

SOUTHWEST GAS CORP
Form S-8
December 07, 2012

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 7, 2012

Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

California
(State or other jurisdiction of
Incorporation or organization)

88-0085720
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

5241 Spring Mountain Road
P.O. Box 98510
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8510
(Address of principal executive offices)

Southwest Gas Corporation 2006 Restricted Stock/Unit Plan
(Full title of the Plan)

KAREN S. HALLER
Senior Vice President/General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Southwest Gas Corporation
5241 Spring Mountain Road
P.O. Box 98510
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8510
(Name and address of agent for service)

(702) 876-7237
(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

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

Large accelerated filer
 Non-accelerated filer

Accelerated filer
 Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Securities to be Registered | Amount to be registered (1) | Proposed maximum offering price per share (2) | Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (2) | Amount of registration fee |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| Common Stock (\$1 Par Value) | 250,000 shares | \$42.31 | \$10,577,500 | \$1,442.84 |

(1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), this Registration Statement includes an indeterminate number of additional shares which may be offered and issued to prevent dilution from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions as provided in the above-referenced plan.

(2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee. Pursuant to Rule 457(c) and Rule 457(h) under the Securities Act, the proposed maximum offering price per share and the proposed maximum aggregate offering price have been determined on the basis of the average of the high and low prices reported on the New York Stock Exchange on December 5, 2012.

As permitted by Rule 429, the Prospectus with respect to this Registration Statement also relates to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (333-147952).

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(A) PROSPECTUS

The documents containing the information specified in this Part I of Form S-8 (plan information and registrant information and employee plan annual information) will be sent or given to employees as specified by Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 428(b)(1). Such documents need not be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") either as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424. These documents and the documents incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of this Form S-8, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act").

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents filed by Southwest Gas Corporation (the "Company" or the "Registrant") with the Commission are incorporated by reference herein:

- a. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, which includes audited financial statements for the Company's latest fiscal year.
- b. Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the Company's quarters ended March 31, 2012, June 30, 2012 and September 30, 2012.
- c. Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 27, 2012, March 16, 2012, March 23, 2012, May 15, 2012, July 13, 2012, and August 2, 2012, respectively.
- d. The description of the Company's Common Stock contained in its Form 8-K dated July 22, 2003, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this Registration Statement, and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which de-registers all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents, except as to any portion of any future annual or quarterly report to stockholders or document that is not deemed filed under such provisions. Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

The Company's Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, (the "Common Stock") is registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, and, therefore, the description of securities is omitted.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Joshua M. Westerman, Esq., as Associate General Counsel for the Company, has given an opinion to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon the validity of the shares of Common Stock registered.

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this Registration Statement by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Southwest Gas Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2011 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers .

The Company's Articles of Incorporation contain a provision which eliminates the liability of directors for monetary damages to the fullest extent permissible under California law. The General Corporation Law of California (the "Law") (i) authorizes the elimination of liability of directors for monetary damages in an action brought by a shareholder in the right of the Company or by the Company for breach of a director's duties to the Company and its shareholders and (ii) authorizes the Company to indemnify directors and officers for monetary damages for all acts or omissions committed by them in their respective capacities; provided, however, that liability is not limited nor may indemnification be provided (a) for acts or omissions that involve intentional misconduct or knowing and culpable violation of law, (b) for acts or omissions that a director or officer believes to be contrary to the best interests of the Company or its shareholders or that involve the absence of good faith on the part of a director or officer seeking indemnification, (c) for any transaction from which a director or officer derives an improper personal benefit, (d) for acts or omissions that show a reckless disregard for the director's or officer's duty to the Company or its shareholders in circumstances in which such person was aware, or should have been aware, in the ordinary course of performing his or her duties, of a risk of serious injury to the Company or its shareholders, (e) for acts or omissions that constitute an unexcused pattern of inattention that amounts to an abdication of the director's or officer's duty to the Company or its shareholders, and (f) for liabilities arising under Section 310 (contracts in which a director has a material financial interest) and Section 316 (certain unlawful dividends, distributions, loans and guarantees) of the Law. In addition, the Company may not indemnify directors and officers in circumstances in which indemnification is expressly prohibited by Section 317 of the Law.

The bylaws of the Company provide that the Company has the power to indemnify directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted under California law and the Company's Articles of Incorporation. The Company has entered into indemnification agreements with its directors and certain officers which require that the Company indemnify such directors and officers in all cases to the fullest extent permitted by applicable provisions of the Law. The Company also maintains a directors' and officers' liability insurance policy insuring directors and officers of the Company for covered losses as defined in the policy.

Item 7. Exemption From Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

- 4.1 Southwest Gas Corporation 2006 Restricted Stock/Unit Plan, as amended and restated. Incorporated herein by reference to the 2012 Proxy Statement.
- 5.1 Opinion of Counsel of Southwest Gas Corporation regarding the legality of the securities to be registered.
- 23.1 Consent of Counsel of Southwest Gas Corporation (included in opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 to this Registration Statement).
- 23.2 Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.
- 24.1 Power of Attorney

Item 9. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes: (1) to file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement: (i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act, (ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement and (iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement; provided, however, that clauses (1)(i) and (1)(ii) shall not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement; (2) that for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof and (3) to remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

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

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

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Las Vegas, State of Nevada, on December 7, 2012.

SOUTHWEST GAS
CORPORATION

By: /s/ JEFFREY W. SHAW
Name: Jeffrey W. Shaw
Title: President and Chief Executive
Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

| Signature | Title | Date |
|--|--|------------------|
| /s/ JEFFREY W. SHAW Jeffrey W. Shaw | Director, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) | December 7, 2012 |
| /s/ ROY R. CENTRELLA Roy R. Centrella | Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) | December 7, 2012 |
| /s/ GREGORY J. PETERSON Gregory J. Peterson | Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer) | December 7, 2012 |
| /s/ ROBERT L. BOUGHNER * Robert L. Boughner | Director | December 7, 2012 |
| /s/ JOSÉ A. CÁRDENAS * José A. Cárdenas | Director | December 7, 2012 |
| /s/ THOMAS E. CHESTNUT * Thomas E. Chestnut | Director | December 7, 2012 |

/s/ STEPHEN C. COMER * Director December 7, 2012
Stephen C. Comer

/s/ LEROY C. HANNEMAN, Director December 7, 2012
JR. *
LeRoy C. Hanneman, Jr.

/s/ MICHAEL O. MAFFIE * Director December 7, 2012
Michael O. Maffie

/s/ ANNE L. MARIUCCI * Director December 7, 2012
Anne L. Mariucci

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/s/ MICHAEL J. MELARKEY * Chairman of the December 7, 2012
Michael J. Melarkey Board of Directors

/s/ A. RANDALL THOMAN * Director December 7, 2012
A. Randall Thoman

/s/ THOMAS A. THOMAS * Director December 7, 2012
Thomas A. Thomas

/s/ TERRENCE L. WRIGHT * Director December 7, 2012
Terrence L. Wright

* By: /s/ ROY R.
CENTRELLA
Roy R. Centrella
Attorney-in-Fact

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit

Number Document

- 5.1 Opinion of Counsel of Southwest Gas Corporation regarding the legality of the securities to be registered.
Consent of Counsel of Southwest Gas Corporation (included in opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 to this
- 23.1 Registration Statement).
- 23.2 Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.
- 24.1 Power of Attorney

December 7, 2012

Southwest Gas Corporation
5241 Spring Mountain Road
Las Vegas, NV 89150

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As counsel for Southwest Gas Corporation (the “Company”), I have examined the Registration Statement on Form S-8 to be filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission, in connection with the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, of 250,000 shares of the Company’s \$1 par value Common Stock (the “Stock”), pursuant to the provisions of the Company’s 2006 Restricted Stock/Unit Plan. I also have examined the steps taken by the Company and its Board of Directors in connection with the authorization and proposed issuance and sale of the Stock, and I am familiar with resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company. I am also familiar with the application filed by the Company with the California Public Utilities Commission for authority to issue the Stock, and the opinion and order issued by said Commission authorizing the issuance of the Stock.

Based on the foregoing and upon such other matters as I deem relevant in these circumstances, it is my opinion that the Company has received all required authorizations from state regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over the issuance of the Stock by the Company. Subject to the actions authorized by the Company’s Board of Directors, the Stock, upon issuance and sale thereof in the manner specified in the Registration Statement, will be duly authorized, legally and validly issued, fully paid, and nonassessable outstanding Stock of the Company.

I hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement, and I further consent to the use of my name under the caption “Interests of Named Experts and Counsel” in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus which forms a part thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ JOSHUA M. WESTERMAN

Joshua M. Westerman

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our report dated February 28, 2012 relating to the financial statements and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, which appears in the 2011 Annual Report to Shareholders, which is incorporated by reference in Southwest Gas Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. We also consent to the reference to us under the heading "Interests of Named Experts and Counsel" in such Registration Statement.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Las Vegas, Nevada
December 7, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW BY ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Jeffrey W. Shaw and Roy R. Centrella, and each of them (with full power of each to act alone), severally, as his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and to execute in his or her name, place and stead (individually and in any capacity stated below) a registration statement on Form S-8 covering the registration of an additional 250,000 shares of Southwest Gas Corporation (the "Company") common stock to be issued under the Company's 2006 Restricted Stock/Unit Plan, as amended (the "Registration Statement"), and any and all amendments to the Registration Statement, and all documents and instruments necessary or advisable in connection therewith, and to file the same, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission (or any other governmental regulatory authority), each of said attorneys-in-fact and agents to have power to act with or without the others and to have full power and authority to do and to perform in the name and on behalf of each of the undersigned every act whatsoever necessary or advisable to be done in the premises as fully and to all intents and purposes as any of the undersigned might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents and/or any of them, or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Dated: July 30, 2012

/s/ Robert L. Boughner
Robert L. Boughner

/s/ José A. Cárdenas
José A. Cárdenas

/s/ Thomas E. Chestnut
Thomas E. Chestnut

/s/ Stephen C. Comer
Stephen C. Comer

/s/ LeRoy C. Hanneman,
Jr.
Leroy C. Hanneman, Jr.

/s/ Michael O. Maffie
Michael O. Maffie

/s/ Anne L. Mariucci
Anne L. Mariucci

/s/ Michael J. Melarkey
Michael J. Melarkey

/s/ A. Randall Thoman
A. Randall Thoman

/s/ Thomas A. Thomas
Thomas A. Thomas

/s/ Terrence L. Wright
Terrence L. Wright