

PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP
Form 10-K
February 25, 2015
[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

or

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

Commission file number 1-36132

PLAINS GP HOLDINGS, L.P.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

90-1005472
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

333 Clay Street, Suite 1600, Houston, Texas
(Address of principal executive offices)

77002
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(713) 646-4100**

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

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Class A Shares, Representing Limited Partner Interests	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None**

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

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

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

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

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

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

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

The aggregate market value of the Class A shares held by non-affiliates of the registrant (treating all executive officers and directors of the registrant and holders of 10% or more of the Class A shares outstanding, for this purpose, as if they may be affiliates of the registrant) was approximately \$4.4 billion on June 30, 2014, based on a closing price of \$31.99 per Class A share as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on such date.

As of February 18, 2015, there were 210,954,074 Class A shares outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

NONE

Table of Contents

PLAINS GP HOLDINGS, L.P. AND SUBSIDIARIES

FORM 10-K 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

	Page
	<u>PART I</u>
<u>Items 1 and 2.</u>	<u>Business and Properties</u>
<u>Item 1A.</u>	<u>Risk Factors</u>
<u>Item 1B.</u>	<u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>
<u>Item 3.</u>	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>
<u>Item 4.</u>	<u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>
	<u>PART II</u>
<u>Item 5.</u>	<u>Market for Registrant's Shares, Related Shareholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>
<u>Item 6.</u>	<u>Selected Financial Data</u>
<u>Item 7.</u>	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>
<u>Item 7A.</u>	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>
<u>Item 8.</u>	<u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>
<u>Item 9.</u>	<u>Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>
<u>Item 9A.</u>	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>
<u>Item 9B.</u>	<u>Other Information</u>
	<u>PART III</u>
<u>Item 10.</u>	<u>Directors and Executive Officers of Our General Partner and Corporate Governance</u>
<u>Item 11.</u>	<u>Executive Compensation</u>
<u>Item 12.</u>	<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Shareholder Matters</u>
<u>Item 13.</u>	<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>
<u>Item 14.</u>	<u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>
	<u>PART IV</u>
<u>Item 15.</u>	<u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

All statements included in this report, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements, including but not limited to statements incorporating the words anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, plan, intend and forecast, as well as similar expressions and statements regarding our business strategy, plans and objectives for future operations. The absence of such words, expressions or statements, however, does not mean that the statements are not forward-looking. Any such forward-looking statements reflect our current views with respect to future events, based on what we believe to be reasonable assumptions. Certain factors could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from the results or outcomes anticipated in the forward-looking statements. The most important of these factors include, but are not limited to:

- our ability to pay distributions to our Class A shareholders;
- our expected receipt of, and amounts of, distributions from Plains AAP, L.P.;
- failure to implement or capitalize, or delays in implementing or capitalizing, on planned growth projects;
- declines in the volume of crude oil, refined product and NGL shipped, processed, purchased, stored, fractionated and/or gathered at or through the use of our facilities, whether due to declines in production from existing oil and gas reserves, failure to develop or slowdown in the development of additional oil and gas reserves, whether from reduced cash flow to fund drilling or the inability to access capital, or other factors;
- unanticipated changes in crude oil market structure, grade differentials and volatility (or lack thereof);
- environmental liabilities or events that are not covered by an indemnity, insurance or existing reserves;
- fluctuations in refinery capacity in areas supplied by our mainlines and other factors affecting demand for various grades of crude oil, refined products and natural gas and resulting changes in pricing conditions or transportation throughput requirements;
- the effects of competition;

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

- the occurrence of a natural disaster, catastrophe, terrorist attack or other event, including attacks on our electronic and computer systems;
- tightened capital markets or other factors that increase our cost of capital or limit our ability to obtain debt or equity financing on satisfactory terms to fund additional acquisitions, expansion projects, working capital requirements and the repayment or refinancing of indebtedness;
- weather interference with business operations or project construction, including the impact of extreme weather events or conditions;
- continued creditworthiness of, and performance by, our counterparties, including financial institutions and trading companies with which we do business;
- maintenance of PAA's credit rating and ability to receive open credit from suppliers and trade counterparties;
- the currency exchange rate of the Canadian dollar;
- the availability of, and our ability to consummate, acquisition or combination opportunities;
- the successful integration and future performance of acquired assets or businesses and the risks associated with operating in lines of business that are distinct and separate from historical operations;
- the effectiveness of our risk management activities;
- shortages or cost increases of supplies, materials or labor;
- the impact of current and future laws, rulings, governmental regulations, accounting standards and statements, and related interpretations;
- non-utilization of our assets and facilities;

Table of Contents

- increased costs, or lack of availability, of insurance;
- fluctuations in the debt and equity markets, including the price of PAA's units at the time of vesting under its long-term incentive plans;
- risks related to the development and operation of our facilities, including our ability to satisfy our contractual obligations to our customers at our facilities;
- factors affecting demand for natural gas and natural gas storage services and rates;
- general economic, market or business conditions and the amplification of other risks caused by volatile financial markets, capital constraints and pervasive liquidity concerns; and
- other factors and uncertainties inherent in the transportation, storage, terminalling and marketing of crude oil and refined products, as well as in the storage of natural gas and the processing, transportation, fractionation, storage and marketing of natural gas liquids.

Other factors described herein, as well as factors that are unknown or unpredictable, could also have a material adverse effect on future results. Please read Item 1A Risk Factors. Except as required by applicable securities laws, we do not intend to update these forward-looking statements and information.

PART I

Items 1 and 2. Business and Properties

General

Plains GP Holdings, L.P. (PAGP) is a Delaware limited partnership formed on July 17, 2013 to own an interest in the general partner and incentive distribution rights (IDRs) of Plains All American Pipeline, L.P. (PAA), a publicly traded Delaware limited partnership. Although we were formed as a limited partnership, we have elected to be taxed as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes. As used in this Form 10-K and unless the context indicates otherwise, the terms Partnership, Plains, PAGP, we, us, our, ours and similar terms refer to GP Holdings, L.P. and its subsidiaries.

Organizational History

We completed our initial public offering (IPO) in October 2013. Immediately prior to completion of our IPO, certain owners of Plains AAP, L.P. (AAP) transferred a portion of their interests in AAP to us, resulting in our ownership of a limited partnership interest in AAP. As of December 31, 2014, we owned a 34.1% limited partner interest in AAP (a 31.8% economic interest), and the remaining limited partner interests in AAP were held by the owners of AAP immediately prior to our IPO (the Legacy Owners). AAP is a Delaware limited partnership that directly owns all of PAA s IDR s and indirectly owns the 2% general partner interest in PAA. AAP is the sole member of PAA GP LLC (PAA GP), a Delaware limited liability company that directly holds the 2% general partner interest in PAA. Plains All American GP LLC (GP LLC) is a Delaware limited liability company that owns the general partner interests in AAP. Also, through a series of transactions prior to our IPO with PAA GP Holdings LLC (our general partner) and the owners of GP LLC, GP LLC s general partner interest in AAP became a non-economic interest and we became the owner of a 100% managing member interest in GP LLC.

PAA is a publicly traded master limited partnership that owns and operates midstream energy infrastructure and provides logistics services for crude oil, natural gas liquids (NGL), natural gas and refined products. The term NGL includes ethane and natural gasoline products as well as products commonly referred to as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) such as propane and butane. PAA owns an extensive network of pipeline transportation, terminalling, storage, and gathering assets in key crude oil and NGL producing basins and transportation corridors and at major market hubs in the United States and Canada.

Table of Contents

Partnership Structure and Management

Our general partner manages our operations and activities and is responsible for exercising on our behalf any rights we have as the sole and managing member of GP LLC, including any rights to appoint members to the board of directors of GP LLC. See Item 10. Directors and Executive Officers of our General Partner and Corporate Governance. GP LLC has responsibility for managing the business and affairs of PAA and AAP; however, through our rights as the sole and managing member of GP LLC, we effectively control the business and affairs of AAP and PAA. GP LLC employs all domestic officers and personnel involved in the operation and management of PAA and AAP. PAA's Canadian officers and personnel are employed by Plains Midstream Canada ULC (PMC). Our general partner does not receive a management fee or other compensation in connection with its management of our business.

The two charts below show the structure and ownership of PAGP and certain subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 in both a summarized and more detailed format. The first chart depicts PAGP's legal structure in summary format, while the second chart depicts a more comprehensive view of PAGP's legal structure, including ownership and economic interests and shares and units outstanding.

(1) Board appointment rights limited to non-management investors that own greater than 10% interest in AAP.

Table of Contents

(1) PAA holds direct and indirect ownership interests in consolidated operating subsidiaries including, but not limited to, Plains Marketing, L.P., Plains Pipeline, L.P. and PMC.

Table of Contents

(2) PAA holds indirect equity interests in unconsolidated entities including Settoon Towing, LLC (Settoon Towing), White Cliffs Pipeline, LLC (White Cliffs), Eagle Ford Pipeline LLC (Eagle Ford Pipeline), BridgeTex Pipeline Company, LLC (BridgeTex), Butte Pipe Line Company (Butte) and Frontier Pipeline Company (Frontier).

(3) Represents the number of Class A units of AAP (AAP units) for which the Class B units of AAP (referred to herein as the AAP Management Units) would be exchangeable, assuming a conversion rate of approximately 0.925 AAP units for each AAP Management Unit as of December 31, 2014. The AAP Management Units are entitled to certain proportionate distributions paid by AAP.

(4) As of December 31, 2014, we owned 34.1% of the membership interests in our general partner, which percentage corresponds to our ownership percentage of AAP units (34.1%, representing a 31.8% economic interest in AAP, including the dilutive effect of the AAP Management Units).

Our Business

As of December 31, 2014, our only cash-generating assets consisted of 206,933,274 AAP units, which represent a 34.1% limited partner interest in AAP (31.8% economic interest including the dilutive effect of the AAP Management Units). Unless we directly acquire and hold assets or businesses in the future, our cash flows will be generated solely from the cash distributions we receive from AAP. AAP does not own any common units in PAA and currently receives all of its cash flows from distributions on its direct ownership of PAA's IDRs and its indirect ownership of PAA's 2% general partner interest. AAP's ownership of both of these interests entitles it to receive, without duplication:

- 2% of all cash distributed in a quarter until \$0.2250 has been distributed in respect of each common unit of PAA for that quarter;
- 15% of all cash distributed in a quarter after \$0.2250 has been distributed in respect of each common unit of PAA for that quarter;
- 25% of all cash distributed in a quarter after \$0.2475 has been distributed in respect of each common unit of PAA for that quarter;
and
- 50% of all cash distributed in a quarter after \$0.3375 has been distributed in respect of each common unit of PAA for that quarter.

Such amounts do not take into account temporary and permanent reductions in IDR payments that are currently in place in connection with past PAA acquisition activities or that may be implemented with respect to future activities. The cash distributions AAP receives from PAA are tied to (i) PAA's per unit distribution level and (ii) the number of PAA common units outstanding. An increase in either factor (assuming the other factor remains constant or increases) will generally, absent additional IDR reductions, result in an increase in the amount of cash distributions

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

AAP receives from PAA, a portion of which we, in turn, receive from AAP. Because the IDRs currently participate at the maximum percentage participation rate, any future growth in distributions we receive from AAP will not result from an increase in the percentage participation rate associated with the IDRs.

Accordingly, our primary business objective is to increase our cash available for distribution to our Class A shareholders through the execution by PAA of its business strategy. In addition, we may facilitate PAA's growth activities through various means, including, but not limited to, modifying PAA's IDRs, making loans, purchasing equity interests or providing other forms of financial support to PAA.

PAA's Business Strategy

PAA's principal business strategy is to provide competitive and efficient midstream transportation, terminalling, storage, processing, fractionation and supply and logistics services to producers, refiners and other customers. Toward this end, PAA endeavors to address regional supply and demand imbalances for crude oil and NGL in the United States and Canada by combining the strategic location and capabilities of its transportation, terminalling, storage, processing and fractionation assets with its extensive supply, logistics and distribution expertise. We believe PAA's successful execution of this strategy will enable it to generate sustainable earnings and cash flow. PAA intends to manage and grow its business by:

- commercially optimizing its existing assets and realizing cost efficiencies through operational improvements;

Table of Contents

- using its transportation (including pipeline, rail, barge and truck), terminalling, storage, processing and fractionation assets in conjunction with its supply and logistics activities to capitalize on inefficient energy markets and to address physical market imbalances, mitigate inherent risks and increase margin;
- developing and implementing growth projects that (i) address evolving crude oil and NGL needs in the midstream transportation and infrastructure sector and (ii) are well positioned to benefit from long-term industry trends and opportunities; and
- selectively pursuing strategic and accretive acquisitions that complement its existing asset base and distribution capabilities.

To a lesser extent, PAA also engages in similar activities for natural gas and refined products,

PAA's Competitive Strengths

We believe that the following competitive strengths position PAA to successfully execute its principal business strategy:

- *Many of PAA's assets are strategically located and operationally flexible.* The majority of PAA's primary transportation segment assets are in crude oil service, are located in well-established crude oil producing regions and other transportation corridors and are connected, directly or indirectly, with PAA's facilities segment assets. The majority of PAA's facilities segment assets are located at major trading locations and premium markets that serve as gateways to major North American refinery and distribution markets where PAA has strong business relationships. In addition, PAA's assets include pipeline, rail, barge, truck and storage assets, which provide PAA's customers and PAA with significant flexibility and optionality to satisfy demand and balance markets, particularly during a dynamic period of changing product flows.
- *PAA possesses specialized crude oil market knowledge.* We believe PAA's business relationships with participants in various phases of the crude oil distribution chain, from crude oil producers to refiners, as well as PAA's own industry expertise (including PAA's knowledge of North American crude oil flows), provide PAA with an extensive understanding of the North American physical crude oil markets.
- *PAA's supply and logistics activities typically generate a base level of margin with the opportunity to realize incremental margins.* We believe the variety of activities executed within PAA's supply and logistics segment in combination with PAA's risk management strategies provides PAA with a balance that generally affords it the flexibility to maintain a base level of margin in a variety of market conditions (subject to the effects of seasonality). In certain circumstances, PAA is able to realize incremental margins during volatile market conditions.
- *PAA has the evaluation, integration and engineering skill sets and the financial flexibility to continue to pursue acquisition and expansion opportunities.* Since 1998, PAA has completed and integrated over 80 acquisitions with an aggregate purchase price of approximately

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

\$11.6 billion. PAA has also implemented expansion capital projects totaling over \$7.8 billion. In addition, considering PAA's investment grade credit rating, liquidity and capital structure, we believe PAA has the financial resources and strength necessary to finance future strategic expansion and acquisition opportunities. As of December 31, 2014, PAA had approximately \$2.6 billion of liquidity available, including cash and cash equivalents and availability under its committed credit facilities, subject to continued covenant compliance.

- *PAA has an experienced management team whose interests are aligned with those of its unitholders.* PAA's executive management team has an average of 30 years industry experience, and an average of 18 years with PAA or its predecessors and affiliates. In addition, through their ownership of common units, indirect interests in PAA's general partner, grants of phantom units and AAP Management Units, PAA's management team has a vested interest in PAA's continued success.

Table of Contents

Our Financial Strategy

Our financial strategy is designed to be complementary to PAA's financial and business strategies. Because our only cash-generating assets consist of our partnership interests in AAP, which currently derives all of its cash flows from PAA's distributions, we intend to maintain a level of indebtedness at AAP such that it will not be material in relation to PAA's adjusted EBITDA or other financial metrics used in the evaluation of its business. As of December 31, 2014, AAP had \$536 million of debt outstanding under its credit facility. In connection with future PAA equity issuances, we expect AAP may fund any capital contribution required to maintain its indirect 2% general partner interest in PAA with credit facility borrowings. We do not anticipate that additional debt associated with these contributions will be material to PAA's consolidated credit profile, as such equity issuances are typically used to pay down existing debt or fund PAA's growth through acquisitions or organic growth opportunities. We would expect to fund direct acquisitions made by us, if any, with a combination of debt and equity.

PAA's Financial Strategy

Targeted Credit Profile

We believe that a major factor in PAA's continued success is its ability to maintain a competitive cost of capital and access to the capital markets. In that regard, PAA intends to maintain a credit profile that it believes is consistent with investment grade credit ratings. PAA has targeted a general credit profile with the following attributes:

- an average long-term debt-to-total capitalization ratio of approximately 50%;
- a long-term debt-to-adjusted EBITDA multiple averaging between 3.5x and 4.0x (Adjusted EBITDA is earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, equity-indexed compensation plan charges, gains and losses from derivative activities and other selected items that impact comparability);
- an average total debt-to-total capitalization ratio of approximately 60%; and
- an average adjusted EBITDA-to-interest coverage multiple of approximately 3.3x or better.

The first two of these four metrics include long-term debt as a critical measure. PAA also incurs short-term debt in connection with its supply and logistics activities that involve the simultaneous purchase and forward sale of crude oil, NGL and natural gas. The crude oil, NGL and natural gas purchased in these transactions are hedged. PAA does not consider the working capital borrowings associated with these activities to be part of its long-term capital structure. These borrowings are self-liquidating as they are repaid with sales proceeds. PAA also incurs short-term debt to fund New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) and Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) margin requirements. In certain market

conditions, these routine short-term debt levels may increase significantly above baseline levels.

For PAA to maintain its targeted credit profile and achieve growth through acquisitions and expansion capital, PAA intends to fund approximately 55% of the capital requirements associated with these activities with equity and cash flow in excess of distributions. From time to time, PAA may be outside the parameters of its targeted credit profile as, in certain cases, these capital expenditures and acquisitions may be financed initially using debt or there may be delays in realizing anticipated synergies from acquisitions or contributions from expansion capital projects to adjusted EBITDA.

PAA's Acquisitions

The acquisition of midstream assets and businesses that are strategic and complementary to PAA's existing operations constitutes an integral component of its business strategy and growth objectives. Such assets and businesses include crude oil, refined products and NGL logistics assets, natural gas storage assets and other energy assets that have characteristics and provide opportunities similar to its existing business lines and enable PAA to leverage its assets, knowledge and skill sets.

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes acquisitions greater than \$200 million that PAA has completed over the past five years (in millions). See Note 3 to our Consolidated Financial Statements for a full discussion regarding acquisition activities.

Acquisition (1)	Date	Description	Approximate Purchase Price (2)
50% Interest in BridgeTex Pipeline Company, LLC (BridgeTex)	Nov-2014	BridgeTex owns a crude oil pipeline that extends from Colorado City, Texas to East Houston	\$ 1,088(3)
US Development Group (USD) Crude Oil Rail Terminals	Dec-2012	Four operating crude oil rail terminals and one terminal under development	\$ 503
BP Canada Energy Company (BP NGL)	Apr-2012	NGL assets located in Canada and the upper-Midwest United States	\$ 1,683(4)
Western Refining, Inc. (Western) Pipeline and Storage Assets	Dec-2011	Multi-product storage facility in Virginia and Crude oil pipeline in southeastern New Mexico	\$ 220(5)
Velocity South Texas Gathering, LLC (Velocity)	Nov-2011	Crude oil and condensate gathering and transportation assets in South Texas (Gardendale Gathering System)	\$ 349
SG Resources Mississippi, LLC (SG Resources)	Feb-2011	Southern Pines Energy Center (Southern Pines) natural gas storage facility	\$ 765(6)
Nexen Holdings U.S.A. Inc. Gathering and Transportation Assets (Nexen)	Dec-2010	Crude oil gathering business and transportation assets in North Dakota and Montana	\$ 229(7)

(1) Excludes PAA's acquisition of all of the outstanding publicly-traded common units of PAA Natural Gas Storage, L.P. (PNG) on December 31, 2013 (referred to herein as the PNG Merger), as we historically consolidated PNG into our financial statements for financial reporting purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (GAAP). As consideration for the PNG Merger, PAA issued approximately 14.7 million of its common units with a value of approximately \$760 million.

(2) As applicable, the approximate purchase price includes total cash paid and debt assumed, including amounts for working capital and inventory.

(3) Approximate purchase price of \$1.075 billion, net of working capital acquired. PAA accounts for its 50% interest in BridgeTex under the equity method of accounting.

(4) Purchase price includes approximately \$17 million of imputed interest. A prepayment of \$50 million was made during 2011. Approximate purchase price of \$1.192 billion, net of working capital, linefill and long-term inventory acquired.

(5) Includes two transactions with Western.

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

- (6) Approximate purchase price of \$750 million, net of cash and other working capital acquired.

- (7) Approximate purchase price of \$170 million, net of cash, inventory and other working capital acquired.

Ongoing Acquisition and Investment Activities

Consistent with its business strategy, PAA is continuously engaged in the evaluation of potential acquisitions, joint ventures and capital projects. As a part of these efforts, PAA often engages in discussions with potential sellers or other parties regarding the possible purchase of or investment in assets and operations that are strategic and complementary to PAA's existing operations. In addition, PAA has in the past evaluated and pursued, and intends in the future to evaluate and pursue, the acquisition of or investment in other energy-related assets that have characteristics and provide opportunities similar to PAA's existing business lines and enable PAA to leverage its assets, knowledge and skill sets. Such efforts may involve participation by PAA in processes that have been made public and involve a number of potential buyers or investors, commonly referred to as "auction" processes, as well as situations in which PAA believes it is the only party or one of a limited number of parties who are in negotiations with the potential seller or other party. These acquisition and investment efforts often involve assets which, if acquired or constructed, could have a material effect on PAA's financial condition and results of operations.

PAA typically does not announce a transaction until after it has executed a definitive agreement. However, in certain cases in order to protect its business interests or for other reasons, PAA may defer public announcement of a transaction until closing or a later date. Past experience has demonstrated that discussions and negotiations regarding a potential transaction can advance or terminate in a short period of time. Moreover, the closing of any transaction for which PAA has entered into a definitive agreement may be subject to customary and other closing conditions, which may not ultimately be satisfied or waived. Accordingly, PAA can give no assurance that its current or future acquisition or investment efforts will be successful. Although PAA expects the acquisitions and investments it makes to be accretive in the long term, PAA can provide no assurance that its expectations will ultimately be realized. See Item 1A. Risk Factors Risks Related to PAA's Business If PAA does not make acquisitions or if it makes acquisitions that fail to perform as anticipated, its future growth may be limited and Acquisitions involve risks that may adversely affect PAA's business.

Table of Contents**PAA's Expansion Capital Projects**

PAA's extensive asset base and its relationships with customers provide it with opportunities for organic growth through the construction of additional assets that are complementary to, and expand or extend, its existing asset base. PAA believes that the diversity and balance of its expansion capital project portfolio (i.e., relatively large number of projects that are small to medium sized and spread across multiple geographic regions) reduces its overall exposure to cost overruns, timing delays and other adverse market developments with respect to a particular project or region. PAA's 2015 expansion capital plan is representative of the diversity and balance of its overall project portfolio. The following expansion capital projects are included in PAA's 2015 capital plan as of February 2015:

Basin/Region	Project	2015 Plan Amount (1) (\$ in millions)	Description	Projected In-Service Date
Permian	Permian Basin Area Projects	\$ 365	Multiple projects to increase and expand our pipeline infrastructure in the Permian Basin, including expansion of trunklines into the Delaware Basin and corresponding looping of the Wink-to-Midland segment of our Basin Pipeline	Various, throughout 2015 and 2016
	Cactus Pipeline	85	310 miles of new crude oil pipeline; 250,000 Bbls/d capacity (to be expanded to 330,000 Bbls/d in 2016) from the Permian Basin to the Eagle Ford Pipeline	2015
Central / Mid-Continent	Diamond Pipeline	165	440 miles of new crude oil pipeline; 200,000 Bbls/d capacity from Cushing, OK to the Valero Memphis, TN refinery	2017
	Red River Pipeline	80	Approximately 400 miles of new crude oil pipeline; 150,000 Bbls/d	2016

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

capacity from Cushing, OK to
Longview, TX

Cushing Terminal
Expansions

25 Addition of 1.4 million barrels of
storage capacity

2015

West Coast

Line 63 Reactivation

30 Reactivation of 71 miles of idled
pipeline and supporting assets

2015

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

Other	Rail Terminal Projects	240	Railcar purchases and projects located in or near St. James, LA and Kerrobert, Canada	2015
	Other Projects	400		
		\$ 1,850		

(1) Represents the portion of the total project cost expected to be incurred during the year. Potential variation to current capital costs estimates may result from (i) changes to project design, (ii) final cost of materials and labor and (iii) timing of incurrence of costs due to uncontrollable factors such as permits, regulatory approvals and weather.

Global Petroleum Market Overview

Crude oil and NGL are two primary components of the world petroleum market, and world economic growth is a major driver of such market. The challenging global economic climate of the last several years resulted in continued uncertainty in the petroleum market. Over the last six months of 2014, global production growth outpaced global consumption growth resulting in lower energy prices. Currently, the United States and Canada comprise 5% of the world's population, generate approximately 20% of the world's petroleum production, and consume approximately 23% of the world's petroleum production. The table below depicts historical and projected production and consumption of liquid fuels for the United States and Canada and the rest of the world and is derived from the EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook, January 2015 (see EIA website at www.eia.doe.gov):

	2011	Annual Liquids Production (1)			Projected		Δ from 2011
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2014
		(in millions of barrels per day)					
Production (Supply)							
U.S. & Canada	13.7	15.0	16.5	18.3	19.3	20.0	4.6
Rest of the World	74.2	74.8	73.7	73.8	73.7	73.5	(0.4)
Total (2)	87.9	89.8	90.2	92.2	93.0	93.5	4.3
Consumption (Demand)							
	2011	Annual Liquids Consumption (1)			Projected		Δ from 2011
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2014
		(in millions of barrels per day)					
U.S. & Canada	21.2	20.8	21.4	21.4	21.7	21.8	0.2
Rest of the World	67.3	68.3	69.1	70.0	70.7	71.6	2.7
Total (2)	88.5	89.1	90.5	91.4	92.4	93.4	2.9
U.S. & Canada Production as % of World Production (2)	16%	17%	18%	20%	21%	21%	4%
U.S. & Canada Consumption as % of							
World Consumption (2)	24%	23%	24%	23%	23%	23%	0%
Net U.S. & Canada (Consumption) (2)	(7.4)	(5.8)	(4.8)	(3.1)	(2.4)	(1.8)	4.4
	(0.6)	0.6	(0.3)	0.8	0.6	0.1	1.3

Global Supply/Demand
Balance

- (1) The 2014 amounts are derived from the EIA's Short-Term Energy Outlook.

- (2) Amounts may not recalculate due to rounding.

For the period from 2011 through 2014, global liquids production increased 4.3 million barrels per day while global liquids consumption only increased 2.9 million barrels per day. U.S. and Canadian production growth of 4.6 million barrels per day during this period has not only offset a 0.4 million barrels per day decline in production for the rest of the world but also has supplied the 2.9 million barrels per day increase in global demand. This surge in liquids production without a commensurate increase in demand has led to a near to medium-term supply imbalance, which has further led to a reduction in benchmark petroleum prices. The lower prices are leading producers to scale back capital programs, which we believe should ultimately slow down the supply growth and contribute toward bringing the markets back to equilibrium.

Table of Contents

Crude Oil Market Overview

The definition of a commodity is a mass-produced unspecialized product and implies the attribute of fungibility. Crude oil is typically referred to as a commodity; however, it is neither unspecialized nor fungible. The crude slate available to U.S. and world-wide refineries consists of a substantial number of different grades and varieties of crude oil. Each crude oil grade has distinguishing physical properties. For example, specific gravity (generally referred to as light or heavy), sulfur content (generally referred to as sweet or sour) and metals content, along with other characteristics, collectively result in varying economic attributes. In many cases, these factors result in the need for such grades to be batched or segregated in the transportation and storage processes, blended to precise specifications or adjusted in value.

The lack of fungibility of the various grades of crude oil creates logistical transportation, terminalling and storage challenges and inefficiencies associated with regional volumetric supply and demand imbalances. These logistical inefficiencies are created as certain qualities of crude oil are indigenous to particular regions or countries. Also, each refinery has a distinct configuration of process units designed to handle particular grades of crude oil. The relative yields and the cost to obtain, transport and process the crude oil drives the refinery's choice of feedstock. In addition, from time to time, natural disasters and geopolitical factors such as hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, inclement weather, labor strikes, refinery disruptions, embargoes and armed conflicts may impact supply, demand, transportation and storage logistics.

Our assets and our business strategy are designed to serve our producer and refiner customers by addressing regional crude oil supply and demand imbalances that exist in the United States and Canada. The nature and extent of these imbalances change from time to time as a result of a variety of factors, including regional production declines and/or increases; refinery expansions, modifications and shut-downs; available transportation and storage capacity; and government mandates and related regulatory factors.

Over the last five years, one of the most significant developments impacting the crude oil market has been the rapid growth in North American crude oil production. As a result of advances in horizontal drilling and completion technology over the last several years and their application to various large scale resource plays, certain historical trends have been reversed as domestic crude oil supplies have increased substantially and have the potential to continue to increase if supported by crude oil prices. Increased production has come from both mature producing areas such as the Rockies, the Permian Basin in West Texas and the Mid-Continent region, as well as from less mature, but rapidly growing areas such as the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas and the Bakken Shale in North Dakota. As a result, North American liquids production increased 4.6 million barrels per day or 34% between 2011 and 2014, with the increases coming primarily from Canada, the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas, the Permian Basin in West Texas and the Bakken Shale in North Dakota. Actual and anticipated production increases in all of these regions have strained existing transportation, terminalling and downstream infrastructure. These changes have resulted in significant alterations to historical patterns of crude oil movements among regions of the U.S.

In addition to overall production growth, significant shifts in the type and location of crude oil being produced from these regions have resulted in additional strains on existing infrastructure. Notably, the increase in domestic production of light sweet crude oil is inconsistent with the sizeable, multi-year investments made by a number of U.S. refining companies in order to expand their capabilities to process heavier, sour grades of crude oil. This divergence between readily available supplies of light sweet crude oil and increased refinery demand for heavy sour crude oil has begun to cause differentials between crude oil grades and qualities to change relative to historical levels and become more dynamic and volatile. This increase in light sweet crude oil production has also resulted in a decrease in foreign imports of light sweet crude oil into the U.S., particularly into the Gulf Coast, which has caused the international producers of such lighter crudes to seek alternative markets in other parts of the world. These previously imported barrels have been absorbed by the rest of the world until recently, when total liquids supply began increasing faster than demand.

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

Since reaching a multi-year low in 2009, U.S. net refinery inputs of crude oil have slowly increased to a level of 15.8 million barrels per day for the twelve month period ended November 2014, which approximates the levels achieved during 2005 and 2006. Although domestic demand for petroleum products from end users has declined from peak levels in 2004-2007 and the increased use of ethanol for blending in gasoline has further negatively impacted refinery demand for crude oil, the attractive export market for refined products and access to discounted domestic crude oil has driven the increased refinery demand. Domestic production growth has also led to lower use of imported crude oil by U.S. refineries, a meaningful change in a multi-year trend where foreign imports of crude oil tripled over an approximately 23-year period from 1985-2007. The EIA is currently forecasting a continued gradual decline in foreign crude imports from current levels, which is attributable to increased domestic production and increased supply from other liquid products, including ethanol and biodiesel.

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

The table below shows the overall domestic petroleum consumption projected through 2016 and is derived from the EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook, January 2015 (see EIA website at www.eia.doe.gov). We believe these trends will be subject to significant variation from time to time due to a number of factors, including the level of domestic production volumes and infrastructure limitations, which impact pricing, and geopolitical developments.

	Actual (1) 2014	2015 (In millions of barrels per day)	Projected (1) 2016
Supply			
Domestic Crude Oil Production	8.6	9.3	9.5
Net Imports - Crude Oil from Canada	3.2	3.4	3.4
Net Imports - Crude Oil from Other	3.8	3.0	2.9
Other (Supply Adjustment/Stock Change)	0.1	0.2	0.1
Crude Oil Input to Domestic Refineries	15.8	15.9	16.0
Net Product Imports / (Exports)	(1.9)	(2.2)	(2.4)
Supply from Renewable Sources	1.1	1.1	1.1
Other - (NGL Production, Refinery Processing Gain)	4.1	4.5	4.8
Total Domestic Petroleum Consumption	19.1	19.3	19.4

(1) Amounts may not recalculate due to rounding.

As illustrated in the table above, while expected to decline, imports of foreign crude oil and other petroleum products are still expected to play a major role in achieving a balanced U.S. market on an aggregate basis. However, because of the substantial number of different grades and varieties of crude oil and their distinguishing physical and economic properties and the distinct configuration of each refinery's process units, significant logistics infrastructure and services are required to balance the U.S. market on a region by region basis.

By way of illustration, the Department of Energy segregates the United States into five Petroleum Administration Defense Districts (PADDs), which are used by the energy industry for reporting statistics regarding crude oil supply and demand. The table below sets forth supply, demand and shortfall information for each PADD for the twelve months ended November 2014 and is derived from information published by the EIA (see EIA website at www.eia.doe.gov):

Petroleum Administration Defense District (in millions of barrels per day) (1)	Regional Supply	Refinery Demand	Supply Shortfall
PADD I (East Coast)	0.0	1.1	(1.0)
PADD II (Midwest)	1.7	3.5	(1.9)
PADD III (South)	5.1	8.2	(3.1)
PADD IV (Rockies)	0.6	0.6	0.0
PADD V (West Coast)	1.1	2.4	(1.3)
Total U.S.	8.6	15.8	(7.3)

(1) Amounts may not recalculate due to rounding.

Overall, volatility of multiple aspects of the crude oil market, including absolute price, market structure and grade and location differentials, has increased over time and we expect volatility to continue. Some factors that we believe are causing and will continue to cause volatility in the market include:

- continued development of North American resource plays;
- fluctuations in international supply and demand related to the economic environment, geopolitical events and armed conflicts;
- regional supply and demand imbalances and changes in refinery capacity and specific capabilities;
- significant fluctuations in absolute price as well as grade and location differentials;

Table of Contents

- political instability in critical producing nations; and
- policy decisions made by various governments around the world attempting to navigate energy challenges.

The complexity and volatility of the crude oil market creates opportunities to solve the logistical inefficiencies inherent in the business. The combination of (i) a significant increase in North American production volumes, (ii) a change in crude oil qualities and related differentials and (iii) high utilization of existing pipeline and terminal infrastructure has stimulated multiple industry initiatives to build new pipeline and terminal infrastructure, convert certain pipeline assets to alternative service or reverse flows and expand the use of trucks, rail and barges for the movement of crude oil and condensate.

Processed Condensate Market

During 2014, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) clarified that processed condensate may be eligible to export if certain criteria are met. In response to our request for clarification, the BIS issued a letter to us stating that the distillation processes employed by PAA at its Gardendale facility satisfies the conditions of the BIS to convert lease condensate into an exportable petroleum product. Per the EIA, lease condensate production (which the EIA generally defines as light liquid hydrocarbons recovered from lease separators or field facilities) has risen from 488,000 barrels per day in 2009 to 852,000 barrels per day in 2013 through the development of the domestic unconventional resource plays. Texas currently yields approximately one-half of the U.S. lease condensates per the EIA.

Refined Products Market Overview

After transport to a refinery, crude oil is processed into different petroleum products. These refined products fall into three major categories: transportation fuels such as motor gasoline and distillate fuel oil (diesel fuel and jet fuel); finished non-fuel products such as solvents, lubricating oils and asphalt; and feedstocks for the petrochemical industry such as naphtha and various refinery gases. Demand is greatest for transportation fuels, particularly motor gasoline and diesel.

The characteristics of the gasoline produced depend upon the setup of the refinery at which it is produced. Gasoline characteristics are also impacted by other ingredients that may be blended into it, such as ethanol and octane enhancers. The performance of the gasoline must meet strictly defined industry standards and environmental regulations that vary based on season and location.

After crude oil is refined into gasoline and other petroleum products, the products are distributed to consumers or sent further downstream for additional processing in petrochemical or specialty chemical facilities. The majority of products are shipped by pipeline to storage terminals near consuming areas, and then loaded into trucks for delivery to gasoline stations and end users. Products that are used as feedstocks are typically transported by pipeline or barges to chemical plants.

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

Demand for refined products has generally been affected by price levels, economic growth trends, conservation, fuel efficiency mandates and, to a lesser extent, weather conditions. From 2011 through November 2014, petroleum consumption has remained relatively flat averaging approximately 18.8 million barrels per day. During this period, as production from domestic resource plays increased, less expensive alternative crude sources have provided domestic refineries with a competitive advantage. This has allowed refineries to increase crude runs from lows of 13.7 million barrels per day in February 2011 to highs of 16.5 million barrels per day in July 2014 with the incremental refined products produced primarily going to export markets. The increased domestic refinery runs combined with flat domestic demand has allowed the U.S. to become a net exporter of refined products versus a historical net importer. Refined product imports decreased from 3.2 million barrels per day in 2005 to an average of approximately 1.7 million barrels per day for the 12 months ended November 2014. Conversely, refined product exports increased from approximately 1.1 million barrels per day in 2005 to 3.1 million barrels per day for the 12 months ended November 2014.

NGL Market Overview

NGL primarily includes ethane, propane, normal butane, iso-butane, and natural gasoline, and is derived from natural gas production and processing activities as well as crude oil refining processes. LPG primarily includes propane and butane, which liquefy at moderate pressures thus making it easier to transport and store such products as compared to ethane. NGL refers to all NGL products including LPG when used in this document.

NGL Demand. Individual NGL products have varying uses. Described below are the five basic NGL components and their typical uses:

- *Ethane.* Ethane accounts for the largest portion of the NGL barrel and substantially all of the extracted ethane is used as feedstock in the production of ethylene, one of the basic building blocks for a wide range of plastics and other chemical products. When ethane recovery from a wet natural gas stream is uneconomic, ethane is left in the natural gas stream, subject to pipeline specifications.

Table of Contents

- *Propane.* Propane is used as heating fuel, engine fuel and industrial fuel, for agricultural burning and drying and also as petrochemical feedstock for the production of ethylene and propylene.
- *Normal butane.* Normal butane is principally used for motor gasoline blending and as fuel gas, either alone or in a mixture with propane, and feedstock for the manufacture of ethylene and butadiene, a key ingredient of synthetic rubber. Normal butane is also used as a feedstock for iso-butane production and as a diluent in the transportation of heavy crude oil and bitumen, particularly in Canada.
- *Iso-butane.* Iso-butane is principally used by refiners to produce alkylates to enhance the octane content of motor gasoline.
- *Natural Gasoline.* Natural gasoline is principally used as a motor gasoline blend stock, a petrochemical feedstock, or as diluent in the transportation of heavy crude oil and bitumen, particularly in Canada.

NGL Supply. The bulk (approximately 78%) of the United States NGL supply comes from gas processing plants, which separate a mixture of NGL from the dry gas (primarily methane). The NGL mix (also referred to as Y Grade) is then either fractionated at the processing site into the five individual NGL components (known as purity products), which may be transported, stored and sold to end use markets or transported as a Y-Grade to a regional fractionation facility.

The majority of gas processing plants in the United States are located along the Gulf Coast, in the West Texas/Oklahoma area, the Marcellus and Utica region and in the Rockies region. In Canada, the vast majority of the processing capacity is located in Alberta, with a much smaller (but increasing) amount in British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

NGL products from refineries represent approximately 18% of the United States supply and are by-products of the refinery conversion processes. Consequently, they have generally already been separated into individual components and do not require further fractionation. NGL products from refineries are principally propane, with lesser amounts of butane, refinery naphthas (products similar to natural gasoline) and ethane. Due to refinery maintenance schedules and seasonal demand considerations, refinery production of propane and butane varies on a seasonal basis.

NGL is also imported into certain regions of the United States from Canada and other parts of the world (approximately 4% of total supply). NGL (primarily propane) is also exported from certain regions of the United States.

NGL Transportation and Trading Hubs. NGL, whether as a mixture or as purity products, is transported by pipelines, barges, railcars and tank trucks. The method of transportation used depends on, among other things, the resources of the transporter, the locations of the production points and the delivery points, cost-efficiency and the quantity of product being transported. Pipelines are generally the most cost-efficient mode of transportation when large, consistent volumes of product are to be delivered.

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

The major NGL infrastructure and trading hubs in North America are located at Mont Belvieu, Texas; Conway, Kansas; Edmonton, Alberta; and Sarnia, Ontario. Each of these hubs contains a critical mass of infrastructure, including fractionators, storage, pipelines and access to end markets, particularly Mont Belvieu.

NGL Storage. NGL must be stored under pressure to maintain a liquid state. The lighter the product (e.g., ethane), the greater the pressure that must be maintained. Large volumes of NGL are stored in underground caverns constructed in salt or granite. Product is also stored in above ground tanks. Natural gasoline can be stored at relatively low pressures in tankage similar to that used to store motor gasoline. Propane and butane are stored at much higher pressures in steel spheres, cylinders, bullets, salt caverns or other configurations. Ethane is stored at very high pressures, typically in salt caverns. Storage is especially important for NGL as supply and demand can vary materially on a seasonal basis.

NGL Market Outlook. The growth of shale based production in both traditional and new producing areas has resulted in a significant increase in NGL supplies from gas processing plants over the past several years. This has driven extensive expansion and new development of midstream infrastructure in Canada, the Bakken, Marcellus/Utica, and throughout Texas.

The growth of production in non-traditional producing regions has shifted regional basis relationships and the creation of new logistics and infrastructure opportunities. Growing NGL production has meant expansion into new markets, through exports or increased petrochemical demand. The continuation of a relatively low ratio of North American gas and NGL prices to world-wide crude oil prices will mean North American NGL can continue to be competitive on a world scale, either as feedstock for North American based manufacturing or export to overseas markets. In addition to substantially increased exports, a portion of the increased supply of NGL will be absorbed by the domestic petrochemical sector as low-cost feed stocks, as the North American petrochemical industry has enjoyed a supply cost advantage on a world scale.

Table of Contents

While a short term price drop may stunt production growth, the fundamentals of an accessible resource base and improved midstream infrastructure should mean producers can continue to develop the most economic new supply and be ready to go back to rapid growth as prices recover. The NGL market is, among other things, expected to be driven by:

- the absolute prices of NGL products and their prices relative to natural gas and crude oil;
- drilling activity and wet natural gas production in developing liquids-rich production areas;
- production growth/decline rates of wet natural gas in established supply areas;
- available processing, fractionation, storage and transportation capacity;
- infrastructure development costs and timing as well as development risk sharing;
- the cost of acquiring rights from producers to process their gas;
- petro-chemical demand;
- diluent requirements for heavy Canadian oil;
- international demand for NGL products;
- regulatory changes in gasoline specifications affecting demand for butane;
- refinery shut downs;

- alternating needs of refineries to store and blend NGL;
- seasonal shifts in weather; and
- inefficiencies caused by regional supply and demand imbalances.

As a result of these and other factors, the NGL market is complex and volatile, which, along with expected market growth, creates opportunities to solve the logistical inefficiencies inherent in the business.

Natural Gas Storage Market Overview

North American natural gas storage facilities provide a staging and warehousing function for seasonal swings in demand relative to supply, as well as an essential reliability cushion against disruptions in natural gas supply, demand and transportation by allowing natural gas to be injected into, withdrawn from or warehoused in such storage facilities as dictated by market conditions. Natural gas storage serves as the shock absorber that balances the market, serving as a source of supply to meet the consumption demands in excess of daily production capacity and a warehouse for gas production in excess of daily demand during low demand periods.

Overall market conditions for natural gas storage have been challenging during the last several years, driven by a variety of factors, including (i) increased natural gas supplies due to production from shale resources, (ii) a shift from Gulf of Mexico production to Northeast production causing less concern over disruptions from tropical weather, (iii) increased availability of storage capacity, (iv) a reduction in overall market depth due to various companies exiting the physical gas marketing business and (v) lower basis differentials in certain regions due to expansion and improved connectivity of natural gas transportation infrastructure over the last five years.

Longer term, we believe several factors will contribute to meaningful growth in North American natural gas demand that will bolster the market need for and the commercial value of natural gas storage. These fundamental factors include (i) exports of North American volumes of LNG, (ii) construction of new gas-fired power plants, (iii) sustained fuel switching from coal to natural gas among existing power plants and (iv) growth in base-level industrial demand. As a result, we remain optimistic about the intermediate- to long-term intrinsic value of our natural gas storage assets.

Projected seasonal spreads for the next few years reflect a directionally similar picture to the challenging market conditions we have experienced during most of the past few years. Continuation of these unfavorable market conditions will adversely impact our hub services activities as well as the rates our customers are willing to pay for firm storage services with respect to new capacity under construction and existing capacity upon expirations of existing storage agreements.

Table of Contents

Description of Segments and Associated Assets

Under GAAP, we consolidate AAP and PAA and its subsidiaries. We currently have no separate operating activities apart from those conducted by PAA. As such, our segment analysis, presentation and discussion is the same as that of PAA, which conducts its operations through three segments Transportation, Facilities and Supply and Logistics. Accordingly, any references to we, our, and similar terms describing assets, business characteristics or other related matters are references to assets, business characteristics or other matters involving PAA's assets and operations. We have an extensive network of pipeline transportation, terminalling, storage and gathering assets in key crude oil and NGL producing basins and transportation corridors and at major market hubs in the United States and Canada. The map below highlights our more significant assets (including certain assets under construction or development) as of December 31, 2014:

Following is a description of the activities and assets for each of our three business segments.

Transportation Segment

Our transportation segment operations generally consist of fee-based activities associated with transporting crude oil and NGL on pipelines, gathering systems, trucks and barges. We generate revenue through a combination of tariffs, third-party pipeline capacity agreements and other transportation fees. Our transportation segment also includes equity earnings from our investments in Settoon Towing and the White Cliffs, Eagle Ford, BridgeTex, Butte and Frontier pipeline systems, in which we own interests ranging from 22% to 50%. We account for these investments under the equity method of accounting.

Edgar Filing: PLAINS GP HOLDINGS LP - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2014, we employed a variety of owned or, to a much lesser extent, leased long-term physical assets throughout the United States and Canada in this segment, including approximately:

- 17,800 miles of active crude oil and NGL pipelines and gathering systems;
- 29 million barrels of active, above-ground tank capacity used primarily to facilitate pipeline throughput;
- 800 trailers (primarily in Canada); and
- 149 transport and storage barges and 72 transport tugs through our interest in Settoon Towing.

The following is a tabular presentation of our active crude oil and NGL pipeline assets in the United States and Canada as of December 31, 2014, grouped by geographic location:

Region / Pipeline and Gathering Systems (1)	System Miles	2014 Average Net Barrels per Day (2) (in thousands)
<u>United States Crude Oil Pipelines</u>		