2019	150,000	150,000
5.05% senior notes, with semi-annual interest payments in January and July, with annual principal payments in July, maturing in July 2020	69,230	76,923
5.31% utility local improvement obligation, with annual principal and interest payments, maturing in March 2021	1,922	2,115
5.55% senior notes, with semi-annual interest payments in June and December, with annual principal payments in June, maturing in June 2023	33,600	36,900
4.73% senior notes, with semi-annual interest payments in June and December, with scheduled principal payments beginning December 2014, maturing in December 2023	75,000	
5.82% senior notes, with semi-annual interest payments in March and September, with annual principal payments in March, maturing in March 2024	195,000	210,000
8.92% senior notes, with semi-annual interest payments in March and September, with scheduled principal payments beginning March 2014, maturing in March 2024	50,000	50,000
5.03% senior notes, with semi-annual interest payments in June and December, with scheduled principal payments beginning December 2014, maturing in December 2026	175,000	
Total debt	817,069	692,588
Less current portion of long term debt	(30,801)	(31,518)
Long-term debt	\$ 786,268	\$ 661,070

Principal payments due in:

	Senior Notes	Credit Facility (In thousands) (Unaudited)	Total
Remainder of 2011	\$	\$	\$
2012	30,801		30,801
2013	87,230		87,230

Edgar Filing: NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS LP - Form 10-Q

2014	77,137		77,137
2015	77,137		77,137
Thereafter	544,764		544,764
	\$ 817,069	\$	\$ 817,069

Table of Contents

The senior note purchase agreement contains covenants requiring our operating subsidiary to:

Maintain a ratio of consolidated indebtedness to consolidated EBITDA (as defined in the note purchase agreement) of no more than 4.0 to 1.0 for the four most recent quarters;

not permit debt secured by certain liens and debt of subsidiaries to exceed 10% of consolidated net tangible assets (as defined in the note purchase agreement); and

maintain the ratio of consolidated EBITDA to consolidated fixed charges (consisting of consolidated interest expense and consolidated operating lease expense) at not less than 3.5 to 1.0.

The 8.38% and 8.92% senior notes also provide that in the event that the Partnership's leverage ratio exceeds 3.75 to 1.00 at the end of any fiscal quarter, then in addition to all other interest accruing on these notes, additional interest in the amount of 2.00% per annum shall accrue on the notes for the two succeeding quarters and for as long thereafter as the leverage ratio remains above 3.75 to 1.00.

In the second quarter, the Partnership issued \$250 million of senior unsecured notes and is committed to issue another \$50 million of unsecured senior notes in October of this year. Proceeds from the senior notes were used to repay all of the outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility and the Partnership has used, or will use, the remaining proceeds for acquisitions.

A summary of the four tranches of senior notes are as follows:

Series	Amount	Interest Rate	Issue Date	Maturity
H	\$75 million	4.73%	April 20, 2011	December 1, 2023
I	\$125 million	5.03%	April 20, 2011	December 1, 2026
J	\$50 million	5.03%	June 15, 2011	December 1, 2026
K	\$50 million	5.18%	October 3, 2011	December 1, 2026

All tranches have semi-annual interest payments beginning December 1, 2011, and equal annual principal payments beginning December 1, 2014.

The Partnership made principal payments of \$31.5 million on its senior notes during the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

On August 10, 2011, the Partnership completed an amendment and restatement of its \$300 million revolving credit facility. The amendment extends the term of the credit facility to August 2016. The Partnership incurs a commitment fee on the undrawn portion of the revolving credit facility at rates ranging from 0.18% to 0.40% per annum. Also, the accordion feature in the credit facility, where the Partnership may request its lenders to increase their aggregate commitment, increased to a maximum of \$500 million on the same terms. However, the Partnership cannot be certain that its lenders will elect to participate in the accordion feature. To the extent the lenders decline to participate, the Partnership may elect to bring new lenders into the facility, but cannot make any assurance that the additional credit capacity will be available on existing or comparable terms.

At September 30, 2011 the Partnership did not have any outstanding balance on its revolving credit facility, while at December 31, 2010 the Partnership had \$94.0 million. The weighted average interest rates for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and the year ended December 31, 2010 were 1.83% and 1.42%, respectively.

The revolving credit facility contains covenants requiring the Partnership to maintain:

a ratio of consolidated indebtedness to consolidated EBITDDA (as defined in the credit agreement) not to exceed 4.0 to 1.0; and

a ratio of consolidated EBITDDA to consolidated fixed charges (consisting of consolidated interest expense and consolidated lease operating expense) not less than 3.5 to 1.0 for the four most recent quarters.

The Partnership was in compliance with all terms under its long-term debt as of September 30, 2011.

9. Fair Value

The Partnership's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and long-term debt. The carrying amount of the Partnership's financial instruments included in accounts receivable and accounts payable approximates their fair value due to their short-term nature. The Partnership's cash and cash equivalents include money market accounts and are considered a Level 1 measurement. The fair market value of the Partnership's long-term debt was estimated to be \$862.6 million and \$596.1 million at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively, for the senior notes. The carrying

Table of Contents

value of the Partnership's senior notes was \$817.1 million and \$598.6 million at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively. The fair value is estimated by management using comparable term risk-free treasury issues with a market rate component determined by current financial instruments with similar characteristics which is a Level 3 measurement. Since the Partnership's credit facility is variable rate debt, its fair value approximates its carrying amount.

10. Related Party Transactions***Reimbursements to Affiliates of our General Partner***

The Partnership's general partner does not receive any management fee or other compensation for its management of Natural Resource Partners L.P. However, in accordance with the partnership agreement, the general partner and its affiliates are reimbursed for expenses incurred on the Partnership's behalf. All direct general and administrative expenses are charged to the Partnership as incurred. The Partnership also reimburses indirect general and administrative costs, including certain legal, accounting, treasury, information technology, insurance, administration of employee benefits and other corporate services incurred by our general partner and its affiliates.

The reimbursements to affiliates of the Partnership's general partner for services performed by Western Pocahontas Properties and Quintana Minerals Corporation are as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2011		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(In thousands) (Unaudited)			
Reimbursement for services	\$ 2,050	\$ 1,823	\$ 6,203	\$ 5,403

The Partnership leases substantially all of two floors of an office building in Huntington, West Virginia from Western Pocahontas Properties and pays \$0.5 million in lease payments each year through December 31, 2018.

Cline Affiliates

Various companies controlled by Chris Cline lease coal reserves from the Partnership, and the Partnership provides coal transportation services to them for a fee. At September 30, 2011, Mr. Cline, both individually and through another affiliate, Adena Minerals, LLC, owns a 31% interest in the Partnership's general partner, as well as 16,686,672 common units. Revenues from the Cline affiliates are as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2011		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(In thousands) (Unaudited)			
Coal royalty revenues	\$ 16,244	\$ 9,873	\$ 30,673	\$ 22,655
Coal processing fees	885	344	2,078	785
Transportation fees	4,765	4,271	12,609	10,671
Minimums recognized as revenue		3,100		9,300
Override revenue	704	718	1,384	1,437
	\$ 22,598	\$ 18,306	\$ 46,744	\$ 44,848

At September 30, 2011, the Partnership had accounts receivable totaling \$10.7 million from Cline affiliates, and had received \$43.0 million in minimum royalty payments that have not been recouped by Cline affiliates, of which \$14.8 million was received in the current year.

The Partnership recognized an asset impairment of \$90.9 million during the third quarter of 2011 related to several of the Partnership's assets at the Gatling WV location. These assets are leased by one of the Cline affiliates.

Table of Contents***Quintana Capital Group GP, Ltd.***

Corbin J. Robertson, Jr. is a principal in Quintana Capital Group GP, Ltd., which controls several private equity funds focused on investments in the energy business. In connection with the formation of Quintana Capital, the Partnership adopted a formal conflicts policy that establishes the opportunities that will be pursued by the Partnership and those that will be pursued by Quintana Capital. The governance documents of Quintana Capital's affiliated investment funds reflect the guidelines set forth in NRP's conflicts policy.

A fund controlled by Quintana Capital owns a significant membership interest in Taggart Global USA, LLC, including the right to nominate two members of Taggart's 5-person board of directors. The Partnership owns and leases preparation plants to Taggart Global, which designs, builds and operates the plants. The lease payments are based on the sales price for the coal that is processed through the facilities. The Partnership currently leases four facilities to Taggart. Revenues from Taggart are as follows:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
	(In thousands)			
	(Unaudited)			
Coal processing revenues	\$ 2,962	\$ 1,666	\$ 7,587	\$ 4,014

At September 30, 2011, the Partnership had accounts receivable totaling \$1.5 million from Taggart.

A fund controlled by Quintana Capital owns Kopper-Glo, a small coal mining company that is one of the Partnership's lessees with operations in Tennessee. Revenues from Kopper-Glo are as follows:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
	(In thousands)			
	(Unaudited)			
Coal royalty revenues	\$ 440	\$ 363	\$ 1,192	\$ 1,195

The Partnership also had accounts receivable totaling \$0.1 million from Kopper-Glo at September 30, 2011.

11. Commitments and Contingencies***Legal***

The Partnership is involved, from time to time, in various legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. While the ultimate results of these proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty, Partnership management believes these claims will not have a material effect on the Partnership's financial position, liquidity or operations.

Environmental Compliance

The operations conducted on the Partnership's properties by its lessees are subject to environmental laws and regulations adopted by various governmental authorities in the jurisdictions in which these operations are conducted. As owner of surface interests in some properties, the Partnership may be liable for certain environmental conditions occurring at the surface properties. The terms of substantially all of the Partnership's leases require the lessee to comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including environmental laws and regulations. Lessees post reclamation bonds assuring that reclamation will be completed as required by the relevant permit, and substantially all of the leases require the lessee to indemnify the Partnership against, among other things, environmental liabilities. Some of these indemnifications survive the termination of the lease. The Partnership has neither incurred, nor is aware of, any material environmental charges imposed on it related to its properties as of September 30, 2011. The Partnership is not associated with any environmental contamination that may require remediation costs.

Table of Contents

Acquisition

In conjunction with a definitive agreement, as of September 30, 2011, the Partnership may be obligated to purchase in excess of 100 million additional tons of coal reserves from Colt, LLC for an aggregate purchase price of \$80.0 million over the next year as certain milestones are completed relating to construction of a new mine.

Table of Contents**12. Major Lessees**

Revenues from lessees that exceeded ten percent of total revenues for the periods as presented below:

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2011		2010		2011		2010	
	(Dollars in thousands) (Unaudited)							
	Revenues	Percent	Revenues	Percent	Revenues	Percent	Revenues	Percent
Alpha Natural Resources	\$ 27,718	27%	\$ 20,629	26%	\$ 82,010	29%	\$ 59,570	27%
The Cline Group	\$ 22,598	22%	\$ 18,306	23%	\$ 46,744	17%	\$ 44,858	20%

In the first nine months of 2011, the Partnership derived over 46% of its total revenue from the two companies listed above. As a result, the Partnership has a significant concentration of revenues with those lessees, although in most cases, with the exception of the Williamson mine operated by an affiliate of the Cline group, the exposure is spread out over a number of different mining operations and leases. Cline's Williamson mine alone was responsible for approximately 11% of our total revenues for the first nine months of 2011. As a result of the merger of Alpha Natural Resources and Massey Energy Company, all prior period revenues from Massey have been combined with those of Alpha for presentation purposes in this 10-Q.

13. Incentive Plans

GP Natural Resource Partners LLC adopted the Natural Resource Partners Long-Term Incentive Plan (the Long-Term Incentive Plan) for directors of GP Natural Resource Partners LLC and employees of its affiliates who perform services for the Partnership. The Compensation, Nominating and Governance (CNG) Committee of GP Natural Resource Partners LLC's board of directors administers the Long-Term Incentive Plan. Subject to the rules of the exchange upon which the common units are listed at the time, the board of directors and the compensation committee of the board of directors have the right to alter or amend the Long-Term Incentive Plan or any part of the Long-Term Incentive Plan from time to time. Except upon the occurrence of unusual or nonrecurring events, no change in any outstanding grant may be made that would materially reduce the benefit intended to be made available to a participant without the consent of the participant.

Under the plan a grantee will receive the market value of a common unit in cash upon vesting. Market value is defined as the average closing price over the last 20 trading days prior to the vesting date. The CNG Committee may make grants under the Long-Term Incentive Plan to employees and directors containing such terms as it determines, including the vesting period. Outstanding grants vest upon a change in control of the Partnership, the general partner, or GP Natural Resource Partners LLC. If a grantee's employment or membership on the board of directors terminates for any reason, outstanding grants will be automatically forfeited unless and to the extent the CNG Committee provides otherwise.

A summary of activity in the outstanding grants during 2011 is as follows:

Outstanding grants at January 1, 2011	753,868
Grants during the year	279,078
Grants vested and paid during the year	(162,186)
Forfeitures during the year	
Outstanding grants at September 30, 2011	870,760

Grants typically vest at the end of a four-year period and are paid in cash upon vesting. The liability fluctuates with the market value of the Partnership units and because of changes in estimated fair value determined each quarter using the Black-Scholes option valuation model. Risk free interest rates and volatility are reset at each calculation based on current rates corresponding to the remaining vesting term for each outstanding grant and ranged from 0.17% to 0.41%

and 34.29% to 49.10%, respectively at September 30, 2011. The Partnership's annual distribution rate of 6.58% and historical forfeiture rate of 2.85% were used in the calculation at September 30, 2011. The Partnership recorded expenses related to its plan to be reimbursed to its general partner of \$0.6 million and \$3.1 million and \$6.1 million and \$5.4 million for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. In connection with the Long-Term Incentive Plan, payments are typically made during the first three months of the year. Payments of \$5.7 million and \$3.2 million were made during the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Table of Contents

In connection with the phantom unit awards granted since February 2008, the CNG Committee also granted tandem Distribution Equivalent Rights, or DERs, which entitle the holders to receive distributions equal to the distributions paid on the Partnership's common units. The DERs are payable in cash upon vesting but may be subject to forfeiture if the grantee ceases employment prior to vesting.

The unaccrued cost, associated with the unvested outstanding grants and related DERs at September 30, 2011, was \$13.6 million.

14. Equity Transactions, including Distributions

On August 12, 2011, the Partnership paid a quarterly distribution \$0.54 per unit to all holders of common units.

On September 20, 2010, the Partnership eliminated all of the incentive distribution rights (IDRs) held by its general partner and affiliates of the general partner. As consideration for the elimination of the IDRs, the Partnership issued 32 million common units to the holders of the IDRs. There are now 106,027,836 common units outstanding and the general partner retained its 2% interest in the Partnership.

15. Subsequent Events

The following represents material events that have occurred subsequent to September 30, 2011 through the time of the Partnership's filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission:

Issuance of Senior Notes

On October 3, 2011, the Partnership issued \$50 million of senior notes, bearing an interest rate of 5.18% and maturing in December 2026.

Distributions

On October 21, 2011, the Partnership declared a distribution of \$0.55 per unit to be paid on November 14, 2011 to unitholders of record on November 4, 2011.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion of the financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the historical financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in this filing and the financial statements and footnotes included in the Natural Resource Partners L.P. Form 10-K, as filed on February 28, 2011.

Executive Overview

Our Business

We engage principally in the business of owning, managing and leasing mineral properties in the United States. We own coal reserves in the three major U.S. coal-producing regions: Appalachia, the Illinois Basin and the Western United States, as well as lignite reserves in the Gulf Coast region. As of December 31, 2010, we owned or controlled approximately 2.3 billion tons of proven and probable coal reserves, and we also owned approximately 228 million tons of aggregate reserves in a number of states across the country. We do not operate any mines, but lease our reserves to experienced mine operators under long-term leases that grant the operators the right to mine and sell our reserves in exchange for royalty payments.

Our revenue and profitability are dependent on our lessees' ability to mine and market our reserves. Most of our coal is produced by large companies, many of which are publicly traded, with experienced and professional sales departments. A significant portion of our coal is sold by our lessees under coal supply contracts that have terms of one year or more. In contrast, our aggregate properties are typically mined by regional operators with significant experience and knowledge of the local markets. The aggregates are sold at current market prices, which historically have increased along with the producer price index for sand and gravel. Over the long term, both our coal and aggregate royalty revenues are affected by changes in the market for and the market price of the commodities.

In our royalty business, our lessees generally make payments to us based on the greater of a percentage of the gross sales price or a fixed royalty per ton of coal or aggregates they sell, subject to minimum monthly, quarterly or annual payments. These minimum royalties are generally recoupable over a specified period of time, which varies by lease, if sufficient royalties are generated from production in those future periods. We do not recognize these minimum royalties as revenue until the applicable recoupment period has expired or they are recouped through production. Until recognized as revenue, these minimum royalties are recorded as deferred revenue, a liability on our balance sheet.

In addition to coal and aggregate royalty revenues, we generated approximately 24% of our first nine months 2011 revenues from other sources, as compared to 25% in the first nine months of 2010. Other sources of revenue include: coal processing and transportation fees; overriding royalties; oil and gas royalties; wheelage payments; rentals; property tax revenue; and timber sales.

Our Current Liquidity Position

In August 2011, we amended and restated our credit facility, extending the maturity to August 2016. As of September 30, 2011, we had the full \$300 million in available capacity under our credit facility and approximately \$150 million in cash. Following the end of the quarter, we issued the final tranche of \$50 million of senior notes from our \$300 million senior notes transaction earlier in the year. A portion of the proceeds from the October issuance of senior notes as well as approximately \$40.9 million from our June issuance of senior notes are designated for specific future acquisitions, including the completion of the Hillsboro acquisition, which is now expected to occur in the first half of 2012. We believe that the combination of our capacity under our credit facility and our cash on hand gives us enough liquidity to meet our current capital needs.

In addition, other than a \$35 million senior note that matures in 2013, we amortize our long-term debt. Although our annual principal payments will increase significantly beginning in 2013, we have no need to access the capital markets to pay off or refinance any of our senior note obligations other than the one note, and our outstanding principal will be reduced as the minerals are depleted.

Current Results

For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, our lessees produced 41.7 million tons of coal and aggregates, generating \$216.7 million in royalty revenues from our properties, and our total revenues were \$280.0 million. During the first nine months, we benefitted from our substantial exposure to metallurgical coal, from which we derived approximately 45% of our coal royalty revenues and 35% of the related production. Although the market softened slightly during the third quarter, the prices received by our lessees for metallurgical coal remained at high levels,

resulting in significantly improved results, especially from our Central Appalachian properties. Looking forward, Cliffs Natural Resources announced on October 11 that its Pinnacle Mine in West

Table of Contents

Virginia, a significant producer of metallurgical coal, had resumed operation, which was earlier than expected. In addition, Cliff's Oak Grove Mine in Alabama continued to repair extensive damage to its preparation plant and mine infrastructure following the tornados earlier in the year, and anticipates having the plant back in operation in January 2012.

We have continued to diversify our holdings by expanding our presence in the Illinois Basin and through additional aggregates and other mineral acquisitions, including oil and gas royalties. Our expansion into Illinois is primarily through the acquisition of reserves by us and the development of greenfield mines by Cline. These projects take several years to reach full production, and it is difficult for us to forecast the timing of completion of the projects. To protect against this risk, we are receiving significant minimum royalties with respect to each of the projects. Although minimums provide cash to us that can be distributed to our limited partners, the minimums are generally not revenue to us until recouped through production or at the end of the recoupment period. Thus, to the extent that the development takes longer than anticipated to begin production, it will impact the revenues that we receive in the future.

Issues at Gatling Mines in West Virginia and Ohio

Operations at the Gatling, West Virginia mine were idled in April 2010 and had not been restarted as of the end of the third quarter 2011. In October 2011, Gatling LLC, the Cline affiliate that owns the mine, informed us that it was no longer projecting production from the mine for the foreseeable future and is considering selling the mine. NRP and Gatling have amended the lease with respect to this property to provide that the existing minimum royalty balance of \$24.1 million is non-recoupable, that Gatling will pay \$3.4 million in non-recoupable minimum royalties over the next two quarters, that the minimums will be reduced after the first quarter of 2012, and that Gatling will continue to maintain and ventilate the mine. This property has not been in production since April 2010 and NRP's 2011 guidance has never included any production or revenues for the property.

Considering all information available at this time, we have determined that our investment in the Gatling, West Virginia property will not be fully recovered by future cash flows. The net book value of the assets relating to this operation was \$126.4 million as of September 30, 2011, and as of the date of this report, we had received \$24.1 million in unrecouped minimum royalties. Due to the circumstances noted above, we recognized an impairment charge of \$90.9 million during the third quarter of 2011 with respect to the Gatling, West Virginia assets. NRP does not believe that the non-cash impairment will materially impact its future revenues or distributable cash flow.

In addition to the impairment of the assets associated with the Gatling West Virginia mine, another Cline affiliate, Gatling Ohio, LLC, has recently encountered adverse geologic conditions at its mine across the Ohio River in Meigs County, Ohio. This represents less than 1% of our current and future revenues. Historically, two continuous miner units have operated in the mine, but one of those two units has recently shut down due to the incursion of significant sandstone into the coal seam. The productivity of the other mining unit has also declined, and Gatling Ohio has informed us that it may be uneconomic for it to continue to operate the mine unless conditions improve in the near future. Gatling Ohio is currently conducting drilling operations to test the geology and determine the next steps for the operation. The net book value of the assets relating to this operation was \$93.6 million as of September 30, 2011. As of the date of this report, we have received \$9.6 million in unrecouped minimum royalties. Considering all available information at this time, we have completed an undiscounted cash flow analysis of the assets relating to this operation and determined the undiscounted cash flows exceed those assets' carrying values. However, if the mine ceases to be operational in future periods or new information becomes available in future periods, the estimated cash flows may change and we may determine that some of the assets associated with the mine have suffered impairment. This decision and an associated impairment charge could have a material adverse impact on our earnings in the period in which any impairment is recognized, but it would not materially impact our cash flows from operations or our distributable cash flow.

Political, Legal and Regulatory Environment

The political, legal and regulatory environment continues to be difficult for the coal industry. The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, has used its authority to create significant delays in the issuance of new permits and the modification of existing permits. The continued uncertainty regarding the permitting of coal mines in Appalachia has led to substantial delays and increased costs for coal operators.

In addition to the increased oversight of the EPA, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, or MSHA, has increased its involvement in the approval of plans and enforcement of safety issues in connection with mining. The 2010 mine disaster at Massey's Upper Big Branch Mine has led to even more scrutiny by MSHA of our lessees operations, as well as additional mine safety legislation being considered by Congress. MSHA's involvement has increased the cost of mining due to more frequent citations and much higher fines imposed on our lessees as well as the overall cost of regulatory compliance. Combined with the difficult economic environment and the higher costs of mining in general, MSHA's recent increased participation in the mine development process could significantly delay the opening of new mines.

Table of Contents

The EPA is also using the existing Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases. In April 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court rendered its decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, finding that the EPA has authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from automobiles and can decide against regulation only if the EPA determines that carbon dioxide does not significantly contribute to climate change and does not endanger public health or the environment. In response to *Massachusetts v. EPA*, the EPA published a final rule that requires the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors of the American economy, although reporting of emissions from underground coal mines and coal suppliers as originally proposed has been deferred pending further review. In December 2009, EPA determined that six greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, endanger the public health and welfare of current and future generations. In the same rulemaking, EPA found that emission of greenhouse gases from new motor vehicles and their engines contribute to greenhouse gas pollution. Although *Massachusetts v. EPA* did not involve the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources, such as coal-fueled power plants, the decision is likely to impact regulation of stationary sources. Several petitioners have challenged the EPA's findings in the Washington D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, and that litigation is ongoing.

Table of Contents***Distributable Cash Flow***

Under our partnership agreement, we are required to distribute all of our available cash each quarter. Because distributable cash flow is a significant liquidity metric that is an indicator of our ability to generate cash flows at a level that can sustain or support an increase in quarterly cash distributions paid to our partners, we view it as the most important measure of our success as a company. Distributable cash flow is also the quantitative standard used in the investment community with respect to publicly traded partnerships.

Our distributable cash flow represents cash flow from operations less actual principal payments and cash reserves set aside for scheduled principal payments on our senior notes. Although distributable cash flow is a non-GAAP financial measure, we believe it is a useful adjunct to net cash provided by operating activities under GAAP. Distributable cash flow is not a measure of financial performance under GAAP and should not be considered as an alternative to cash flows from operating, investing or financing activities. Distributable cash flow may not be calculated the same for NRP as for other companies. A reconciliation of distributable cash flow to net cash provided by operating activities is set forth below.

**Reconciliation of GAAP Net cash provided by operating activities
to Non-GAAP Distributable cash flow**

	For the Three Months Ended September 30,		For the Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
	(In thousands) (Unaudited)			
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 79,642	\$ 62,107	\$ 218,322	\$ 175,660
Less scheduled principal payments	(7,692)	(7,692)	(31,518)	(32,234)
Less reserves for future principal payments	(7,700)	(7,880)	(23,459)	(23,819)
Add reserves used for scheduled principal payments	7,692	7,692	31,518	32,234
Distributable cash flow	\$ 71,942	\$ 54,227	\$ 194,863	\$ 151,841

Recent Acquisitions

We are a growth-oriented company and have closed a number of acquisitions over the last several years. Our most recent acquisitions are briefly described below.

Royal. In July 2011, we acquired approximately 44,000 acres of coal reserves and coal bed methane located in Pennsylvania and Illinois from Royal Oil and Gas Corporation for \$8.0 million.

NBR Sand. In June 2011, we acquired an overriding royalty interest in approximately 711 acres of frac sand reserves near Tyler, TX for \$16.5 million.

East Tennessee Materials. In March 2011, we acquired approximately 500 acres of mineral and surface rights related to limestone reserves in Cleveland, Tennessee near Chattanooga for \$4.7 million.

CALX Resources. In February 2011, we acquired approximately 500 acres of mineral and surface rights related to limestone reserves on the Tennessee River near Paducah, Kentucky for \$16.0 million, of which \$15.5 million was paid as of the date of this filing and the remaining \$0.5 million will be paid as certain milestones are completed.

BRP LLC. In June 2010, we and International Paper Company created a venture, BRP LLC, to own and manage mineral assets previously owned by International Paper. Some of these assets are currently subject to leases, and certain other assets have not yet been developed but are available for future development by the venture. In exchange for a \$42.5 million contribution we became the managing and controlling member with the right to designate two of the three managers of BRP. Identified tangible assets in the transaction include oil and gas, coal and aggregate reserves, as well the rights to coal bed methane, geothermal, CO₂ sequestration, water rights, precious metals, industrial minerals and base metals. Certain properties, including oil and gas, coal and aggregates, as well as land

leased for cell towers, are currently under lease and generating revenues.

Rockmart Slate. In June 2010, we acquired approximately 100 acres of mineral and surface rights related to slate reserves in Rockmart, Georgia from a local operator for a purchase price of \$6.7 million.

Table of Contents

Sierra Silica. In April 2010, we acquired the rights to silica reserves on a 1,000 acre property in Northern California from Sierra Silica Resources LLC for \$17.0 million.

North American Limestone. In April 2010, we signed an agreement to build and own for the construction of a fine grind processing facility for high calcium carbonate limestone located in Putnam County, Indiana. We lease the facility to a local operator. The total cost of the facility was \$6.5 million.

Northgate-Thayer. In March 2010, we acquired approximately 100 acres of mineral and surface rights related to dolomite limestone reserves in White County, Indiana from a local operator for a purchase price of \$7.5 million.

Massey- Override. In March 2010, we acquired from Massey Energy (now Alpha Natural Resources) subsidiaries overriding royalty interests in coal reserves located in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky. Total consideration for this purchase was \$3.0 million.

Colt. In September 2009, we signed a definitive agreement to acquire approximately 200 million tons of coal reserves related to the Deer Run Mine in Illinois from Colt, LLC, an affiliate of the Cline Group, through several separate transactions for a total purchase price of \$255 million. As of the date of this filing, we had acquired approximately 92.1 million tons of reserves for approximately \$175 million. Future closings anticipated through 2012 will be associated with completion of certain milestones related to the new mine's construction.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations**

	Three Months Ended		Increase	Percentage
	September 30,	2010	(Decrease)	Change
	2011	2010		
	(In thousands, except percent and per ton data)			
	(Unaudited)			
Coal:				
<i>Coal royalty revenues</i>				
<i>Appalachia</i>				
Northern	\$ 4,731	\$ 4,883	\$ (152)	(3)%
Central	50,595	38,418	12,177	32%
Southern	1,554	5,520	(3,966)	(72)%
Total Appalachia	56,880	48,821	8,059	17%
Illinois Basin	15,767	9,278	6,489	70%
Northern Powder River Basin	3,622	2,033	1,589	78%
Gulf Coast	161	10	151	
Total	\$ 76,430	\$ 60,142	\$ 16,288	27%
<i>Production (tons)</i>				
<i>Appalachia</i>				
Northern	1,156	1,177	(21)	(2)%
Central	7,406	7,051	355	5%
Southern	290	763	(473)	(62)%
Total Appalachia	8,852	8,991	(139)	(2)%
Illinois Basin	3,574	2,389	1,185	50%
Northern Powder River Basin	1,119	987	132	13%
Gulf Coast	80	3	77	
Total	13,625	12,370	1,255	10%
<i>Average gross royalty per ton</i>				
<i>Appalachia</i>				
Northern	\$ 4.09	\$ 4.15	\$ (0.06)	(1)%
Central	6.83	5.45	1.38	25%
Southern	5.36	7.23	(1.87)	(26)%
Total Appalachia	6.43	5.43	1.00	18%
Illinois Basin	4.41	3.88	0.53	14%
Northern Powder River Basin	3.24	2.06	1.18	57%
Gulf Coast	2.01	3.33	(1.32)	(40)%
Combined average gross royalty per ton	5.61	\$ 4.86	\$ 0.75	15%
<i>Aggregates:</i>				
Royalty revenue	\$ 2,099	\$ 1,606	\$ 493	31%
Production	1,682	1,193	489	41%
Average base royalty per ton	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.35	\$ (0.10)	(7)%
<i>Oil and Gas:</i>				

Oil and gas royalties	\$ 5,059	\$ 1,013	\$ 4,046	400%
-----------------------	----------	----------	----------	------

Coal Royalty Revenues and Production. Coal royalty revenues comprised approximately 74% of our total revenue for each of the three month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The following is a discussion of the coal royalty revenues and production derived from our major coal producing regions:

Appalachia. Primarily due to higher metallurgical coal prices being realized by our lessees, coal royalty revenues increased in the three month period ended September 30, 2011 compared to the same period of 2010. Production in the Central Appalachian region increased slightly due to some mines operating nearer to their capacity for the entire quarter due to the reconstruction of an associated preparation plant in late 2010, and some lessees having a higher proportion of their production on our properties. These production increases were in part offset in the Southern Appalachian region due to the temporary idling of the Oak Grove mine due to damage to a preparation plant caused by a tornado in late April 2011.

Table of Contents

Illinois Basin. Production increased due to increased shipments from the Williamson and Macoupin properties for the three months ended September 30, 2011. The lessees were able to reduce inventory and ship tonnages that were deferred earlier in the year due to the flooding on the Mississippi River.

Northern Powder River Basin. Both production and coal royalty revenues increased on our Western Energy property, due to the normal variations that occur due to the checkerboard nature of ownership. The lessee was also able to realize a higher sales price, which further contributed to the increase in coal royalty revenue.

Aggregates Royalty Revenues and Production. Aggregate production and revenue both increased for the quarter ended September 30, 2011, primarily due to the volumes generated from acquisitions completed during 2010 and 2011, particularly the BRP properties. The revenue per ton decreased due to lower revenue per ton generated from some of our leases.

Oil and Gas Royalty Revenues. Oil and gas royalty revenues increased significantly due to the 2010 acquisition of the BRP properties from International Paper.

Table of Contents

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011 2010		Increase (Decrease)	Percentage Change
	(In thousands, except percent and per ton data) (Unaudited)			
Coal:				
<i>Coal royalty revenues</i>				
<i>Appalachia</i>				
Northern	\$ 14,592	\$ 14,224	\$ 368	3%
Central	151,156	108,751	42,405	39%
Southern	9,742	15,795	(6,053)	(38)%
Total Appalachia	175,490	138,770	36,720	26%
Illinois Basin	29,598	20,307	9,291	46%
Northern Powder River Basin	6,135	6,048	87	1%
Gulf Coast	360	10	350	
Total	211,583	165,135	46,448	28%
<i>Production (tons)</i>				
<i>Appalachia</i>				
Northern	3,530	3,676	(146)	(4)%
Central	22,756	20,417	2,339	11%
Southern	1,410	2,297	(887)	(39)%
Total Appalachia	27,696	26,390	1,306	5%
Illinois Basin	7,118	5,287	1,831	35%
Northern Powder River Basin	2,024	3,259	(1,235)	(38)%
Gulf Coast	271	3	268	
Total	37,109	34,939	2,170	6%
<i>Average gross royalty per ton</i>				
<i>Appalachia</i>				
Northern	\$ 4.13	\$ 3.87	\$ 0.26	7%
Central	6.64	5.33	1.31	25%
Southern	6.91	6.88	0.03	
Total Appalachia	6.34	5.26	1.08	21%
Illinois Basin	4.16	3.84	0.32	8%
Northern Powder River Basin	3.03	1.86	1.17	63%
Gulf Coast	1.33	3.33	(2.00)	(60)%
Combined average gross royalty per ton	\$ 5.70	\$ 4.73	\$ 0.97	21%
Aggregates:				
Royalty revenue	\$ 5,030	\$ 3,486	\$ 1,544	44%
Aggregate royalty bonus	\$ 94	\$ (639)	\$ 733	
Production	4,618	2,576	2,042	79%
Average base royalty per ton	\$ 1.09	\$ 1.35	\$ (0.26)	(19)%

Oil and Gas:

Oil and gas royalties	\$ 10,047	\$ 4,200	\$ 5,847	139%
-----------------------	-----------	----------	----------	------

Coal Royalty Revenues and Production. Coal royalty revenues comprised approximately 76% and 74% of our total revenue for each of the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The following is a discussion of the coal royalty revenues and production derived from our major coal producing regions:

Appalachia. Primarily due to higher metallurgical coal prices being realized by our lessees, coal royalty revenues increased in the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 compared to the same period of 2010. Production in the Central Appalachian region increased due to some mines operating for the entire nine months due to the reconstruction of an associated preparation plant completed late in 2010, and some lessees having a higher proportion of their production on our properties. These production increases were in part offset in the Southern Appalachian region due to the temporary idling of the Oak Grove mine due to damage to a preparation plant caused by a tornado in late April 2011, and some production moving off our property during 2011.

Table of Contents

Illinois Basin. Production increased due to improved shipments from the Williamson and Macoupin properties for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 versus the same period in 2010, as the mines continue to increase its production. The Williamson mine production increased in part due to a shorter longwall move time during 2011.

Northern Powder River Basin. Coal royalty revenues from our Western Energy property were nearly constant despite lower production from our properties. Production decreased due to the normal variations that occur due to the checkerboard nature of ownership, but was partially more than offset by higher sales price realized by the lessee.

Aggregates Royalty Revenues and Production. Aggregate production and revenue both increased for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, primarily due to the volumes generated from acquisitions completed during 2010 and early 2011, particularly the BRP properties. The revenue per ton decreased due to lower revenue per ton generated from some of our leases.

Oil and Gas Royalty Revenues. Oil and gas royalty revenues increased significantly due to the 2010 acquisition of the BRP properties from International Paper.

Other Operating Results

In addition to coal and aggregate royalty revenues, we generated approximately 24% of our first nine months 2011 revenues from other sources, as compared to 25% for the same period of 2010. The most significant decrease in these other sources of revenue occurred due to a substantial minimum royalty paid by Cline with respect to the Colt reserves that was not recoupable in 2010 but became recoupable beginning in 2011. In addition, we received an oil and gas lease bonus as well as oil and gas revenues related to our BRP venture with International Paper. Other sources of revenue include: coal processing and transportation fees; overriding royalties; wheelage payments; rentals; property tax revenue; and timber sales.

Coal Processing and Transportation Revenues. We generated \$4.0 million and \$2.3 million in processing revenues for the quarters ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively and \$10.2 million and \$6.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. We do not operate the preparation plants, but receive a fee for coal processed through them. Similar to our coal royalty structure, the throughput fees are based on a percentage of the ultimate sales price for the coal that is processed through the facilities and the higher coal prices resulted in improved revenues for these facilities.

In addition to our preparation plants, we own coal handling and transportation infrastructure in West Virginia, Ohio and Illinois. In contrast to our typical royalty structure, we receive a fixed rate per ton for coal transported over these facilities. For the assets other than our loadout facility at the Shay No. 1 mine in Illinois, we operate coal handling and transportation infrastructure and have subcontracted out that responsibility to third parties. We generated transportation fees from these assets of approximately \$4.8 million and \$4.3 million for the quarters ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively and \$12.6 million and \$11.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Operating costs and expenses. Included in total expenses are:

Depreciation, depletion and amortization of \$19.2 million and \$16.2 million for the quarters ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 and \$49.6 million and \$44.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010. Depletion and amortization increased approximately \$5.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, primarily due to increased oil and gas depletion on our BRP properties.

General and administrative expenses were \$5.5 million and \$8.8 million for the quarters ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 and \$22.2 million and \$22.1 million the nine month periods ending September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. General and administrative expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2011 decreased \$3.2 million compared to the same period in 2010, primarily due to lower accruals under our long-term incentive plan attributable to our lower unit price. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 accruals were nearly the same.

Interest Expense. Interest expense increased approximately \$2.6 million for the quarter ending September 30, 2011 over the same period in 2010 and the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was up approximately \$4.5 million over the nine months ended September 30, 2010. These increases reflect the issuance of new senior notes during 2011 at higher interest rates than our credit facility.

Table of Contents**Liquidity and Capital Resources*****Cash Flows and Capital Expenditures***

We satisfy our working capital requirements with cash generated from operations. Since our initial public offering, we have financed our property acquisitions with available cash, borrowings under our revolving credit facility, and the issuance of our senior notes and additional units. While our ability to satisfy our debt service obligations and pay distributions to our unitholders depends in large part on our future operating performance, our ability to make acquisitions will depend on prevailing economic conditions in the financial markets as well as the coal and aggregate industries and other factors, some of which are beyond our control. Our capital expenditures, other than for acquisitions, have historically been minimal.

In August 2011, we amended and extended our credit facility until August 2016. Our credit ratios are within our debt covenants for both our credit facility and our outstanding senior notes. In addition, we are amortizing substantially all of our senior notes and have no immediate need to refinance. For a more complete discussion of factors that will affect our liquidity, please read **Item 1A. Risk Factors** in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010. As of September 30, 2011, we had the full \$300 million in available capacity under our credit facility. As of September 30, 2011, we also had approximately \$150.1 million of cash.

Net cash provided by operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 was \$218.3 million and \$175.7 million, respectively. The most significant portion of our cash provided by operations is generated from coal royalty revenues.

Net cash used in investing activities for the nine months September 30, 2011 and 2010 was \$102.3 million and \$114.7 million, respectively. Substantially all of our investing activities consisted of acquiring coal reserves, plant and equipment and other mineral rights.

Net cash flows used in financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was \$61.4 million. During the first nine months of 2011, we had proceeds from loans of \$335.0 million offset by repayment of debt of \$210.5 million, retirement of obligations related to acquisitions of \$7.6 million and distributions paid of \$175.3 million. During the same period for 2010, net cash used in financing activities was \$71.4 million, which included proceeds from loans of \$85 million offset by debt repayments of \$106.2 million, proceeds from issuance of units was \$110.4 million, retirement of obligations related to acquisitions of \$9.2 million and \$151.4 million for distributions to partners.

Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments

Credit Facility. We amended and restated our \$300 million revolving credit facility in August 2011, and as of the date of this report we had the full amount available to us under the facility. Under an accordion feature in the credit facility, we may request our lenders to increase their aggregate commitment to a maximum of \$500 million on the same terms. However, we cannot be certain that our lenders will elect to participate in the accordion feature. To the extent the lenders decline to participate, we may elect to bring new lenders into the facility, but cannot make any assurance that the additional credit capacity will be available to us on existing or comparable terms.

During 2011, our borrowings and repayments under our credit facility were as follows:

	March 31, 2011	Quarters Ending June 30, 2011 (In thousands) (Unaudited)	September 30, 2011
Outstanding balance, beginning of period	\$ 94,000	\$ 179,000	\$
Borrowings under credit facility	85,000		
Less: Repayments under credit facility		179,000	
Outstanding balance, ending period	\$ 179,000	\$	\$

Table of Contents

Our obligations under the credit facility are unsecured but are guaranteed by our operating subsidiaries. We may prepay all loans at any time without penalty. Indebtedness under the revolving credit facility bears interest, at our option, at either:

the Alternate Base Rate (as defined in the credit agreement) plus an applicable margin ranging from 0% to 1%;
or

the Adjusted LIBO Rate (as defined in the credit agreement) plus an applicable margin ranging from 1.00% to 2.25%.

We incur a commitment fee on the unused portion of the revolving credit facility at a rate ranging from 0.18% to 0.40% per annum.

The credit agreement contains covenants requiring us to maintain:

a ratio of consolidated indebtedness to consolidated EBITDDA (as defined in the credit agreement) not to exceed 4.0 to 1.0; and

a ratio of consolidated EBITDDA to consolidated fixed charges (consisting of consolidated interest expense and consolidated lease operating expense) not less than 3.5 to 1.0.

Senior Notes. NRP Operating LLC issued the senior notes listed below under a note purchase agreement as supplemented from time to time. The senior notes are unsecured but are guaranteed by our operating subsidiaries. We may prepay the senior notes at any time together with a make-whole amount (as defined in the note purchase agreement). If any event of default exists under the note purchase agreement, the noteholders will be able to accelerate the maturity of the senior notes and exercise other rights and remedies.

The senior note purchase agreement contains covenants requiring our operating subsidiary to:

Maintain a ratio of consolidated indebtedness to consolidated EBITDA (as defined in the note purchase agreement) of no more than 4.0 to 1.0 for the four most recent quarters;

not permit debt secured by certain liens and debt of subsidiaries to exceed 10% of consolidated net tangible assets (as defined in the note purchase agreement); and

maintain the ratio of consolidated EBITDA to consolidated fixed charges (consisting of consolidated interest expense and consolidated operating lease expense) at not less than 3.5 to 1.0.

As of the date of this filing, we have issued \$300 million of additional senior unsecured notes. Proceeds from the senior notes were used to repay all of the outstanding balance under the revolving credit facility, and we have used, or will use, the remaining proceeds for acquisitions. All tranches have semi-annual interest payments beginning December 1, 2011, and equal annual principal payments beginning December 1, 2014.

Long-Term Debt

As of the date of this filing, our debt consisted of:

\$35.0 million of 5.55% senior notes due 2013;

\$32.3 million of 4.91% senior notes due 2018;

\$150.0 million of 8.38% senior notes due 2019;

\$69.2 million of 5.05% senior notes due 2020;

\$1.9 million of 5.31% utility local improvement obligation due 2021;

\$33.6 million of 5.55% senior notes due 2023;

\$75.0 million of 4.73% senior notes due 2023;

\$195.0 million of 5.82% senior notes due 2024;

\$50.0 million of 8.92% senior notes due 2024;

\$175.0 million of 5.03% senior notes due 2026; and

\$50.0 million of 5.18% senior notes due 2026.

Other than the 5.55% senior notes due 2013, which have only semi-annual interest payments, all of our senior notes require annual principal payments in addition to semi-annual interest payments. The scheduled principal payments on the 8.38% senior notes due 2019 do not begin until March 2013, the scheduled principal payments on the 8.92% senior notes due 2024 do not begin until March 2014, and the scheduled principal payments on the 4.73%, 5.03% and 5.18% senior notes do not begin until December 2014. We also make annual principal and interest payments on the utility local improvement obligation.

Table of Contents***Shelf Registration Statement***

In addition to our credit facility, we maintain an automatically effective shelf registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC that is available for registered offerings of common units and debt securities. The amounts, prices and timing of the issuance and sale of any equity or debt securities will depend on market conditions, our capital requirements and compliance with our credit facility and senior notes.

Off-Balance Sheet Transactions

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements with unconsolidated entities or related parties and accordingly, there are no off-balance sheet risks to our liquidity and capital resources from unconsolidated entities.

Related Party Transactions***Reimbursements to our General Partner***

Our general partner does not receive any management fee or other compensation for its management of Natural Resource Partners L.P. However, in accordance with our partnership agreement, we reimburse our general partner and its affiliates for expenses incurred on our behalf. All direct general and administrative expenses are charged to us as incurred. We also reimburse indirect general and administrative costs, including certain legal, accounting, treasury, information technology, insurance, administration of employee benefits and other corporate services incurred by our general partner and its affiliates. Cost reimbursements due our general partner may be substantial and will reduce our cash available for distribution to unitholders. The reimbursements to our general partner for services performed by Western Pocahontas Properties and Quintana Minerals Corporation are as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
	(In thousands) (Unaudited)			
Reimbursement for services	\$ 2,050	\$ 1,823	\$ 6,203	\$ 5,403

For additional information, please read *Certain Relationships and Related Transactions*, and *Director Independence Omnibus Agreement* in our annual report filed on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010.

We lease substantially all of two floors of an office building in Huntington, West Virginia from Western Pocahontas at market rates. The terms of the lease were approved by our Conflicts Committee. We pay \$0.5 million each year in lease payments.

Table of Contents**Cline Affiliates**

Various companies controlled by Chris Cline lease coal reserves from NRP, and we provide coal transportation services to them for a fee. Mr. Cline, both individually and through another affiliate, Adena Minerals, LLC, owns a 31% interest in NRP's general partner, as well as 16,686,672 common units. Revenues from Cline affiliates are as follows:

	Three Months End September 30,		Nine Months End September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
	(In thousands)			
	(Unaudited)			
Coal royalty revenues	\$ 16,244	\$ 9,873	\$ 30,673	\$ 22,655
Coal processing fees	885	344	2,078	785
Transportation fees	4,765	4,271	12,609	10,671
Minimums recognized as revenue		3,100		9,300
Override revenue	704	718	1,384	1,437
	\$ 22,598	\$ 18,306	\$ 46,744	\$ 44,848

At September 30, 2011, we had accounts receivable totaling \$10.7 million from Cline affiliates. As of September 30, 2011, we had received \$43.0 million in minimum royalty payments to date that have not been recouped by Cline affiliates, of which \$14.8 million was received in the current year.

We recognized an impairment of \$ 90.9 million during the third quarter of 2011 related to several of our assets at the Gatling, WV location. These assets are leased by the one of the Cline affiliates.

Quintana Capital Group GP, Ltd.

Corbin J. Robertson, Jr. is a principal in Quintana Capital Group GP, Ltd., which controls several private equity funds focused on investments in the energy business. In connection with the formation of Quintana Capital, we adopted a formal conflicts policy that establishes the opportunities that will be pursued by NRP and those that will be pursued by Quintana Capital. The governance documents of Quintana Capital's affiliated investment funds reflect the guidelines set forth in NRP's conflicts policy.

A fund controlled by Quintana Capital owns a significant membership interest in Taggart Global USA, LLC, including the right to nominate two members of Taggart's 5-person board of directors. We own and lease preparation plants to Taggart Global, which designed, built and operates the plants. The lease payments are based on the sales price for the coal that is processed through the facilities. We currently lease four facilities to Taggart. Revenues from Taggart are as follows:

	Three Months End September 30,		Nine Months End September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
	(In thousands)			
	(Unaudited)			
Coal processing revenue	\$ 2,962	\$ 1,666	\$ 7,587	\$ 4,014

At September 30, 2011, we had accounts receivable totaling \$1.5 million from Taggart.

Table of Contents

In June 2007, a fund controlled by Quintana Capital acquired Kopper-Glo, a small coal mining company that is one of our lessees with operations in Tennessee. Revenues from Kopper-Glo are as follows:

	Three Months End		Nine Months End	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
	(In thousands)			
	(Unaudited)			
Coal royalty revenue	\$ 440	\$ 363	\$ 1,192	\$ 1,195

We also had accounts receivable totaling \$0.1 million from Kopper-Glo at September 30, 2011.

Environmental

The operations our lessees conduct on our properties are subject to environmental laws and regulations adopted by various governmental authorities in the jurisdictions in which these operations are conducted. As an owner of surface interests in some properties, we may be liable for certain environmental conditions occurring at the surface properties. The terms of substantially all of our leases require the lessee to comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including environmental laws and regulations. Lessees post reclamation bonds assuring that reclamation will be completed as required by the relevant permit, and substantially all of the leases require the lessee to indemnify us against, among other things, environmental liabilities. Some of these indemnifications survive the termination of the lease. Because we have no employees, employees of Western Pocahontas Properties Limited Partnership make regular visits to the mines to ensure compliance with lease terms, but the duty to comply with all regulations rests with the lessees. We believe that our lessees will be able to comply with existing regulations and do not expect any lessee's failure to comply with environmental laws and regulations to have a material impact on our financial condition or results of operations. We have neither incurred, nor are aware of, any material environmental charges imposed on us related to our properties as of September 30, 2011. We are not associated with any environmental contamination that may require remediation costs. However, our lessees regularly conduct reclamation work on the properties under lease to them. Because we are not the permittee of the operations on our properties, we are not responsible for the costs associated with these operations. In addition, West Virginia has established a fund to satisfy any shortfall in our lessees' reclamation obligations.

Table of Contents

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We are exposed to market risk, which includes adverse changes in commodity prices and interest rates as discussed below:

Commodity Price Risk

We are dependent upon the effective marketing and efficient mining of our coal reserves by our lessees. Our lessees sell coal under various long-term and short-term contracts as well as on the spot market. A large portion of these sales are under long-term contracts. A substantial or extended decline in coal prices could materially and adversely affect us in two ways. First, lower prices may reduce the quantity of coal that may be economically produced from our properties. This, in turn, could reduce our coal royalty revenues and the value of our coal reserves. Second, even if production is not reduced, the royalties we receive on each ton of coal sold may be reduced. Additionally, volatility in coal prices could make it difficult to estimate with precision the value of our coal reserves and any coal reserves that we may consider for acquisition.

Interest Rate Risk

Our exposure to changes in interest rates results from our borrowings under our revolving credit facility, which are subject to variable interest rates based upon LIBOR. At September 30, 2011, we did not have any variable interest rate debt.

Table of Contents

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

NRP carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of its disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this report. This evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of NRP management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the general partner of the general partner of NRP. Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that these disclosure controls and procedures are effective in providing reasonable assurance that (a) the information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms, and (b) such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our CEO and CFO, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

No changes were made to our internal control over financial reporting during the last fiscal quarter that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

Part II. Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

We are involved, from time to time, in various legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. While the ultimate results of these proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty, our management believes these claims will not have a material effect on our financial position, liquidity or operations.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

During the period covered by this report, there were no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in Natural Resource Partners L.P.'s Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

None.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. (Removed and Reserved)

Item 5. Other Information

None.

Table of Contents

Item 6. Exhibits

- 4.1 Form of Series K Note (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 3, 2011).
- 10.1 Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of August 10, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K filed on August 11, 2011).
- 31.1* Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of Sarbanes-Oxley.
- 31.2* Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of Sarbanes-Oxley.
- 32.1* Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350.
- 32.2* Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350.
- 101* The following financial information from the quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Natural Resource Partners L.P. for the quarter ended September 30, 2011, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) Consolidated Statements of Income, (iii) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (iv) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, tagged as blocks of text.

* Submitted herewith.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned and thereunto duly authorized.

NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS L.P.

By: NRP (GP) LP, its general partner

By: GP NATURAL RESOURCE
PARTNERS LLC, its general partner

Date: November 8, 2011

By: /s/ Corbin J. Robertson, Jr.
Corbin J. Robertson, Jr.,
Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: November 8, 2011

By: /s/ Dwight L. Dunlap
Dwight L. Dunlap,
Chief Financial Officer and
Treasurer
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: November 8, 2011

By: /s/ Kenneth Hudson
Kenneth Hudson
Controller
(Principal Accounting Officer)