

Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P.
Form PRE 14A
June 10, 2011
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

BLUEKNIGHT ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Table of Contents

PRELIMINARY PROXY STATEMENT, SUBJECT TO CHANGE, DATED JUNE 10, 2011

, 2011

To our unitholders:

You are cordially invited to attend a special meeting of the unitholders of Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. to be held at _____, on _____, 2011 at _____, local time.

Details regarding the business to be conducted at the special meeting are described in the accompanying notice of the special meeting and proxy statement. We encourage you to review carefully these materials.

Your vote is very important. Even if you plan to attend the special meeting, we urge you to mark, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it promptly or transmit your voting instructions by using the telephone or Internet procedures described on your proxy card. You will retain the right to revoke it at any time before the vote or to vote your units personally if you attend the special meeting.

On behalf of the board of directors of our general partner, Blueknight Energy Partners G.P., L.L.C., I would like to express our appreciation for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at the special meeting.

Duke R. Ligon
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Blueknight Energy Partners G.P., L.L.C.

Table of Contents

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL
MEETING OF UNITHOLDERS OF
BLUEKNIGHT ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.
TO BE HELD
ON , 2011**

To our unitholders:

A special meeting of the unitholders of Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. ("BKEP") will be held on , 2011 at , local time, at , for the following purposes:

1. to consider and vote upon a proposal, which we refer to as the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal, by which we would amend and restate our partnership agreement to:

reset (1) the minimum quarterly distribution to \$0.11 per unit per quarter from \$0.3125 per unit per quarter, (2) the first target distribution to \$0.1265 per unit per quarter from \$0.3594 per unit per quarter, (3) the second target distribution to \$0.1375 per unit per quarter from \$0.3906 per unit per quarter and (4) the third target distribution to \$0.1825 per unit per quarter from \$0.4688 per unit per quarter;

waive the cumulative common unit arrearage;

remove provisions in our partnership agreement relating to the subordinated units, including concepts such as a subordination period (and any provisions that expressly apply only during the subordination period) and common unit arrearage, in connection with the transfer to us, and our subsequent cancellation, of all of our outstanding subordinated units;

provide that distributions shall not accrue or be paid to the holders of our incentive distribution rights for an eight quarter period beginning with the quarter in which the special meeting occurs;

provide that during the period beginning on the date of this special meeting and ending on June 30, 2015 (the "Senior Security Restriction Period"), we will not issue any class or series of partnership securities that, with respect to distributions on such partnership securities or distributions upon liquidation of our partnership, ranks senior to the common units during the Senior Security Restriction Period ("Senior Securities") without the consent of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding common units (excluding the common units held by our general partner and its affiliates and excluding any Senior Securities that are convertible into common units); *provided* that we may issue an unlimited number of Senior Securities during the Senior Security Restriction Period without obtaining such consent if (i) such issuances are made in connection with the conversion of our convertible debentures we issued to an affiliate of Vitol Holding B.V. (together with its affiliates other than our general partner, us and our subsidiaries, "Vitol") and an affiliate of Charlesbank Capital Partners, LLC (together with its affiliates other than our general partner, us and our subsidiaries, "Charlesbank") in the aggregate principal amount of \$50 million (the "Convertible Debentures") or the consummation of the rights offering and use of proceeds therefrom, (ii) such issuances are made upon conversion, redemption or exchange of Senior Securities into or for Senior Securities of equal or lesser rank, where the aggregate amount of distributions that would have been paid with respect to such newly issued Senior Securities, plus the related distributions to our general partner, in respect of the four-quarter period ending prior to the first day of the quarter in which the issuance is to be consummated (assuming such newly issued Senior Securities had been

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

outstanding throughout such period) would not have exceeded the distributions actually paid during such period on the Senior Securities that are to be converted, redeemed or exchanged, plus the related distributions to our general partner, (iii) such issuances are made in connection with the combination or subdivision of any class of Senior Securities, (iv) such issuances are made in connection with an acquisition or expansion capital improvement that increases estimated pro forma Adjusted Operating Surplus (as defined in our partnership agreement) (less estimated pro forma distributions on our Series A Preferred Units (which we refer to as the Preferred Units) and on any other Senior Securities) on a per-common unit basis, as determined in good faith by our

Table of Contents

general partner, as compared to actual Adjusted Operating Surplus (as defined in our partnership agreement) (less actual distributions on the Preferred Units and on any other Senior Securities) on a per-common unit basis or (v) the net proceeds of such issuances are used to repay indebtedness of our partnership or its subsidiaries; *provided, however*, that in the case of subsection (v) such new securities may not be issued to an affiliate of our general partner unless the cost to service any new indebtedness that we determine that we could issue to retire existing indebtedness (with our general partner's determination being conclusive) is greater than the distribution obligations associated with the Senior Securities issued in connection with its retirement and one or more of the following conditions are also met: (A) the indebtedness that is being repaid matures within 12 months of such repayment, or (B) such indebtedness has experienced a default or event of default (even if the lenders of such indebtedness have agreed to forbear or waive such default or event of default) or (C) our general partner expects to experience a default or event of default under such indebtedness within six months of such repayment (with our general partner's determination being conclusive);

provide that in addition to our partnership's current rights to convert the Preferred Units into common units, the Preferred Units will also be convertible in whole or in part at our option at any time on or after October 25, 2015 if (i) the daily volume-weighted average trading price of the common units is greater than 130% of the Conversion Price (as defined in our partnership agreement) for twenty out of the trailing thirty trading days ending two trading days before we furnish notice of conversion and (ii) the average trading volume of common units has exceeded 20,000 common units for twenty out of the trailing thirty trading days ending two trading days before we furnish notice of conversion; and

provide that the conversion of Preferred Units shall become effective (i) in the case of Preferred Units that are being converted pursuant to Section 5.12(c)(i) of our partnership agreement (relating to conversions at the election of the holder of such units), as of the last day of the quarter in which the relevant notice of conversion is delivered by the applicable unitholder and (ii) in the case of Preferred Units that are being converted pursuant to Section 5.12(c)(ii) of our partnership agreement (relating to conversions at the election of our partnership), as of the date that the notice of conversion is delivered by us; and

2. to consider and vote upon a proposal, which we refer to as the LTIP Proposal, to approve the terms of an amendment and restatement of the Blueknight Energy Partners G.P., L.L.C. Long-Term Incentive Plan, which we refer to as the Proposed LTIP, to increase the number of common units issuable under such plan by 1,350,000 common units from 1,250,000 common units to 2,600,000 common units. As of June 6, 2011, 177,376 common units remained available for future awards to participants under the existing incentive plan. After the increase in the number of common units issuable pursuant to the Proposed LTIP, 1,527,376 common units will be available for future awards under the Proposed LTIP.

If the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved, then (i) our general partner will adopt the Fourth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Blueknight Energy Partners in the form attached as Annex A to this proxy statement (the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement) to reflect the approval of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal as well as other amendments that our general partner may make in accordance with the provisions of our partnership agreement as set forth therein, (ii) Vitol and Charlesbank will transfer all of our outstanding subordinated units to us and we will cancel such subordinated units and (iii) we will undertake to complete an approximately \$77 million rights offering, the proceeds of which shall be used as follows: (a) first, to pay for any and all expenses relating to conducting the rights offering, (b) second, to redeem our Convertible Debentures for an amount equal to the principal amount of such Convertible Debentures plus any interest payable thereon, (c) third, to repurchase, on a pro rata basis, up to a maximum of \$22 million of Preferred Units from Vitol and Charlesbank at a purchase price of \$6.50 per unit plus any pro rata distribution for the quarter in which such units are repurchased and (d) thereafter, for general partnership purposes. Pursuant to the terms of the rights offering, we will distribute to our common unitholders 0.5412 rights for each outstanding common unit, with each whole right entitling the holder to acquire, for a subscription price of \$6.50, a newly issued Preferred Unit.

Table of Contents

The Conflicts Committee of our board of directors has unanimously approved the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and determined that it is in the best interests of us and our unitholders. Our board of directors, after considering the determination and recommendation of our Conflicts Committee, unanimously approved the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and determined that it is in the best interests of us and our unitholders. Our board of directors has unanimously approved the LTIP Proposal and determined that it is in the best interests of us and our unitholders.

Accordingly, our board of directors and our Conflicts Committee both unanimously recommend that you vote FOR the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and our board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the LTIP Proposal.

In order to constitute a quorum to conduct the proposed business at the special meeting, holders of a majority of our outstanding common units (including common units deemed owned by our general partner), our outstanding subordinated units and our outstanding Preferred Units must be present in person or by proxy.

Under our partnership agreement, the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal requires approval by (i) our general partner, (ii) a majority of the outstanding common units (excluding common units owned by our general partner and its affiliates and excluding persons or groups beneficially owning 20% or more of our outstanding common units) and (iii) a majority of the outstanding subordinated units. The owners of all of our outstanding subordinated units, have agreed to vote all of their subordinated units in favor of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal. The holders of our Preferred Units are not entitled to vote on the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and their vote is not required for the approval of such proposal.

Our partnership agreement does not require that we present the LTIP Proposal to our unitholders for approval. However, under the rules of the Nasdaq Global Market, the LTIP Proposal requires the approval of a majority of the votes cast by our unitholders.

We have set the close of business on _____, 2011 as the record date for determining which unitholders are entitled to receive notice of, and to vote at, the special meeting and any adjournments thereof. A list of unitholders of record will be available for inspection by any unitholder during the meeting.

Your vote is very important. Even if you plan to attend the special meeting, we urge you to mark, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it promptly or transmit your voting instructions by using the telephone or Internet procedures described on your proxy card. You will retain the right to revoke it at any time before the vote or to vote your units personally if you attend the special meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors of Blueknight Energy Partners G.P., L.L.C., the general partner of BKEP.

Alex G. Stallings
Chief Financial Officer and Secretary

Tulsa, Oklahoma

, 2011

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE SPECIAL MEETING AND VOTING</u>	1
<u>SUMMARY</u>	4
<u>Overview</u>	4
<u>Proposal One: The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal</u>	5
<u>Recommendation of the Conflicts Committee Regarding the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal</u>	7
<u>Recommendation of our Board of Directors Regarding the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal</u>	8
<u>Opinion of Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated Financial Advisor to the Conflicts Committee</u>	8
<u>Proposal Two: The LTIP Proposal</u>	8
<u>Recommendation of our Board of Directors Regarding the LTIP Proposal</u>	9
<u>Our Structure and Ownership</u>	10
<u>Information About the Special Meeting and Voting</u>	11
<u>Interests of Certain Persons in the Proposals</u>	12
<u>Material Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Proposals</u>	12
<u>PROPOSAL ONE: THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AMENDMENT PROPOSAL</u>	14
<u>Special Factors</u>	14
<u>The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal</u>	60
<u>CASH DISTRIBUTION POLICY BEFORE AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AMENDED AND RESTATED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS</u>	63
<u>Cash Distribution Policy Before the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions</u>	63
<u>Cash Distribution Policy After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions</u>	73
<u>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PARTNERSHIP INTERESTS OF BKEP BEFORE AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AMENDED AND RESTATED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS</u>	83
<u>THE AMENDED AND RESTATED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT</u>	89
<u>RIGHTS OFFERING</u>	103
<u>Launch of Rights Offering</u>	103
<u>Exercise of Rights</u>	103
<u>Oversubscription Privileges</u>	104
<u>Covenants Related to the Rights Offering</u>	104
<u>Conditions to Our Obligations Related to the Rights Offering</u>	105
<u>Use of Proceeds of the Rights Offering</u>	105

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>PROPOSAL TWO: THE LTIP PROPOSAL</u>	106
<u>General Information About the Proposed LTIP</u>	106
<u>Reasons for the Board of Directors Recommendation</u>	106
<u>Summary of the Proposed LTIP</u>	106
<u>Interests of Certain Persons in the LTIP Proposal</u>	109
<u>Plan Benefits Under the Proposed LTIP</u>	109
<u>MATERIAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSALS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS</u>	110
<u>General</u>	110
<u>The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal</u>	111
<u>The Rights Offering</u>	111
<u>Treatment of Preferred Units Acquired Upon Exercise</u>	112
<u>Potential for Income or Gain Recognition as a Result of Reducing Debt Shifts</u>	114
<u>The LTIP Proposal</u>	115
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	117
<u>Compensation Discussion and Analysis</u>	117
<u>Compensation Committee Report</u>	127
<u>Summary Compensation Table</u>	127
<u>Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End 2010</u>	128
<u>Director Compensation for Fiscal 2010</u>	128
<u>Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation</u>	128
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPECIAL MEETING AND VOTING</u>	129
<u>Time, Date and Place</u>	129
<u>Purpose</u>	129
<u>Record Date</u>	129
<u>Holders Entitled to Vote</u>	129
<u>Vote Required</u>	129
<u>Quorum</u>	130
<u>Voting by Proxy</u>	130
<u>Voting Via Telephone or the Internet</u>	130
<u>Revoking Your Proxy</u>	130
<u>Who to Call for Assistance</u>	131
<u>Voting at the Special Meeting</u>	131
<u>Proxy Solicitation</u>	131
<u>Adjournment</u>	131
<u>No Unitholder Proposals</u>	132
<u>Dissenters Rights</u>	132

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	133
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT OF OUR GENERAL PARTNER</u>	134
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	136
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	138
ANNEX A FORM OF FOURTH AMENDED AND RESTATED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT	
ANNEX B OPINION OF ROBERT W. BAIRD & CO. INCORPORATED	
ANNEX C FORM OF AMENDED AND RESTATED LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN	

Table of Contents

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE SPECIAL MEETING AND VOTING

*In the following questions and answers below, we highlight selected information from this proxy statement but have not included all of the information that may be important to you regarding the proposals. To better understand the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and the LTIP Proposal you should carefully read this proxy statement in its entirety, including the annexes, as well as the documents we have incorporated by reference in this proxy statement. Please read *Where You Can Find More Information* beginning on page 136. This proxy statement and the accompanying form of proxy are first being mailed to our unitholders on or about _____, 2011.*

Who is soliciting my proxy?

Blueknight Energy Partners G.P., L.L.C., our general partner, is sending you this proxy statement in connection with its solicitation of proxies for use at our special meeting of unitholders. Certain directors and officers of our general partner and its affiliates providing services to us, and MacKenzie Partners, Inc. (a proxy solicitor) may also solicit proxies on our behalf by mail, phone or fax or in person. Our executive offices are located at Two Warren Place, 6120 South Yale Avenue, Suite 500, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136.

How will my proxy be voted?

Unless you give other instructions on your proxy card, the persons named as proxy holders on the proxy card will vote all executed proxy cards in accordance with the recommendations of the board of directors of our general partner (which we refer to as our board of directors), which is to vote FOR the proposals. With respect to any other matter that properly comes before the special meeting, the proxy holders will vote as recommended by our board of directors, or, if no recommendation is given, in their own discretion.

When and where is the special meeting?

The special meeting will be held on _____, 2011 at _____ local time at _____.

The special meeting may be adjourned by our general partner to another date and/or place for any purpose (including, without limitation, for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies). However, our partnership agreement also provides that, in the absence of a quorum, the special meeting may be adjourned from time to time by the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding units entitled to vote at the meeting represented either in person or by proxy.

What is the purpose of the special meeting?

At the special meeting, our unitholders will act upon the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and the LTIP Proposal as described in more detail herein.

What are the federal income tax consequences of the proposals to unitholders?

Under current law, it is anticipated that no income or gain for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be recognized by common unitholders solely as a result of the effectiveness of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal. The LTIP Proposal may have an impact on participants in the Proposed LTIP. Participants should consult their own tax advisor concerning the particular tax consequences resulting from the LTIP Proposal.

What is the recommendation of our board of directors?

The Conflicts Committee, consisting exclusively of directors who meet the independence requirements of our partnership agreement, has unanimously approved the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and determined that it is in the best interests of our unitholders and our partnership. The Conflicts Committee recommends that you vote FOR the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

Table of Contents

Our board of directors has unanimously approved the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal, has determined that it is in the best interests of our unitholders and our partnership and recommends that the unitholders approve the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal. Our board of directors recommends that you vote FOR the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

Our board of directors has unanimously approved the LTIP Proposal, has determined that it is in the best interests of our unitholders and our partnership and recommends that the unitholders approve the LTIP Proposal. Our board of directors recommends that you vote FOR the LTIP Proposal.

Who is entitled to vote at the special meeting?

All holders of our common units, subordinated units and Preferred Units who owned such units at the close of business on the record date, _____, 2011, are entitled to receive notice of the special meeting and to vote the units that they held on the record date at the special meeting or any adjournments of the special meeting, except that holders of our Preferred Units are not entitled to vote on the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal. Each unitholder may be asked to present valid picture identification, such as a driver's license or passport. Cameras, recording devices and other electronic devices will not be permitted at the special meeting.

How do I vote?

Mail your completed, signed and dated proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope, or vote by telephone or through the Internet, as soon as possible so that your units may be represented at the special meeting. You may also attend the special meeting and vote your units in person. Holders whose units are held in _____ street name through brokers or other nominees who wish to vote at the special meeting will need to obtain a legal proxy from the institution that holds their units. Even if you plan to attend the special meeting, your plans may change, so it is a good idea to complete, sign and return your proxy card in advance of the special meeting.

How do I vote by telephone or electronically?

If you are a registered unitholder (that is, you hold your units in certificate form), you may vote by telephone or through the Internet by following the instructions included with your proxy card. If your units are held in _____ street name, you will receive instructions from your broker or other nominee describing how to vote your units. Certain of these institutions may offer telephone and Internet voting. Please refer to the information forwarded by your broker or other nominee to see which options are available to you. The deadline for voting by telephone or through the Internet is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on _____, 2011, the night before the special meeting.

If my units are held in _____ street name by my broker or other nominee, will my broker or other nominee vote my units for me?

If you own your units in _____ street name through a broker or nominee, your broker or nominee will not be permitted to exercise voting discretion with respect to the matters to be acted upon at the special meeting. Thus, if you do not give your broker or nominee specific instructions, your units will not be voted on the proposals. Please make certain to return your proxy card, or otherwise give your broker or nominee specific instructions, for each separate account you maintain to ensure that all of your units are voted.

What if I want to change my vote?

To change your vote after you have submitted your proxy card, send in a later-dated, signed proxy card to us or attend the special meeting and vote in person. You may also revoke your proxy by sending a notice of revocation to us at the address set forth in the notice. Please note that attendance at the special meeting will not by itself revoke a previously granted proxy. If you have instructed your broker or other nominee to vote your units, you must follow the procedure your broker or nominee provides to change those instructions.

Table of Contents

What constitutes a quorum?

A majority of our outstanding common units (including common units deemed owned by our general partner), a majority of our outstanding subordinated units and a majority of our outstanding Preferred Units present in person or by proxy at the special meeting will constitute a quorum and will permit us to conduct the proposed business at the special meeting. Your units will be counted as present at the special meeting if you:

are present and vote in person at the meeting; or

have submitted a properly executed proxy card, including a properly executed proxy card without voting instructions.

Proxies received but marked as abstentions will be counted as units that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. If an executed proxy is returned by a broker or other nominee holding units in street name indicating that the broker or nominee does not have discretionary authority as to certain units to vote on the proposals (a broker non-vote), such units will be considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum but will not be considered entitled to vote.

What vote is required to approve the proposals?

Under our partnership agreement, the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal requires approval by (i) our general partner, (ii) a majority of the outstanding common units (excluding common units owned by our general partner and its affiliates and excluding persons or groups beneficially owning 20% or more of our outstanding common units) and (iii) a majority of the outstanding subordinated units. Holders of our Preferred Units are not entitled to vote on the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal. An abstention, a broker non-vote, or the failure to vote at all will have the effect of a negative vote for the purposes of votes required to approve the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal. The owners of all of our outstanding subordinated units, have agreed to vote all of their subordinated units in favor of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

The LTIP Proposal requires the approval of a majority of the votes cast by our unitholders.

A properly executed proxy submitted without voting instructions will be voted (except to the extent that the authority to vote has been withheld) FOR the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and FOR the LTIP Proposal.

Who can I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or need any assistance in voting your units, please contact MacKenzie Partners, Inc.:

MacKenzie Partners, Inc.

105 Madison Avenue

New York, NY 10016

(800) 322-2885

or

(212) 929-5500 (Collect)

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This brief summary highlights selected information from this proxy statement. It does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. To understand the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and the LTIP Proposal fully and for a complete description related transactions and related matters, you should read carefully this proxy statement, the documents incorporated by reference and the full text of the annexes to this proxy statement. Please read [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Overview

We are a publicly traded master limited partnership with operations in twenty-two states. We provide integrated terminalling, storage, processing, gathering and transportation services for companies engaged in the production, distribution and marketing of crude oil and asphalt product. We were formed in 2007 as an indirect subsidiary of SemGroup Corporation and its predecessors (SemCorp). On July 22, 2008, and thereafter, SemCorp and certain of its subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. In connection with SemCorp's liquidity issues, in July 2008, Manchester Securities Corp. (Manchester) and Alerian Finance Partners, LP (Alerian) exercised certain rights under loan documents with SemGroup Holdings, L.P., a subsidiary of SemCorp that at such time was the owner of our general partner, to vote the membership interests of our general partner in order to reconstitute our general partner's board of directors. In November 2009, Vitol acquired from Manchester all of our outstanding subordinated units and 100% of the membership interests in our general partner, which owns our incentive distribution rights. In connection with the refinancing discussed below, Charlesbank acquired 50% of our outstanding subordinated units and one-half of the interest in the entity that owns our general partner.

From our formation until the settlement of certain matters between SemCorp and us in the first quarter of 2009, we relied on SemCorp for a substantial portion of our revenues, which were derived from services provided to the finished asphalt product processing and marketing operations of SemCorp and from services provided to the crude oil purchasing, marketing and distribution operations of SemCorp. After SemCorp's bankruptcy filings, we have worked to stabilize our business and currently derive a substantial majority of our revenues from services provided to third parties.

In connection with the events related to the bankruptcy filings, certain events of default occurred under our prior credit agreement. Subsequently, we entered into various amendments to our prior credit agreement, but from the time of the bankruptcy filings until the refinancing discussed below, substantially all of our cash generated from operations was used to service our debt. In addition, our prior credit facility was scheduled to mature on June 30, 2011, and all then outstanding borrowings would have been due and payable at that time. As of October 25, 2010 (immediately prior to the refinancing discussed below), we had \$424.7 million in outstanding borrowings under our prior credit facility at an average annual interest rate of 11.0%. In addition, we were obligated to pay (i) \$10.1 million in deferred interest on June 30, 2011 if the prior credit facility was not refinanced prior to January 6, 2011, (ii) an additional interest payment that was going to be due in the amount of \$4.2 million on April 6, 2011 and (iii) minimum quarterly amortization payments that were going to be due in the amount of \$2.5 million on each of December 31, 2010 and March 31, 2011.

Pursuant to restrictions in our prior credit facility, we were prohibited from making distributions to our unitholders. We did not make a distribution to our common unitholders or subordinated unitholders for the quarters ended June 30, 2008 through March 31, 2011 due, in part, to restrictions under our prior credit agreement and the uncertainty of our future cash flows relating to SemCorp's bankruptcy filings. After giving effect to the nonpayment of distributions for the quarters ended June 30, 2008 through March 31, 2011, each common unit was entitled to an arrearage of \$3.75, or total arrearages for all common units of \$82.1 million based upon 21,890,224 common units outstanding as of March 31, 2011, before any distribution of operating surplus would be paid to the holders of the subordinated units. Pursuant to our credit facility, we are permitted to make quarterly distributions of available cash to unitholders so long as: (i) no default or event of default exists

Table of Contents

under our credit agreement, (ii) we have, on a pro forma basis after giving effect to such distribution, at least \$10.0 million of availability under our revolving loan facility, and (iii) our consolidated total leverage ratio, on a pro forma basis, would not be greater than (x) 4.50 to 1.00 for any fiscal quarter on or prior to the fiscal quarter ending June 30, 2011, (y) 4.25 to 1.00 for the fiscal quarters ending September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2011, or (z) 4.00 to 1.00 for any fiscal quarter ending on or after March 31, 2012. Our consolidated total leverage ratio (calculated in accordance with our credit agreement) as of March 31, 2011 was 4.05 to 1.00.

On October 25, 2010 we entered into a Global Transaction Agreement with our general partner, Blueknight Energy Holding, Inc. (a subsidiary of Vitol) and CB-Blueknight, LLC (a subsidiary of Charlesbank). In connection with the execution of the Global Transaction Agreement, Vitol sold Charlesbank one-half of the interest in the entity that owns our general partner and 50% of our outstanding subordinated units (such sale was consummated on November 12, 2010). The Global Transaction Agreement outlined a series of transactions related to the refinancing of our prior debt and the recapitalization of our securities. Generally, these transactions were separated into three types of transactions: (i) Phase I Transactions (which were consummated on October 25, 2010), (ii) Unitholder Vote Transactions and (iii) Phase II Transactions. Such transactions as set forth in the Global Transaction Agreement are described in more detail in Proposal One: The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal Special Factors Background of the Refinancing and Related Transactions.

On May 12, 2011, we entered into the First Amendment to the Global Transaction Agreement (the Amendment) pursuant to which the Unitholder Vote Transactions and the Phase II Transactions contemplated in the Global Transaction Agreement were modified as described in more detail herein. The Unitholder Vote Transactions were modified to reflect the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal. In addition, the Phase II Transactions were modified such that if the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved, then (i) our general partner will adopt the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement to reflect the approval of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal as discussed below under Proposal One: The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal as well as other amendments that our general partner may make in accordance with the provisions of our partnership agreement as set forth therein, (ii) our capital structure will be simplified through the transfer, and corresponding cancellation, of all outstanding subordinated units as discussed below under Proposal One: The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal Cancellation of Subordinated Units, and (iii) we will undertake a rights offering discussed below under Proposal One: The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal Rights Offering. Unless the context requires otherwise, references herein to the Global Transaction Agreement include such agreement as amended by the Amendment.

The Global Transaction Agreement requires our general partner to take all action necessary to call, hold and convene a special meeting of our unitholders to consider the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal discussed below under Proposal One: The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal. The transactions contemplated by the Global Transaction Agreement, including the new credit facility, the issuance of Preferred Units and Convertible Debentures, the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal, the cancellation of the subordinated units and the rights offering, are collectively referred to as the refinancing and related transactions.

Proposal One: The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal

Pursuant to the terms of the Global Transaction Agreement, our general partner has agreed to call the special meeting of our unitholders to act on the following proposal, which we refer to as the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal, by which we would amend and restate our partnership agreement to:

reset (1) the minimum quarterly distribution to \$0.11 per unit per quarter from \$0.3125 per unit per quarter, (2) the first target distribution to \$0.1265 per unit per quarter from \$0.3594 per unit per quarter, (3) the second target distribution to \$0.1375 per unit per quarter from \$0.3906 per unit per quarter and (4) the third target distribution to \$0.1825 per unit per quarter from \$0.4688 per unit per quarter;

Table of Contents

waive the cumulative common unit arrearage;

remove provisions in our partnership agreement relating to the subordinated units, including concepts such as a subordination period (and any provisions that expressly apply only during the subordination period) and common unit arrearage, in connection with the transfer to us, and our subsequent cancellation, of all of our outstanding subordinated units;

provide that distributions shall not accrue or be paid to the holders of our incentive distribution rights for an eight quarter period beginning with the quarter in which the special meeting occurs;

provide that during Senior Security Restriction Period, we will not issue any Senior Securities without the consent of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding common units (excluding the common units held by our general partner and its affiliates and excluding any Senior Securities that are convertible into common units); *provided* that we may issue an unlimited number of Senior Securities during the Senior Security Restriction Period without obtaining such consent if (i) such issuances are made in connection with the conversion of our Convertible Debentures or the consummation of the rights offering and use of proceeds therefrom, (ii) issuances are made upon conversion, redemption or exchange of Senior Securities into or for Senior Securities of equal or lesser rank, where the aggregate amount of distributions that would have been paid with respect to such newly issued Senior Securities, plus the related distributions to our general partner, in respect of the four-quarter period ending prior to the first day of the quarter in which the issuance is to be consummated (assuming such newly issued Senior Securities had been outstanding throughout such period) would not have exceeded the distributions actually paid during such period on the Senior Securities that are to be converted, redeemed or exchanged, plus the related distributions to our general partner, (iii) such issuances are made in connection with the combination or subdivision of any class of Senior Securities, (iv) such issuances are made in connection with an acquisition or expansion capital improvement that increases estimated pro forma Adjusted Operating Surplus (as defined in our partnership agreement) (less estimated pro forma distributions on the Preferred Units and on any other Senior Securities) on a per-common unit basis, as determined in good faith by our general partner, as compared to actual Adjusted Operating Surplus (as defined in our partnership agreement) (less actual distributions on the Preferred Units and on any other Senior Securities) on a per-common unit basis or (v) the net proceeds of such issuances are used to repay indebtedness of our partnership or its subsidiaries; *provided, however*, that in the case of subsection (v) such new securities may not be issued to an affiliate of our general partner unless the cost to service any new indebtedness that we determine that we could issue to retire existing indebtedness (with our general partner's determination being conclusive) is greater than the distribution obligations associated with the Senior Securities issued in connection with its retirement and one or more of the following conditions are also met: (A) the indebtedness that is being repaid matures within 12 months of such repayment, or (B) such indebtedness has experienced a default or event of default (even if the lenders of such indebtedness have agreed to forebear or waive such default or event of default) or (C) our general partner expects to experience a default or event of default under such indebtedness within six months of such repayment (with our general partner's determination being conclusive);

provide that in addition to our partnership's current rights to convert the Preferred Units into common units, the Preferred Units will also be convertible in whole or in part at our option at any time on or after October 25, 2015 if (i) the daily volume-weighted average trading price of the common units is greater than 130% of the Conversion Price (as defined in our partnership agreement) for twenty out of the trailing thirty trading days ending two trading days before we furnish notice of conversion and (ii) the average trading volume of common units has exceeded 20,000 common units for twenty out of the trailing thirty trading days ending two trading days before we furnish notice of conversion; and

provide that the conversion of Preferred Units shall become effective (i) in the case of Preferred Units that are being converted pursuant to Section 5.12(c)(i) of our partnership agreement (relating to conversions at the election of the holder of such units), as of the last day of the quarter in which the relevant notice of conversion is delivered by the applicable unitholder and (ii) in the case of Preferred

Table of Contents

Units that are being converted pursuant to Section 5.12(c)(ii) of our partnership agreement (relating to conversions at the election of our partnership), as of the date that the notice of conversion is delivered by us.

Cancellation of Subordinated Units

If the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved by our unitholders, then Vitol and Charlesbank will transfer to our partnership all of our 12,570,504 outstanding subordinated units, and we will then cancel such subordinated units.

In connection with the transfer of the subordinated units and the approval of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal, our general partner will execute and deliver the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement. The Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement will provide for elimination of subordinated units in our partnership agreement, including the elimination of the concepts of a subordination period and arrearages on the common units.

Rights Offering

If the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved by our unitholders, then we have agreed to undertake a rights offering. Pursuant to the rights offering, we will distribute to our existing common unitholders 0.5412 of a detachable, freely-tradable right for each outstanding common unit. Each whole right will entitle the holder to acquire, for an exercise price of \$6.50, a newly-issued Preferred Unit and will remain outstanding and exercisable for approximately 30 days. In this proxy statement, we refer to the distribution of rights and the related offering of Preferred Units for which the rights are exercisable, and the issuance of those Preferred Units to the extent that the rights are exercised as the rights offering.

Each of our common unitholders who timely exercise their rights in full will be entitled to purchase any Preferred Units that our other common unitholders do not purchase pursuant to their basic subscription privileges (the undersubscribed units), subject to a pro rata allocation of any undersubscribed units among holders exercising their oversubscription privileges. The pro rata allocation will be based on the relative number of Preferred Units such common unitholder acquired upon the initial exercise of his or her rights.

The proceeds of the rights offering will be used in the following order until all such proceeds are exhausted: (a) first, to pay for any and all expenses relating to conducting the rights offering, (b) second, to redeem our Convertible Debentures for an amount equal to the principal amount of such Convertible Debentures plus any interest payable thereon (such redemption to be pro rata among Vitol and Charlesbank if the net proceeds from the rights offering are less than the amount required to redeem such Convertible Debentures in full), (c) third, to repurchase, on a pro rata basis, up to a maximum of \$22 million of Preferred Units from Vitol and Charlesbank at a purchase price of \$6.50 per unit plus any pro rata distribution for the quarter in which such units are repurchased and (d) thereafter, for general partnership purposes.

Unitholders who do not exercise their rights in full should expect that they will, at the completion of the rights offering, own a smaller proportional interest in us than would otherwise be the case had they exercised their rights in full. While we anticipate that the rights will be transferable and listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market, there will not be an established trading market for the rights and there can be no assurance that a market will develop for the rights. Even if a market for the rights does develop, the price of the rights may fluctuate and liquidity may be limited. As a result, holders of the rights may be unable to resell the rights or may only be able to sell them at an unfavorable price.

Recommendation of the Conflicts Committee Regarding the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal

After considering the various positive and negative factors more fully described in Proposal One: The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal Special Factors Recommendation of the Conflicts Committee

Table of Contents

and Its Reasons for the Refinancing and Related Transactions, the Conflicts Committee, which was delegated the authority to negotiate and evaluate the Global Transaction Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, has unanimously:

determined that the Global Transaction Agreement, including the Unitholder Vote Transactions and the Phase II Transactions as modified by the Amendment, and related transactions are advisable, fair and reasonable to, and in the best interests of our partnership and our public unitholders;

approved the Global Transaction Agreement, including the Unitholder Vote Transactions and the Phase II Transactions as modified by the Amendment, and the documents and transactions contemplated thereby;

recommended that our board of directors approve the Global Transaction Agreement, including the Unitholder Vote Transactions and the Phase II Transactions as modified by the Amendment, and the documents and transactions contemplated thereby; and

recommended our public unitholders vote to approve the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

Therefore, the Conflicts Committee recommends that our public unitholders vote to approve the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

Recommendation of our Board of Directors Regarding the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal

After considering various factors, including the unanimous recommendation of the Conflicts Committee, our board of directors has:

determined that the Global Transaction Agreement, including the Unitholder Vote Transactions and the Phase II Transactions as modified by the Amendment, and related transactions are in the best interests of our partnership;

approved the Global Transaction Agreement, including the Unitholder Vote Transactions and the Phase II Transactions as modified by the Amendment, and the documents and transactions contemplated thereby; and

recommended our unitholders vote to approve the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

Therefore, our board of directors recommends that our unitholders vote to approve the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

Opinion of Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated Financial Advisor to the Conflicts Committee

The Conflicts Committee received an opinion from Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated (Baird), its independent financial advisor, to the effect that, as of the date of its opinion and based upon and subject to the various assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in the opinion, the Amended GTA Transactions (as defined below) are fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership. The opinion is attached as Annex B to this proxy statement.

Proposal Two: The LTIP Proposal

Blueknight Energy Partners G.P., L.L.C., our general partner, intends to adopt an amendment and restatement of the Blueknight Energy Partners Long-Term Incentive Plan, which we refer to as the Proposed LTIP, subject to the approval of our unitholders. A summary description of the Proposed LTIP is set forth under Proposal Two: The LTIP Proposal Summary of the Proposed LTIP and the form of Proposed LTIP is attached as Annex C to this proxy statement.

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

Our common units are listed on the Nasdaq Global Market. We are asking for approval of the LTIP Proposal to comply with Nasdaq's listing rules requiring unitholder approval of material amendments to an equity

Table of Contents

compensation plan, pursuant to which common units may be acquired by officers, directors, employees or consultants. The LTIP Proposal requires the approval of a majority of the votes cast by our unitholders. Vitol and Charlesbank own approximately 61% of our outstanding limited partner units and have indicated that they will vote for the LTIP Proposal.

Awards under our general partner's existing incentive plan are limited to 1,250,000 units. As of June 6, 2011, there were 307,400 unvested common units underlying phantom units and restricted units outstanding under the existing incentive plan and there were no common units underlying unit options and unit appreciation rights outstanding under the existing incentive plan. As of June 6, 2011, approximately 177,376 common units remained available for future awards to participants under the existing incentive plan. Subject to adjustment for certain events, the Proposed LTIP increases the number of common units that may be granted for any and all awards by 1,350,000 common units to a total of 2,600,000 common units. After such increase, 1,527,376 common units will be available for future awards under the Proposed LTIP. On June 6, 2011, the closing price of our common units was \$8.00.

Recommendation of our Board of Directors Regarding the LTIP Proposal

After considering the various factors more fully described in Proposal Two: The LTIP Proposal Reasons for the Board of Directors Recommendation, our board of directors has:

determined that the Proposed LTIP is in the best interests of our partnership; and

recommended our unitholders vote to approve the LTIP Proposal.

Therefore, our board of directors recommends that our unitholders vote to approve the LTIP Proposal.

Table of Contents

Our Structure and Ownership

Our general partner is the general partner of our partnership. Our general partner makes all determinations on behalf of our partnership, including determinations related to the conduct of our partnership's business and operations. As a result, the executive officers of our general partner, under the direction of the board of directors of our general partner, make all decisions on behalf of our partnership with respect to the conduct of our business. The following table sets forth our ownership prior to the transfer of our outstanding subordinated units to us and the consummation of the rights offering (and use of proceeds thereof) that will take place if the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth our ownership assuming the approval of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal, the transfer of our outstanding subordinated units to us and the consummation in full of the rights offering (and use of proceeds thereof).

- (1) Assumes that our general partner does not contribute capital to us to maintain its general partner interest in connection with the rights offering and the issuance of Preferred Units in connection therewith and/or the conversion of the Convertible Debentures.

Information About the Special Meeting and Voting

Time, Date and Place

The special meeting will be held on _____, 2011 at _____, local time, at _____.

Purpose

Our unitholders are being asked to consider the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and the LTIP Proposal. The persons named in the accompanying proxy card will have discretionary authority to vote on other business, if any, that properly comes before the special meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Unitholders Entitled to Vote

Holders of our common units, subordinated units and Preferred Units as of _____, 2011, the record date for the special meeting, will be entitled to vote at the special meeting; *provided*, that holders of our Preferred

Table of Contents

Units will not be entitled to vote on the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal. Holders of our common units, subordinated units and Preferred Units as of the record date will be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum. Each unitholder may cast one vote at the special meeting for each common unit, subordinated unit or Preferred Unit owned at the close of business on the record date. On the record date, there were common units, 12,570,504 subordinated units and 21,538,462 Preferred Units outstanding and entitled to be voted at the special meeting.

Required Unitholder Votes

Under our partnership agreement, the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal requires approval by (i) our general partner, (ii) a majority of the outstanding common units (excluding common units owned by our general partner and its affiliates and excluding persons or groups beneficially owning 20% or more of our outstanding common units) and (iii) a majority of the outstanding subordinated units.

Based on the number of our common units expected to be outstanding on the record date, approximately common units owned by our public unitholders must be voted in favor of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

Pursuant to the Global Transaction Agreement, both Vitol and Charlesbank, as the owners of all of our outstanding subordinated units, have agreed to vote all of their subordinated units in favor of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal. As such, we are contractually assured of receiving the approval of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal by holders of a majority of our outstanding subordinated units.

The LTIP Proposal requires the approval of a majority of the votes cast by our unitholders. Vitol and Charlesbank own approximately 61% of our outstanding limited partner units and have indicated that they will vote for the LTIP Proposal.

Interests of Certain Persons in the Proposals

In considering the recommendations of our Conflicts Committee and our board of directors relating to the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal, you should be aware that some of the executive officers and directors of our general partner have interests in the refinancing and related transactions that may differ from, or may be in addition to, the interests of our unitholders generally. These interests are more fully described under **Special Factors** **Interests of Certain Persons in the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal**.

In considering the recommendations of our board of directors relating to the LTIP Proposal, you should be aware that the officers and employees of our general partner, its affiliates and our subsidiaries and the members of our board of directors will be eligible to receive awards under the Proposed LTIP if it is approved. Accordingly, the members of our board of directors and the executive officers of our general partner have a substantial interest in the approval of the LTIP Proposal.

Material Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Proposals

Tax matters associated with the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and the LTIP Proposal are complicated. The tax consequences to a common unitholder will depend on such unitholder's own personal tax situation and such unitholder's subsequent investment decisions and actions. You are urged to consult your tax advisor for a full understanding of the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and the LTIP Proposal that will be applicable to you.

The federal income tax consequences described below may not apply to some holders of the common units. Please read **Material Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Proposals and Related Transactions** for a more complete discussion of the federal income tax consequences of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and the LTIP Proposal.

Table of Contents

The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal

The proposed changes which will occur pursuant to the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal are not expected to have any material adverse tax impact on common unitholders.

The exercise of the rights in exchange for Preferred Units generally will not be taxable to an exercising common unitholder. For a discussion of certain material federal income tax consequences resulting from the ownership of Preferred Units, please read *Material Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Proposals and Related Transactions* The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

The LTIP Proposal

The following discussion is for general information only and is intended to briefly summarize the U.S. federal tax consequences to participants in the Proposed LTIP. For a more detailed discussion of certain material federal income tax consequences resulting from participation in the Proposed LTIP, please read *Material Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Proposals and Related Transactions* The LTIP Proposal. You should consult your own tax advisor concerning the particular tax consequences resulting from participation in the Proposed LTIP.

Unit Options; Unit Appreciation Rights. Participants in the Proposed LTIP will not realize taxable income upon the grant of a unit option or a unit appreciation right. Upon the exercise or, if later, the settlement of a unit option or a unit appreciation right, a participant will recognize ordinary compensation income in an amount equal to the excess of (i) the amount of cash or the fair market value of the common units received, over (ii) the exercise price (if any) paid therefor. A participant will generally have a tax basis in any common units received pursuant to the exercise of a unit appreciation right, or pursuant to the cash exercise of a unit option, that equals the fair market value of the common units on the date of exercise.

When a participant sells the common units acquired as a result of the exercise of a unit option or unit appreciation right, any appreciation (or depreciation) in the value of the common units after the exercise date is treated as long- or short-term capital gain (or loss) for federal income tax purposes, depending on the holding period. The common units must be held for more than 12 months in order to qualify for long-term capital gain treatment.

Phantom Unit Awards; Restricted Unit Awards; Other Awards. A participant in the Proposed LTIP will recognize ordinary compensation income upon receipt of cash pursuant to a cash award or, if earlier, at the time the cash is otherwise made available for the participant to draw upon. A participant will not have taxable income at the time of a grant of an award in the form of a phantom unit award, but rather, will generally recognize ordinary compensation income at the time he receives common units or a cash payment in satisfaction of the phantom unit award in an amount equal to the fair market value of the common units received or the cash payment, whichever is applicable. In addition, the participant will be subject to ordinary income tax upon the payment of a distribution equivalent right. In general, a participant will recognize ordinary compensation income as a result of the receipt of common units pursuant to a restricted unit award or a unit award in an amount equal to the fair market value of the common units when the common units are received, provided, that if the common units are not transferable or are subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture when received, the participant will recognize ordinary compensation income in an amount equal to the fair market value of common units (i) when the common units first become transferable or are no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, in cases where a Participant does not make a valid election under Section 83(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (ii) when the common units are received, in cases where a participant makes a valid election under Section 83(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL ONE: THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Special Factors

Background of the Refinancing and Related Transactions

We are a publicly traded master limited partnership with operations in twenty-two states. We provide integrated terminalling, storage, processing, gathering and transportation services for companies engaged in the production, distribution and marketing of crude oil and asphalt product.

We were formed in 2007 as an indirect subsidiary of SemCorp. In July 2007, we completed our initial public offering and our acquisition of substantially all of SemCorp's crude oil gathering, transportation terminalling and storage assets in connection therewith. In February 2008, we completed a follow-on public equity offering of 6,900,000 common units and the acquisition of substantially all of SemCorp's domestic owned asphalt terminalling and storage assets. In May 2008, we acquired the following assets from SemCorp: (i) the Eagle North Pipeline System (a 130-mile, 8-inch pipeline that originates in Ardmore, Oklahoma and terminates in Drumright, Oklahoma as well as other real and personal property related to the pipeline) and (ii) certain land, crude oil storage and terminalling facilities with an aggregate of approximately 2.0 million barrels of storage capacity and related assets located at the Cushing Interchange and we assumed a related take-or-pay, fee-based contract with Vitrol relating to such storage capacity.

On July 17, 2008, we issued a press release announcing that SemCorp was experiencing liquidity issues and was exploring various alternatives, including raising additional equity, debt capital or the filing of a voluntary petition for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code to address these issues. On July 22, 2008, and thereafter, SemCorp and certain of its subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Bankruptcy Filings"). We and our general partner were not debtors in the Bankruptcy Filings.

In connection with SemCorp's liquidity issues, in July 2008, Manchester and Alerian exercised certain rights under loan documents with SemGroup Holdings, L.P., a subsidiary of SemCorp that at such time was the owner of our general partner, to vote the membership interests of our general partner in order to reconstitute our board of directors (the "Manchester Change of Control"). In connection therewith, Messrs. Sundar S. Srinivasan, David N. Bernfeld and Gabriel Hammond (each of whom was affiliated with Manchester or Alerian) were appointed to our board of directors and Mr. Srinivasan was elected as Chairman of our board of directors. Messrs. Brian F. Billings and Edward F. Kosnik remained as independent directors of our board of directors and continued to serve as members of the Conflicts Committee, Audit Committee and Compensation Committee of our board of directors. On October 1, 2008, Mr. Dave Miller (who was affiliated with Manchester) was appointed as a member of our board of directors and Mr. Duke R. Ligon was appointed as a member of our board of directors and a member of the Conflicts Committee, Audit Committee and Compensation Committee. On March 20, 2009, Alerian transferred to Manchester its interest in the loan documents with SemGroup Holdings, L.P. The financial terms of the Manchester Change of Control were not made public.

On September 2, 2008, our general partner engaged UBS Investment Bank ("UBS") to assist us in exploring strategic alternatives for our business and assets.

From September 2008 through November 2008, representatives of UBS assisted in the preparation of confidential information memoranda to solicit indications of interest from potential purchasers of our asphalt assets and potential purchasers of our crude oil assets. We distributed these confidential information memoranda during the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009 to solicit interest in the potential acquisition of our assets.

On January 9, 2009, Mr. Srinivasan resigned as a member of our board of directors and as the Chairman of our board of directors. Mr. Ligon was elected as Chairman of our board of directors.

Table of Contents

During the first quarter of 2009, we negotiated a settlement of certain matters with SemCorp (the Settlement). We and SemCorp executed definitive documentation, in the form of a master agreement (the Master Agreement) and certain other transaction documents to effectuate the Settlement. SemCorp's bankruptcy court entered an order approving the Master Agreement and the Settlement on April 7, 2009. The Settlement provided for various items, including (i) the transfer by us of certain assets to SemCorp, (ii) the transfer by SemCorp of certain assets to us, (iii) the rejection in the bankruptcy cases of certain agreements we had with SemCorp and (iv) the entering into certain shared services and transition services agreements with SemCorp. The Settlement and related transactions are described in greater detail in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 filed with the SEC on March 30, 2010.

During the first quarter of 2009, we received an indication of interest regarding our crude oil assets from Vitol and management began discussions with Vitol in connection with a potential transaction involving such assets. On April 3, 2009, Vitol sent a letter to Mr. Ligon, the Chairman of our board of directors, proposing a joint venture transaction involving our crude oil assets (the Joint Venture Proposal). The principal terms of the Joint Venture Proposal included, among other items, the following:

the formation of a new joint venture entity (AssetCo) that would be jointly owned by Vitol and us;

the contribution by Vitol of \$250 million to AssetCo for a 50% interest in AssetCo and the contribution by us of our crude oil assets to AssetCo for a 50% interest in AssetCo;

a special distribution by AssetCo to us of \$250 million that would be used to repay a portion of our prior credit facility;

an agreement that AssetCo would enter into a five-year terminalling agreement at market rates with respect to AssetCo's terminal and storage assets at Cushing, Oklahoma;

the establishment by Vitol of a new company (MarketingCo), which would acquire all of the crude oil originated by us or AssetCo;

the receipt by AssetCo of 50% of the annual net profits of MarketingCo and the periodic distribution by AssetCo of available cash to us and Vitol;

certain rights of first refusal on the transfer of the membership interests of AssetCo; and

our agreement that certain crude oil terminalling, storage, gathering and transportation opportunities will be first offered to AssetCo. The Joint Venture Proposal was conditioned upon obtaining final approval from Vitol's board of directors, completion of satisfactory due diligence by Vitol, satisfactory negotiation and execution of definitive agreements, obtaining any required releases or consents under our prior credit agreement and obtaining any required approvals from third parties and governmental authorities. The proposal expired on April 13, 2009 and requested exclusivity and rights of first refusal on any other strategic alternatives involving our crude oil assets.

On April 8, 2009, our board of directors met to discuss the Joint Venture Proposal. Our board of directors determined that management should express to Vitol that our partnership and our board of directors were interested in further discussing the possibility of entering into a joint venture and that UBS would assist in the evaluation of the Joint Venture Proposal.

On May 15, 2009, Mr. Miller, a director who was affiliated with Manchester, and Mr. Michael Brochetti, who was serving as our general partner's Executive Vice President Corporate Development and Treasurer, updated our board of directors regarding the negotiations with Vitol and other third parties relating to possible strategic transactions involving our assets.

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

On May 15, 2009, Mr. Miller, on behalf of our partnership, responded to Vitol's Joint Venture Proposal with a counteroffer (the Joint Venture Counterproposal) that included the items included in the Joint Venture Proposal with certain modifications including, among others, the following items:

the contribution by Vitol of \$325 million (rather than \$250 million) to AssetCo for a 50% interest in AssetCo;

Table of Contents

a special distribution by AssetCo to us of \$325 million (rather than \$250 million) that would be used to repay a portion of our prior credit facility;

an unsecured loan of \$60 million to be made by Vitol to us at an annual interest rate of LIBOR plus 300 basis points with a three year maturity with the funds of such unsecured loan to be used to repay a portion of our prior credit facility;

the repayment of the remaining portion of our prior credit facility through proceeds received by us from (i) an equity issuance to an affiliate of Manchester or (ii) a secured note issued to such affiliate in an amount not to exceed \$55 million;

the receipt by AssetCo of 100% of the first \$45 million of annual net profits of MarketingCo with AssetCo receiving 50% of the annual net profits in excess of \$45 million; and

a guarantee by Vitol of annual net profits of MarketingCo of not less than \$10 million during 2009, \$18 million for 2010 and \$24 million for each year thereafter through and including 2023.

The Joint Venture Counterproposal was conditioned upon the same items as the Joint Venture Proposal with the additional condition of approval by our board of directors and completion of our satisfactory due diligence. The counterproposal expired on May 25, 2009 and requested exclusivity on any other strategic alternatives involving our crude oil assets but it eliminated the right of first refusal on other strategic transactions.

On May 26, 2009, the Conflicts Committee, consisting of Messrs. Billings, Kosnik and Ligon, met to discuss the appropriate level of the committee's involvement in the negotiations relating to the Joint Venture Proposal. The Conflicts Committee discussed potential conflicts of interest that could arise in connection with the Joint Venture Proposal if Manchester were to have a financial interest in the transaction. The committee further discussed the provisions in our partnership agreement regarding conflict transactions and the committee's desire to receive regular updates regarding the status of the negotiations.

On June 5, 2009, the Conflicts Committee met to discuss the duties of the members of the committee relating to proposals for strategic transactions involving our assets and business. The committee further discussed the negotiation of the Joint Venture Proposal and possible conflicts of interest if the transaction were presented to the committee for its consideration. The Conflicts Committee requested a meeting of our board of directors and to be updated as to the negotiations with Vitol and other third parties relating to possible strategic transactions.

On June 15, 2009, our board of directors met and representatives of UBS made a presentation to our board of directors that included a general overview of the master limited partnership, or MLP, market and our position in such market. Among other items, our board of directors and representatives of UBS discussed the volatility in the MLP market, acquisitions that occurred during 2009 in the MLP market and considerations that are important to investors in the MLP market. Messrs. Miller and Brochetti also updated our board of directors on the negotiations with Vitol and other third parties relating to possible strategic transactions.

On July 1, 2009, our board of directors met and received an update regarding the negotiations with Vitol and other third parties relating to possible strategic transactions involving our assets. Among other items, our board of directors discussed the preliminary nature of the discussions with third parties and that it was too early to know the outcome of any of the various potential strategic opportunities.

On July 21, 2009, our board of directors met and again received an update regarding the negotiations with Vitol and other third parties relating to possible strategic transactions involving our assets. In addition, Mr. David Bernfeld, a director who was affiliated with Manchester, explained that Manchester desired to foreclose on the membership interests in our general partner and our subordinated units in SemCorp's bankruptcy proceedings but that this foreclosure was tied up in the bankruptcy proceedings and that this process could complicate a strategic transaction.

Table of Contents

On July 31, 2009, the Conflicts Committee met with Messrs. James Dyer and Javed Ahmed, representatives of Vitol, to discuss the Proposed Joint Venture and negotiations related thereto. Also in attendance at the meeting were Messrs. Dave Miller and David Bernfeld, directors affiliated with Manchester, Sundar Srinivasan, a former director who was affiliated with Manchester, Gabriel Hammond, a director affiliated with Alerian, members of management of our general partner, representatives of UBS, our partnership's and the Conflicts Committee's legal counsel, a representative of JPMorgan, financial advisor to Vitol, and legal counsel for Vitol. During the meeting, Mr. Dyer explained that Vitol had been in discussions with representatives of our general partner regarding a proposed transaction between Vitol and us and that such transaction had evolved from Vitol's original proposal. Mr. Dyer informed the Conflicts Committee that the proposed transaction now included Vitol's acquisition of the membership interests in our general partner from Manchester. In that regard Vitol and Manchester entered into a mutual exclusivity agreement through September 30, 2009, with the intent to execute definitive agreements to complete the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions as described in more detail below. Mr. Dyer and the Conflicts Committee discussed in high level detail the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions. The Conflicts Committee noted that our board of directors had not yet received a term sheet from Vitol detailing the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions. Mr. Dyer indicated that he would send a formal proposal for consideration.

At the meeting, the Conflicts Committee also discussed (i) Manchester's view of the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions, (ii) Manchester's understanding that Vitol was no longer considering the Joint Venture Proposal because Vitol did not believe that the lenders under our prior credit facility would allow us to transfer our crude oil assets to a joint venture that we did not control, (iii) management's view of the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions, (iv) management's efforts to obtain proposals from other third parties, (v) whether a unitholder vote would be required to reset our minimum quarterly distribution and (vi) the advantages and disadvantages of the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions. In addition, the Conflicts Committee determined to engage UBS as its financial advisor for consideration of the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions subject to negotiation and execution of an engagement letter. As discussed above, UBS had previously been engaged by our general partner to assist us in exploring strategic alternatives for our business and assets. Representing the Conflicts Committee would require UBS to terminate its engagement with our general partner such that UBS would only be engaged by and report to the Conflicts Committee.

After conclusion of the Conflicts Committee meeting on July 31, 2009, Mr. Miller distributed a term sheet to the Conflicts Committee outlining the details of the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions as discussed during the Conflicts Committee meeting. The 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions included the following transactions:

Vitol/Manchester Transactions:

Vitol would enter into a definitive agreement with Manchester to acquire 85% of the interest in our general partner and 85% of our outstanding subordinated units (collectively, the Tranche 1 Units) for a purchase price of \$63.75 million;

in the event the securities class action litigation pending against us is resolved such that the settlement payments (settlement amounts paid plus out-of-pocket costs net of any insurance reimbursement) are less than \$10 million, then Vitol would pay Manchester an additional amount equal to 85% multiplied by an amount equal to \$5 million less the product of the settlement payments multiplied by 50%;

in the event the reset of the minimum quarterly distribution (discussed below) is consummated, then Vitol would pay Manchester an additional \$12.75 million for its Tranche 1 Units and an additional \$2.25 million for the remaining 15% interest in our general partner and our outstanding subordinated units (the Tranche 2 Units);

Vitol and Manchester would enter into a Unitholders Rights Agreement which would provide, among other things, that (i) Vitol would have a right for three years to require Manchester to sell the Tranche 2 Units to Vitol at fair market value and (ii) Manchester would have a right for three

Table of Contents

years to require Vitol to purchase the Tranche 2 Units at fair market value. If the put or call is exercised in the first year, then the purchase price for the Tranche 2 Units would be \$11.25 million (increasing to \$13.5 million if the minimum quarterly distribution is reset). Vitol would also pay Manchester an additional amount for the Tranche 2 Units upon the settlement of the securities class action litigation in the same manner as outlined above except that the percentage will be 15% instead of 85%; and

the execution of the option agreement discussed below would be a condition precedent to Vitol's obligation to consummate the transaction with Manchester;

Vitol/Partnership Transactions:

Concurrently with Vitol and Manchester entering into a definitive purchase agreement, Vitol and our partnership would enter into a definitive option agreement which would provide for the following:

Vitol would have the option (but not the obligation) to acquire 100,000 preferred units (or at Vitol's option, convertible debt) for a purchase price of \$100 million;

if the minimum quarterly distribution reset as discussed below is not approved by our unitholders, then Vitol would receive warrants to purchase 3 million common units (the MQD Warrant) at an exercise price of \$0.01 per unit;

if the waiver of outstanding arrearages discussed below is not approved by our unitholders, then Vitol would receive warrants to purchase 2 million common units (the Arrearage Warrant) at an exercise price of \$0.01 per unit;

Vitol would have the option to require Vitol and our partnership to enter into a marketing agreement pursuant to which Vitol would receive 80% of the annual net profits and we would receive 20% of the annual net profits;

our partnership would be required to issue additional preferred units to Vitol in the event the settlement costs of the securities class action litigation (the costs, including expenses, of settling the class action litigation net of insurance proceeds) exceeded the amount reserved on our books as of the closing date of the transactions; and

we would be required to call a special meeting of our unitholders for the purposes of considering the reset of our minimum quarterly distribution the waiver of outstanding arrearages on the common units as discussed below;

the proposed preferred units would:

have a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per preferred unit;

include the ability to convert into common units at a conversion rate equal to 75% of the current market price of our common units but not to exceed \$4.50; and

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

contain a distribution preference of 14% payable quarterly, with such distribution (including arrearages) being paid before any distribution is paid on our common units;

in the event that the minimum quarterly distribution on our common units was reset, then the following would occur:

Vitol would be obligated (instead of having the option) to purchase the \$100 million of preferred stock;

the dividend preference on the preferred units would be eliminated such that the preferred units would receive distributions on a pari passu basis with the common units;

the MQD Warrant would be forfeited;

the profit allocation under the marketing agreement would be adjusted such that Vitol would receive 60% of the annual net profits and we would receive 40% of the annual net profits;

Table of Contents

Vitol would commit to purchase up to \$25 million of additional preferred units if we needed such funds for capital projects, and the conversion price for such preferred units would be the fair market value of the common units at the time of such investment; and

if the minimum quarterly distribution reset occurs after October 1, 2009, then any arrearage occurring after October 1, 2009 would be calculated at the adjusted minimum quarterly distribution (and any excess arrearages eliminated);

in the event that our unitholders approved a proposal to accept a \$20 million special distribution in full satisfaction of the common unit arrearages and waive all other arrearages on the common units, the Arrearage Warrant would be cancelled and Vitol would purchase an additional \$20 million of preferred units to fund such distribution; and

Vitol and our partnership would enter into amendments to the existing crude storage contracts among the parties to (i) extend the term for an additional three-year period to December 31, 2015 at fair market rates, (ii) obtain additional capacity of one to two million barrels of Cushing storage as soon as such capacity was available and (iii) provide Vitol the option to extend the foregoing storage arrangements for two five-year periods at market rates.

On August 4, 2009, our board of directors met and, among other things, discussed the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions. Because the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions included transactions with Manchester, our board of directors discussed the fact that a conflict of interest may exist between the interests of our general partner and its controlling affiliates, including Manchester, on the one hand, and the interests of our partnership and our public unitholders, on the other hand. Further, our board of directors discussed the provisions of our partnership agreement relating to the consideration of the transactions when a conflict of interest exists, including the provisions in Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement. In accordance with the provisions of our partnership agreement, our board of directors (i) authorized and empowered the Conflicts Committee to evaluate and negotiate the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions on behalf of our partnership and our public unitholders, (ii) resolved that the Conflicts Committee shall not have any duty to consider the interests of our general partner or its controlling affiliates, including Manchester, in considering the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions, (iii) authorized the officers, agents and employees of our general partner to assist the Conflicts Committee and (iv) authorized and empowered the Conflicts Committee to retain such professional advisors (including attorneys, investment bankers, accountants and other similar advisors) as it deemed necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its business judgment.

After the August 4, 2009 meeting of our board of directors, the Conflicts Committee met 13 times from August 6, 2009 to September 21, 2009 in connection with its negotiation and evaluation of the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions. The Conflicts Committee formally engaged UBS as its financial advisor to assist it in the negotiation and evaluation of the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions and any future financing or sale transactions pursuant to an engagement letter entered into as of August 3, 2009. In addition, the Conflicts Committee had previously retained Prickett, Jones & Elliott, P.A. (Prickett Jones) as its legal counsel and consulted and relied on advice from such counsel, as well as from Baker Botts L.L.P., counsel to our partnership (Baker Botts), during the committee's negotiation and evaluation of the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions. The Conflicts Committee also consulted and relied upon the advice of management of our general partner in connection with its negotiation and evaluation of the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions. The committee negotiated with both Vitol and Manchester regarding various aspects of the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions. In addition, the Conflicts Committee participated in multiple discussions regarding its duties under Delaware law and the provisions of our partnership agreement relating to the consideration and approval of conflict transactions, including the provisions for Special Approval included in Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement. Ultimately, an agreement was not reached by our partnership and Vitol in 2009 because of the interrelated nature of the transactions between Vitol and Manchester, on the one hand, and the transactions between Vitol and our partnership, on the other hand. The Conflicts Committee suggested a one-step transaction that would be subject to unitholder vote (i.e., both the closing of Vitol's transaction with Manchester and our partnership's transaction with Vitol would be subject to the prior approval of our unitholders) or a two-step

Table of Contents

transaction in which Vitol would first purchase the interests in our general partner from Manchester and then negotiate a subsequent transaction with our partnership thereby decoupling the two transactions. Vitol and Manchester continued to pursue a transaction among themselves independent of any transaction with our partnership.

On October 8, 2009, we issued a press release announcing that we had been informed that Manchester had entered into an agreement with Vitol pursuant to which Vitol would acquire the membership interests in our general partner and our subordinated units from Manchester. On November 24, 2009, Vitol completed the acquisition of the membership interests in our general partner and our subordinated units (the Vitol Change of Control). The financial terms of the Vitol Change of Control were not made public.

In connection with the Vitol Change of Control, our board of directors was reconstituted. Messrs. Kosnik, Hammond, Bernfeld and Miller resigned from our board of directors on November 24, 2009. Mr. Billings had previously resigned from our board of directors on September 30, 2009. Messrs. Miguel A. (Mike) Loya, Javed Ahmed, James C. Dyer, IV, Christopher G. Brown, Steven M. Bradshaw and John A. Shapiro were appointed to our board of directors on November 24, 2009. Messrs. Loya, Ahmed, Dyer and Brown are affiliated with Vitol. Messrs. Bradshaw and Shapiro are independent members of our board of directors and, together with Mr. Ligon, constitute the current members of the Conflicts Committee.

On February 9, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Baker Botts and reviewed the responsibilities of the Conflicts Committee as outlined in our partnership agreement and Delaware law. In addition, the Conflicts Committee interviewed representatives of various investment banks, including UBS, that could assist the committee in the event that a conflict transaction was referred to the committee for consideration. The Conflicts Committee also discussed a proposed storage agreement with Vitol relating to our facilities at Cushing, Oklahoma and a proposed omnibus agreement with Vitol whereby we would provide certain employees to Vitol. After discussion, the Conflicts Committee approved such agreements and recommended that our board of directors approve such agreements.

Following the Conflicts Committee meeting on February 9, 2010, our board of directors met, discussed and approved the proposed storage agreement and omnibus agreement with Vitol as recommended by the Conflicts Committee.

On May 25, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of each of Prickett Jones, the Conflicts Committee s legal counsel, Baker Botts, our partnership s legal counsel, and UBS, the Conflicts Committee s financial advisor. The Conflicts Committee discussed the MLP market, our partnership s position in the MLP market and restructurings that had been completed by other MLPs. The Conflicts Committee further discussed the fact that Vitol had not yet made a formal proposal relating to a possible refinancing of our partnership, but that if such proposal were made, the Conflicts Committee may be asked to review such proposal pursuant to Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement. The Conflicts Committee and its advisors discussed in detail the provisions of our partnership agreement and Delaware law relating to the consideration of a conflict transaction.

On June 2, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones and Baker Botts and discussed proposals that had been received by various banks relating to the possible refinancing of our partnership. UBS was one of the banks that had submitted such a proposal. The Conflicts Committee discussed UBS engagement as its financial advisor and the fact that a conflict could arise if UBS were engaged by the Partnership to participate in the refinancing. The Conflicts Committee further discussed the timing of a possible transaction.

On June 7, 2010, our board of directors met and discussed four proposals that had been received from banks relating to a possible refinancing of our partnership. In each case, the proposed interest rates were higher than management and members of our board of directors had expected. Representatives of UBS attended the meeting to hear potential options for refinancing our partnership. At the meeting, Javed Ahmed, one of the members of our board of directors who was affiliated with Vitol, presented a potential refinancing plan for our partnership

Table of Contents

and explained that Vitol was exploring various alternatives related to refinancing and that such refinancing may include a joint venture between Vitol and our partnership, the issuance of preferred units to Vitol and third party investors and the solicitation for our unitholders to approve a reset of the minimum quarterly distribution and to waive prior arrearages payable to our common unitholders. Mr. Ahmed explained that the discussion was not a formal proposal from Vitol as Vitol was still exploring various options and discussing those options with its board of directors. Our board of directors discussed the fact that any transactions related to our partnership's refinancing almost certainly would involve transactions with Vitol, which was an affiliate of our partnership and our general partner, and that a conflict may exist between the interests of our general partner and Vitol, on the one hand, and the interests of our partnership and our public unitholders, on the other hand. Our board of directors also discussed the provisions of our partnership agreement relating to conflict transactions, including Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement. After a detailed discussion, our board of directors (i) authorized and empowered the Conflicts Committee to evaluate and negotiate the refinancing transactions on behalf of our partnership and our public unitholders, (ii) resolved that the Conflicts Committee would not have any duty to consider the interests of our general partner or its controlling affiliates, including Vitol and its affiliates, in considering any refinancing transactions, (iii) authorized our general partner's officers, agents and employees to assist the Conflicts Committee and (iv) authorized and empowered the Conflicts Committee to retain such professional advisors as it deemed necessary or appropriate.

In addition, during the June 7, 2010 meeting, our board of directors discussed a proposed throughput capacity agreement with Vitol and a proposed vehicle lease arrangement with Vitol. Our board of directors delegated evaluation and negotiation of such transactions to the Conflicts Committee pursuant to Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement. Later on June 7, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with Prickett Jones and Baker Botts. Messrs. Dyer, Ahmed and Stallings also attended the meeting at the request of the Conflicts Committee. During such meeting, the Committee discussed the proposed throughput capacity agreement with Vitol and the proposed vehicle lease agreement with Vitol and approved both transactions.

After the June 7th meeting, representatives of UBS, at the request of the Conflicts Committee, met with Messrs. Dyer and Ahmed to discuss possible refinancing options for our partnership.

On June 9, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and UBS to receive a briefing regarding UBS meeting with Messrs. Dyer and Ahmed. A representative from UBS informed the Conflicts Committee that Vitol was exploring various options relating to a possible refinancing and recapitalization of our partnership and that among other items, Messrs. Dyer and Ahmed discussed entering into a joint venture relating to our crude oil assets or purchasing our crude oil assets outright. The committee discussed various alternatives for possible refinancing transactions and recent recapitalization transactions completed by other MLPs. In particular, the Conflicts Committee discussed completing a rights offering in connection with a potential refinancing of our partnership. In addition, the Conflicts Committee discussed in detail whether a sale of our partnership's crude oil assets would constitute a sale of all or substantially all of our partnership's assets under Delaware law and whether a unitholder vote would be required.

On June 10, 2010, representatives of UBS, at the request of the Conflicts Committee, met with Mr. Dyer and had additional discussions regarding possible refinancing options for our partnership.

On June 11, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and UBS. A representative of UBS reported to the Conflicts Committee that he had met with Mr. Dyer and that Mr. Dyer had subsequently sent him a preliminary draft document outlining certain possible refinancing transactions (the June 11 Preliminary Proposal). The Conflicts Committee discussed such proposal, including the preliminary nature of the proposal and the specific transactions contemplated therein. The June 11 Preliminary Proposal included the following transactions:

Step One Transactions:

the formation of a new joint venture entity (CrudeCo) that would be jointly owned by Vitol and our partnership;

Table of Contents

the contribution by Vitol of \$150 million to CrudeCo for a 50% interest in CrudeCo and the contribution by us of our crude oil assets to CrudeCo for a 50% interest in CrudeCo;

a special distribution by CrudeCo to us of \$150 million that would be used to repay a portion of our prior credit facility;

Vitol would agree that all of its U.S. investments in crude oil facilities must be conducted within CrudeCo;

CrudeCo and our partnership would enter into a management services agreement relating to the operation of CrudeCo's assets;

we would issue \$130 million of preferred units to Vitol and certain new third party investors;

Vitol would agree to underwrite up to \$30 million of such preferred units;

the terms of such preferred units would include:

a preference on distributions and liquidation; and

a preferred distribution rate of 11.5% with a 3% reduction upon successful completion of the step two transactions below;

Vitol would sell 6,258,000 of our subordinated units to such new third party investors for \$25 million; and

we would enter into a new \$150 million bank facility.

Step Two Transactions:

a vote of our unitholders would be sought to reduce our minimum quarterly distribution to an amount between \$0.08 and \$0.10 per common unit;

a vote of our unitholders would be sought to waive all arrearages in exchange to a special distribution between \$0.50 and \$1.00 per common unit with such amount to be paid ratably over twelve quarters; and

if the unitholders approve the aforementioned items then the distribution rate on the preferred units would be reduced by 3%.

We would seek to relist our common units on Nasdaq and would also consider a possible rights offering and registration of the preferred units on Nasdaq.

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

On June 15, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and UBS and discussed in detail the June 11 Preliminary Proposal and the Conflicts Committee's proposed responses to the June 11 Preliminary Proposal. The Conflicts Committee instructed UBS to prepare a term sheet with its proposed responses and discuss such responses with Vitol.

On June 16, 2010, representatives from UBS met with Mr. Dyer of Vitol and delivered the Conflicts Committee's response to the June 11 Preliminary Proposal (the June 16 Response) requesting the following changes to the transactions:

all transactions would occur simultaneously;

the contribution by Vitol of \$225 million to CrudeCo for a 50% interest in CrudeCo;

our partnership would agree to conduct a rights offering of up to \$75 million upon the following terms:

each common unitholder would receive 0.55 rights per common unit owned;

the strike price for each right would be \$6.45 per right (which was a 25% discount to the closing price of the common units on June 11, 2010);

Table of Contents

each whole right would be convertible into one preferred unit and one warrant; and

the rights offering would be back-stopped by Vitol or a third party at a cost of approximately \$3.8 million;

the minimum quarterly distribution on our common units would be reset to \$0.11 (subject to a unitholder vote);

the common unitholders would receive a one-time payment equal to 25% of the outstanding arrearages (approximately \$0.63 per common unit) and waive all other arrearages (subject to a unitholder vote);

the subordinated units would not receive any distributions during 2011 or 2012 and any distributions otherwise payable to our subordinated unitholders would be paid to our common unitholders during such time period;

the subordinated units would convert on the following schedule: 25% in year 3, 25% in year 4 and 50% in year 5; and

relisting of our common units on Nasdaq.

After delivery of the June 16 Response to Vitol, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and UBS to discuss the June 16 Response and Vitol's reactions to such response. Representatives of UBS reported that Messrs. Dyer and Ahmed (i) were concerned regarding the valuation of our crude oil business and delays that may be caused in seeking a unitholder vote and (ii) indicated that they would discuss the June 16 Response with Vitol's representatives in London. The committee also discussed the process of negotiating with Vitol and agreed that the Committee would continue to negotiate through UBS, its financial advisor.

Subsequent to the June 16th meeting, representatives of UBS continued to negotiate, on behalf of the Conflicts Committee, with Vitol regarding the refinancing of our partnership and the transactions contemplated by the June 16 Response.

On July 1, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and UBS to discuss a revised term sheet that had been distributed to the Conflicts Committee by Mr. Dyer prior to the meeting (the July 1 Proposal). A representative of UBS reported that, at the Conflicts Committee's direction, he had engaged in discussions with Mr. Dyer during the prior few days regarding the possible refinancing of our partnership. The Conflicts Committee discussed in detail the July 1 Proposal, which consisted of the following transactions:

Step One Transactions:

the formation of CrudeCo and the contribution by Vitol of \$87.5 million to CrudeCo for a 25% interest in CrudeCo and the contribution by us of our crude oil assets to CrudeCo for a 75% interest in CrudeCo;

Vitol would have the right to develop any MLP qualified assets within CrudeCo and agree that all of its U.S. investments in crude oil facilities must be conducted within CrudeCo;

CrudeCo and our partnership would enter into a management services agreement relating to the operation of CrudeCo's assets;

we would issue \$125 million of preferred units to Vitol and certain new third party investors;

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

Vitol would agree to underwrite up to \$25 million of such preferred units;

the terms of such preferred units would include:

a preference on distributions and liquidation equal to the purchase price of such units plus any accrued and unpaid distributions;

Table of Contents

voting rights to vote on an as converted basis with the common units;

an issuance price equal to a 25% discount to the trailing, weighted average for ten days immediately prior to approval of the refinancing transactions by our board of directors, but in no event greater than \$6.00 per unit;

a base distribution;

an incentive distribution for the first two years equal to 50% of the minimum quarterly distribution, and thereafter equal to 60% of the minimum quarterly distribution (provided that such minimum quarterly distribution shall not be less than \$0.135 per unit);

each preferred unit would be convertible for a period of 36 months into one common unit plus one warrant to purchase a common unit at a 10% discount with the details of such warrant to be determined; and

the fact that such preferred units would be callable at 105% after two years;

we would issue senior secured notes in an aggregate principal amount of \$150 million with an expected interest rate of approximately 9.5% and an expected term of approximately 7 to 8 years; and

we would enter into a new credit facility with a principal amount between \$100 million and \$125 million with an expected interest rate of 6.5% and an expected term of 3 years.

Step Two Transactions:

a vote of our unitholders would be sought to reduce our minimum quarterly distribution to \$0.10 per common unit;

a vote of our unitholders would be sought to waive all arrearages in exchange for a special distribution of 25% of outstanding arrearages;

the common units would not accrue any arrearages for 2011 and 2012; and

no distributions would be paid to the subordinated units during 2011 and 2012.

After the conclusion of the Conflicts Committee meeting, our board of directors held a meeting on July 1, 2010. The meeting was attended by representatives of Baker Botts, as well as representatives of Prickett Jones and UBS. Mr. Dyer reviewed the July 1 Proposal and explained that such proposal was not a formal proposal relating to the refinancing of our partnership, but that it was a possible structure that reflects input from various banks that have made proposals to our partnership. Our board of directors discussed investment banks that could be hired to assist in the refinancing transactions. After discussion of the details of the proposal, our board of directors confirmed its prior resolutions referring consideration of the refinancing transactions to the Conflicts Committee.

On July 6, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones and Baker Botts and discussed its engagement of UBS as its financial advisor and the fact that UBS had submitted a proposal relating to the refinancing of our partnership. The Conflicts Committee

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

discussed the desire that if our partnership engaged UBS as an investment bank to assist in the refinancing, then UBS would need to continue to report to and be supervised by the Conflicts Committee. Further, the Conflicts Committee would engage another financial advisor to deliver a fairness opinion in connection with the refinancing transactions.

On July 26, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Baker Botts and Mr. Dyer. Mr. Dyer updated the Conflicts Committee regarding the status of proposals received from investment banks relating to a possible new credit facility for our partnership in an amount between \$250 million and \$300 million. The Conflicts Committee further discussed UBS' engagement as the Conflicts Committee's financial advisor and its proposal to serve as administrative agent under our partnership's new credit facility, including the potential conflicts that could be created thereby.

Table of Contents

Between July 27, 2010 and July 29, 2010, UBS and Vitol determined that a joint venture was not a feasible option for our refinancing for various reasons, including, among others, the increased difficulty in obtaining financing for our partnership.

On July 29, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and UBS. A representative of UBS reported that he had received a preliminary proposal from Mr. Dyer relating to the refinancing of our partnership and that Mr. Dyer had requested a meeting with UBS to discuss the preliminary proposal. The representative of UBS then summarized the primary terms of such preliminary proposal including (i) the entering into a \$60 million bridge loan with Vitol, (ii) the issuance of \$150 million of preferred units to Vitol and third party purchasers, (iii) the entrance into a new credit facility with a principal amount of \$300 million, (iv) a reduction in our minimum quarterly distribution to \$0.08 per unit (subject to unitholder vote), (v) a waiver of all outstanding arrearages in exchange for a special distribution of 25% of outstanding arrearages (approximately \$0.78 per unit) (subject to unitholder vote) and (vi) a rights offering of up to \$75 million, the proceeds of which would be used to repay the bridge loan and fund capital projects.

On August 3, 2010, Mr. Dyer submitted a formal proposal to the Conflicts Committee (the August 3 Proposal). The August 3 Proposal included the following transactions:

Phase One Transactions:

we would enter into a \$60 million bridge loan with Vitol with the following terms:

an interest rate of 10%, which would increase to 12.5% after one year;

interest for the first year would be payable in cash upon the first anniversary of the entrance into the bridge loan and quarterly thereafter;

callable, at par, in whole or in part with the proceeds from a rights offering or issuance of additional preferred units; and

convertible after one year, at the holder's option, into preferred units at the preferred conversion price;

we would issue \$150 million of preferred units to Vitol and certain new third party investors;

the terms of such preferred units would include:

senior to all classes or series of partnership securities with respect to distributions and liquidation rights;

voting rights to vote on an as converted basis with the common units (except in connection with a vote related to the refinancing transactions);

a base distribution rate equal to 9%;

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

an incremental distribution rate, beginning one year after issuance, with such increment equal to 50% of the minimum quarterly distribution (i.e., a total distribution rate of 9% plus an amount equal to 50% of the minimum quarterly distribution); and

convertible for a period of 60 months into common units at a price per unit equal to a 20% discount to the twenty day weighted average common unit price for the ten days prior to the unitholder vote and the ten days following the unitholder vote but in no event greater than an amount between \$6.50 per unit and \$7.00 per unit; and

we would pay Vitol a placement fee of 1% in connection with the bridge loan and the issuance of the preferred units;

we would enter into a new credit facility with a principal amount of approximately \$300 million with an expected interest rate of LIBOR plus 4% with an expected term between 4 and 5 years;

Table of Contents

Phase Two Transactions:

a vote of our unitholders would be sought to reduce our minimum quarterly distribution to \$0.08 per common unit effective January 1, 2011;

a vote of our unitholders would be sought to waive all arrearages in exchange for a special distribution to our common unitholders of 25% of outstanding arrearages (approximately \$0.78 per unit);

upon a successful unitholder vote, no distributions would be paid to our subordinated unitholders during 2011 and any such distributions that would otherwise be paid to the subordinated unitholders would be paid to our common unitholders;

upon a successful unitholder vote, we will conduct a \$75 million rights offering with the proceeds to be used to redeem the bridge loan and fund additional capital projects; and

each right would entitle the holder to receive a Class B preferred unit that would (i) have a liquidation preference to the common units (pari passu with the Preferred Units), (ii) receive distributions on a pari passu basis with the common units, (iii) be convertible to a common unit at any time at the election of the holder and (iv) automatically convert into common units upon the occurrence of specified events, including resolution of the class action litigation pending against us and if the common unit price reaches certain levels.

On August 4, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and Mr. Dyer. The Conflicts Committee discussed the amount of compensation to be paid to UBS and reviewed in detail the engagement letter entered into in the fall of 2008 with our general partner as subsequently amended in the fall of 2009 and entered into with the Conflicts Committee.

After conclusion of the Conflicts Committee Meeting, our board of directors met on August 4, 2010 and discussed, among other items, the filing of our partnership's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010. In addition, our board of directors discussed the refinancing of our partnership. Mr. Dyer explained that Vitol was continuing to evaluate alternatives to refinance our partnership and had submitted a proposal to the Conflicts Committee for consideration.

On August 9, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and UBS and discussed in detail the August 3 Proposal. The Conflicts Committee discussed the value of our subordinated units and how varying changes to such assumption impacts the analysis of the refinancing transactions. The Conflicts Committee also discussed the need to refinance our prior credit facility and the fact that a standalone case where no refinancing transactions were entered into was not a viable option for our partnership. In addition, the Conflicts Committee discussed other investments and refinancing transactions completed by other MLPs. Representatives of UBS explained that the August 3 Proposal was consistent with the terms of refinancings obtained by other MLPs except that (i) preferred units are normally issued at a premium rather than a discount, (ii) the proposal included a floor on the preferred return and (iii) the proposal contemplated a lower than normal placement fee. The Conflicts Committee discussed comparable transactions and the financial position of the companies conducting such refinancings. Representatives of UBS explained that they believed it would be difficult for our partnership to obtain comparable debt and equity financing in the then-current market conditions. The Conflicts Committee further discussed proposed responses to the August 3 Proposal.

On August 10, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and UBS and discussed in detail a proposed response to the August 3 Proposal. In addition, the Conflicts Committee discussed potential financial advisors that the committee could engage to prepare a fairness opinion in connection with the refinancing transactions.

Table of Contents

On August 11, 2010, Mr. Bradshaw, the Chairman of the Conflicts Committee, delivered to Vitol the Conflicts Committee's response to the August 3 Proposal (the August 11 Response) requesting the following changes to the August 3 Proposal:

Phase One Transactions:

the interest rate on the bridge loan would increase to 12% rather than 12.5% after the first year;

the bridge loan would be callable at the option of the Conflicts Committee (with no requirement that it be callable from proceeds from a rights offering or preferred unit offering);

the preferred units would have a base rate of 8% rather than 9%;

the preferred units would be convertible into common units at a price of \$7.00 per unit after the date that is two years from the date that the unitholder vote is obtained;

the preferred units would be redeemable, at the option of the Conflicts Committee, after the occurrence of specified events, including resolution of the class action litigation pending against us and if the common unit price reaches certain levels; and

we would reimburse Vitol for reasonable, out-of-pocket expenses relating to the refinancing up to an aggregate of \$500,000 and would not pay Vitol any placement fee;

Phase Two Transactions:

the level of the reset minimum quarterly distribution would be discussed among the parties with such reset being effective as of the quarter during which the unitholder vote is obtained; and

no distributions would be paid to our subordinated unitholders during the eight quarters after the unitholder vote is obtained and any such distributions that would otherwise be paid to our subordinated unitholders would be paid to our common unitholders and would accrue arrearages to the extent not paid to our common unitholders.

On August 17, 2010, and August 18, 2010 representatives of each of the Conflicts Committee, Prickett Jones and Baker Botts interviewed representatives of various investment banks regarding a possible engagement of such banks to advise the committee and to provide a fairness opinion in connection with the refinancing transactions. UBS reiterated to the Conflicts Committee that it would be unable to render a fairness opinion relating to the refinancing transactions because its practice is to not give fairness opinions for financing transactions, a view first expressed to the Conflicts Committee in connection with the 2009 Proposed Restructuring Transactions.

On August 18, 2010, Vitol responded to the August 11 Response and proposed the following changes to the August 11 Response (the August 18 Proposal):

Phase One Transactions:

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

a reduction in the aggregate principal amount of the bridge loan from \$60 million to \$55 million;

the preferred units would have a base distribution rate equal to 8.5% rather than 9%;

the incremental dividend would be no lower than 2.5% (i.e., the total distribution rate on the preferred units would not be less than 11%);

the preferred units would be convertible into common units at a price per unit equal to a 20% discount to the twenty day weighted average common unit price for the ten days prior to approval by our board of directors and the ten days following the unitholder vote but in no event greater than \$6.50 per unit;

the preferred units would be convertible, at the option of the Conflicts Committee, if 50% or more of the preferred units have converted; *provided*, that the preferred units would not be convertible after the occurrence of certain events, such as an unfavorable outcome relating to our securities class action litigation; and

Table of Contents

our partnership would pay a one-time transaction cost reimbursement fee of 50 basis points (rather than expenses up to an aggregate of \$500,000).

Phase Two Transactions:

no distributions would be paid to our subordinated unitholders during 2011 (as compared to the August 11 Response that requested eight quarters) and any such distributions that would otherwise be paid to our subordinated unitholders would be paid to our common unitholders; and

the rights to be offered in the rights offering would entitle a holder to receive a preferred unit that is similar to the preferred units to be purchased by Vitol rather than a Class B preferred unit.

On August 19, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and UBS and discussed in detail the August 18 Proposal. The committee discussed a response to the August 18 Proposal and instructed UBS to have further discussions with Mr. Dyer. In addition, after representatives of UBS had left the meeting, the Conflicts Committee discussed UBS' position that it would be unable to render a fairness opinion relating to the refinancing transactions because of UBS' practice that it does not give fairness opinions for financing transactions. After discussion of the opinion issue, the committee discussed the fee structure for engaging UBS as the committee's financial advisor, including the provision for a certain amount of such fees to be used to engage another investment bank to provide a fairness opinion. The Conflicts Committee discussed the interviews conducted with such potential financial advisors and determined to engage Baird. Subsequent to this meeting, the Conflicts Committee formally engaged Baird pursuant to a written engagement letter, dated September 2, 2010, to render a fairness opinion as to the GTA Transactions (as defined below).

Subsequent to the August 19th meeting, representatives of UBS continued to negotiate, on behalf of the Conflicts Committee, with Vitol regarding the refinancing of our partnership and the transactions contemplated by the August 18 Proposal.

On August 23, 2010, Mr. Dyer delivered a revised proposal to the Conflicts Committee (the August 23 Proposal). The August 23 Proposal included the following modifications to the August 11 Response:

Phase One Transactions:

a reduction in the aggregate principal amount of the bridge loan from \$60 million to \$50 million;

Vitol and new third party investors would acquire \$140 million of preferred units rather than \$150 million of preferred units;

the preferred units would be entitled to a distribution equal to 17.5% annually, paid quarterly in arrears; *provided*, that distribution would be equal to 8.5% for the first year after issuance of the units; *provided, further* that the distribution would be reduced to 11% annually if the unitholders approve the unitholder proposals relating to the reset of the minimum quarterly distribution and the waiver of outstanding arrearages;

the preferred units would be convertible into common units at a price per unit equal to a 20% discount to the twenty day weighted average common unit price for the ten days prior to approval by our board of directors and the ten days following the unitholder vote but in no event greater than \$6.50 per unit or less than \$5.50 per unit;

the preferred units would be redeemable, at the option of the Conflicts Committee, if 50% or more of the preferred units have converted;

the preferred units would not be redeemable upon the occurrence of certain events; and

our partnership would pay a one-time transaction cost reimbursement fee of 50 basis points (rather than expenses up to an aggregate of \$500,000).

Table of Contents

Phase Two Transactions:

no distributions would be paid to our subordinated unitholders during 2011 (as compared to the August 11 Response that requested eight quarters) and any such distributions that would otherwise be paid to our subordinated unitholders would be paid to our common unitholders;

our partnership agreement would be amended to provide that arrearages shall not accrue on the common units if our partnership is unable to pay distributions solely as a result of covenant restrictions imposed by reason of our credit agreement or other debt arrangements (other than the bridge loan);

the rights to be offered in the rights offering would entitle a holder to receive a preferred unit that is similar to the preferred units to be purchased by Vitol rather than a Class B preferred unit; and

upon a favorable unitholder vote, Vitol and new third party investors would acquire an additional \$17 million of preferred units to fund the special distribution to our common unitholders.

On August 24, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and UBS and discussed in detail the August 23 Proposal. The Conflicts Committee further discussed that management of our general partner was having difficulty arranging the terms of a credit agreement with banks relating to the refinancing of our partnership agreement and possible alternative means of refinancing our partnership if a credit agreement was not able to be syndicated. In particular, the banks that had expressed a willingness to participate in a new credit agreement had indicated that they would require cash sweeps of our partnership's accounts and would not allow cash distributions to our common unitholders. The Conflicts Committee discussed the importance of reestablishing the payment of distributions to the common unitholders in connection with the refinancing transactions. The Conflicts Committee discussed in detail proposed responses to the August 23 Proposal.

On September 14, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts, UBS and Baird. Representatives of Baird discussed the due diligence they were conducting in connection with their analysis of the refinancing of our partnership and the evaluation of whether such transactions were fair to our common unitholders.

On September 23, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts, UBS and Baird and discussed recent developments relating to the refinancing of our partnership, including that Mr. Dyer had contacted our legal counsel to indicate that Charlesbank had agreed to purchase 50% of Vitol's ownership in our general partner and 50% of our subordinated units. In addition, Charlesbank would participate equally with Vitol in connection with providing the bridge loan and purchasing the preferred units in connection with the refinancing of our partnership. The financial terms of Charlesbank's involvement in such transactions with Vitol were not made public and were not made available to the Conflicts Committee. The Conflicts Committee discussed the impact of Charlesbank's investment upon the timing of the refinancing transactions. In addition, the Conflicts Committee discussed certain open issues relating to the refinancing, including (i) the amount of the reset minimum quarterly distribution, (ii) the default conversion price of the preferred units prior to the unitholder vote, (iii) Vitol's desire to drag-along other investors if it decides to convert its preferred units, (iv) the lack of a mandatory conversion of the preferred units and (v) whether the preferred units would have a priority in a distribution from capital surplus of our partnership.

On October 1, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts, UBS and Baird. The Conflicts Committee discussed the desire to complete the refinancing transactions prior to October 5, 2010 to avoid a \$4.5 million fee under our prior credit facility and the work of management and the committee to complete the transaction by such time. However, the Conflicts Committee was informed that the lenders under our new credit facility would not be ready to close by such date. The Conflicts Committee then discussed in detail the timing to complete the refinancing transactions and certain modifications to the refinancing transactions since the August 23 Proposal, including, among other items, (i) an increase in the

Table of Contents

expected interest rate under our new credit agreement, (ii) the fact that the bridge loan would mature on December 31, 2011 and all principal and interest would convert to preferred units if the bridge loan was still outstanding on such date, (iii) our ability to convert all of the outstanding preferred units to common units if either (A) the securities class action litigation pending against us is resolved and conversion would be economically neutral based on cash distributions to the holders of the preferred units for the two quarters prior to such conversion or (B) 50% or more of the preferred units have converted, (iv) warrants would not be offered in connection with the proposed rights offering and the rights offering would not be backstopped and (v) the need to agree upon the new minimum quarterly distribution amount. The Conflicts Committee, their financial advisor and Baird also discussed certain modifications made by our general partner's management to our forecast relating to the reclassification of certain capital expenditures from expansion capital expenditures to maintenance capital expenditures. In addition, the Conflicts Committee discussed resetting our minimum quarterly distribution to \$0.09 based upon the forecast prepared by our general partner's management. The Conflicts Committee also discussed the high splits based upon a \$0.09 minimum quarterly distribution and the timing of possible conversion of the preferred units. Further, the Conflicts Committee and its legal counsel discussed the process relating to Special Approval pursuant to Section 7.9(a) of our partnership agreement and certain provisions of Delaware law.

On October 7, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts, UBS and Baird and discussed the status of our new credit facility, including the amount of commitments thereunder, which were less than anticipated as of such date. The committee discussed the fact that if our partnership were unable to obtain sufficient commitments from lenders under our new credit facility that the refinancing transactions would not go forward as then contemplated. In addition, the Conflicts Committee discussed certain change of control payments payable to our general partner's management upon the consummation of Vitol's transactions with Charlesbank because Charlesbank would purchase 50% of our general partner and cause a change of control under our general partner's long-term incentive plan. During the meeting, representatives of Baker Botts reviewed draft agreements relating to the refinancing transactions, including a global transaction agreement, debentures relating to the bridge loan and our amended partnership agreement.

On October 14, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones and Baker Botts to discuss Baird's evaluation of fairness of the refinancing transactions. The Conflicts Committee discussed whether it should instruct Baird to include a liquidation scenario in its analysis. The committee discussed the fact that it was the committee's belief that Vitol would not allow our partnership to be liquidated and that Mr. Dyer had informed Baird accordingly. As such, the Conflicts Committee instructed Baird that it need not consider such a scenario in its analysis.

On October 15, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones and Baker Botts and discussed the timing of completing the refinancing transactions. The Conflicts Committee also discussed Vitol's participation in our new credit agreement, that Vitol's rights under such credit agreement would be the same as each other lender under such facility and that such facility was a result of arms-length negotiations.

On October 19, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts, UBS and Baird. Representatives of Baker Botts reviewed in detail the documents to be entered into in connection with the refinancing transactions and changes since the prior review of such documents with the committee. Representatives of Baird then presented Baird's financial analysis of the refinancing transactions. Representatives of Baird confirmed that Baird had received all of the information and materials required to perform its analysis.

On October 21, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts, UBS and Baird. Representatives of Baker Botts confirmed that there had been no material changes to the documents to be entered into in connection with the refinancing transactions since the October 19th meeting. Representatives of Baird updated the Conflicts Committee on the procedures it had completed since the committee's prior meeting and advised the Conflicts Committee that, based on various assumptions, qualifications and limitations,

Table of Contents

the GTA Transactions (as defined below) are fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership and delivered its opinion regarding the same. After delivery of the Baird fairness opinion, representatives of UBS advised the Conflicts Committee that they had negotiated with Vitol on behalf of the Conflicts Committee and spoken with third parties regarding potential financing transactions with us; the discussions with such third parties as to the potential financing transactions available to our partnership had resulted in a lack of other alternatives, to the knowledge of UBS, based on then-current market conditions. After a detailed discussion of the provisions of our partnership agreement and Delaware law regarding conflict transactions, the Conflicts Committee unanimously (i) determined that the Global Transaction Agreement and the GTA Transactions are advisable, fair and reasonable to, and in the best interests of, our partnership and our public unitholders (other than Vitol, Charlesbank and their affiliates), (ii) approved the Global Transaction Agreement, the documents referenced in the Global Transaction Agreement and the GTA Transactions, (iii) recommended approval by our board of directors of the Global Transaction Agreement, the documents referenced in the Global Transaction Agreement and the GTA Transactions, (iv) recommended that our public unitholders vote to approve the unitholder proposals set forth in the Global Transaction Agreement and (v) resolved that the Conflicts Committee desired and intended that the approvals of the Global Transaction Agreement, the documents referenced therein and the transactions contemplated thereby constitute Special Approval pursuant to Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement.

On October 25, 2010, our board of directors convened a special meeting to discuss the GTA Transactions and the documents to be entered into in connection therewith. During such meeting, the Conflicts Committee delivered a report to our board of directors on (i) the process in evaluating and negotiating the terms of the GTA Transactions, (ii) the opinion of Baird that the GTA Transactions are fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership and (iii) the resolutions adopted by the Conflicts Committee on October 21, 2010 approving and recommending approval of the Global Transaction Agreement, the documents referenced therein and the GTA Transactions and granting Special Approval of such documents and transactions pursuant to Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement.

Following the report of the Conflicts Committee, our board of directors unanimously (i) determined that the Global Transaction Agreement, the documents referenced therein and the GTA Transactions are advisable, fair and reasonable to, and in the best interests of our partnership, (ii) approved the Global Transaction Agreement, the documents referenced in the Global Transaction Agreement and the GTA Transactions and (iii) recommended approval of the unitholder proposals set forth in the original Global Transaction Agreement by our limited partners.

After the meeting of our board of directors, the applicable parties executed the Global Transaction Agreement and the documents referenced therein, including the Convertible Debentures and our amended partnership agreement. We also issued the Preferred Units to Vitol and Charlesbank as contemplated by the Global Transaction Agreement. Our partnership issued a press release and filed a Current Report on Form 8-K on October 25, 2010 relating to the GTA Transactions.

The Global Transaction Agreement outlined a series of transactions related to the refinancing of our prior debt and the recapitalization of our securities. Generally, these transactions were separated into three types of transactions: (i) Phase I Transactions, (ii) Unitholder Vote Transactions and (iii) Phase II Transactions and are collectively referred to herein as the GTA Transactions. Each of these transactions and the corresponding documents are outlined in more detail below.

The Phase I Transactions, which were consummated on October 25, 2010, included the following:

entry into a new \$275 million credit facility consisting of a \$200 million term loan facility and a \$75 million revolving loan facility (which has subsequently been increased to \$95 million);

the issuance and sale by us to Vitol and Charlesbank of an aggregate of 21,538,462 Preferred Units for a cash purchase price of \$6.50 per Preferred Unit in a privately negotiated transaction (the Private Placement) and the entry into a Registration Rights Agreement by us with Vitol and

Table of Contents

Charlesbank in connection therewith. Holders of the Preferred Units are entitled to quarterly distributions of 2.125% per unit per quarter for each quarter during the one year period after the date of issuance of the Preferred Units. In the case of any quarter beginning one year after the date of the issuance of the Preferred Units, the holders of the Preferred Units are entitled to quarterly distributions of 4.375% per unit per quarter but this amount will be decreased to 2.75% per unit per quarter upon the approval of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal discussed below. The Preferred Units have voting rights that are identical to the voting rights of the common units and vote with the Common Units as a single class; *provided*, that the Preferred Units will not have the right to vote on the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal;

the issuance by us of the Convertible Debentures to Vitol and Charlesbank which resulted in gross proceeds to us of \$50 million. The Convertible Debentures bear interest at 10% for the first year, and thereafter at 12%. Interest can only be paid in cash with the proceeds from an equity offering. The Convertible Debentures are redeemable in whole or in part at any time prior to December 31, 2011 at a price equal to the principal amount plus any accrued and unpaid interest. If not otherwise redeemed, the Convertible Debentures shall mature on December 31, 2011 and, on such date, all outstanding principal and any accrued and unpaid interest shall automatically convert into Preferred Units; and

our use of the borrowings under our new credit agreement together with proceeds from the Private Placement and the sale of the Convertible Debentures (i) to repay all existing indebtedness under our prior credit agreement, (ii) to pay certain transaction expenses incurred in connection with the Global Transaction Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including a payment of approximately \$700,000 to Vitol and Charlesbank as partial reimbursement of their expenses incurred in connection with the negotiation and preparation of the Global Transaction Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and (iii) for general partnership purposes.

Pursuant to the Unitholder Vote Transactions, our general partner agreed to call a special meeting of our unitholders to solicit approval of the following unitholder proposals:

approval to amend our partnership agreement to reset (i) the minimum quarterly distribution to \$0.09 per unit per quarter from \$0.3125 per unit per quarter, (ii) the first target distribution to \$0.1035 per unit per quarter from \$0.3594 per unit per quarter, (iii) the second target distribution to \$0.1125 per unit per quarter from \$0.3906 and (iv) the third target distribution to \$0.1350 per unit per quarter from \$0.4688 per unit per quarter, each effective as of the first day of the quarter during which the unitholders approve the unitholder proposals;

approval of the waiver of the cumulative common unit arrearage due and owing through the quarter prior to the quarter during which the unitholders approve the unitholder proposals; and

approval to amend our partnership agreement to provide that no minimum quarterly distribution dividends shall accrue or be paid to the holders of subordinated units during the four quarter period following the date that the unitholders approve the unitholder proposals and that, instead, such minimum quarterly distributions that would be otherwise be paid to the holders of subordinated units will be paid to holders of common units, with the conflicts committee determining the amount of any such distribution.

upon approval of the unitholder proposals, the following Phase II Transactions would take place:

our general partner would amend our partnership agreement to reflect the approval of the unitholder proposals;

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

no later than 20 days after the date of the approval of the unitholder proposals, we would issue and sell to Vitol and Charlesbank an aggregate of 2,615,386 Preferred Units for a cash purchase price of \$6.50 per Preferred Unit in a private transaction (the Additional Private Placement), resulting in total gross proceeds of approximately \$17 million, such proceeds to be used to make the Special Distribution (as defined below);

Table of Contents

no later than 15 days after the date of the approval of the unitholder proposals, our general partner would declare a distribution in favor of the holders of the common units in the amount of \$0.78 per Common Unit (the Special Distribution), such Special Distribution to be paid no later than 45 days after the date of the approval of the unitholder proposals; and

we would undertake to complete a rights offering pursuant to we would distribute to our existing common unitholders 0.5310 rights for each outstanding common unit, with each whole right entitling the holder to acquire, for a subscription price of \$6.50, a newly issued Preferred Unit. The Partnership intended to use the proceeds from the rights offering to redeem the Convertible Debentures and for general partnership purposes.

On October 27, 2010, we held an investor conference call relating to the GTA Transactions. During such call our management, representatives of Vitol and representatives of Charlesbank provided an overview of such transactions and answered questions of our unitholders.

On November 12, 2010, we were informed by Vitol and Charlesbank that they had consummated the transactions between them resulting in Charlesbank's acquisition of 50% of the membership interests of the entity that controls our general partner and 50% of our subordinated units (the Charlesbank Change of Control). In connection with the consummation of such transactions, Messrs. Michael R. Eisenson and Jon M. Biotti, both of whom are affiliated with Charlesbank, were appointed to our board of directors and Messrs. Javed Ahmed and Christopher G. Brown, both of whom were affiliated with Vitol, resigned from our board of directors. As such, our board of directors currently consists of two directors, Messrs. Eisenson and Biotti, who are affiliated with Charlesbank, two directors, Messrs. Loya and Dyer, who are affiliated with Vitol, and three independent directors, Messrs. Ligon, Bradshaw and Shapiro.

From November 18, 2010 to November 22, 2010, Messrs. Dyer and Stallings and representatives from UBS, at the request of the Conflicts Committee, visited certain of our unitholders that hold a significant percentage of our common units to discuss the GTA Transactions. On November 18, 2010, Messrs. Dyer and Stallings and representatives of UBS, at the request of the Conflicts Committee, met with representatives of MSD Capital, L.P. (MSD Capital), Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. (Deutsche Bank) and Neuberger Berman Group LLC in separate meetings. In addition, Mr. Stallings met with representatives of Solus Alternative Asset Management LP (Solus) on November 18, 2010. On November 22, 2010, Messrs. Dyer and Stallings and representatives of UBS, at the request of the Conflicts Committee, met with representatives of Swank Capital, LLC (Swank Capital). The terms and conditions of GTA Transactions were discussed at these meetings. The unitholders expressed a range of opinions on such transactions, in large part disapproving, along with some criticism for not having been allowed to participate in the process that gave rise to the Global Transaction Agreement.

On December 16, 2010, MSD Capital filed a Schedule 13D with the Securities and Exchange Commission that disclosed its investment in our partnership, expressed dissatisfaction with the GTA Transactions and contained a copy of correspondence to Mr. Dyer. On December 21, 2010, Mr. Dyer delivered written response to MSD Capital that was filed by us as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K.

On December 22, 2010, the Conflicts Committee met with Prickett Jones and Baker Botts and discussed the correspondence from MSD Capital and the response by Mr. Dyer.

On January 5, 2011, Swank Capital filed a Schedule 13D with the Securities and Exchange Commission that contained a copy of correspondence to Mr. Dyer and suggested possible revisions to the GTA Transactions. On January 13, 2011, Solus filed a Schedule 13D with the Securities and Exchange Commission that contained a copy of correspondence to Mr. Dyer. On January 18, 2011, Mr. Dyer delivered a written response to Swank Capital and Solus that was filed by us as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K. From January to March 2011, certain significant unitholders filed various Schedule 13D's with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, during December 2010 and January 2011, our partnership received various letters from other unitholders that generally expressed dissatisfaction with the GTA Transactions.

Table of Contents

On January 21, 2011, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones and Baker Botts. The committee discussed the correspondence by and with certain of our unitholders as set forth in the unitholders' Schedule 13D's and our partnership's Current Reports on Form 8-K. During the meeting, Mr. Ligon reported that he had called representatives of Swank Capital at the request of Mr. Dyer to explain to Swank Capital that in order to have discussions with representatives of our general partner regarding the GTA Transactions, Swank Capital would need to execute a confidentiality agreement that contained a standstill provision prohibiting the sale of securities in our partnership for a specified period of time. The Conflicts Committee also discussed the process to consider any proposed modifications to the Global Transaction Agreement and the selection of a financial advisor. The Committee then briefly discussed certain modifications to the Global Transaction Agreement that had been informally discussed by Mr. Dyer but that had not yet been proposed by Vitol and Charlesbank to our board of directors or the Conflicts Committee (such modifications as set forth below in the description of the January 24, 2011 meeting of our board of directors). Furthermore, the Conflicts Committee discussed the requests by certain of our unitholders to discuss the GTA Transactions and any proposed modifications to the Global Transaction Agreement and the need for such unitholders to execute a confidentiality agreement and standstill.

On January 24, 2011, Vitol and Charlesbank delivered a revised proposal to our board of directors that would modify certain of the GTA Transactions (the January 24 Amendment Proposal). These suggested modifications included revising the unitholder proposals to reset the second target distribution to \$0.1350 and the third target distribution to \$0.1575. In addition, the suggested modifications provided that upon a favorable unitholder vote, (i) no distributions would accrue or be paid to the holders of the subordinated units or the incentive distribution rights (other than with respect to our general partner's 1.974% general partner interest in us) for (A) the four quarter period following the date of a favorable unitholder vote and that such amounts will be paid to the common unitholders instead with the Conflicts Committee determining the amount of any such distribution and (B) for a subsequent four quarter period and that any such amounts will be used to reduce our debt. In addition, the additional private placement would not be conducted and instead Vitol and Charlesbank would participate in the rights offering and be granted an oversubscription right to buy up to an additional \$22 million of Preferred Units. The proceeds from the rights offering would be used to redeem the Convertible Debentures, pay expenses related to the rights offering, make the special distribution of approximately \$17 million to holders of our common units and for general partnership purposes. Vitol and Charlesbank also would agree to backstop the rights offering up to \$70 million.

During the January 24, 2011 meeting, our board of directors discussed the fact that the modification of the GTA Transactions involved transactions with Vitol and Charlesbank, which are affiliates of our general partner, and that a conflict may exist between the interests of our general partner, Vitol and Charlesbank, on the one hand, and the interests of our partnership and our public unitholders, on the other hand. Our board of directors also discussed the provisions of our partnership agreement relating to conflict transactions, including Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement and the fact that the evaluation and negotiation of the original Global Transaction Agreement had been delegated to the Conflicts Committee. After a detailed discussion, our board of directors (i) authorized and empowered the Conflicts Committee to evaluate and negotiate the revised refinancing transactions and any amendment to the Global Transaction Agreement on behalf of our partnership and our public unitholders, (ii) resolved that the Conflicts Committee would not have any duty to consider the interests of our general partner or its controlling affiliates, including Vitol, Charlesbank and their respective affiliates, in considering any revised refinancing transactions or amendment to the Global Transaction Agreement, (iii) authorized our general partner's officers, agents and employees to assist the Conflicts Committee and (iv) authorized and empowered the Conflicts Committee to retain such professional advisors as it deemed necessary or appropriate.

On January 26, 2011, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones and Baker Botts. The Conflicts Committee discussed financial advisors that could be engaged by the committee in connection with its consideration of the January 24 Amendment Proposal. In addition, the Conflicts Committee, its legal advisors and our partnership's legal advisors discussed the Conflicts Committee's duties under Delaware law relating to the consideration of any amendments to the Global Transaction Agreement.

Table of Contents

On February 3, 2011, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and Baird. The Conflicts Committee, its legal advisors and our partnership's legal advisors again discussed the Conflicts Committee's duties under Delaware law relating to the consideration of any amendments to the Global Transaction Agreement. The Conflicts Committee also discussed the scope of the committee's authority and the process to consider any modifications to the GTA Transactions. The Conflicts Committee resolved to engage Baird and authorized the execution, delivery and performance of the form of engagement letter that had been provided to them. In addition, the committee discussed whether to recommend that representatives of our general partner affiliated with Vitol and Charlesbank meet with certain of our significant unitholders.

On February 4, 2011, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and Baird and Mr. Stallings. The Conflicts Committee discussed the January 24 Amendment Proposal, financial models prepared by management reflecting the impact of such proposal and possible revisions to such proposal that the Conflicts Committee could propose to Vitol and Charlesbank. During the meeting, Mr. Ligon reported that he had a conversation with a representative of Swank Capital wherein such representative stated that the significant unitholders would like to meet with representatives of Vitol and Charlesbank to discuss the refinancing. The Conflicts Committee agreed that it should recommend that Mr. Dyer invite certain of the significant unitholders to have a meeting with him and a representative of Charlesbank.

After the February 4, 2011 meeting, Messrs. Bradshaw and Ligon and a representative of Baker Botts spoke with Mr. Dyer and recommended to him, on behalf of the Conflicts Committee, that Mr. Dyer and representatives of Charlesbank meet with the significant unitholders to discuss any modifications that may be made to the GTA Transactions and the Global Transaction Agreement. From March 1, 2011 through March 3, 2011, our general partner and our partnership entered into confidentiality agreements with certain of our significant unitholders.

On March 3, 2011, Messrs. Stallings, Dyer, Eisenson and Biotti met with representatives of Swank Capital, MSD Capital, Solus and Deutsche Bank to discuss possible modifications to the GTA Transactions and the Global Transaction Agreement.

On March 4, 2011, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones and Baker Botts and Messrs. Stallings and Dyer. Messrs. Stallings and Dyer reported on the March 3, 2011 meeting with certain of our significant unitholders and the views of such unitholders on what modifications should be made to the Global Transaction Agreement. Mr. Dyer explained that Vitol and Charlesbank were analyzing various modifications to the Global Transaction Agreement based upon the discussions and that the January 24 Amendment Proposal would be modified.

On March 22, 2011, Messrs. Dyer, Eisenson and Biotti again met with representatives of Swank Capital, MSD Capital, Solus and Deutsche Bank and suggested certain modifications that could potentially be made to the Unitholder Vote Transactions and the Phase II Transactions set forth in the Global Transaction Agreement. These suggested modifications included revising the unitholder proposals to reset (i) the first target distribution to \$0.1035 per unit per quarter, (ii) the second target distribution to \$0.1350 per unit per quarter and (iii) the third target distribution to \$0.1575 per unit per quarter. In addition, the suggested modifications provided that upon a favorable unitholder vote, (i) no distributions would accrue or be paid to our general partner in respect of its interests in us (other than its general partner interest in us) for the eight quarter period beginning with the quarter in which a favorable vote is obtained, (ii) Vitol and Charlesbank would contribute all of their subordinated units to us thereby eliminating the subordinated units, (iii) an additional conversion feature would be added to the preferred units such that they would be convertible at our option at any time after five years if the trading price of our common units is more than 130% of the conversion price of the preferred units, subject to customary minimum trading volume requirements, (iv) our partnership agreement would be amended to provide that, for a period of 24 months, we could not issue securities senior to the common units without approval of a majority of our common unitholders except for accretive issuances and issuances for the purpose of repayment of debt and (v) the rights offering would be reduced to \$55 million instead of \$75 million with the proceeds being used to redeem our Convertible Debentures and for general partnership purposes. The suggested modifications eliminated the additional private placement and special dividend as contemplated by the Global Transaction Agreement. The other provisions of the Global Transaction Agreement would remain unchanged.

Table of Contents

During the March 22 meeting, the unitholders and the representatives of our general partner discussed the suggested modifications as well as the rationale to set the minimum quarterly distribution at a level that would allow us to fund future growth projects while continuing to fund the minimum quarterly distribution. The unitholders made additional suggestions for consideration, including, among other things, further increasing the minimum quarterly distribution and associated target distributions. After the meetings with the unitholders, representatives of our general partner continued to engage in discussions with certain of such unitholders.

On March 28, 2011, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones and Baker Botts. The committee discussed the March 22 meeting among representatives of our general partner affiliated with Vitol and Charlesbank and certain of our significant unitholders and subsequent conversations between Mr. Dyer and representatives of Swank Capital. The Conflicts Committee reviewed the proposal made to the significant unitholders during the March 22 meeting.

On March 30, 2011, Vitol and Charlesbank delivered a revised proposal to our board of directors that would modify certain of the GTA Transactions (the March 30 Proposal). Our board of directors discussed the fact that the modification of GTA Transactions involved transactions with Vitol and Charlesbank, which are affiliates of our general partner, and that a conflict may exist between the interests of our general partner, Vitol and Charlesbank, on the one hand, and the interests of our partnership and our public unitholders, on the other hand. Our board of directors also discussed the provisions of our partnership agreement relating to conflict transactions, including Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement and the fact that the evaluation and negotiation of the original Global Transaction Agreement had been delegated to the Conflicts Committee. After a detailed discussion, our board of directors (i) authorized and empowered the Conflicts Committee to evaluate and negotiate the revised refinancing transactions and any amendment to the Global Transaction Agreement on behalf of our partnership and our public unitholders, (ii) resolved that the Conflicts Committee would not have any duty to consider the interests of our general partner or its controlling affiliates, including Vitol, Charlesbank and their respective affiliates, in considering any revised refinancing transactions or amendment to the Global Transaction Agreement, (iii) authorized our general partner's officers, agents and employees to assist the Conflicts Committee and (iv) authorized and empowered the Conflicts Committee to retain such professional advisors as it deemed necessary or appropriate.

The March 30 Proposal consisted of the following modifications to the GTA Transactions:

revise the unitholder proposals to reset (i) the minimum quarterly distribution to \$0.11 per unit per quarter, (ii) the first target distribution to \$0.1265 per unit per quarter, (iii) the second target distribution to \$0.1375 per unit per quarter and (iv) the third target distribution to \$0.1650 per unit per quarter, each effective as of the quarter during which the unitholder vote is obtained;

upon approval of the unitholder proposals:

Vitol and Charlesbank would contribute to us, and we would cancel, the subordinated units;

our partnership agreement would be amended to provide that no distributions of Operating Surplus (as defined in our partnership agreement) shall accrue or be paid on the incentive distribution rights for eight quarters (the Eight Quarter Period) beginning with the quarter in which we receive unitholder approval;

our partnership agreement would be amended to provide that, during the Eight Quarter Period, we will not issue any units senior to the common units (other than upon conversion of the Convertible Debentures or in connection with the rights offering) without the consent of the holders of the common units (excluding common units held by our general partner and its affiliates); *provided*, that we can issue an unlimited number of senior securities during the Eight Quarter Period without unitholder approval (i) under employee benefit plans, (ii) in connection with an acquisition or expansion capital improvement that increases cash flow from operations per unit on an estimated pro forma basis or (iii) the net proceeds of which are used to repay indebtedness, the cost of which to service is greater than the distribution obligations associated with the units issued in connection with its retirement;

Table of Contents

our partnership agreement will be amended to provide for an additional conversion right relating to our Preferred Units such that we will have the right to convert any or all outstanding Preferred Units at any time on or after October 25, 2015 if the common unit price at such time is greater than 130% of the conversion price of such Preferred Units, subject to customary minimum trading volume requirements;

our partnership agreement would be amended to provide that any notice of conversion of the Preferred Units received during a quarter will be effective at the end of such quarter; and

the proceeds of the rights offering will be used in the following order until all such proceeds are exhausted: (a) first to pay expenses related to the rights offering, (b) second to redeem our Convertible Debentures, (c) third to repurchase from affiliates of Vitol and Charlesbank, which entities indirectly own and control our general partner, up to \$20 million of Preferred Units at \$6.50 per unit plus any pro rata distribution for the quarter in which such units are repurchased and (d) fourth for general partnership purposes;

the special distribution to our common unitholders and additional private placement of Preferred Units to Vitol and Charlesbank as set forth in the Global Transaction Agreement would be eliminated.

On April 1, 2011, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and Baird. The Conflicts Committee discussed the committee's duties under Delaware law and the provisions of our partnership agreement relating to the consideration and approval of conflict transactions, including the provisions for Special Approval included in Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement. In addition, the Conflicts Committee discussed the transactions in the original Global Transaction Agreement, the proposals discussed with certain significant unitholders and had a preliminary discussion relating to the March 30 Proposal.

On April 11, 2011, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and Baird and further discussed the March 30 Proposal. In particular, the Conflicts Committee discussed the proposed minimum quarterly distribution and incentive target distribution levels in the March 30 Proposal and whether it should propose raising the minimum quarterly distribution and/or incentive target distribution levels set forth in the March 30 Proposal.

On April 14, 2011, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and Baird and further discussed the March 30 Proposal. The Conflicts Committee discussed in detail the distribution levels set by other master limited partnerships upon such entities' initial public offerings and the typical target distribution levels that are used in connection therewith. The Conflicts Committee discussed a proposed response to the March 30 Proposal and resolved to propose to Vitol and Charlesbank that the minimum quarterly distribution be raised to \$0.15 beginning during the third quarter of 2013, with corresponding increases in the target distribution levels. Mr. Bradshaw agreed to propose the Conflicts Committee's response to Vitol and Charlesbank.

On April 14, 2011, Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Ligon discussed with Mr. Dyer the Conflicts Committee's counterproposal to raise the minimum quarterly distribution be raised to \$0.15 beginning during the third quarter of 2013, with corresponding increases in the target distribution levels.

On April 21, 2011, Mr. Dyer discussed with Mr. Bradshaw possible modifications to the March 30 Proposal and the Conflicts Committee's counterproposal related thereto. Mr. Dyer explained that Vitol and Charlesbank would agree to either of two alternative proposals. The first would keep the March 30 Proposal as it was previously proposed. The second would include all the terms of the March 30 Proposal except that it would increase the minimum quarterly distribution to \$0.13, with corresponding increases in the target distribution levels, and only 50% of the subordinated units would be transferred to and subsequently cancelled by our partnership (the Alternative March 30 Proposal). Mr. Dyer stated that Vitol and Charlesbank would enter a transaction on the terms of either of the alternative proposals. Mr. Dyer explained to Mr. Bradshaw that Mr. Dyer

Table of Contents

and Mr. Biotti would again meet with the significant unitholders of the partnership and discuss the March 30 Proposal and the Alternative March 30 Proposal with such unitholders and then after such discussions would again make a formal proposal to the Conflicts Committee.

On April 25, 2011, the Conflicts Committee formally engaged Baird pursuant to a written engagement letter, dated April 15, 2011, to act as a financial advisor for purposes of rendering a fairness opinion as to the Amended GTA Transactions.

On April 28, 2011, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and Baird and discussed in detail the March 30 Proposal and the Alternative March 30 Proposal. The committee further discussed the fact that Messrs. Dyer and Biotti were planning on meeting with certain of the significant unitholders regarding such proposals and that the committee would continue to encourage the ongoing dialogue among Messrs. Dyer and Biotti and certain of our significant unitholders.

From April 27, 2011 to April 29, 2011, Messrs. Dyer and Biotti again met with representatives of Swank Capital, MSD Capital, Solus and Deutsche Bank and discussed the March 30 Proposal and the Alternative March 30 Proposal with such unitholders. During the following weeks, Messrs. Dyer and Biotti continued to engage in discussions with such unitholders. Such unitholders proposed increasing the third target distribution level to \$0.20 from \$0.1650 as set forth in the March 30 Proposal. During such discussions, Messrs. Dyer and Biotti agreed to increasing the third target distribution level to \$0.1825 and increasing the period during which we would not issue any senior securities to June 30, 2015.

On May 11, 2011, Mr. Dyer sent a revised proposal to the Conflicts Committee that modified the March 30 Proposal (the Modified March 30 Proposal) to provide for (i) an increase in the third target distribution level to \$0.1825 from \$0.1650, (ii) an increase in the period during which we would not issue any senior securities to June 30, 2015 from the Eight Quarter Period, (iii) an increase in the rights offering from \$75 million to \$77 million and (iv) an increase in the number of Preferred Units we would repurchase from Vitol and Charlesbank in connection with the rights offering to \$22 million from \$20 million.

On May 12, 2011, the Conflicts Committee met with representatives of Prickett Jones, Baker Botts and Baird to discuss the Modified March 30 Proposal. Representatives of Baker Botts reviewed the Amendment to be entered into in connection with the Modified March 30 Proposal and the proposed amendments to the Global Transaction Agreement and the GTA Transactions contemplated thereby. The Conflicts Committee also discussed with representatives of Baird a potential conflict of which the Baird team assisting the Conflicts Committee had recently become aware and subsequently notified the Conflicts Committee. On May 5, 2011, the representatives of Baird that were assisting the Conflicts Committee learned that Baird had recently been engaged to assist a company that was controlled by Charlesbank. Baird explained to the Conflicts Committee that this other company was not in the energy industry and that the Baird representatives that were advising the Conflicts Committee had no involvement in the other engagement. Ultimately, the Conflicts Committee determined that Baird should continue to analyze the Amended GTA Transactions and render its opinion as to their fairness. Representatives of Baird then presented its financial analysis of the Amended GTA Transactions (as defined below), discussed the procedures it had completed in connection with its financial analysis and advised the Conflicts Committee that based upon, and subject to, various assumptions, qualifications and limitations, the Amended GTA Transactions (defined as the Unitholder Vote Transactions, including the Unitholder Proposals, and the Phase II Transactions effected pursuant to the Global Transaction Agreement as amended by the Amendment) are fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership and delivered its opinion regarding the same. Such analysis is described in more detail in Opinion of Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated Financial Advisor to the Conflicts Committee of the Board of Directors of Blueknight Energy Partners G.P., L.L.C. Representatives from Baird confirmed that Baird had received all of the information and materials required to perform its analysis. After a discussion of the provisions of our partnership agreement and Delaware law regarding conflict transactions, the Conflicts Committee unanimously (i) determined that the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions are

Table of Contents

advisable, fair and reasonable to, and in the best interests of, our partnership and our public unitholders (other than Vitol, Charlesbank and their affiliates), (ii) approved the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions, (iii) recommended approval by our board of directors of the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions, (iv) recommended that our public unitholders vote to approve the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and (v) resolved that the Conflicts Committee desired and intended that the approvals of the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions constitute Special Approval pursuant to Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement.

On May 12, 2011, our board of directors convened a special meeting to discuss the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions. During such meeting, the Conflicts Committee delivered a report to our board of directors on (i) the process in evaluating and negotiating the terms of the Amendment, (ii) the opinion of Baird that the Amended GTA Transactions are fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership and (iii) the resolutions adopted by the Conflicts Committee on May 12, 2011 approving and recommending approval of the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions and granting Special Approval of such agreement and transactions pursuant to Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement.

Following the report of the Conflicts Committee, our board of directors unanimously (i) determined that the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions are advisable, fair and reasonable to, and in the best interests of our partnership, (ii) approved the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions and (iii) recommended approval of Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal by our limited partners.

After the meeting of our board of directors, the applicable parties executed the Amendment. Our partnership issued a press release on May 12, 2011 and filed a Current Report on Form 8-K on May 13, 2011 relating to entering into the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions.

Recommendation of the Conflicts Committee and Its Reasons for the Refinancing and Related Transactions

The Conflicts Committee is a standing committee of our board of directors and consists of three independent directors: Steven M. Bradshaw, Duke R. Ligon and John A. Shapiro. In resolutions approved by our board of directors on June 7, 2010, (1) the Conflicts Committee was authorized to evaluate and negotiate the terms and conditions of any proposal relating to the refinancing on behalf of our partnership and our public unitholders; (2) our officers and employees were authorized to assist the Conflicts Committee and (3) the Conflicts Committee was authorized to retain such professional advisors as it deemed necessary. As discussed under Background of the Refinancing and Related Transactions, the Conflicts Committee initially engaged UBS as its independent financial advisor and later engaged Baird to deliver an opinion with respect to the fairness of the Amended GTA Transactions. The Conflicts Committee engaged Prickett Jones as its independent legal counsel. The Conflicts Committee oversaw the performance of financial due diligence by representatives of UBS and Baird, conducted extensive reviews of the various refinancing proposals and conducted negotiations with Vitol and its representatives with respect to the Global Transaction Agreement and the matters contemplated thereby.

After a detailed discussion of the provisions of our partnership agreement and Delaware law regarding conflict transactions, at a meeting held on October 21, 2010, the Conflicts Committee unanimously (i) determined that the Global Transaction Agreement and the GTA Transactions are advisable, fair and reasonable to, and in the best interests of, our partnership and our public unitholders (other than Vitol, Charlesbank and their affiliates), (ii) approved the Global Transaction Agreement, the documents referenced in the Global Transaction Agreement and the GTA Transactions, (iii) recommended approval by our board of directors of the Global Transaction Agreement, the documents referenced in the Global Transaction Agreement and the GTA Transactions, (iv) recommended that our public unitholders vote to approve the unitholder proposals as set forth in the Global Transaction Agreement and (v) resolved that the Conflicts Committee desired and intended that the approvals of the Global Transaction Agreement, the documents referenced therein and the GTA Transactions constitute Special Approval pursuant to Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement.

Table of Contents

As discussed under Background of the Refinancing and Related Transactions, the GTA Transactions were subsequently modified by the Amendment to such agreement entered into on May 12, 2011. In resolutions approved by our board of directors on January 24, 2011 and March 30, 2011, (1) the Conflicts Committee was authorized to evaluate and negotiate the terms and conditions of any proposal relating to the any revisions to the GTA Transactions and amendment to the Global Transaction Agreement on behalf of our partnership and our public unitholders; (2) our officers and employees were authorized to assist the Conflicts Committee; and (3) the Conflicts Committee was authorized to retain such professional advisors as it deemed necessary.

The Conflicts Committee, by unanimous vote at a meeting held on May 12, 2011, (1) determined that the Amendment and Amended GTA Transactions are advisable, fair and reasonable to, and in the best interests of our partnership and our public unitholders; (2) approved the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions; (3) recommended that our board of directors approve the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions; (4) recommended that our public unitholders vote to approve the unitholder proposals as set forth in the Global Transaction Agreement, as amended by the Amendment; and (5) resolved that the Conflicts Committee desired and intended that the approvals of the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions constitute Special Approval pursuant to Section 7.9 of our partnership agreement.

In reaching its determinations, the Conflicts Committee consulted with and received the advice of its independent financial and legal advisors, considered the numerous uncertainties and risks facing our partnership, and considered the interests of our public unitholders. In determining that the refinancing and related transactions, including the Global Transaction Agreement and the Amendment, were in the best interests of our partnership and our public unitholders and recommending the approval of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal, the Conflicts Committee considered a number of factors. The material factors are summarized below.

Factors Relating to the Approval of the Original Global Transaction Agreement

The Conflicts Committee considered the following to be generally positive or favorable factors in reaching its determination and recommendation regarding the initial approval of the Global Transaction Agreement in October 2010:

The GTA Transactions were a comprehensive financing and restructuring solution for our partnership since they provided our partnership with additional equity capital, satisfied our near-term and intermediate term liquidity needs, improved our capitalization and provided additional stability.

Our prior credit facility was scheduled to expire in June 2011, and we were able to enter into a new four-year credit facility on generally more favorable terms as part of the GTA Transactions.

Additional deferred interest payments and amortization payments would become due under our prior credit facility if it were not refinanced prior to the maturity date, including \$2.5 million amortization payments due in each of December 2010 and March 2011, and an approximately \$4.2 million additional interest payment due in April 2011 and a \$10.5 million deferred interest payment due in June 2011.

Given our leverage, we were not permitted to make distributions to our unitholders under the terms of the prior credit facility and we are permitted to make distributions under our new credit facility as long as we maintain compliance with the applicable covenants.

The opinion received by the Conflicts Committee from Baird, delivered at the Conflicts Committee meeting on October 21, 2010, to the effect that, as of the date of its opinion and based upon and subject to the various assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in the opinion, the GTA Transactions are fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership.

Table of Contents

The evaluation and analysis presented by Baird to the Conflicts Committee, including at meetings held on October 19, 2010 and October 21, 2010, in connection with the foregoing opinion.

The advice of UBS to the Conflicts Committee, at various meetings from May 2010 to October 2010, regarding recapitalization alternatives and the financial impact of the GTA Transactions.

The consummation of the Phase I Transactions significantly reduced our leverage. Our leverage ratio (ratio of net debt to EBITDA) decreased from 6.63 to 1.00 immediately prior to the refinancing to 3.74 to 1.00 immediately after the consummation of the Phase I Transactions (treating the Convertible Debt as equity because of its conversion provisions). We believe that a reduced leverage will position us for future growth.

Unless we addressed our capital structure, we would have been in violation of one or more of our financial covenants contained in our prior credit facility as early as November 2010. The Conflicts Committee was advised by our management that any such violation could substantially increase our costs.

We had a going concern qualification in our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009 and the quarters ended March 31, 2010 and June 30, 2010 as a result of uncertainties surrounding our ability to comply with the covenants under our prior credit facility and the maturity of our prior credit facility. As a result of the refinancing transactions that we completed on October 25, 2010, we removed the going concern qualification in our September 30, 2010 financial statements.

As a result of the going concern qualification in our financial statements, we were not able to re-list our common units on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Instead, our common units traded on the OTC Pink Sheets, an exchange that we felt offers less trading activity to our common unitholders than the Nasdaq. Because of the removal of the going concern qualification, among other reasons, our common units were relisted and began trading on the Nasdaq Global Market beginning on May 16, 2011.

As a result of our going concern qualification and high leverage, certain prospective customers were reluctant to transact business with us because of a perceived risk of us as a counterparty.

The refinancing reduces our overall cost of capital, which will increase our ability to pay distributions to our unitholders and to compete for acquisitions and other growth projects.

Other terms of the refinancing, principally including:

the significantly reduced interest rate under the new credit facility, which is LIBOR plus 4.0% to 4.5% (depending on our leverage) as opposed to 9.5% under our prior credit facility;

the ability to expand our business, since our prior credit facility limited our ability to make capital expenditures to approximately \$8.0 million in 2010, and \$4.0 million in the first half of 2011, while the new credit facility does not specifically limit our ability to make capital expenditures;

availability under our prior credit facility was approximately \$3.5 million immediately prior to the refinancing, and availability under the new credit facility was approximately \$31.1 million after the consummation of the Phase I Transactions;

the significant equity investment by both Vitol and Charlesbank, the owners of our general partner, is a significant endorsement of our prospects; and

the Convertible Debentures were issued at an interest rate (10% for the first year, then increasing to 12%) and with other terms (redeemable at par plus accrued interest, automatically convert to Preferred Units at the maturity date etc.) that we believe are more attractive than could be obtained from other unaffiliated third parties.

Table of Contents

The Conflicts Committee considered the following to be generally negative or unfavorable factors in reaching its determination and recommendation regarding the initial approval of the Global Transaction Agreement in October 2010:

Although the Conflicts Committee believes that the issuance of the Preferred Units in the Phase I Transactions was necessary to reduce our overall leverage and that the terms of our new credit facility would not be as advantageous had we not issued such equity securities, the issuance of the Preferred Units in the Phase I Transactions resulted in substantial dilution to our public unitholders.

If the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is not approved, the Preferred Units will have a substantially higher distribution preference than if such proposal is approved, which will increase our overall cost of capital and reduce our ability to make distributions to our common unitholders.

The Preferred Units convert into common units at a price that was below the trading price of our common units at the time of the completion of the Phase I Transactions.

The risk that the potential benefits sought in the refinancing might not be fully realized.

The bases on which the Conflicts Committee made its determination, including assumptions associated with our future financial performance, are uncertain.

Some of our executive officers and directors have interests in the refinancing that may differ from, or may be in addition to, the interests of our public unitholders generally, due to their association with Vitol or Charlesbank.

The foregoing discussion of the information and factors considered by the Conflicts Committee in considering the Global Transaction Agreement is not intended to be exhaustive, but includes the material factors considered by the Conflicts Committee. In view of the variety of factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the Global Transaction Agreement and the GTA Transactions, the Conflicts Committee did not find it practicable to, and did not, quantify or otherwise assign specific weights to the factors considered in reaching its determination and recommendation. In addition, each of the members of the Conflicts Committee may have given differing weights to different factors. On balance, the Conflicts Committee believed that the positive factors discussed above outweighed the negative factors discussed above. The Conflicts Committee considered the analysis of Baird and UBS and the opinion of Baird, among other factors, in reaching its determination as to whether the refinancing and related transactions were in the best interests of our partnership and our public unitholders.

Factors Relating to the Approval of the Amendment

In addition to the factors set forth above, the Conflicts Committee considered the following to be generally positive or favorable factors in reaching its determination and recommendation regarding approval of the Amendment in May 2011:

If the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved, our capital structure will be simplified by the elimination of our subordinated units, which will increase the relative ownership percentage of each common unitholder.

The minimum quarterly distribution and incentive distribution target amounts are higher in the Amendment than in the original Global Transaction Agreement, thereby increasing the relative value of our common units if the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved.

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

If the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved, the rights offering will provide our public unitholders the opportunity to purchase Preferred Units on substantially the same financial terms as Vitol and Charlesbank.

Pursuant to the Amendment, if the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved, we may purchase up to \$22 million of Preferred Units owned by Vitol and Charlesbank thereby allowing our

Table of Contents

public unitholders the opportunity to purchase a portion of the Preferred Units in the rights offering without additional dilution.

If the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved, we will have an additional right to force the conversion of the Preferred Units after five years thereby increasing our ability to simplify our capital structure in the future.

The opinion received by the Conflicts Committee from Baird, delivered at the Conflicts Committee meeting on May 12, 2011, to the effect that, as of the date of its opinion and based upon and subject to the various assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in the opinion, the Amended GTA Transactions are fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership.

The evaluation and analysis presented by representatives of Baird to the Conflicts Committee, including at a meeting held on May 12, 2011, in connection with the foregoing opinion, which analysis is described under Opinion of Baird Financial Advisor to the Conflicts Committee.

If the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved, the resetting of the minimum quarterly distribution and the incentive distribution rights creates the potential for immediate valuation enhancements to the incentive distribution rights, thereby creating an additional incentive to the owners of our general partner to actively grow our cash flow per limited partner unit.

In addition to the factors set forth above, the Conflicts Committee considered the following to be generally negative or unfavorable factors in reaching its determination and recommendation regarding approval of the Amendment:

We would not make the special distribution to our common unitholders of approximately \$17 million, although not financing such a distribution with a private placement of Preferred Units would avoid the corresponding dilution to our common unitholders.

If the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is not approved, the Preferred Units will have a substantially higher distribution preference than if such proposal is approved, which will increase our overall cost of capital and reduce our ability to make distributions to our common unitholders.

The bases on which the Conflicts Committee made its determination, including assumptions associated with our future financial performance, are uncertain.

Some of our executive officers and directors have interests in the refinancing that may differ from, or may be in addition to, the interests of our public unitholders generally, due to their association with Vitol or Charlesbank.

The foregoing discussion of the information and factors considered by the Conflicts Committee in considering the Amendment is not intended to be exhaustive, but includes the material factors considered by the Conflicts Committee. In view of the variety of factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions, the Conflicts Committee did not find it practicable to, and did not, quantify or otherwise assign specific weights to the factors considered in reaching its determination and recommendation. In addition, each of the members of the Conflicts Committee may have given differing weights to different factors. On balance, the Conflicts Committee believed that the positive factors discussed above outweighed the negative factors discussed above. The Conflicts Committee considered the analysis and opinion of Baird, among other factors, in reaching its determination as to whether the Amendment and related transactions were in the best interests of our partnership and our public unitholders.

The Conflicts Committee believes that sufficient procedural safeguards were and are present to ensure the fairness of the refinancing and related transactions and to permit the Conflicts Committee to represent effectively the interests of our public unitholders, each of which the Conflicts Committee believes supports its decision and provides assurance of the fairness of the refinancing and related transactions to our public unitholders. The

Table of Contents

Conflicts Committee determined that the process it followed in making its determination and recommendation with respect to the refinancing and related transactions, including the approval of the Global Transaction Agreement and the Amendment, was procedurally fair to our public unitholders because:

The Conflicts Committee consisted solely of directors who are not officers or controlling unitholders of our partnership, or affiliates of Vitol or Charlesbank, and the Conflicts Committee was charged with representing the interests of our partnership and our public unitholders.

The members of the Conflicts Committee were adequately compensated for their services and their compensation was in no way contingent on their approving the refinancing and related transactions or the Global Transaction Agreement, the Amendment and the matters contemplated thereby.

The Conflicts Committee retained and was advised by independent investment bankers to assist in evaluating the fairness of the refinancing and related transactions.

The Conflicts Committee retained and was advised by independent legal counsel experienced in advising on matters of this kind.

The Conflicts Committee's financial advisors conducted due diligence regarding our partnership and our prospects.

The Conflicts Committee received the opinion of Baird in connection with the Global Transaction Agreement to the effect that, as of the date of its opinion and based upon and subject to the assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in the opinion, the GTA Transactions are fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership.

The Conflicts Committee received the opinion of Baird in connection with the Amendment to the effect that, as of the date of its opinion and based upon and subject to the assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in the opinion, the Amended GTA Transactions are fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership.

The Conflicts Committee, with the assistance of its financial and legal advisors, negotiated the terms of the refinancing and related transactions and the Global Transaction Agreement, the Amendment and the matters contemplated thereby.

The Conflicts Committee encouraged and followed closely the process whereby representatives of our general partner and its affiliates engaged in discussions with certain significant unitholders, which helped result in improved terms that will benefit our partnership and our public unaffiliated common unitholders.

The Conflicts Committee was aware that it had no obligation to recommend any transaction, including the refinancing and related transactions.

It should be noted that this explanation of the reasoning of the Conflicts Committee and all other information presented in this section are forward-looking in nature and, therefore, should be read along with the factors discussed under the heading "Forward-Looking Statements."

Recommendation of our Board of Directors and Its Reasons for the Refinancing and Related Transactions

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

At the time of a board meeting held on October 25, 2010 at which the Global Transaction Agreement and related transactions were considered and approved, our board of directors consisted of seven directors: James C. Dyer, IV, Duke R. Ligon, Steven M. Bradshaw, John A. Shapiro, Miguel A. (Mike) Loya, Javed Ahmed and Christopher G. Brown. As discussed under Background of the Refinancing and Related Transactions, the transactions set forth in the Global Transaction Agreement were subsequently modified by the Amendment to such agreement entered into on May 12, 2011. At the time of a board meeting held on May 12, 2011 at which the Amendment and related transactions were considered and approved, our board of directors consisted of seven

Table of Contents

directors: James C. Dyer, IV, Duke R. Ligon, Steven M. Bradshaw, John A. Shapiro, Mike Loya, Michael R. Eisenson and Jon M. Biotti. The members of our board of directors had different interests in the refinancing and related transactions than our public unitholders, generally. For a complete discussion of these and other interests of the members of our board of directors in the refinancing and related transactions, see Interests of Certain Persons in the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

Because of such actual and potential conflicts, our board of directors authorized the Conflicts Committee to review, evaluate and make recommendations to the board of directors regarding the refinancing and related transactions, including entering into the Global Transaction Agreement and the Amendment.

On October 25, 2010, our board of directors met to consider the report and recommendation of the Conflicts Committee relating to the Global Transaction Agreement and related transactions. On the basis of the Conflicts Committee's recommendation and the other factors described below, each of the seven members of our board of directors serving at such time unanimously (1) determined that the GTA Transactions are in the best interests of our partnership, (2) approved the Global Transaction Agreement and the GTA Transactions and (3) recommended that our public unitholders vote to approve the unitholder proposals as set forth in the Global Transaction Agreement.

On May 12, 2011, our board of directors met to consider the report and recommendation of the Conflicts Committee relating to the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions. On the basis of the Conflicts Committee's recommendation and the other factors described below, each of the seven members of our board of directors serving at such time unanimously (1) determined that the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions are in the best interests of our partnership, (2) approved the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions and (3) recommended that our public unitholders vote to approve the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal as set forth herein.

In determining that the refinancing and related transactions are in the best interests our partnership and approving the Global Transaction Agreement, the GTA Transactions, the Amendment and the Amended GTA Transactions and recommending that our public unitholders vote to approve the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal, our board of directors considered a number of factors, including the following material factors:

The unanimous determination and recommendation of the Conflicts Committee.

The opinion of Baird in connection with the approval of the Global Transaction Agreement to the effect that, as of the date of its opinion and based upon and subject to the assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in the opinion, the GTA Transactions are fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership.

The opinion of Baird in connection with the approval of the Amendment to the effect that, as of the date of its opinion and based upon and subject to the assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in the opinion, the Amended GTA Transactions are fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership.

The factors considered by the Conflicts Committee, including the positive factors and potential benefits of the refinancing and related transactions, including the Amendment, the risks and potentially negative factors relating to the refinancing and related transactions, and the factors relating to procedural safeguards, each as described in Recommendation of the Conflicts Committee and Its Reasons for the Refinancing and Related Transactions above.

The foregoing discussion of the information and factors considered by our board of directors includes the material factors considered by our board of directors. In view of the variety of factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the refinancing and related transactions, our board of directors did not find it practicable to, and did not, quantify or otherwise assign relative weights to the specific factors considered in reaching its determination and recommendation. In addition, individual directors may have given different weight to different

Table of Contents

factors. Our board of directors approved and recommends the refinancing and related transactions based upon the totality of the information presented to and considered by it.

Financial Forecasts Provided to Baird

We do not as a matter of course make public forecasts as to future revenue, earnings, or other results. However, our management team prepared forecasts in connection with the Conflicts Committee's consideration of the Global Transaction Agreement and has prepared the updated forecasted financial information set forth below for internal use to assist in various management decisions and in the Conflicts Committee's evaluation of the Amendment and related transactions. The accompanying forecasted financial information was not prepared with a view toward public disclosure or with a view toward complying with the guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to forecasted financial information, but, in the view of our management team, was prepared on a reasonable basis, reflects the best then-currently available estimates and judgments, and presents, to the best of management's knowledge and belief, the expected course of action and the expected future financial performance of our partnership. However, this information is not fact and should not be relied upon as being necessarily indicative of future results, and readers of this proxy statement are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forecasted financial information. The prospective financial information included in this proxy has been prepared by, and is the responsibility of, our general partner's management. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has neither examined, compiled nor performed any procedures with respect to the accompanying prospective financial information and, accordingly, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP does not express an opinion or any other form of assurance with respect thereto. The PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP report incorporated by reference in this proxy relates to our partnership's historical financial information. It does not extend to the prospective financial information and should not be read to do so.

The internal financial forecasts (upon which the forecasted information is based) of our partnership are, in general, prepared solely for internal use to assist in various management decisions, including with respect to capital budgeting. Such internal financial forecasts are inherently subjective in nature, susceptible to interpretation and accordingly such forecasts may not be achieved. The internal financial forecasts also reflect numerous assumptions made by our management team, including the categories of material assumptions that may not be realized and are subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies, all of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond the control of the preparing party. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the assumptions made in preparing the internal financial forecasts upon which the foregoing forecasted financial information was based will prove accurate. There will be differences between actual and forecasted results, and the differences may be material. The risk that these uncertainties and contingencies could cause the assumptions to fail to be reflective of actual results is further increased due to the length of time in the future over which these assumptions apply. The assumptions in early periods have a compounding effect on the forecasts shown for the later periods. Thus, any failure of an assumption to be reflective of actual results in an early period would have a greater effect on the forecasted results failing to be reflective of actual events in later periods. You should consider the risks identified in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement, and the matters discussed elsewhere in this proxy statement under "Forward-Looking Statements."

In developing the forecasts, our management team made the following material assumptions with respect to our partnership:

organic growth opportunities and the amounts and timing of related costs and potential economic returns;

the availability and cost of capital;

the cash flow from existing assets and business activities;

the payment and timing of distributions on the common units; and

other general business, market and financial assumptions.

Table of Contents

All of these assumptions involve variables making them difficult to predict, and most are beyond our control. Although our management team believes that there was a reasonable basis for the forecasts and underlying assumptions, any assumptions for near-term forecasted cases remain uncertain, and the risk of inaccuracy increases with the length of the forecasted period.

In connection with the consideration of the Amendment and the related transactions, our management team prepared forecasts that included future financial and operating performance. The forecasts were prepared for our partnership assuming that (i) the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is not approved by our unitholders and (ii) the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved by our unitholders. The forecasts were provided to Baird in connection with its independent financial analysis and in the preparation of Baird's fairness opinion. The forecasts were also presented to our Conflicts Committee. The following forecasted information is included in this proxy statement only because this information was provided to Baird and the Conflicts Committee in connection with the refinancing and related transactions.

The following forecasts are a summary of the forecasts provided to Baird and the Conflicts Committee, and include only summary forecasts through 2015. The summary forecasts set forth below summarize the most recent forecasts provided to Baird and the Conflicts Committee prior to execution of the Amendment. The inclusion of the following summary forecasts in this proxy statement should not be regarded as an indication that either our partnership or our representatives considered or consider the forecasts to be a reliable or accurate prediction of future performance or events, and the summary forecasts set forth below should not be relied upon as such.

The financial forecast set forth below outline the following scenarios:

Successful Vote: Assumes (i) the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved by our unitholders in the quarter ended September 30, 2011, (ii) the transfer and subsequent cancellation of our subordinated units, (iii) the consummation in full of the \$77 million rights offering and the use of proceeds thereof as described herein (including the redemption of the Convertible Debentures and the repurchase of \$22 million of Preferred Units from Vitol and Charlesbank), (iv) the Preferred Units would convert into common units during the first quarter of 2014, the point at which, on a pro forma basis, common unit distributions would exceed Preferred Unit distributions based upon management's forecasts, (v) growth and acquisition capital expenditures of \$15 million for the remainder of 2011 (\$18.1 million total for 2011), \$50 million for 2012 and \$100 million per year for each of 2013, 2014 and 2015, with resulting Adjusted EBITDA based on a 8.0 times multiple, (vi) additional growth capital expenditures for the remainder of 2011 and 2012 are financed entirely with debt, while growth and acquisition capital expenditures during 2013 through 2015 are financed with new debt in an amount equal to 50% of such capital expenditures, bearing interest at a rate based upon the terms of our credit agreement, and 50% with equity issued at a yield of 7.0% and (vii) distributions per common unit are \$0.22 and \$0.52 in 2011 and 2012, respectively, and are paid based upon a coverage ratio of 1.20 times in 2013, 2014 and 2015 and (viii) the LIBOR rate increases from 0.5% to 3.0% during the forecasted period.

Status Quo: Gives effect to the Phase I Transactions but assumes (i) the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is not approved by our unitholders, (ii) the rights offering is not consummated, (iii) the subordinated units are not cancelled, remain outstanding and are not converted into common units during the forecasted period, (iv) the Convertible Debentures and accumulated interest thereon convert into Preferred Units on December 31, 2011, (v) the interest rate on the Convertible Debentures increases from 10% to 12% starting in the fourth quarter of 2011; (vi) the Preferred Units remain outstanding for the entire forecasted period since they are expected to pay a higher distribution than the common units would on an as-converted basis and the distributions on such units increases from 8.5% to 17.5% during the fourth quarter of 2011, (vii) growth and acquisition capital expenditures of \$15 million for the remainder of 2011 (\$18.1 million total for 2011) and thereafter capital expenditures are limited to maintenance capital expenditures and do not include acquisitions or growth capital expenditures, (viii) no distributions are paid on common units during 2011 and thereafter distributions

Table of Contents

on the common units are paid based upon a coverage ratio of 1.2 times, (ix) no common unit arrearages are paid due to insufficient levels of distributable cash flow and (x) the LIBOR rate increases from 0.5% to 3.0% during the forecasted period.

Financial Forecast Successful Vote

	2011 Estimated	2012 Estimated	2013 Estimated	2014 Estimated	2015 Estimated
(in millions, except ratios)					
Adjusted EBITDA⁽¹⁾	\$ 63.9	\$ 75.3	\$ 86.4	\$ 102.0	\$ 112.9
Cash Interest Expense	(13.1)	(16.4)	(21.8)	(26.7)	(29.5)
Income taxes	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Maintenance Capital Expenditures	(15.5)	(18.2)	(19.5)	(14.9)	(16.1)
Mandatory Amortizations	(1.2)	(1.6)	(1.9)	(0.8)	0.0
Preferred Distribution Payment	(15.0)	(21.9)	(21.9)	0.0	0.0
Distributable Cash Flow⁽²⁾	\$ 18.9	\$ 17.0	\$ 21.1	\$ 59.5	\$ 67.1
Capital Expenditures					
Maintenance Capital Expenditures	\$ 15.5	\$ 18.2	\$ 19.5	\$ 14.9	\$ 16.1
Growth Capital Expenditures	18.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Acquisitions / (Divestitures)	0.1	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Capital Expenditures	\$ 33.6	\$ 68.2	\$ 119.5	\$ 114.9	\$ 116.1
Total Distributions	\$ 5.1	\$ 12.0	\$ 17.6	\$ 49.6	\$ 56.0
Average Limited Partner Units Outstanding	28.8	22.7	24.9	60.0	64.6
Total Debt Balance (excluding Convertible Debentures)	\$ 239.3	\$ 286.8	\$ 331.2	\$ 370.3	\$ 408.9
Preferred Equity Balance	\$ 198.9	\$ 198.9	\$ 198.9	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0
Total Arrearage Balance	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0
Credit Statistics					
Leverage Ratio ⁽³⁾	3.6x	3.8x	3.8x	3.6x	3.6x
Interest Coverage Ratio ⁽⁴⁾	5.0x	4.6x	4.0x	3.8x	3.8x

(1) Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure. Please see Forecasted Non-GAAP Financial Measures.

(2) Distributable Cash Flow is a non-GAAP financial measure. Please see Forecasted Non-GAAP Financial Measures.

(3) The Leverage Ratio is the ratio of our total debt (calculated in accordance with our credit agreement) to our EBITDA (calculated in accordance with our credit agreement).

(4) The Interest Coverage Ratio is the ratio of our EBITDA (calculated in accordance with our credit agreement) to our interest expense (calculated in accordance with our credit agreement).

Table of Contents**Financial Forecast Status Quo**

	2011 Estimated	2012 Estimated	2013 Estimated	2014 Estimated	2015 Estimated
	(in millions, except ratios)				
Adjusted EBITDA⁽¹⁾	\$ 63.9	\$ 73.8	\$ 77.8	\$ 80.9	\$ 79.3
Cash interest expense	(13.1)	(15.0)	(16.9)	(17.8)	(17.5)
Income taxes	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Maintenance Capital Expenditures	(15.5)	(17.9)	(18.3)	(12.4)	(12.4)
Mandatory Amortizations	(1.2)	(1.6)	(1.9)	(0.8)	0.0
Preferred Distribution Payment	(16.7)	(35.0)	(35.0)	(35.0)	(35.0)
Distributable Cash Flow⁽²⁾	\$ 17.2	\$ 4.0	\$ 5.5	\$ 14.7	\$ 14.1
Capital Expenditures					
Maintenance Capital Expenditures	\$ 15.5	\$ 17.9	\$ 18.3	\$ 12.4	\$ 12.4
Expansion Capital Expenditures	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Acquisitions / (Divestitures)	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Capital Expenditures	\$ 33.6	\$ 17.9	\$ 18.3	\$ 12.4	\$ 12.4
Total Distributions	\$ 0.0	\$ 3.3	\$ 4.6	\$ 12.3	\$ 11.8
Average Limited Partner Units Outstanding	35.0	35.2	35.2	35.5	35.5
Total Debt Balance (excluding Convertible Debentures)	\$ 234.8	\$ 236.6	\$ 233.5	\$ 230.1	\$ 227.6
Preferred Equity Balance	\$ 200.0	\$ 200.0	\$ 200.0	\$ 200.0	\$ 200.0
Total Arrearage Balance	\$ 107.8	\$ 133.4	\$ 157.7	\$ 174.6	\$ 192.0
Credit Statistics					
Leverage Ratio ⁽³⁾	3.6x	3.2x	3.0x	2.8x	2.9x
Interest Coverage Ratio ⁽⁴⁾	5.0x	4.9x	4.6x	4.6x	4.5x

(1) Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure. Please see Forecasted Non-GAAP Financial Measures.

(2) Distributable Cash Flow is a non-GAAP financial measure. Please see Forecasted Non-GAAP Financial Measures.

(3) The Leverage Ratio is the ratio of our total debt (calculated in accordance with our credit agreement) to our EBITDA (calculated in accordance with our credit agreement).

(4) The Interest Coverage Ratio is the ratio of our EBITDA (calculated in accordance with our credit agreement) to our interest expense (calculated in accordance with our credit agreement).

The forecasts are forward-looking statements and are subject to risks and uncertainties. Accordingly, the assumptions made in preparing the forecasts may not prove to be reflective of actual results, and actual results may be materially different than those contained in the forecasts. We do not intend to make publicly available any update or other revisions to the forecasts to reflect circumstances existing after the date of the forecasts. Neither Baird nor any of its representatives assumes any responsibility for the validity, reasonableness, accuracy or completeness of the forecasted financial information, and we have not made any representations to unitholders regarding such information. The inclusion of the forecasts in this proxy statement should not be regarded as an indication that Baird or the Conflicts Committee considered the forecasts predictive of actual/future events or that the forecasts should be relied on for that purpose. In light of the uncertainties inherent in any forecasted data, unitholders are cautioned not to rely on the foregoing forecasts.

Table of Contents

Forecasted Non-GAAP Financial Measures

The forecasts set forth above include forecasts of Adjusted EBITDA and Distributable Cash Flow through 2015. We have not included reconciliations of the Adjusted EBITDA and Distributable Cash Flow estimates contained in the forecasts, because (i) such information was only included in this proxy statement because the forecasts were provided to the Conflicts Committee and Baird, (ii) reconciliations were not provided to the Conflicts Committee or Baird and (iii) we do not forecast certain items necessary to calculate net income or cash flows from operations, including depreciation, depletion, amortization, income taxes and changes in fair value thus, preparing and including the reconciliations could not be accomplished without undue hardship, because the Adjusted EBITDA and Distributable Cash Flow numbers are estimations, approximations and/or ranges, and it is difficult for our partnership to present the detailed reconciliation with unknown variables for the reconciling items.

Adjusted EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation, amortization, impairment, and other miscellaneous non-cash items, including changes in the fair values of the embedded derivative within convertible debt and the rights offering contingency. The use of adjusted EBITDA should not be considered as an alternative to GAAP measures such as net income or cash flows from operating activities. Adjusted EBITDA is used by our partnership because we believe it provides additional information with respect to our business activities and is used as a supplemental financial measure by management and external users of our financial statements, such as investors, commercial banks and others, to assess, among other things, our partnership's operating performance and return on capital as compared to those of other companies in the midstream energy sector, without regard to financing or capital structure.

Distributable Cash Flow is defined as Adjusted EBITDA minus: (i) cash interest expense, (ii) income taxes, (iii) maintenance capital expenditures, (iv) mandatory amortizations, and (v) distributions made on the Preferred Units. Distributable Cash Flow is used by the our general partner's management to compare estimated cash flows generated by us (excluding growth capital expenditures and prior to the establishment of any reserves established by our board of directors) to the cash distributions expected to be paid to unitholders. Using this metric, our general partner's management can compute the coverage ratio of estimated cash flows to planned cash distributions. This financial measure also is important to investors as an indicator of whether our partnership is generating cash flow at a level that can sustain or support an increase in quarterly distribution rates. Actual distributions are set by our board of directors.

Opinion of Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated Financial Advisor to the Conflicts Committee of the Board of Directors of Blueknight Energy Partners G.P., L.L.C.

The Conflicts Committee retained Baird to render an opinion as to the fairness, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership of the Amended GTA Transactions.

On May 12, 2011, Baird rendered its oral opinion (which was also confirmed in writing) to the Conflicts Committee to the effect that, subject to the contents of such opinion, including the various assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth therein, Baird was of the opinion that, as of such date, the Amended GTA Transactions were fair, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership.

As a matter of policy, Baird's opinion was approved by a fairness committee, a majority of the members of which were not involved in providing financial advisory services on our behalf to our partnership in connection with the Amended GTA Transactions.

The full text of Baird's written opinion, dated May 12, 2011 which sets forth the assumptions made, general procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the scope of review undertaken by Baird in rendering

Table of Contents

its opinion, is attached as Annex B to this Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference. Baird's opinion is directed only to the fairness, in aggregate, as of the date of the opinion and from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership of the Amended GTA Transactions and does not constitute a recommendation to any unitholder as to how such unitholder should vote with respect to the Amended GTA Transactions or any other matter. The summary of Baird's opinion set forth below is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such opinion attached as Annex B to this Proxy Statement. The holders of our common units are urged to read the opinion carefully in its entirety.

In connection with its consideration of the Amended GTA Transactions, the Conflicts Committee requested Baird's opinion as to the fairness, in aggregate, from a financial point of view, to the public unaffiliated common unitholders of our partnership of the Amended GTA Transactions. Baird was not requested to analyze, and did not analyze, the fairness of any of the individual components of either the Unitholder Vote Transactions or the Phase II Transactions. The Conflicts Committee did not ask Baird to express, and Baird did not express, any opinion with respect to any of the other financial or non-financial terms, conditions, determinations or actions with respect to the Amended GTA Transactions.

Baird's opinion did not address any other actions, transactions or business strategies that may be, or might have been, available as an alternative to the Amended GTA Transactions (either the Unitholder Vote Transactions or the Phase II Transactions or any component thereof), including, without limitation, financing our partnership through alternative transactions or liquidating our partnership's assets. Baird's opinion did not address the relative merits or risks of: (i) the Amended GTA Transactions, the draft Amendment or any other agreements or other matters provided for, or contemplated by, the draft Amendment; or (ii) the Amended GTA Transactions compared to any other potential alternative transactions, actions or business strategies considered by our board of directors. With the Conflicts Committee's consent, Baird's opinion and analysis did not address any liquidation value or liquidation as an alternative transaction. For purposes of all of its analysis, Baird assumed that our partnership remains a going concern. Additionally, Baird was not requested to analyze, and Baird did not analyze, the fairness of the Amended GTA Transactions to any party other than our partnership's public unaffiliated common unitholders.

In arriving at its opinion, Baird assumed and relied upon, without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of all of the financial and other information that was publicly available or provided to Baird by or on behalf of our partnership. Baird did not independently verify any information supplied to Baird by our partnership that formed a substantial basis for the opinion. Baird was not engaged to independently verify, did not assume any responsibility to verify, did not assume liability for, and expressed no opinion on, any such information, and Baird assumed, without independent verification, that our partnership was not aware of any information prepared by it or its advisors that might be material to the opinion that was not provided to Baird. Baird assumed, without independent verification, that: (i) all material assets and liabilities (contingent or otherwise, known or unknown) of our partnership were as set forth in our financial statements included in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 (collectively, the "Financial Statements"); (ii) the Financial Statements presented fairly the results of operations, cash flows and financial condition of our partnership for the periods, and as of the dates, indicated and were prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles consistently applied; (iii) the Forecasts (as defined below) for our partnership were reasonably prepared on bases reflecting the best available estimates and good faith judgments of our general partner's senior management as to the future performance of our partnership, and Baird relied, without independent verification, upon such Forecasts in the preparation of this opinion, although Baird expressed no opinion with respect to the Forecasts or any judgments, estimates, assumptions or basis on which they were based, and Baird assumed, without independent verification, that the Forecasts will be realized in the amounts and on the time schedule contemplated; (iv) in all respects material to Baird's analysis, the Amended GTA Transactions will be consummated in accordance with the material terms and conditions of the draft Amendment without any further material amendment thereto and without waiver by any party of any of the material conditions to their respective obligations thereunder, including the approval of the amendments to the Third Amended and Restated Agreement

Table of Contents

of Limited Partnership, the waiver of arrearages and the full subscription to the rights offering; (v) in all respects material to Baird's analysis, the representations and warranties contained in the draft Amendment were true and correct and that each party will perform all of the material covenants and agreements required to be performed by it under such Amendment; (vi) all material corporate, governmental, regulatory or other consents and approvals (contractual or otherwise) required to consummate the Amended GTA Transactions have been, or will be, obtained without the need for any material changes to the material financial terms or conditions of the Amended GTA Transactions or that would otherwise materially affect our partnership or Baird's analysis; (vii) the consummation of the Amended GTA Transactions will be a tax-free event for federal income tax purposes; and (viii) the Forecasts do not give effect to any litigation currently pending or threatened against our partnership, except for the tentative understanding with respect to the settlement of class action litigation against our partnership, as disclosed in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 6, 2011. Baird relied, without independent verification, as to all legal and tax matters regarding the Amended GTA Transactions on the advice of legal counsel to our partnership and the Conflicts Committee. In conducting its review, Baird did not undertake or obtain an independent evaluation or appraisal of any of the assets or liabilities (contingent or otherwise, known or unknown), the solvency of our partnership or the liquidation value of our partnership nor did Baird perform a physical inspection of the properties or facilities of our partnership. Baird did not consider any expenses or potential adjustments to the terms relating to the Amended GTA Transactions as part of its analysis. In each case above, Baird made the assumptions and took the actions or inactions described above with the Conflicts Committee's knowledge and consent.

Baird's opinion necessarily is based upon economic, monetary and market conditions as they existed and could be evaluated on May 12, 2011, Baird's opinion did not predict or take into account any changes which may occur, or information which may become available, after May 12, 2011. Furthermore, Baird expressed no opinion as to the price or trading range at which any of our securities (including our common units) will trade following the date of Baird's opinion or as to the effect of the Amended GTA Transactions on such price or trading range. Such price and trading range may be affected by a number of factors, including but not limited to: (i) dispositions of the common units of our partnership by unitholders within a short period of time after, or other market effects resulting from, the announcement and/or effective date of the Amended GTA Transactions; (ii) changes in prevailing interest rates and other factors which generally influence the price of securities; (iii) adverse changes in the current capital markets; (iv) the occurrence of adverse changes in the financial condition, business, assets, results of operations or prospects of our partnership or in our partnership's industries; (v) any necessary actions by, or restrictions of, federal, state or other governmental agencies or regulatory authorities; and (vi) timely completion of the Amended GTA Transactions on terms and conditions that are acceptable to all parties at interest.

Baird's opinion was prepared at the request and for the internal information of the Conflicts Committee. Baird's opinion does not constitute a recommendation to any unitholder of our partnership as to how any such unitholder should vote with respect to the Amended GTA Transactions or whether any unitholder should participate in the rights offering that is a component of the Phase II Transactions.

The following is a summary of the material financial analyses performed by Baird in connection with rendering its opinion, which is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such opinion attached as Annex B and to the other disclosures contained in this section. The following summary, however, does not purport to be a complete description of the financial analyses performed by Baird. The order of analyses described does not represent relative importance or weight given to the analyses performed by Baird. Some of the summaries of the financial analyses include information presented in a tabular format. These tables must be read together with the full text of each summary and alone are not a complete description of Baird's financial analyses. Except as otherwise noted, the following quantitative information is based on market and financial data as it existed on or before May 12, 2011 and is not necessarily indicative of current market conditions.

Table of Contents

Summary of Valuation Methodologies

Baird evaluated the fairness, in aggregate, of the Amended GTA Transactions by using the following valuation methodologies:

discounted cash flow analysis;

selected trading metrics analysis;

selected transaction metrics analysis; and

incentive distribution rights comparison.

In performing its evaluation analysis, Baird analyzed data under two different forecasts prepared by our general partner's senior management (collectively, the Forecasts), as generally described below:

The first forecast case, which is referred to below as Status Quo, was prepared by our general partner's senior management and assumes the Amended GTA Transactions do not occur. As a result, the Status Quo forecast reflects the following principal assumptions: (i) the Convertible Debentures and accumulated interest thereon is converted into Preferred Units on its maturity date, December 31, 2011; (ii) the interest rate on the Convertible Debentures increases from 10% to 12% starting in the fourth quarter of 2011; (iii) the coupon on the Preferred Units increases from 8.5% to 17.5% during the fiscal fourth quarter of 2011 and the Preferred Units remain outstanding through 2015; (iv) growth and acquisition capital expenditures of \$15 million for the remainder of 2011 (\$18.1 million total for 2011); beyond 2011, capital expenditures are limited to maintenance capital expenditures; (v) no common unit distributions are paid in 2011; thereafter, common unit distributions are paid based on a coverage ratio of 1.20 times; (vi) no common unit arrearages are paid due to the insufficient levels of distributable cash flow, which caused Baird to attach no value to the common unit arrearages; (vii) subordinated units remain outstanding and are not converted into common units during the forecast period; and (viii) the LIBOR rate increases from 0.5% to 3.0% during the forecast period. Please read Financial Forecasts Provided to Baird.

The second forecast case, which is referred to below as Successful Vote, was prepared by our general partner's senior management and assumes the completion of the Amended GTA Transactions. As a result, the Successful Vote forecast reflects the following principal assumptions: (i) unitholder approval of the proposed amendments to the Partnership Agreement occurs in the third fiscal quarter ending September 30, 2011; (ii) our partnership completes a \$77 million Rights Offering on December 31, 2011, the proceeds of which are used to repay the Convertible Debentures and accumulated interest thereon and to redeem \$22 million of Preferred Units owned by Vitol and Charlesbank (for purposes of the analysis, no value is ascribed to the common unitholders' right to purchase Preferred Units under the terms of the Rights Offering); (iii) all of the Preferred Units convert into common units in the first quarter of 2014; (iv) growth and acquisition capital expenditures of \$15.0 million for the remainder of fiscal year 2011 (\$18.1 million total for 2011), \$50.0 million in 2012, and \$100.0 million per year in 2013, 2014 and 2015, with resulting Adjusted EBITDA based on a 8.0x multiple; (v) additional growth capital expenditures for the remainder of 2011 and 2012 are financed entirely with debt, while growth and acquisition capital expenditures in years 2013-2015 are financed with new debt in an amount equal to 50% of such capital expenditures, bearing interest at a rate based upon the terms of our partnership's credit agreement, and 50% with equity issued at a yield of 7.0%; (vi) common unit distributions are \$0.22 and \$0.52 in 2011 and 2012, respectively, and are paid based on a target distribution coverage ratio of 1.20x in years 2013-2015; (vii) elimination of all of the subordinated units currently outstanding; and (viii) the LIBOR rate increases from 0.5% to 3.0% during the forecast period. Please read Financial Forecasts Provided to Baird.

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis

Baird performed a discounted cash flow analysis utilizing the forecasted common unit distributions from 2011 to 2015 as set forth in the Forecasts provided by our general partner's senior management. In such analysis,

Table of Contents

Baird calculated the present values of the distributions per common unit from 2011 to 2015 by discounting such amounts at a rate of 10.7%. Baird calculated the present values of the distributions per common unit beyond 2015 by assuming a terminal yield of 6.5% and applying the terminal yield to the forecasted distributions per common unit in year 2015 and discounting the resulting terminal values at a rate of 10.7%. The summation of the present values of the distributions per common unit and the present values of the terminal values resulted in an implied equity value per common unit. Baird compared the implied per unit common equity values under each of the two forecasts. Below is a table that summarizes the results of Baird's discounted cash flow analysis:

	Implied Price per Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. Common Unit	
Status Quo	\$	6.14
Successful Vote	\$	9.98

Baird also performed sensitivity analysis on the discounted cash flow analysis by increasing and decreasing the aforementioned forecasted distributions per common unit within each Forecast by a range of 0% to 20% and by discounting the resulting distributions per common unit at rates ranging from 8.7% to 12.7%. Baird calculated the present values of the distributions per common unit beyond 2015 by assuming a terminal yield ranging from 4.5% to 8.5% and applying such terminal yields to the forecasted distributions per common unit in year 2015 and discounting the resulting terminal values at rates ranging from 8.7% to 12.7%. Baird compared the range of implied per unit equity values under each of the two forecasts as summarized below:

	Implied Price per Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. Common Unit	
	Low	High
Status Quo	\$ 3.67	\$ 10.91
Successful Vote	\$ 6.11	\$ 17.32

Selected Trading Metrics Analysis

Baird reviewed certain publicly available financial information and stock market information for certain publicly traded master limited partnerships (MLPs) that Baird deemed relevant. The group of selected publicly traded MLPs reviewed is listed below:

Buckeye Partners, L.P.

Global Partners LP

Holly Energy Partners, L.P.

Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P.

NuStar Energy L.P.

Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.

Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P.

TransMontaigne Partners L.P.

Baird chose these MLPs based on a review of publicly traded MLPs that possessed general business, operating and financial characteristics representative of MLPs in the industry in which our partnership operates. Baird noted that none of the MLPs reviewed is identical to our partnership and that, accordingly, the analysis of such MLPs necessarily involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in the business, operating and financial characteristics of each MLP and other factors that affect the public market values of such partnerships.

For each MLP, Baird calculated the total equity value by multiplying the number of common, subordinated and implied general partner units outstanding as of the most recently reported date by the closing price per common unit on May 11, 2011. In addition, Baird calculated the total firm value by adding the total equity value to the book value of each partnership's total debt, preferred equity and minority interests, less each MLP's cash and cash equivalents. Baird then calculated the multiples of each MLP's total firm value to its projected 2011 and 2012 EBITDA (defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization), using consensus third-party research estimates.

Table of Contents

Baird also calculated each MLP's 2011 and 2012 projected common unit distribution yield by dividing each MLP's projected 2011 and 2012 common unit distributions using consensus third-party research estimates by its current common unit price. Stock market and historical financial information for the selected MLPs was based on publicly available information as of May 11, 2011, and projected financial information was based on publicly available research reports as of such date. A summary of the estimated EBITDA multiples and distribution yields is provided in the table below:

	Firm Value as a Multiple of EBITDA		Common Unit Distribution Yield	
	2011 Estimated	2012 Estimated	2011 Estimated	2012 Estimated
Median	12.2x	11.0x	6.5%	6.7%

Baird calculated the implied per unit value of our partnership common units for each Forecast using the 2011 and 2012 median EBITDA multiples and median distribution yields of the selected publicly traded MLPs. The resulting range of implied per unit equity values and the average implied per unit equity values are summarized in the table below:

	Implied Price per Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. Common Unit		
	Low	Average	High
Status Quo	\$ 2.14	\$ 6.45	\$ 8.78
Successful Vote	\$ 6.82	\$ 9.05	\$ 11.21

Selected Transactions Analysis

Baird reviewed certain publicly available financial information concerning acquisition transactions that Baird deemed relevant. The group of selected acquisition transactions is listed below:

Target	Acquirer
Certain assets of BP plc	Buckeye Partners, L.P.
Certain assets of First Reserve Corporation and Vopak Bahamas	Buckeye Partners, L.P.
Certain assets of Nexen Inc	Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.
Certain assets of SemGroup Corporation; Western Gas Partners; Noble Energy; BP plc	Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.
Certain assets of Mid-Valley Pipeline Co; West Shore Pipe Line Co; West Texas Gulf Pipe Line Co	Sunoco Incorporated; Sunoco Logistics Partners, LP
Certain assets BP plc	Magellan Midstream Partners, LP
Certain assets of Targa Resources, Inc	Targa Resources Partners LP
Certain assets of Flying J Inc	Magellan Midstream Partners, LP
Certain assets of Knight Inc	Kinder Morgan Energy Partners LP
Certain assets of SemGroup, L.P.	Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P.
Certain assets of Knight Inc	Kinder Morgan Energy Partners LP
Certain assets of TransMontaigne Inc	TransMontaigne Partners L.P.
Certain assets of Koch Industries Inc	NuStar Energy LP
Certain assets of BP plc	Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.
Andrews Petroleum Inc; Lone Star Trucking Inc	Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.
Certain assets of NuStar Energy L.P.	Pacific Energy Partners LP
Certain assets of Trans-Global Solutions Inc	Kinder Morgan Energy Partners LP
Certain assets of Alon Israel Oil Company	Holly Energy Partners, L.P.
Certain assets of Exxon Mobil Corporation	Buckeye Partners, L.P.

Table of Contents

Baird chose these acquisition transactions based on a review of completed and pending acquisition transactions involving target companies and assets that possessed general business, operating and financial characteristics representative of companies in the industry in which our partnership operates. Baird noted that none of the acquisition transactions or subject target companies or assets reviewed is identical to our partnership, and that, accordingly, the analysis of such acquisition transactions necessarily involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in the business, operating and financial characteristics of each subject target company or asset and each acquisition transaction and other factors that affect the values implied in such acquisition transactions.

For each transaction, Baird calculated the multiples of each target's total transaction value to its last twelve months or forecasted EBITDA, based on data provided in publicly available press releases, SEC filings by either the Acquirer or the Target (or both) announcing the transactions or as published by third-party research firms.

A summary of the implied EBITDA multiples is provided in the table below:

	Transaction Value as a Multiple of EBITDA	
	LTM	Forward
Median	9.1x	8.9x

Baird calculated the implied per unit value of our partnership's common units for each Forecast using the median last twelve months, or LTM, and forward EBITDA multiples of the selected transactions. The resulting range of implied per unit equity values and the average implied per unit equity values are summarized in the table below:

	Implied Price per Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. Common Unit		
	Low	Average	High
Status Quo	\$ 2.74	\$ 3.21	\$ 3.68
Successful Vote	\$ 4.29	\$ 5.01	\$ 5.74

Incentive Distribution Rights Comparison

Baird compared the proposed Incentive Distribution Rights (IDR) structure as set forth in the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal with the IDR structures of twenty midstream MLPs that Baird deemed relevant. Baird analyzed the MLPs it deemed relevant by reviewing each MLP's IDR structure at the time of its initial public offering. Baird then analyzed the range of percentage targets above the minimum quarterly distribution required to increase the general partner's interest in the underlying MLP's distributions. The results of this analysis are summarized in the table below:

	Lowest IDR Percentage of the Twenty Relevant MLPs	Highest IDR Percentage of the Twenty Relevant MLPs	As Set Forth in the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal
First Target % Above Minimum Quarterly Distribution	10%	15%	15%
Second Target % Above Minimum Quarterly Distribution	10%	25%	25%
Third Target % Above Minimum Quarterly Distribution	50%	50%	66%

The foregoing summary does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses performed by Baird or its presentations to the Conflicts Committee. The preparation of financial analyses and a fairness opinion is a

Table of Contents

complex process and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analyses or summary description. Baird believes that its analyses (and the summary set forth above) must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of such analyses and factors considered by Baird, without considering all of such analyses and factors, could create an incomplete view of the processes and judgments underlying the analyses performed and conclusions reached by Baird and its opinion. Baird did not attempt to assign specific weights to particular analyses. Any estimates contained in Baird's analyses are not necessarily indicative of actual values, which may be significantly more or less favorable than as set forth therein. Estimates of values of companies do not purport to be appraisals or necessarily to reflect the prices at which companies may actually be sold. Because such estimates are inherently subject to uncertainty, Baird does not assume responsibility for their accuracy.

Pursuant to an engagement letter dated April 15, 2011, Baird received a transaction fee of \$350,000 upon delivery of its opinion, regardless of the conclusions reached in such opinion. In addition, our partnership has agreed to reimburse Baird for its out-of-pocket costs and to indemnify Baird against certain liabilities that may arise out of this engagement. Baird will not receive any payment or compensation contingent upon the successful completion of the Amended GTA Transactions. Except for Baird's engagement to render this opinion and its engagement to act as financial advisor to an affiliate of Charlesbank in an unrelated matter, no material relationship between Baird and our partnership, any affiliate of our partnership or any other party to the Transactions is mutually understood to be contemplated in which any compensation is intended to be received.

Baird is a full service securities firm. As such, in the ordinary course of its business, Baird may from time to time provide investment banking, advisory, brokerage and other services to clients that may be competitors or suppliers to, or customers or security holders of, our partnership or that may otherwise participate or be involved in the same or a similar business or industry as our partnership or may from time to time trade the securities of our partnership (including our common units) for Baird's own account or the accounts of Baird's customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold long or short positions or effect transactions in such securities. Baird may also prepare equity analyst research reports from time to time regarding our partnership.

Interests of Certain Persons in the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal

In considering the recommendations of the Conflicts Committee and our board of directors, you should be aware that some of the executive officers and directors of our general partner have interests in the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal that may differ from, or may be in addition to, the interests of our common unitholders, generally. These interests may present such executive officers and directors with actual or potential conflicts of interests, and these interests, to the extent material, are described in this section.

Vitol

Vitol is engaged in the global physical supply and distribution of crude oil, petroleum products, coal, natural gas, and other commodities. Vitol beneficially owns directly or through certain controlled or wholly-owned entities, including Blueknight Energy Holding, Inc., 6,285,252 Preferred Units, 10,769,231 subordinated units and 50% of the equity interests in the entity that controls our general partner, which holds the incentive distribution rights and 1,127,755 general partner units in us. Certain of our executive officers and members of our board of directors are associated with Vitol as set forth below under Our Board of Directors and Executive Officers.

Charlesbank

Based in Boston and New York, Charlesbank is a middle-market private equity investment firm managing more than \$2 billion of capital. Charlesbank beneficially owns directly or through certain controlled or wholly-owned entities, including CB-Blueknight, LLC, 6,285,252 Preferred Units, 10,769,231 subordinated units and 50% of the equity interests in the entity that controls our general partner, which holds the incentive distribution rights and 1,127,755 general partner units in us. Certain members of our board of directors are associated with Charlesbank as set forth below under Our Board of Directors and Executive Officers.

Table of Contents*Our Board of Directors and Executive Officers*

Four members of our board of directors (one of whom also serves an executive officer of our general partner) are affiliated with entities that control our general partner and may have economic and other interests in the refinancing transactions that are different than the interests of our unitholders generally. Mr. Loya is a member of our board of directors and also serves as a director of Vitol and the President of Vitol, Inc., a U.S. subsidiary of Vitol. Mr. Dyer is a member of our board of directors and our general partner's Chief Executive Officer and also serves as a director and Vice President, Projects and Business Development of Vitol, Inc. Mr. Eisenson is a member of our board of directors and also serves as a Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Charlesbank. Mr. Biotti is a member of our board of directors and also serves as a Managing Director of Charlesbank. These individuals have certain duties and obligations to Vitol and Charlesbank, as applicable, which may in certain cases from time to time conflict with the duties and obligations that such individuals have as members of our board of directors and/or executive officers of our general partner.

Equity Interests

The following table sets forth the beneficial ownership of our units as of June 6, 2011 held by Vitol, Charlesbank, the members of our board of directors and the named executive officers of our general partner. Percentage of total common, subordinated and preferred units beneficially owned is based on 21,890,224 common units, 12,570,504 subordinated units and 21,538,462 preferred units outstanding as of June 6, 2011.

Name of Beneficial Owner ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of			Percentage of Subordinated Units Beneficially Owned	Preferred Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Preferred Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Total Common, Subordinated and Preferred Units Beneficially Owned
	Common Units Beneficially Owned	Common Units Beneficially Owned	Subordinated Units Beneficially Owned				
Blueknight Energy Holding, Inc. ⁽²⁾			6,285,252	50%	10,769,231	50%	30.5%
CB-Blueknight, LLC ⁽³⁾			6,285,252	50%	10,769,231	50%	30.5%
J. Michael Cockrell							
Alex G. Stallings ⁽⁴⁾	91,037	*					*
Mike Prince							
Larry Hatley							
Duke R. Ligon ⁽⁵⁾	10,000	*					*
Steven M. Bradshaw ⁽⁵⁾	8,500	*					*
John A. Shapiro ⁽⁵⁾	7,500	*					*
Miguel A. (Mike) Loya ⁽³⁾⁽⁶⁾							
James C. Dyer, IV ⁽²⁾⁽⁶⁾							
Michael R. Eisenson ⁽³⁾⁽⁷⁾							
Jon M. Biotti ⁽³⁾⁽⁷⁾							
All current executive officers and directors as a group (14 persons)	162,310	*					*

* Less than 1%

- (1) Unless otherwise indicated, the address for all beneficial owners in this table is Two Warren Place, 6120 South Yale Avenue, Suite 500, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136.
- (2) Blueknight Energy Holding, Inc. is a subsidiary of Vitol. The address for Vitol is 1100 Louisiana Street, Suite 5500, Houston, Texas 77002. Blueknight Energy Holding, Inc. owns 50% of Blueknight GP Holdings, LLC, which owns the membership interests in our general partner.

Table of Contents

- (3) CB-Blueknight, LLC is a subsidiary of Charlesbank. The address for Charlesbank is 200 Clarendon Street, 54th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts. CB-Blueknight, LLC owns 50% of Blueknight GP Holdings, LLC, which owns the membership interests in our general partner.
- (4) Substantially all the common units owned by Mr. Stallings are pledged as collateral to a bank.
- (5) Includes unvested restricted common units granted under our general partner's Long-Term Incentive Plan.
- (6) Messrs. Loya and Dyer are affiliated with Vitol.
- (7) Messrs. Eisenson and Biotti are affiliated with Charlesbank.

Interests of Officers and Directors in the Rights Offering

The following table sets forth the number of rights of the directors and named executive officers of our general partner, based upon their beneficial ownership of our common units (including restricted common units) as of June 6, 2011. For additional information about the ownership of our partnership, please see Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management of Our General Partner.

Generally, unless otherwise indicated, the officers and directors of our general partner will be able to exercise or sell the rights issued to them in respect of the common units (including restricted common units) and general partner units beneficially owned by them in the same manner as other of our partnership's unitholders.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Common Units Beneficially Owned	Rights Expected to be Issued in Respect of Common Units
J. Michael Cockrell		
Alex G. Stallings	91,037	49,269
Mike Prince		
Larry Hatley		
Duke R. Ligon ⁽¹⁾	10,000	5,412
Steven M. Bradshaw ⁽¹⁾	8,500	4,600
John A. Shapiro ⁽¹⁾	7,500	4,059
Miguel A. (Mike) Loya		
James C. Dyer, IV		
Michael R. Eisenson		
Jon M. Biotti		

- (1) Includes unvested restricted common units granted under our general partner's Long-Term Incentive Plan.

Indemnification of Directors and Officers

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

our general partner;

any departing general partner;

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

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

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

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

any person designated by our general partner.

Any indemnification under these provisions will only be out of our assets. Unless it otherwise agrees, our general partner will not be liable for, or have any obligation to contribute or lend funds or assets to us to enable

Table of Contents

us to effectuate, indemnification. We may purchase insurance against liabilities asserted against and expenses incurred by persons for our activities, regardless of whether we would have the power to indemnify the person against liabilities under our partnership agreement.

We and our general partner have also entered into separate indemnification agreements with certain of the directors and officers of our general partner. The terms of the indemnification agreements are consistent with the terms of the indemnification provided by our partnership agreement and our general partner's limited liability company agreement. The indemnification agreements also provide that we and our general partner must advance payment of certain expenses to such indemnified directors and officers, including fees of counsel, subject to receipt of an undertaking from the indemnitee to return such advance if it is ultimately determined that the indemnitee is not entitled to indemnification.

The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal

The following is a summary of the proposed amendments to the current partnership agreement to be voted upon by our unitholders. The following summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the proposed Fourth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. attached at Annex A. Annex A shows the portions of the current partnership agreement that will be deleted or changed and provisions that will be added in the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved and becomes effective. We urge you to read all of the annexes to this proxy statement in their entirety.

General

Our partnership agreement requires us to distribute all of our cash on hand at the end of each quarter, less reserves established by our general partner. We refer to this distributable cash as available cash. Currently, our partnership agreement requires that we distribute all of our available cash from operating surplus each quarter as set forth in Cash Distribution Policy Before and After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions Cash Distribution Policy Before the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions.

Pursuant to restrictions in our prior credit facility, we were prohibited from making distributions to our unitholders. We did not make a distribution to our common unitholders or subordinated unitholders for the quarters ended June 30, 2008 through March 31, 2011 due, in part, to restrictions under our prior credit agreement and the uncertainty of our future cash flows relating to SemCorp's bankruptcy filings. After giving effect to the nonpayment of distributions for the quarters ended June 30, 2008 through March 31, 2011, each common unit was entitled to an arrearage of \$3.75, or total arrearages for all common units of \$82.1 million based upon 21,890,224 common units outstanding as of March 31, 2011. Pursuant to our credit facility, we are permitted to make quarterly distributions of available cash to unitholders so long as: (i) no default or event of default exists under our credit agreement, (ii) we have, on a pro forma basis after giving effect to such distribution, at least \$10.0 million of availability under the revolving loan facility, and (iii) our consolidated total leverage ratio, on a pro forma basis, would not be greater than (x) 4.50 to 1.00 for any fiscal quarter on or prior to the fiscal quarter ending June 30, 2011, (y) 4.25 to 1.00 for the fiscal quarters ending September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2011, or (z) 4.00 to 1.00 for any fiscal quarter ending on or after March 31, 2012. Our consolidated total leverage ratio (calculated in accordance with our credit agreement) as of March 31, 2011 was 4.05 to 1.00.

The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal

We are proposing to amend and restate our partnership agreement to:

reset (1) the minimum quarterly distribution to \$0.11 per unit per quarter from \$0.3125 per unit per quarter, (2) the first target distribution to \$0.1265 per unit per quarter from \$0.3594 per unit per

Table of Contents

quarter, (3) the second target distribution to \$0.1375 per unit per quarter from \$0.3906 per unit per quarter and (4) the third target distribution to \$0.1825 per unit per quarter from \$0.4688 per unit per quarter;

waive the cumulative common unit arrearage;

remove provisions in our partnership agreement relating to the subordinated units, including concepts such as a subordination period (and any provisions that expressly apply only during the subordination period) and common unit arrearage, in connection with the transfer to us, and our subsequent cancellation, of all of our outstanding subordinated units;

provide that distributions shall not accrue or be paid to the holders of our incentive distribution rights for an eight quarter period beginning with the quarter in which the special meeting occurs;

provide that during Senior Security Restriction Period, we will not issue any Senior Securities without the consent of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding common units (excluding the common units held by our general partner and its affiliates and excluding any Senior Securities that are convertible into common units); *provided* that we may issue an unlimited number of Senior Securities during the Senior Security Restriction Period without obtaining such consent if (i) such issuances are made in connection with the conversion of our Convertible Debentures or the consummation of the rights offering and use of proceeds therefrom, (ii) issuances are made upon conversion, redemption or exchange of Senior Securities into or for Senior Securities of equal or lesser rank, where the aggregate amount of distributions that would have been paid with respect to such newly issued Senior Securities, plus the related distributions to our general partner, in respect of the four-quarter period ending prior to the first day of the quarter in which the issuance is to be consummated (assuming such newly issued Senior Securities had been outstanding throughout such period) would not have exceeded the distributions actually paid during such period on the Senior Securities that are to be converted, redeemed or exchanged, plus the related distributions to our general partner, (iii) such issuances are made in connection with the combination or subdivision of any class of Senior Securities, (iv) such issuances are made in connection with an acquisition or expansion capital improvement that increases estimated pro forma Adjusted Operating Surplus (as defined in our partnership agreement) (less estimated pro forma distributions on the Preferred Units and on any other Senior Securities) on a per-common unit basis, as determined in good faith by our general partner, as compared to actual Adjusted Operating Surplus (as defined in our partnership agreement) (less actual distributions on the Preferred Units and on any other Senior Securities) on a per-common unit basis or (v) the net proceeds of such issuances are used to repay indebtedness of our partnership or its subsidiaries; *provided, however*, that in the case of subsection (v) such new securities may not be issued to an affiliate of our general partner unless the cost to service any new indebtedness that we determine that we could issue to retire existing indebtedness (with our general partner's determination being conclusive) is greater than the distribution obligations associated with the Senior Securities issued in connection with its retirement and one or more of the following conditions are also met: (A) the indebtedness that is being repaid matures within 12 months of such repayment, or (B) such indebtedness has experienced a default or event of default (even if the lenders of such indebtedness have agreed to forebear or waive such default or event of default) or (C) our general partner expects to experience a default or event of default under such indebtedness within six months of such repayment (with our general partner's determination being conclusive);

provide that in addition to our partnership's current rights to convert the Preferred Units into common units, the Preferred Units will also be convertible in whole or in part at our option at any time on or after October 25, 2015 if (i) the daily volume-weighted average trading price of the common units is greater than 130% of the Conversion Price (as defined in our partnership agreement) for twenty out of the trailing thirty trading days ending two trading days before we furnish notice of conversion and (ii) the average trading volume of common units has exceeded 20,000 common units for twenty out of the trailing thirty trading days ending two trading days before we furnish notice of conversion; and

Table of Contents

provide that the conversion of Preferred Units shall become effective (i) in the case of Preferred Units that are being converted pursuant to Section 5.12(c)(i) of our partnership agreement (relating to conversions at the election of the holder of such units), as of the last day of the quarter in which the relevant notice of conversion is delivered by the applicable unitholder and (ii) in the case of Preferred Units that are being converted pursuant to Section 5.12(c)(ii) of our partnership agreement (relating to conversions at the election of our partnership), as of the date that the notice of conversion is delivered by us.

A favorable vote on the Partnership Agreement Amendment will affect all of our partnership's units. The effect of resetting the minimum quarterly distribution and incentive distributions and waiving the existing common unit arrearage will be to increase the value of the incentive distribution rights (which are indirectly owned by Vitol and Charlesbank as the owner of our general partner) and make it more likely that distributions will be made on the incentive distribution rights.

The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal also provides that no distributions will be paid to the holders of the incentive distribution rights in respect of such incentive distribution rights for an eight quarter period beginning with the quarter in which the special meeting occurs. In addition, if the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved, then the distribution on the Preferred Units beginning on October 25, 2011 will be \$0.17875 per unit per quarter instead of \$0.284375 per unit per quarter. Currently, all outstanding Preferred Units are held by Vitol and Charlesbank, but Preferred Units will be offered to you in the rights offering discussed under Rights Offering if the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved.

In addition, if the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal is approved, then our capital structure will be simplified through the transfer, and resulting cancellation, of all outstanding subordinated units, which are currently held by Vitol and Charlesbank.

Table of Contents

**CASH DISTRIBUTION POLICY BEFORE AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AMENDED
AND RESTATED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

Cash Distribution Policy Before the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions

The following is a summary description of our current cash distribution policy before (i) the effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement, which will, among other things, amend certain terms and provisions of our current partnership agreement related to our cash distribution policy and (ii) the related transactions, including the cancellation of all outstanding subordinated units and the consummation of the rights offering.

Distributions of Available Cash

General. Our partnership agreement requires that, within 45 days after the end of each quarter, we distribute all of our available cash to unitholders of record on the applicable record date.

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

less the amount of cash reserves established by our general partner to:

provide for the proper conduct of our business;

comply with applicable law, any of our debt instruments or other agreements; or

provide funds for distributions to our unitholders for any one or more of the next four quarters;

plus all additional cash and cash equivalents on hand on the date of determination of available cash for the quarter resulting from working capital borrowings made after the end of the quarter. Working capital borrowings are generally borrowings that are made under a credit facility, commercial paper facility or similar financing arrangement, and in all cases are used solely for working capital purposes or to pay distributions to partners and with the intent of the borrower to repay such borrowings within 12 months.

Minimum Quarterly Distribution. We will distribute to the holders of common units and subordinated units on a quarterly basis at least the minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.3125 per unit, or \$1.25 per year, to the extent we have sufficient cash from our operations after establishment of cash reserves and payment of fees and expenses, including payments to our general partner. We did not make a distribution to our common unitholders or subordinated unitholders for the quarters ended June 30, 2008 through March 31, 2011 due, in part, to restrictions under our prior credit agreement and the uncertainty of our future cash flows relating to SemCorp's bankruptcy filings. After giving effect to the nonpayment of distributions for the quarters ended June 30, 2008 through March 31, 2011, each common unit was entitled to an arrearage of \$3.75, or total arrearages for all common units of \$82.1 million based upon 21,890,224 common units outstanding as of March 31, 2011. See Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus during the Subordination Period for additional information.

There is no guarantee that we will pay the minimum quarterly distribution on the units in any quarter in the future. Even if our cash distribution policy is not modified or revoked, the amount of distributions paid under our policy and the decision to make any distribution is determined by our general partner, taking into consideration the terms of our partnership agreement. The board of directors of our general partner will have broad discretion to establish cash reserves for the proper conduct of our business and for future distributions to our unitholders, and the establishment of those reserves could result in a reduction in cash distributions to you from levels we currently anticipate pursuant to our stated distribution policy. In addition, our cash distribution policy is subject to restrictions on distributions under our amended credit facility. Specifically, the agreement related to our amended credit facility contains material financial tests and covenants that we must satisfy.

Table of Contents

General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights. As of June 6, 2011, our general partner is entitled to 1.974% of all quarterly distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. Our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its current general partner interest. Our general partner's 1.974% interest in these distributions may be reduced if we issue additional units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its 1.974% general partner interest.

Our general partner also currently holds incentive distribution rights that entitle it to receive increasing percentages, up to a maximum of 50%, of the cash we distribute from operating surplus (as defined below) in excess of \$0.3594 per unit per quarter. The maximum distribution of 50% includes distributions paid to our general partner in respect of its 1.974% general partner interest and assumes that our general partner maintains its general partner interest at 1.974%. The maximum distribution of 50% does not include any distributions that our general partner may receive on preferred, common or subordinated units that it owns. Please see *General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights* for additional information.

Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus

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

Operating Surplus. For any period operating surplus generally means:

an amount equal to two times the amount needed for any one quarter for us to pay a distribution on all of our units (including the general partner units) and the incentive distribution rights at the same per-unit amount as was distributed in the immediately preceding quarter; plus

all of our cash receipts, excluding cash from (1) borrowings that are not working capital borrowings, (2) sales of equity and debt securities, (3) sales or other dispositions of assets outside the ordinary course of business, (4) capital contributions received or (5) corporate reorganizations or restructurings (provided that cash receipts from the termination of a commodity hedge or interest rate swap prior to its specified termination date shall be included in operating surplus in equal quarterly installments over the scheduled life of such commodity hedge or interest rate swap); plus

working capital borrowings made after the end of a quarter but on or before the date of determination of operating surplus for the quarter; plus

interest paid on debt incurred by us, and cash distributions paid on the equity securities issued by us, to finance all or any portion of the construction, expansion or improvement of our facilities during the period from such financing until the earlier to occur of the date the capital asset is put into service or the date that it is abandoned or disposed of; plus

interest paid on debt incurred by us, and cash distributions paid on the equity securities issued by us, in each case, to pay the construction period interest on debt incurred, or to pay construction period distributions on equity issued, to finance the construction projects referred to above; less

all of our operating expenditures (as defined below); less

the amount of cash reserves established by our general partner to provide funds for future operating expenditures; less

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

all working capital borrowings not repaid within twelve months after having been incurred or repaid within such twelve-month period with the proceeds of additional working capital borrowings.

If a working capital borrowing, which increases operating surplus, is not repaid during the twelve-month period following the borrowing, it will be deemed repaid at the end of such period, thus decreasing operating surplus at such time. When such working capital is in fact repaid, it will not be treated as a reduction in operating surplus because operating surplus will have been previously reduced by the deemed repayment.

Table of Contents

Operating expenditures generally means all of our expenditures, including, but not limited to, taxes, reimbursements of expenses to our general partner, repayment of working capital borrowings, debt service payments and capital expenditures, provided that operating expenditures will not include:

payments (including prepayments) of principal of and premium on indebtedness, other than working capital borrowings;

capital improvement expenditures;

payment of transaction expenses relating to interim capital transactions; or

distributions to partners.

Where capital expenditures are made in part for acquisitions or for capital improvements and in part for other purposes, our general partner, with the concurrence of the conflicts committee, shall determine the allocation between the amounts paid for each.

Maintenance capital expenditures reduce operating surplus, from which we pay the minimum quarterly distribution, but expansion capital expenditures do not. Maintenance capital expenditures represent capital expenditures made to replace partially or fully depreciated assets, to maintain the existing operating capacity of our assets and to extend their useful lives, or other capital expenditures that are incurred in maintaining existing system volumes and related cash flows. Maintenance capital expenditures include expenditures required to maintain equipment reliability, storage and pipeline integrity and safety and to address environmental regulations. Expansion capital expenditures represent capital expenditures made to expand or to increase the efficiency of the existing operating capacity of our assets or to expand the operating capacity or revenues of existing or new assets, whether through construction or acquisition. Costs for repairs and minor renewals to maintain facilities in operating condition and that do not extend the useful life of existing assets will be treated as operational and maintenance expenses as we incur them. Our partnership agreement provides that our general partner determines how to allocate a capital expenditure for the acquisition or expansion of our assets between maintenance capital expenditures and expansion capital expenditures.

Capital Surplus. Capital surplus will typically be generated only by:

borrowings other than working capital borrowings;

sales of our equity and debt securities;

sales or other dispositions of assets for cash, other than inventory, accounts receivable and other current assets sold in the ordinary course of business or as part of normal retirement or replacement of assets;

capital contributions received; and

corporate reorganizations or restructurings.

Characterization of Cash Distributions. Our partnership agreement requires that we treat all available cash as coming from operating surplus until the sum of all available cash distributed since the closing of our initial public offering equals the operating surplus as of the most recent date of determination of available cash. We will treat any amount distributed in excess of operating surplus, regardless of its source, as capital surplus. As reflected above, operating surplus includes an amount equal to two times the amount needed for any one quarter for us to pay a distribution on all of our units (including the general partner units) and the incentive distribution rights at the same per-unit amount as was distributed in the immediately preceding quarter. The basket amount does not reflect actual cash on hand that is available for distribution to our

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

unitholders. Rather, it is a provision that will enable us, if we choose, to distribute as operating surplus up to this amount of cash we receive in the future from non-operating sources, such as asset sales, issuances of securities, and borrowings, that would otherwise be distributed as capital surplus. If we were to increase our quarterly distribution amount during a period when our operating surplus actually generated from our operations had not increased by a corresponding amount, or if we were to maintain our quarterly distribution amount when our operating surplus generated from

Table of Contents

our operations had declined, by using these provisions we could use cash from non-operating sources, such as asset sales, issuances of securities and borrowings, to make distributions substantially in excess of actual cash generated by our business. These types of distributions could deteriorate our capital base, which could have a material adverse effect on our ability to make future distributions to our unitholders. In addition, these provisions could enable our general partner, if it so chooses, to receive distributions on its subordinated units and incentive distribution rights that would normally be treated as distributions from capital surplus and to which our general partner would not otherwise be entitled if we did not have sufficient available cash from operating surplus to make such distributions. We do not anticipate that we will make any distributions from capital surplus.

Subordination Period

General. Our partnership agreement provides that, during the subordination period (which we define below), the common units will have the right to receive distributions of available cash from operating surplus in an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.3125 per common unit per quarter, plus any arrearages in the payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units from prior quarters, before any distributions of available cash from operating surplus may be made on the subordinated units. These units are deemed subordinated because for a period of time, referred to as the subordination period, the subordinated units will not be entitled to receive any distributions until the common units have received the minimum quarterly distribution plus any arrearages from prior quarters. Furthermore, no arrearages will be paid on the subordinated units. The practical effect of the subordinated units is to increase the likelihood that during the subordination period there will be available cash to be distributed on the common units.

Subordination Period. The subordination period will extend until the first day of any quarter that each of the following tests are met:

distributions of available cash from operating surplus on each of the outstanding common units, subordinated units and general partner units equaled or exceeded the minimum quarterly distribution for each of the three consecutive, non-overlapping four-quarter periods immediately preceding that date;

the adjusted operating surplus (as defined below) generated during each of the three consecutive, non-overlapping four-quarter periods immediately preceding that date equaled or exceeded the sum of the minimum quarterly distributions on all of the outstanding common and subordinated units and general partner units during those periods on a fully diluted basis; and

there are no arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units.

Expiration of the Subordination Period. When the subordination period expires, each outstanding subordinated unit will convert into one common unit and will then participate pro rata with the other common units in distributions of available cash. In addition, if the unitholders remove our general partner other than for cause and units held by our general partner and its affiliates are not voted in favor of such removal:

the subordination period will end and each subordinated unit will immediately convert into one common unit;

any existing arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units will be extinguished; and

our general partner will have the right to convert its general partner units and its incentive distribution rights into common units or to receive cash in exchange for those interests.

Early Conversion of Subordinated Units. The subordination period will automatically terminate and all of the subordinated units will convert into common units on a one-for-one basis if each of the following occurs:

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

distributions of available cash from operating surplus on each outstanding common unit and subordinated unit equaled or exceeded \$1.88 (150% of the annualized minimum quarterly distribution) for any four-quarter period immediately preceding that date;

Table of Contents

the adjusted operating surplus (as defined below) generated during any four-quarter period immediately preceding that date equaled or exceeded the sum of a distribution of \$1.88 (150% of the annualized minimum quarterly distribution) on all of the outstanding common units and subordinated units and general partner units on a fully diluted basis; and

there are no arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units.

Adjusted Operating Surplus. Adjusted operating surplus is intended to reflect the cash generated from operations during a particular period and therefore excludes net increases in working capital borrowings and net drawdowns of reserves of cash generated in prior periods. Adjusted operating surplus consists of:

operating surplus generated with respect to that period; less

any net increase in working capital borrowings with respect to that period; less

any net decrease in cash reserves for operating expenditures with respect to that period not relating to an operating expenditure made with respect to that period; plus

any net decrease in working capital borrowings with respect to that period; plus

any net increase in cash reserves for operating expenditures with respect to that period required by any debt instrument for the repayment of principal, interest or premium.

Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus during the Subordination Period

We will make distributions of available cash from operating surplus for any quarter during the subordination period in the following manner:

first, 98.026% to the holders of the Preferred Units, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding Preferred Unit an amount equal to the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount (as defined below) for that quarter;

second, 98.026% to the holders of the Preferred Units, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding Preferred Unit an amount equal to any arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount for any prior quarters;

third, 98.026% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding common unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.3125 per unit for that quarter;

fourth, 98.026% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding common unit an amount equal to any arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units for any prior quarters during the subordination period;

fifth, 98.026% to the subordinated unitholders, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until we distribute for each subordinated unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and

thereafter, in the manner described in General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights below.

Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount means (i) in the case of any quarter or partial quarter during the period ending on October 25, 2011, \$0.138125 per unit and (ii) thereafter, either (a) \$0.17875 per unit if the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal has been approved or (b) \$0.284375 per unit if such proposal has not been approved.

The preceding discussion is based on the assumptions that our general partner maintains its 1.974% general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

Table of Contents

Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus after the Subordination Period

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

first, 98.026% to the holders of Preferred Units, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding Preferred Unit an amount equal to the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount for that quarter;

second, 98.026% to the holders of Preferred Units, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding Preferred Unit an amount equal to any arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount for any prior quarters;

third, 98.026% to all common unitholders and Class B unitholders, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and

thereafter, in the manner described in **General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights** below.

The preceding discussion is based on the assumptions that our general partner maintains its 1.974% general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

When the subordination period expires, each outstanding subordinated unit will convert into one common unit and will then participate pro rata with the other common units in distributions of available cash.

General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights

Our partnership agreement provides that our general partner will be entitled to 1.974% of all distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. Our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its 1.974% general partner interest if we issue additional units. Our general partner's 1.974% interest, and the percentage of our cash distributions to which it is entitled, will be proportionately reduced if we issue additional units in the future (other than the issuance of partnership securities issued in connection with a reset of the incentive distribution target levels relating to our general partner's incentive distribution rights or the issuance of partnership securities upon conversion of outstanding partnership securities) and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us in order to maintain its then current general partner interest. Our general partner will be entitled to make a capital contribution in order to maintain its then current general partner interest in the form of the contribution to us of common units based on the current market value of the contributed common units.

Incentive distribution rights represent the right to receive an increasing percentage (13%, 23% and 48%) of quarterly distributions of available cash from operating surplus after the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels have been achieved. Our general partner currently holds the incentive distribution rights, but may transfer these rights separately from its general partner interest, subject to restrictions in the partnership agreement.

The following discussion assumes that our general partner maintains its 1.974% general partner's interest and continues to own the incentive distribution rights.

If for any quarter:

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the holders of Preferred Units in an amount equal to the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount;

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the holders of Preferred Units in an amount necessary to eliminate any cumulative arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount;

Table of Contents

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the common and subordinated unitholders in an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution; and

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus on outstanding common units in an amount necessary to eliminate any cumulative arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution; then, our partnership agreement requires that we distribute any additional available cash from operating surplus for that quarter among the unitholders and our general partner in the following manner:

first, 98.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 1.974% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount equal to the excess of \$0.3594 (the first target distribution) over the minimum quarterly distribution for such quarter;

second, 85.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 14.974% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount equal to the excess of \$0.3906 (the second target distribution) over the first target distribution for such quarter;

third, 75.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 24.974% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount equal to the excess of \$0.4688 (the third target distribution) over the second target distribution for such quarter; and

thereafter, 50.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 49.974% to the general partner.

General Partner's Right to Reset Incentive Distribution Levels

Our general partner, as the holder of our incentive distribution rights, has the right under our partnership agreement to elect to relinquish the right to receive incentive distribution payments based on the initial cash target distribution levels and to reset, at higher levels, the minimum quarterly distribution amount and cash target distribution levels upon which the incentive distribution payments to our general partner would be set. Our general partner's right to reset the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels upon which the incentive distributions payable to our general partner are based may be exercised without approval of our unitholders or the conflicts committee of our general partner, at any time when there are no subordinated units outstanding and we have made cash distributions to the holders of the incentive distribution rights at the highest level of incentive distribution for each of the prior four consecutive fiscal quarters and the amount of each such distribution did not exceed adjusted operating surplus for such quarter. The reset minimum quarterly distribution amount and target distribution levels will be higher than the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels prior to the reset such that our general partner will not receive any incentive distributions under the reset target distribution levels until cash distributions per unit following this event increase as described below. We anticipate that our general partner would exercise this reset right in order to facilitate acquisitions or internal growth projects that would otherwise not be sufficiently accretive to cash distributions per common unit, taking into account the existing levels of incentive distribution payments being made to our general partner.

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

The number of Class B units that our general partner would be entitled to receive from us in connection with a resetting of the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels then in effect would be

Table of Contents

equal to (x) the average amount of cash distributions received by our general partner in respect of its incentive distribution rights during the two consecutive fiscal quarters ended immediately prior to the date of such reset election divided by (y) the average of the amount of cash distributed per common unit during each of these two quarters. Each Class B unit will be convertible into one common unit at the election of the holder of the Class B unit at any time following the first anniversary of the issuance of these Class B units. We will also issue an additional amount of general partner units in order to maintain the general partner's ownership interest in us relative to the issuance of the Class B units.

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

first, 98.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount equal to 115% of the reset minimum quarter distribution for that quarter;

second, 85.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 14.974% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount per unit equal to 125% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter;

third, 75.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 24.974% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount per unit equal to 150% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and

thereafter, 50.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 49.974% to our general partner.

Distributions from Capital Surplus

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

first, 98.026% to the holders of Preferred Units, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding Preferred Unit an amount equal to any unpaid arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount;

second, 98.026% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until a hypothetical holder of a common unit acquired on the original offering date has received with respect to such common unit, an amount of available cash from capital surplus equal to the initial public offering price per common unit;

third, 98.026% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner, until we distribute for each common unit, an amount of available cash from capital surplus equal to any unpaid arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units; and

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

Effect of a Distribution from Capital Surplus. Our partnership agreement treats a distribution of capital surplus as the repayment of the initial unit price from the initial public offering, which is a return of capital. The initial public offering price less any distributions of capital surplus per unit is referred to as the unrecovered initial unit price. Each time a distribution of capital surplus is made, the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels will be reduced in the same proportion as the corresponding reduction in the

Table of Contents

unrecovered initial unit price. Because distributions of capital surplus will reduce the minimum quarterly distribution, after any of these distributions are made, it may be easier for our general partner to receive incentive distributions and for the subordinated units to convert into common units. However, any distribution of capital surplus before the unrecovered initial unit price is reduced to zero cannot be applied to the payment of the minimum quarterly distribution or any arrearages.

Once we distribute capital surplus on a unit in an amount equal to the initial unit price, our partnership agreement specifies that the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels will be reduced to zero. Our partnership agreement specifies that we then make all future distributions from operating surplus, with 50.026% being paid to the holders of units and 49.974% to our general partner. The percentage interests shown for our general partner include its 1.974% general partner interest and assume our general partner has not transferred the incentive distribution rights. We do not anticipate that we will make any distributions from capital surplus.

Adjustment to the Minimum Quarterly Distribution and Target Distribution Levels

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

the minimum quarterly distribution;

target distribution levels;

the unrecovered initial unit price; and

the number of common units into which a subordinated unit is convertible.

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

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

Distributions of Cash Upon Liquidation

General. If we dissolve in accordance with the partnership agreement, we will sell or otherwise dispose of our assets in a process called liquidation. We will first apply the proceeds of liquidation to the payment of our creditors. We will distribute any remaining proceeds to our unitholders and our general partner, in accordance with their capital account balances, as adjusted to reflect any gain or loss upon the sale or other disposition of our assets in liquidation.

The allocations of gain and loss upon liquidation are intended, to the extent possible, to entitle the holders of outstanding Preferred Units to a preference over the holders of outstanding common units upon our liquidation, to the extent required to permit holders of Preferred Units to receive an amount equal to the Series A Liquidation

Table of Contents

Value (which generally equals the unrecovered Series A Issue Price, plus the Series A Distribution Amount for the current quarter, plus any arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount for any prior quarters). The allocations of gain and loss upon liquidation are also intended, to the extent possible, to entitle the holders of outstanding common units to a preference over the holders of outstanding subordinated units upon our liquidation, to the extent required to permit common unitholders to receive their unrecovered initial unit price plus the minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter during which liquidation occurs plus any unpaid arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units. However, there may not be sufficient gain upon our liquidation to enable the holders of common units to fully recover all of these amounts, even though there may be cash available for distribution to the holders of subordinated units. Any further net gain recognized upon liquidation will be allocated in a manner that takes into account the incentive distribution rights of our general partner.

Manner of Adjustments for Gain. The manner of the adjustment for gain is set forth in the partnership agreement. If our liquidation occurs before the end of the subordination period, we will allocate any gain to the partners in the following manner:

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

second, 98.026% to the holders of Preferred Units, pro rata, and 1.974% to the general partner, until the capital account for each Preferred Unit is equal to the Series A Liquidation Value;

third, 98.026% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 1.974% to the general partner, until the capital account for each common unit is equal to the sum of: (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; (2) the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs (the unpaid MQD); and (3) any unpaid arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution;

fourth, 98.026% to the Class B unitholders, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner until the capital account for each Class B unit is equal to the sum of: (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; and (2) the unpaid MQD for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs;

fifth, 98.026% to the subordinated unitholders, pro rata, and 1.974% to our general partner until the capital account for each subordinated unit is equal to the sum of: (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; and (2) the unpaid MQD for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs;

sixth, 98.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 1.974% to the general partner, until the capital account in respect of each common unit then outstanding is equal to the sum of: (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; (2) the unpaid MQD; (3) any then existing cumulative common unit arrearage; and (4) the excess of (a) the first target distribution less the minimum quarterly distribution for each quarter of our existence over (b) the cumulative per unit amount of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution per unit that we distributed 98.026% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 1.974% to the general partner, for each quarter of our existence (the sum of (1), (2), (3) and (4) is hereinafter referred to as the first liquidation target amount);

seventh, 85.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 14.974% to the general partner, until the capital account in respect of each common unit then outstanding is equal to the sum of: (1) the first liquidation target amount; and (2) the excess of (a) the second target distribution less the first target distribution for each quarter of our existence over (b) the cumulative per unit amount of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the first target distribution per unit that we distributed 85.026% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 14.974% to the general partner for each quarter of our existence (the sum of (1) and (2) is hereinafter referred to as the second liquidation target amount);

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

eighth, 75.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 24.974% to the general partner, until the capital account in respect of each common unit then

Table of Contents

outstanding is equal to the sum of: (1) the second liquidation target amount; and (2) the excess of (a) the third target distribution less the second target distribution for each quarter of our existence over (b) the cumulative per unit amount of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the second target distribution per unit that we distributed 75.026% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 24.974% to the general partner for each quarter of our existence; and

thereafter, 50.026% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 49.974% to the general partner.

The percentage interests set forth above for our general partner include its 1.974% general partner interest and assume the general partner has not transferred the incentive distribution rights.

If the liquidation occurs after the end of the subordination period, the distinction between common units and subordinated units will disappear, so that clause (3) of the third bullet point above and all of the fifth bullet point above will no longer be applicable.

Manner of Adjustments for Losses. If our liquidation occurs before the end of the subordination period, we will generally allocate any loss to our general partner and the unitholders in the following manner:

first, 98.026% to the holders of subordinated units, pro rata, and 1.974% to the general partner, until the capital accounts of the subordinated unitholders have been reduced to zero;

second, 98.026% to the holders of Class B units, pro rata, and 1.974% to the general partner, until the capital accounts of the Class B unitholders have been reduced to zero;

third, 98.026% to the holders of common units pro rata and 1.974% to the general partner, until the capital accounts of the common unitholders have been reduced to zero;

fourth, 98.026% to the holders of Preferred Units, pro rata, and 1.974% to the general partner, until the capital account for each Preferred Unit has been reduced to zero; and

thereafter, 100% to the general partner.

If the liquidation occurs after the end of the subordination period, the distinction between common units and subordinated units will disappear so that the first bullet point above will no longer be applicable.

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

Cash Distribution Policy After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions

The following is a summary description of our cash distribution policy following (i) the effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement, which will, among other things, amend certain terms and provisions of our current partnership agreement related to our cash distribution policy and (ii) the related transactions, including the cancellation of all outstanding subordinated units and the consummation of the rights offering.

Distributions of Available Cash

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

General. Our partnership agreement requires that, within 45 days after the end of each quarter, we distribute all of our available cash to unitholders of record on the applicable record date.

Table of Contents

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

less the amount of cash reserves established by our general partner to:

provide for the proper conduct of our business;

comply with applicable law, any of our debt instruments or other agreements; or

provide funds for distributions to our unitholders for any one or more of the next four quarters;

plus all additional cash and cash equivalents on hand on the date of determination of available cash for the quarter resulting from working capital borrowings made after the end of the quarter. Working capital borrowings are generally borrowings that are made under a credit facility, commercial paper facility or similar financing arrangement, and in all cases are used solely for working capital purposes or to pay distributions to partners and with the intent of the borrower to repay such borrowings within 12 months.

Minimum Quarterly Distribution. We will distribute to the holders of common units on a quarterly basis at least the minimum quarterly distribution of \$0.11 per unit, or \$0.44 per unit annually, to the extent we have sufficient cash from our operations after establishment of cash reserves and payment of fees and expenses, including payments to our general partner.

There is no guarantee that we will pay the minimum quarterly distribution on the units in any quarter in the future. Even if our cash distribution policy is not modified or revoked, the amount of distributions paid under our policy and the decision to make any distribution is determined by our general partner, taking into consideration the terms of our partnership agreement. The board of directors of our general partner will have broad discretion to establish cash reserves for the proper conduct of our business and for future distributions to our unitholders, and the establishment of those reserves could result in a reduction in cash distributions to you from levels we currently anticipate pursuant to our stated distribution policy. In addition, our cash distribution policy is subject to restrictions on distributions under our amended credit facility. Specifically, the agreement related to our amended credit facility contains material financial tests and covenants that we must satisfy.

General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights. As of June 6, 2011, our general partner is entitled to 1.974% of all quarterly distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. After the transfer by Vitol and Charlesbank of all outstanding subordinated units to us and our subsequent cancellation of all such units, our general partner will be entitled to approximately 2.5% of all quarterly distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. Our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its general partner interest. Our general partner has indicated that it does not expect to contribute capital to us to maintain its general partner interest in connection with either the rights offering and the issuance of Preferred Units in connection therewith or the conversion of the Convertible Debentures. As such, after the consummation of the rights offering and/or the conversion of the Convertible Debentures, we expect our general partner will be entitled to approximately 2.1% of all quarterly distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. The remainder of the discussion in this section assumes that our general partner maintains its general partner interest at approximately 2.1%. Our general partner's interest in our distributions may be reduced if we issue additional units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its general partner interest.

Our general partner also currently holds incentive distribution rights that entitle it to receive increasing percentages, up to a maximum of 50%, of the cash we distribute from operating surplus (as defined below) in excess of \$0.1265 per unit per quarter. The maximum distribution of 50% includes distributions paid to our general partner in respect of its general partner interest and assumes that our general partner maintains its general partner interest at approximately 2.1%. The maximum distribution of 50% does not include any distributions that our general partner may receive on Preferred Units or common that it may own. No distributions will be paid to

Table of Contents

the holders of the incentive distribution rights in respect of such incentive distribution rights for an eight quarter period beginning with the quarter in which the special meeting occurs. Please see [General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights](#) for additional information.

Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus

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

Operating Surplus. For any period operating surplus generally means:

an amount equal to two times the amount needed for any one quarter for us to pay a distribution on all of our units (including the general partner units) and the incentive distribution rights at the same per-unit amount as was distributed in the immediately preceding quarter; plus

all of our cash receipts, excluding cash from (1) borrowings that are not working capital borrowings, (2) sales of equity and debt securities, (3) sales or other dispositions of assets outside the ordinary course of business, (4) capital contributions received or (5) corporate reorganizations or restructurings (provided that cash receipts from the termination of a commodity hedge or interest rate swap prior to its specified termination date shall be included in operating surplus in equal quarterly installments over the scheduled life of such commodity hedge or interest rate swap); plus

working capital borrowings made after the end of a quarter but on or before the date of determination of operating surplus for the quarter; plus

interest paid on debt incurred by us, and cash distributions paid on the equity securities issued by us, to finance all or any portion of the construction, expansion or improvement of our facilities during the period from such financing until the earlier to occur of the date the capital asset is put into service or the date that it is abandoned or disposed of; plus

interest paid on debt incurred by us, and cash distributions paid on the equity securities issued by us, in each case, to pay the construction period interest on debt incurred, or to pay construction period distributions on equity issued, to finance the construction projects referred to above; less

all of our operating expenditures (as defined below); less

the amount of cash reserves established by our general partner to provide funds for future operating expenditures; less

all working capital borrowings not repaid within twelve months after having been incurred or repaid within such twelve-month period with the proceeds of additional working capital borrowings.

If a working capital borrowing, which increases operating surplus, is not repaid during the twelve-month period following the borrowing, it will be deemed repaid at the end of such period, thus decreasing operating surplus at such time. When such working capital is in fact repaid, it will not be treated as a reduction in operating surplus because operating surplus will have been previously reduced by the deemed repayment.

Operating expenditures generally means all of our expenditures, including, but not limited to, taxes, reimbursements of expenses to our general partner, repayment of working capital borrowings, debt service payments and capital expenditures, provided that operating expenditures will not include:

payments (including prepayments) of principal of and premium on indebtedness, other than working capital borrowings;

capital improvement expenditures;

Table of Contents

payment of transaction expenses relating to interim capital transactions; or

distributions to partners.

Where capital expenditures are made in part for acquisitions or for capital improvements and in part for other purposes, our general partner, with the concurrence of the conflicts committee, shall determine the allocation between the amounts paid for each.

Maintenance capital expenditures reduce operating surplus, from which we pay the minimum quarterly distribution, but expansion capital expenditures do not. Maintenance capital expenditures represent capital expenditures made to replace partially or fully depreciated assets, to maintain the existing operating capacity of our assets and to extend their useful lives, or other capital expenditures that are incurred in maintaining existing system volumes and related cash flows. Maintenance capital expenditures include expenditures required to maintain equipment reliability, storage and pipeline integrity and safety and to address environmental regulations. Expansion capital expenditures represent capital expenditures made to expand or to increase the efficiency of the existing operating capacity of our assets or to expand the operating capacity or revenues of existing or new assets, whether through construction or acquisition. Costs for repairs and minor renewals to maintain facilities in operating condition and that do not extend the useful life of existing assets will be treated as operational and maintenance expenses as we incur them. Our partnership agreement provides that our general partner determines how to allocate a capital expenditure for the acquisition or expansion of our assets between maintenance capital expenditures and expansion capital expenditures.

Capital Surplus. Capital surplus will typically be generated only by:

borrowings other than working capital borrowings;

sales of our equity and debt securities;

sales or other dispositions of assets for cash, other than inventory, accounts receivable and other current assets sold in the ordinary course of business or as part of normal retirement or replacement of assets;

capital contributions received; and

corporate reorganizations or restructurings.

Characterization of Cash Distributions. Our partnership agreement requires that we treat all available cash as coming from operating surplus until the sum of all available cash distributed since the closing of our initial public offering equals the operating surplus as of the most recent date of determination of available cash. We will treat any amount distributed in excess of operating surplus, regardless of its source, as capital surplus. As reflected above, operating surplus includes an amount equal to two times the amount needed for any one quarter for us to pay a distribution on all of our units (including the general partner units) and the incentive distribution rights at the same per-unit amount as was distributed in the immediately preceding quarter. The basket amount does not reflect actual cash on hand that is available for distribution to our unitholders. Rather, it is a provision that will enable us, if we choose, to distribute as operating surplus up to this amount of cash we receive in the future from non-operating sources, such as asset sales, issuances of securities, and borrowings, that would otherwise be distributed as capital surplus. If we were to increase our quarterly distribution amount during a period when our operating surplus actually generated from our operations had not increased by a corresponding amount, or if we were to maintain our quarterly distribution amount when our operating surplus generated from our operations had declined, by using these provisions we could use cash from non-operating sources, such as asset sales, issuances of securities and borrowings, to make distributions substantially in excess of actual cash generated by our business. These types of distributions could deteriorate our capital base, which could have a material adverse effect on our ability to make future distributions to our unitholders. In addition, these provisions could enable our general partner, if it so chooses, to receive distributions on its incentive distribution rights that would normally be treated as distributions from capital surplus and to which our general partner would not otherwise be entitled if we did not have sufficient available cash from operating surplus to make such distributions. We do not anticipate that we will make any distributions from capital surplus.

Table of Contents

Adjusted Operating Surplus. Adjusted operating surplus is intended to reflect the cash generated from operations during a particular period and therefore excludes net increases in working capital borrowings and net drawdowns of reserves of cash generated in prior periods. Adjusted operating surplus consists of:

operating surplus generated with respect to that period; less

any net increase in working capital borrowings with respect to that period; less

any net decrease in cash reserves for operating expenditures with respect to that period not relating to an operating expenditure made with respect to that period; plus

any net decrease in working capital borrowings with respect to that period; plus

any net increase in cash reserves for operating expenditures with respect to that period required by any debt instrument for the repayment of principal, interest or premium.

Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus during the Eight Quarter Period

We will make distributions of available cash from operating surplus for any quarter during the eight quarter period beginning with the quarter in which this special meeting occurs (the Eight Quarter Period) in the following manner:

first, 97.9% to the holders of the Preferred Units, pro rata, and 2.1% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding Preferred Unit an amount equal to the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount (as defined below) for that quarter;

second, 97.9% to the holders of the Preferred Units, pro rata, and 2.1% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding Preferred Unit an amount equal to any arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount for any prior quarters; and

thereafter, 49.9% to all unitholders holding common units, pro rata, and 50.1% to the general partner.

Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount means (i) in the case of any quarter or partial quarter during the period ending on October 25, 2011, \$0.138125 per unit and (ii) thereafter, \$0.17875 per unit.

The preceding discussion is based on the assumptions that our general partner maintains its 2.1% general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus after the Eight Quarter Period

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

first, 97.9% to the holders of Preferred Units, pro rata, and 2.1% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding Preferred Unit an amount equal to the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount for that quarter;

second, 97.9% to the holders of Preferred Units, pro rata, and 2.1% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding Preferred Unit an amount equal to any arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount for any prior quarters;

third, 97.9% to all common unitholders and Class B unitholders, pro rata, and 2.1% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and

thereafter, in the manner described in General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights below.

The preceding discussion is based on the assumptions that our general partner maintains its 2.1% general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

Table of Contents

General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights

Our partnership agreement provides that our general partner will be entitled to an approximate 2.1% of all distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. Our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its approximate 2.1% general partner interest if we issue additional units. Our general partner's approximate 2.1% interest, and the percentage of our cash distributions to which it is entitled, will be proportionately reduced if we issue additional units in the future (other than the issuance of partnership securities issued in connection with a reset of the incentive distribution target levels relating to our general partner's incentive distribution rights or the issuance of partnership securities upon conversion of outstanding partnership securities) and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us in order to maintain its then current general partner interest. Our general partner will be entitled to make a capital contribution in order to maintain its then current general partner interest in the form of the contribution to us of common units based on the current market value of the contributed common units.

Incentive distribution rights represent the right to receive an increasing percentage (13%, 23% and 48%) of quarterly distributions of available cash from operating surplus after the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels have been achieved. Our general partner currently holds the incentive distribution rights, but may transfer these rights separately from its general partner interest, subject to restrictions in the partnership agreement.

The following discussion assumes that our general partner maintains its approximate 2.1% general partner's interest and continues to own the incentive distribution rights.

If for any quarter after the Eight Quarter Period:

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the holders of our Preferred Units in an amount equal to the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount;

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the holders of our Preferred Units in an amount necessary to eliminate any cumulative arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount; and

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

first, 97.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 2.1% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.1265 per unit for that quarter (the first target distribution);

second, 84.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 15.1% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.1375 per unit for that quarter (the second target distribution);

third, 74.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 25.1% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.1825 per unit for that quarter (the third target distribution); and

thereafter, 49.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 50.1% to the general partner.

Table of Contents***General Partner's Right to Reset Incentive Distribution Levels***

Our general partner, as the holder of our incentive distribution rights, has the right under our partnership agreement to elect to relinquish the right to receive incentive distribution payments based on the initial cash target distribution levels and to reset, at higher levels, the minimum quarterly distribution amount and cash target distribution levels upon which the incentive distribution payments to our general partner would be set. Our general partner's right to reset the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels upon which the incentive distributions payable to our general partner are based may be exercised without approval of our unitholders or the conflicts committee of our general partner, at any time when we have made cash distributions to the holders of the incentive distribution rights at the highest level of incentive distribution for each of the prior four consecutive fiscal quarters and the amount of each such distribution did not exceed adjusted operating surplus for such quarter. The reset minimum quarterly distribution amount and target distribution levels will be higher than the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels prior to the reset such that our general partner will not receive any incentive distributions under the reset target distribution levels until cash distributions per unit following this event increase as described below. We anticipate that our general partner would exercise this reset right in order to facilitate acquisitions or internal growth projects that would otherwise not be sufficiently accretive to cash distributions per common unit, taking into account the existing levels of incentive distribution payments being made to our general partner.

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

The number of Class B units that our general partner would be entitled to receive from us in connection with a resetting of the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels then in effect would be equal to (x) the average amount of cash distributions received by our general partner in respect of its incentive distribution rights during the two consecutive fiscal quarters ended immediately prior to the date of such reset election divided by (y) the average of the amount of cash distributed per common unit during each of these two quarters. Each Class B unit will be convertible into one common unit at the election of the holder of the Class B unit at any time following the first anniversary of the issuance of these Class B units. We will also issue an additional amount of general partner units in order to maintain the general partner's ownership interest in us relative to the issuance of the Class B units.

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

first, 97.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 2.1% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount equal to 115% of the reset minimum quarter distribution for that quarter;

second, 84.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 15.1% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount per unit equal to 125% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter;

third, 74.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 25.1% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount per unit equal to 166% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and

thereafter, 49.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 50.1% to our general partner.

Table of Contents

Distributions from Capital Surplus

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

first, 97.9% to the holders of our Preferred Units, pro rata, and 2.1% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding Preferred Unit an amount equal to any unpaid arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount;

second, 97.9% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2.1% to our general partner, until a hypothetical holder of a common unit acquired on the original offering date has received with respect to such common unit, an amount of available cash from capital surplus equal to the initial public offering price per common unit;

third, 97.9% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 2.1% to our general partner, until we distribute for each common unit, an amount of available cash from capital surplus equal to any unpaid arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units; and

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

Effect of a Distribution from Capital Surplus. Our partnership agreement treats a distribution of capital surplus as the repayment of the initial unit price from the initial public offering, which is a return of capital. The initial public offering price less any distributions of capital surplus per unit is referred to as the unrecovered initial unit price. Each time a distribution of capital surplus is made, the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels will be reduced in the same proportion as the corresponding reduction in the unrecovered initial unit price. Because distributions of capital surplus will reduce the minimum quarterly distribution, after any of these distributions are made, it may be easier for our general partner to receive incentive distributions. However, any distribution of capital surplus before the unrecovered initial unit price is reduced to zero cannot be applied to the payment of the minimum quarterly distribution or any arrearages.

Once we distribute capital surplus on a unit in an amount equal to the initial unit price, our partnership agreement specifies that the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels will be reduced to zero. Our partnership agreement specifies that we then make all future distributions from operating surplus, with 49.9% being paid to the holders of units and 50.1% to our general partner. The percentage interests shown for our general partner include its approximate 2.1% general partner interest and assume our general partner has not transferred the incentive distribution rights. We do not anticipate that we will make any distributions from capital surplus.

Adjustment to the Minimum Quarterly Distribution and Target Distribution Levels

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

the minimum quarterly distribution;

target distribution levels; and

the unrecovered initial unit price.

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

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

In addition, if legislation is enacted or if existing law is modified or interpreted by a governmental taxing authority, so that we become taxable as a corporation or otherwise subject to taxation as an entity for federal,

Table of Contents

state or local income tax purposes, our partnership agreement specifies that the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels for each quarter will be reduced by multiplying each distribution level by a fraction, the numerator of which is available cash for that quarter and the denominator of which is the sum of available cash for that quarter plus our general partner's estimate of our aggregate liability for the quarter for such income taxes payable by reason of such legislation or interpretation. To the extent that the actual tax liability differs from the estimated tax liability for any quarter, the difference will be accounted for in subsequent quarters.

Distributions of Cash Upon Liquidation

General. If we dissolve in accordance with the partnership agreement, we will sell or otherwise dispose of our assets in a process called liquidation. We will first apply the proceeds of liquidation to the payment of our creditors. We will distribute any remaining proceeds to our unitholders and our general partner, in accordance with their capital account balances, as adjusted to reflect any gain or loss upon the sale or other disposition of our assets in liquidation.

The allocations of gain and loss upon liquidation are intended, to the extent possible, to entitle the holders of outstanding Preferred Units to a preference over the holders of outstanding common units upon our liquidation, to the extent required to permit holders of our Preferred Units to receive an amount equal to the Series A Liquidation Value (which generally equals the unrecovered Series A Issue Price, plus the Series A Distribution Amount for the current quarter, plus any arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount for any prior quarters). Any further net gain recognized upon liquidation will be allocated in a manner that takes into account the incentive distribution rights of our general partner.

Manner of Adjustments for Gain. The manner of the adjustment for gain is set forth in our partnership agreement. We will allocate any gain to the partners in the following manner:

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

second, 97.9% to the holders of our Preferred Units, pro rata, and 2.1% to the general partner, until the capital account for each Preferred Unit is equal to the Series A Liquidation Value;

third, 97.9% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 2.1% to the general partner, until the capital account for each common unit is equal to the sum of: (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; and (2) the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs (the unpaid MQD);

fourth, 97.9% to the Class B unitholders, pro rata, and 2.1% to our general partner until the capital account for each Class B unit is equal to the sum of: (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; and (2) the unpaid MQD for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs;

fifth, 97.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 2.1% to the general partner, until the capital account in respect of each common unit then outstanding is equal to the sum of: (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; (2) the unpaid MQD for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs; and (3) the excess of (a) the first target distribution less the minimum quarterly distribution for each quarter of our existence over (b) the cumulative per unit amount of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution per unit that we distributed 97.9% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 2.1% to the general partner, for each quarter of our existence (the sum of (1), (2), and (3) is hereinafter referred to as the first liquidation target amount);

sixth, 84.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 15.1% to the general partner, until the capital account in respect of each common unit then outstanding is equal to the sum of: (1) the first liquidation target amount; and (2) the excess of (a) the second target

Table of Contents

distribution less the first target distribution for each quarter of our existence over (b) the cumulative per unit amount of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the first target distribution per unit that we distributed 84.9% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 15.1% to the general partner for each quarter of our existence (the sum of (1) and (2) is hereinafter referred to as the second liquidation target amount);

seventh, 74.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 25.1% to the general partner, until the capital account in respect of each common unit then outstanding is equal to the sum of: (1) the second liquidation target amount; and (2) the excess of (a) the third target distribution less the second target distribution for each quarter of our existence over (b) the cumulative per unit amount of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the second target distribution per unit that we distributed 74.9% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 25.1% to the general partner for each quarter of our existence; and

thereafter, 49.9% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 50.1% to the general partner.

The percentage interests set forth above for our general partner include its approximate 2.1% general partner interest and assume the general partner has not transferred the incentive distribution rights.

Manner of Adjustments for Losses. We will generally allocate any loss to our general partner and the unitholders in the following manner:

first, 97.9% to the holders of Class B units, pro rata, and 2.1% to the general partner, until the capital accounts of the Class B unitholders have been reduced to zero;

second, 97.9% to the holders of common units in proportion to the positive balances in their capital accounts and 2.1% to the general partner, until the capital accounts of the common unitholders have been reduced to zero;

third, 97.9% to the holders of our Preferred Units, pro rata, and 2.1% to the general partner, until the capital account for each Preferred Unit has been reduced to zero; and

thereafter, 100% to the general partner.

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

Table of Contents

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PARTNERSHIP INTERESTS OF BKEP BEFORE AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AMENDED AND RESTATED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

The following is a summary description of our partnership interests and the associated rights of our partners before and after (i) the effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement, which amends certain terms and provisions of our current partnership agreement that affect the characteristics of our Preferred Units, common units, subordinated units, general partner units and incentive distribution rights and (ii) the related transactions, including the cancellation of all outstanding subordinated units and the consummation of the rights offering.

Before	After
Outstanding Partnership Interests	
We have five separate classes of partnership interests:	We will have four separate classes of partnership interests:
Preferred Units;	Preferred Units;
common units;	common units;
subordinated units;	general partner units; and
general partner units; and	incentive distribution rights.
incentive distribution rights.	
Please see Summary Our Structure and Ownership for a diagram of our current ownership structure.	Please see Summary Our Structure and Ownership for a diagram of our ownership structure following the approval of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and related transactions.

Preferred Units

The Preferred Units represent limited partner interests in us and are held by Vitol and Charlesbank.	The Preferred Units will continue to represent limited partner interests in us and will be held by our public unitholders as well as by Vitol and Charlesbank. We will repurchase, on a pro rata basis, up to a maximum of \$22 million of Preferred Units from Vitol and Charlesbank in connection with the consummation of the rights offering.
<p> Holders of the Preferred Units are entitled to quarterly distributions of 2.125% per unit per quarter (or 8.5% per unit on an annual basis) for each quarter during the one year period after October 25, 2010. In the case of any quarter beginning after October 25, 2011, the holders of the Preferred Units are entitled to quarterly distributions of 4.375% per unit per quarter (or 17.5% per unit on an annual basis). If the Partnership fails to pay in full any distribution on the Preferred Units, the amount of such unpaid distribution will accrue and accumulate from the last day of the quarter for which such distribution is due until paid in full.</p>	<p> Holders of the Preferred Units are entitled to quarterly distributions of 2.125% per unit per quarter (or 8.5% per unit on an annual basis) for each quarter during the one year period after October 25, 2010. In the case of any quarter beginning after October 25, 2011, the holders of the Preferred Units are entitled to quarterly distributions of 2.75% per unit per quarter (or 11.0% per unit on an annual basis). If the Partnership fails to pay in full any distribution on the Preferred Units, the amount of such unpaid distribution will accrue and accumulate from the last day of the quarter for which such distribution is due until paid in full.</p>

Table of Contents

The Preferred Units are convertible into common units as follows:

in whole or in part by the holder of the Preferred Units at any time after the earlier of (i) the second business day following the record date for the Special Distribution (as defined in the Global Transaction Agreement) and (ii) the eleventh business day following the Termination Date (as defined in the Global Transaction Agreement);

in whole, but not in part, at the option of our partnership at any time when either:

a number of Preferred Units equal to 50% or more of the number of Preferred Units issued on October 25, 2010 and upon conversion of the Convertible Debentures, if applicable, are converted into common units by the holders thereof and there do not exist any accrued but unpaid distributions on such Preferred Units; or

(i) there do not exist any accrued but unpaid distributions on such Preferred Units, (ii) our securities class action litigation has been finally disposed of, including any appeals with respect thereto and (iii) the distribution on a Preferred Unit on an as-converted basis (i.e., the actual distribution on a common unit multiplied by the number of common units that a Preferred Unit is convertible into) is equal to or greater than the distribution on a Preferred Unit for two consecutive quarters.

The Preferred Units will be convertible into common units as follows:

in whole or in part by the holder of the Preferred Units at any time after the eleventh trading day following the date of this unitholder meeting (such conversion being effective as of the last day of the quarter in which the relevant notice of conversion is delivered by the applicable unitholder);

in whole, but not in part, at the option of our partnership at any time when either:

a number of Preferred Units equal to 50% or more of the number of Preferred Units issued on October 25, 2010 (minus any Preferred Units that are repurchased by us from Vitol and Charlesbank in connection with the rights offering) and upon conversion of the Convertible Debentures, if applicable, are converted into common units by the holders thereof and there do not exist any accrued but unpaid distributions on such Preferred Units; or

(i) there do not exist any accrued but unpaid distributions on such Preferred Units, (ii) our securities class action litigation has been finally disposed of, including any appeals with respect thereto and (iii) the distribution on a Preferred Unit on an as-converted basis (i.e., the actual distribution on a common unit multiplied by the number of common units that a Preferred Unit is convertible into) is equal to or greater than the distribution on a Preferred Unit for two consecutive quarters;

in whole or in part at the option of our partnership at any time on or after October 25, 2015 if (i) the daily volume-weighted average trading price of the common units is greater than 130% of the Conversion Price (as defined in our partnership agreement) for twenty out of the trailing thirty trading days ending two trading days before we furnish notice of conversion and (ii) the average trading volume of common units has exceeded 20,000 common units for twenty out of the trailing thirty trading days ending two trading days before we furnish notice of conversion.

Table of Contents

Common Units

The common units represent limited partner interests in us. Holders of our common units have the rights, including the right to participate in distributions, as described in Cash Distribution Policy Before and After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions Cash Distribution Policy Before the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions.

The common units will continue to represent limited partner interests in us. Holders of common units will have the rights, including the rights to participate in distributions, as described in Cash Distribution Policy Before and After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions Cash Distribution Policy After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions and in The Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement.

General Partner Interest

Our general partner is entitled to 1.974% of all quarterly distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. This general partner interest is represented by 1,127,755 general partner units. Our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its general partner interest. Our general partner's interest in these distributions may be reduced if we issue additional units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its general partner interest.

Our general partner will continue to be entitled to distributions as described to the left under Before. After the transfer by Vitol and Charlesbank of all outstanding subordinated units to us and our subsequent cancellation of all such units, our general partner will be entitled to approximately 2.5% of all quarterly distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. Our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its general partner interest. Our general partner has indicated that it does not expect to contribute capital to us to maintain its general partner interest in connection with the rights offering and the issuance of Preferred Units in connection therewith. As such, assuming the consummation in full of the rights offering, we expect our general partner will be entitled to approximately 2.1% of all quarterly distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. Our general partner's interest in our distributions may be reduced if we issue additional units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its general partner interest.

Subordinated Units

The subordinated units represent limited partner interests in us. These units are deemed subordinated because for a period of time, referred to as the subordination period, the subordinated units are not entitled to receive any distributions until the common units have received the minimum quarterly distribution plus any arrearages from prior quarters. Furthermore, no arrearages accrue, or are paid, on the subordinated units.

There will be no subordinated units outstanding.

Table of Contents

Subordination Period

Under our current partnership agreement, the subordination period extends until the first day of any quarter that each of the following tests are met:

Because all subordinated units will be eliminated, the concept of a subordination period will be eliminated, and as a result, the concept of arrearages on the common units will also be eliminated.

distributions of available cash from operating surplus on each of the outstanding common units, subordinated units and general partner units equaled or exceeded the minimum quarterly distribution for each of the three consecutive, non-overlapping four-quarter periods immediately preceding that date;

the adjusted operating surplus generated during each of the three consecutive, non-overlapping four-quarter periods immediately preceding that date equaled or exceeded the sum of the minimum quarterly distributions on all of the outstanding common and subordinated units and general partner units during those periods on a fully diluted basis; and

there are no arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units.

Alternatively, the subordination period will end the first business day after the following tests are met:

distributions of available cash from operating surplus on each outstanding common unit and subordinated unit equaled or exceeded \$1.88 (150% of the annualized minimum quarterly distribution) for any four-quarter period immediately preceding that date;

the adjusted operating surplus generated during any four-quarter period immediately preceding that date equaled or exceeded the sum of a distribution of \$1.88 (150% of the annualized minimum quarterly distribution) on all of the outstanding common units and subordinated units and general partner units on a fully diluted basis; and

there are no arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units.

Table of Contents

When the subordination period ends, each outstanding subordinated unit will convert into one common unit and will then participate pro rata with the other common units in distributions of available cash. In addition, if the unitholders remove our general partner other than for cause and units held by our general partner and its affiliates are not voted in favor of such removal:

the subordination period will end and each subordinated unit will immediately convert into one common unit;

any existing arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units will be extinguished; and

our general partner will have the right to convert its general partner units and its incentive distribution rights into common units or to receive cash in exchange for those interests.

Based on current conditions, we do not expect the subordination period to end in the foreseeable future because we have not made any distributions on the subordinated units since the distribution made with respect to the first quarter of 2008.

Incentive Distribution Rights

Incentive distribution rights represent the right to receive an increasing percentage (13%, 23% and 48%) of quarterly distributions of available cash from operating surplus after the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels have been achieved. Our general partner currently holds the incentive distribution rights, but may transfer these rights separately from its general partner interest, subject to restrictions in the partnership agreement.

The following discussion assumes that our general partner maintains its 1.974% general partner's interest and continues to own the incentive distribution rights.

If for any quarter:

Incentive distribution rights represent the right to receive an increasing percentage (13%, 23% and 48%) of quarterly distributions of available cash from operating surplus after the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels have been achieved. Our general partner currently holds the incentive distribution rights, but may transfer these rights separately from its general partner interest, subject to restrictions in the partnership agreement.

The following discussion assumes that our general partner maintains its approximate 2.1% general partner's interest and continues to own the incentive distribution rights.

If for any quarter after the Eight Quarter Period:

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the holders of our Preferred Units in an amount equal to the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount;

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the holders of our Preferred Units in an amount equal to the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount;

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the holders of our Preferred Units in an amount necessary to eliminate any cumulative arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount;

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the holders of our Preferred Units in an amount necessary to eliminate any cumulative arrearages in the payment of the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount; and

Table of Contents

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the common and subordinated unitholders in an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution; and

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus on outstanding common units in an amount necessary to eliminate any cumulative arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution;

then, our partnership agreement requires that we distribute any additional available cash from operating surplus for that quarter among the unitholders and our general partner in the following manner:

first, 98.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 1.974% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount equal to the excess of \$0.3594 (the first target distribution) over the minimum quarterly distribution for such quarter;

second, 85.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 14.974% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount equal to the excess of \$0.3906 (the second target distribution) over the first target distribution for such quarter;

third, 75.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 24.974% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount equal to the excess of \$0.4688 over the second target distribution for such quarter; and

thereafter, 50.026% to all unitholders holding common units, Class B units or subordinated units, pro rata, and 49.974% to the general partner.

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the common unitholders in an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution;

then, our partnership agreement requires that we distribute any additional available cash from operating surplus for that quarter among the unitholders and our general partner in the following manner:

first, 97.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 2.1% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.1265 per unit for that quarter (the first target distribution);

second, 84.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 15.1% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.1375 per unit for that quarter (the second target distribution);

third, 74.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 25.1% to the general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.1825 per unit for that quarter; and

thereafter, 49.9% to all unitholders holding common units or Class B units, pro rata, and 50.1% to the general partner.

Table of Contents

THE AMENDED AND RESTATED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The following is a summary of the material provisions of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement, which is attached as Annex A to this proxy statement. We summarize the provisions of our partnership agreement with regard to distributions of available cash in the section entitled "Cash Distribution Policy Before and After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions" and "Cash Distribution Policy After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions."

Organization and Duration

Our partnership was organized on February 22, 2007 and will have a perpetual existence unless terminated pursuant to the terms of our partnership agreement.

Purpose

Our purpose under the partnership agreement is to engage in any business activities that are approved by our general partner. Our general partner, however, may not cause us to engage in any business activities that the general partner determines would cause us to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes.

Although our general partner has the ability to cause us and our subsidiaries to engage in activities other than the midstream energy business, our general partner has no current plans to do so and may decline to do so free of any fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including any duty to act in good faith or in the best interests of us or the limited partners. Our general partner is authorized in general to perform all acts it determines to be necessary or appropriate to carry out our purposes and to conduct our business.

Power of Attorney

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

Cash Distributions

Our partnership agreement specifies the manner in which we will make cash distributions to holders of our common units, Preferred Units and other partnership securities as well as to our general partner in respect of its general partner interest and its incentive distribution rights. For a description of these cash distribution provisions, please see "Cash Distribution Policy Before and After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions" and "Cash Distribution Policy After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions."

Capital Contributions

Unitholders are not obligated to make additional capital contributions, except as described below under "Limited Liability."

Our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its 2% general partner interest if we issue additional units. Our general partner's 2% interest, and the percentage of our cash distributions to which it is entitled, will be proportionately reduced if we issue additional

Table of Contents

units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its 2% general partner interest. Our general partner will be entitled to make a capital contribution in order to maintain its 2% general partner interest in the form of the contribution to us of common units based on the current market value of the contributed common units.

Voting Rights

The following is a summary of the unitholder vote required for the matters specified below. Matters requiring the approval of a unit majority require the approval of a majority of the outstanding common units, Preferred Units (voting on an as if converted basis) and Class B units, if any, voting as a class; *provided*, that with respect to the unitholder proposals to be considered at the unitholder meeting, unit majority means at least a majority of the outstanding common units (excluding common units and Preferred Units owned by the general partner and its affiliates), voting as a class.

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

The Preferred Units have voting rights that are identical to the voting rights of common units and vote with the common units as a single class, so that each Preferred Unit is entitled to one vote for each common unit into which such Preferred Unit is convertible on each matter with respect to which each common unit is entitled to vote. In addition, the approval of a majority of the Preferred Units, voting separately as a class, is necessary on any matter that adversely affects any of the rights of the Preferred Units or amends or modifies the terms of the Preferred Units in any material respect or affects the holders of the Preferred Units disproportionately in relation to the holders of common units, including, without limitation, any action that would (i) reduce the distribution amount to the Preferred Units or change the time or form of payment of distributions, (ii) reduce the amount payable to the Preferred Units upon the liquidation of our partnership, (iii) modify the conditions relating to the conversion of the Preferred Units or (iv) issue any equity security that, with respect to distributions or rights upon liquidation, ranks equal to or senior to the Preferred Units or issue any additional Preferred Units.

Issuance of additional units	No approval right.
Amendment of the partnership agreement	Certain amendments may be made by the general partner without the approval of the unitholders. Other amendments generally require the approval of a unit majority. Please see Amendment of the Partnership Agreement.
Merger of our partnership or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets	Unit majority in certain circumstances. Please see Merger, Consolidation, Conversion, Sale or Other Disposition of Assets.
Dissolution of our partnership	Unit majority. Please see Termination and Dissolution.
Continuation of our business upon dissolution	Unit majority. Please see Termination and Dissolution.
Withdrawal of the general partner	Under most circumstances, the approval of a majority of the common units and Preferred Units, voting as a class, excluding common units and Preferred Units held by our general partner and its affiliates, is required for the withdrawal of our general partner prior to June 30, 2017 in a manner that would cause a dissolution of our partnership. Please see Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner.

Table of Contents

Removal of the general partner	Not less than 66 2/3% of the outstanding units, voting as a single class, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates. Please see Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner.
Transfer of the general partner interest	Our general partner may transfer all, but not less than all, of its general partner interest in us without a vote of our unitholders to an affiliate or another person in connection with its merger or consolidation with or into, or sale of all or substantially all of its assets, to such person. The approval of a majority of the common units and Preferred Units, voting as a class, excluding common units and Preferred Units held by the general partner and its affiliates, is required in other circumstances for a transfer of the general partner interest to a third party prior to June 30, 2017. Please see Transfer of General Partner Units.
Transfer of incentive distribution rights	Except for transfers to an affiliate or another person as part of our general partner's merger or consolidation, sale of all or substantially all of its assets or the sale of all of the ownership interests in such holder, the approval of a majority of the common units and Preferred Units, voting as a class, excluding common units and Preferred Units held by the general partner and its affiliates, is required in most circumstances for a transfer of the incentive distribution rights to a third party prior to June 30, 2017. Please see Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights.
Transfer of ownership interests in our general partner	No approval required at any time. Please see Transfer of Ownership Interests in the General Partner.

Limited Liability

Assuming that a limited partner does not participate in the control of our business within the meaning of the Delaware Act and that he otherwise acts in conformity with the provisions of the partnership agreement, his liability under the Delaware Act will be limited, subject to possible exceptions, to the amount of capital he is obligated to contribute to us for his common units plus his share of any undistributed profits and assets. If it were determined, however, that the right, or exercise of the right, by the limited partners as a group:

to remove or replace our general partner;

to approve some amendments to the partnership agreement; or

to take other action under the partnership agreement;

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

Under the Delaware Act, a limited partnership may not make a distribution to a partner if, after the distribution, all liabilities of the limited partnership, other than liabilities to partners on account of their

Table of Contents

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

Our subsidiaries conduct business in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington and we may have subsidiaries that conduct business in other states in the future. Maintenance of our limited liability as a limited partner of the operating company may require compliance with legal requirements in the jurisdictions in which the operating company conducts business, including qualifying our subsidiaries to do business there.

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

Issuance of Additional Securities

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

that we will need the consent of a majority of the outstanding Preferred Units to issue any additional Preferred Units or issue any equity security that, with respect to distributions or rights upon liquidation, ranks equal to or senior to the Preferred Units; and

during Senior Security Restriction Period, we will not issue any Senior Securities without the consent of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding common units (excluding the common units held by our general partner and its affiliates and excluding any Senior Securities that are convertible into common units); *provided* that we may issue an unlimited number of Senior Securities during the Senior Security Restriction Period without obtaining such consent if (i) such issuances are made in connection with the conversion of our Convertible Debentures or the consummation of the rights offering and use of proceeds therefrom, (ii) issuances are made upon conversion, redemption or exchange of Senior Securities into or for Senior Securities of equal or lesser rank, where the aggregate amount of distributions that would have been paid with respect to such newly issued Senior Securities, plus the related distributions to our general partner, in respect of the four-quarter period ending prior to the first day of the quarter in which the issuance is to be consummated (assuming such newly issued Senior Securities had been outstanding throughout such period) would not have exceeded the distributions actually paid during such period on the Senior Securities that are to be converted, redeemed or

Table of Contents

exchanged, plus the related distributions to our general partner, (iii) such issuances are made in connection with the combination or subdivision of any class of Senior Securities, (iv) such issuances are made in connection with an acquisition or expansion capital improvement that increases estimated pro forma Adjusted Operating Surplus (as defined in our partnership agreement) (less estimated pro forma distributions on the Preferred Units and on any other Senior Securities) on a per-common unit basis, as determined in good faith by our general partner, as compared to actual Adjusted Operating Surplus (as defined in our partnership agreement) (less actual distributions on the Preferred Units and on any other Senior Securities) on a per-common unit basis or (v) the net proceeds of such issuances are used to repay indebtedness of our partnership or its subsidiaries; *provided, however*, that in the case of subsection (v) such new securities may not be issued to an affiliate of our general partner unless the cost to service any new indebtedness that we determine that we could issue to retire existing indebtedness (with our general partner's determination being conclusive) is greater than the distribution obligations associated with the Senior Securities issued in connection with its retirement and one or more of the following conditions are also met: (A) the indebtedness that is being repaid matures within 12 months of such repayment, or (B) such indebtedness has experienced a default or event of default (even if the lenders of such indebtedness have agreed to forebear or waive such default or event of default) or (C) our general partner expects to experience a default or event of default under such indebtedness within six months of such repayment (with our general partner's determination being conclusive).

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

In accordance with Delaware law and the provisions of our partnership agreement, we may also issue additional partnership securities that, as determined by our general partner, may have special voting rights to which the common units are not entitled. In addition, our partnership agreement does not prohibit the issuance by our subsidiaries of equity securities, which may effectively rank senior to the common units.

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

Amendment of the Partnership Agreement

General. Amendments to our partnership agreement may be proposed only by or with the consent of our general partner. However, our general partner will have no duty or obligation to propose any amendment and may decline to do so free of any fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including

Table of Contents

any duty to act in good faith or in the best interests of us or the limited partners. In order to adopt a proposed amendment, other than the amendments discussed below, our general partner is required to seek written approval of the holders of the number of units required to approve the amendment or call a meeting of the limited partners to consider and vote upon the proposed amendment. Except as described below, an amendment must be approved by a unit majority.

Prohibited Amendments. No amendment may be made that would:

enlarge the obligations of any limited partner without its consent, unless approved by at least a majority of the type or class of limited partner interests so affected; or

enlarge the obligations of, restrict in any way any action by or rights of, or reduce in any way the amounts distributable, reimbursable or otherwise payable by us to our general partner or any of its affiliates without the consent of our general partner, which consent may be given or withheld at its option.

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

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

a change in our name, the location of our principal place of our business, our registered agent or our registered office;

the admission, substitution, withdrawal, or removal of partners in accordance with our partnership agreement;

a change that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate for us to qualify or to continue our qualification as a limited partnership or a partnership in which the limited partners have limited liability under the laws of any state or to ensure that neither we, nor the operating company, nor any of its subsidiaries will be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxed as an entity for federal income tax purposes;

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

an amendment that is necessary, in the opinion of our counsel, to prevent us or our general partner or the directors, officers, agents, or trustees of our general partner from in any manner being subjected to the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, or plan asset regulations adopted under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or ERISA, whether or not substantially similar to plan asset regulations currently applied or proposed;

subject to the provisions of our partnership agreement, an amendment that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate for the authorization or issuance of additional partnership securities, including any amendment that our general partner determines is necessary or appropriate in connection with:

the adjustments of the minimum quarterly distribution, first target distribution, second target distribution and third target distribution in connection with the reset of our general partner's incentive distribution rights as described under Cash Distribution Policy Before and After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

Transactions Cash Distribution Policy After the Effectiveness of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and Related Transactions General Partner's Right to Reset Incentive Distribution Levels; or

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

any amendment necessary to require limited partners to provide a statement, certification or other evidence to us regarding whether such limited partner is subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by us;

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

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

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

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

are necessary or appropriate to satisfy any requirements, conditions, or guidelines contained in any opinion, directive, order, ruling, or regulation of any federal or state agency or judicial authority or contained in any federal or state statute;

are necessary or appropriate to facilitate the trading of limited partner interests or to comply with any rule, regulation, guideline, or requirement of any securities exchange on which the limited partner interests are or will be listed for trading;

are necessary or appropriate for any action taken by our general partner relating to splits or combinations of units under the provisions of our partnership agreement; or

are required to effect the intent expressed in the registration statement for our initial public offering or the intent of the provisions of the partnership agreement or are otherwise contemplated by our partnership agreement.

Opinion of Counsel and Unitholder Approval. For amendments of the type not requiring unitholder approval, our general partner will not be required to obtain an opinion of counsel that an amendment will not result in a loss of limited liability to the limited partners or result in our being treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes in connection with any of the amendments. No other amendments to our partnership agreement will become effective without the approval of holders of at least 90% of

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

the outstanding units voting as a single class unless we first obtain an opinion of counsel to the effect that the amendment will not affect the limited liability under applicable law of any of our limited partners.

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

Termination and Dissolution

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

the election of our general partner to dissolve us, if approved by the holders of units representing a unit majority;

there being no limited partners, unless we are continued without dissolution in accordance with applicable Delaware law;

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

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

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

the action would not result in the loss of limited liability of any limited partner; and

Table of Contents

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

Liquidation and Distribution of Proceeds

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

Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner

Except as described below, our general partner has agreed not to withdraw voluntarily as our general partner prior to June 30, 2017 without obtaining the approval of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding common units and Preferred Units, voting as a class, excluding common units and Preferred Units held by the general partner and its affiliates, and furnishing an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters. On or after June 30, 2017, our general partner may withdraw as general partner without first obtaining approval of any unitholder by giving 90 days written notice, and that withdrawal will not constitute a violation of our partnership agreement. Notwithstanding the information above, our general partner may withdraw without unitholder approval upon 90 days notice to the limited partners if at least 50% of the outstanding units are held or controlled by one person and its affiliates other than the general partner and its affiliates. In addition, the partnership agreement permits our general partner in some instances to sell or otherwise transfer all of its general partner interest in us without the approval of the unitholders. Please see Transfer of General Partner Units and Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights.

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

Our general partner may not be removed unless that removal is approved by the vote of the holders of not less than 66²/₃% of the outstanding units, voting together as a single class, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates, and we receive an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters. Any removal of our general partner is also subject to the approval of a successor general partner by the vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding common units and Class B units, if any, voting as a separate class. The ownership of more than 33¹/₃% of the outstanding units by our general partner and its affiliates would give them the practical ability to prevent our general partner's removal.

Our partnership agreement also provides that if our general partner is removed as our general partner under circumstances where cause does not exist and units held by our general partner and its affiliates are not voted in favor of that removal our general partner will have the right to convert its general partner interest and its incentive distribution rights into common units or to receive cash in exchange for those interests based on the fair market value of those interests at that time.

Table of Contents

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

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

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

Transfer of General Partner Units

Except for the transfer by our general partner of all, but not less than all, of its general partner units to:

an affiliate of our general partner (other than an individual); or

another entity as part of the merger or consolidation of our general partner with or into another entity or the transfer by our general partner of all or substantially all of its assets to another entity;

our general partner may not transfer all or any part of its general partner units to another person prior to June 30, 2017 without the approval of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding common units and Preferred Units, voting as a class, excluding common units and Preferred Units held by our general partner and its affiliates. As a condition of this transfer, the transferee must assume, among other things, the rights and duties of our general partner, agree to be bound by the provisions of our partnership agreement, and furnish an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters.

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

Transfer of Ownership Interests in the General Partner

At any time, Vitol and Charlesbank and their respective affiliates may sell or transfer all or part of their respective membership interests in our general partner to an affiliate or a third party without the approval of our unitholders.

Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights

Our general partner or its affiliates or a subsequent holder may transfer its incentive distribution rights to an affiliate of the holder (other than an individual) or another entity as part of the merger or consolidation of such

Table of Contents

holder with or into another entity, the sale of all of the ownership interest in the holder or the sale of all or substantially all of its assets to, that entity without the prior approval of the unitholders. Prior to June 30, 2017, other transfers of the incentive distribution rights will require the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the outstanding common units and Preferred Units, voting as a class, excluding common units and Preferred Units held by our general partner and its affiliates. On or after June 30, 2017, the incentive distribution rights will be freely transferable.

Change of Management Provisions

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

Our partnership agreement also provides that if our general partner is removed as our general partner under circumstances where cause does not exist and units held by our general partner and its affiliates are not voted in favor of that removal our general partner will have the right to convert its general partner units and its incentive distribution rights into common units or to receive cash in exchange for those interests based on the fair market value of those interests at that time.

Limited Call Right

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

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

the current market price as of the date three days before the date the notice is mailed.

As a result of our general partner's right to purchase outstanding limited partner interests, a holder of limited partner interests may have his limited partner interests purchased at a price that may be lower than market prices at various times prior to such purchase or lower than a unitholder may anticipate the market price to be in the future. The tax consequences to a unitholder of the exercise of this call right are the same as a sale by that unitholder of his common units in the market.

Meetings; Voting

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

Our general partner does not anticipate that any meeting of unitholders will be called in the foreseeable future. Any action that is required or permitted to be taken by the unitholders may be taken either at a meeting of the unitholders or without a meeting if consents in writing describing the action so taken are signed by holders of the number of units necessary to authorize or take that action at a meeting. Meetings of the unitholders may be

Table of Contents

called by our general partner or by unitholders owning at least 20% of the outstanding units of the class for which a meeting is proposed. Unitholders may vote either in person or by proxy at meetings. The holders of a majority of the outstanding units of the class or classes for which a meeting has been called, represented in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum unless any action by the unitholders requires approval by holders of a greater percentage of the units, in which case the quorum will be the greater percentage.

Each record holder of a unit has a vote according to his percentage interest in us, although additional limited partner interests having special voting rights could be issued. Please see Issuance of Additional Securities. However, if at any time any person or group, other than our general partner and its affiliates, or a direct or subsequently approved transferee of our general partner or its affiliates, acquires, in the aggregate, beneficial ownership of 20% or more of any class of units then outstanding, that person or group will lose voting rights on all of its units and the units may not be voted on any matter and will not be considered to be outstanding when sending notices of a meeting of unitholders, calculating required votes, determining the presence of a quorum, or for other similar purposes. Common units or Preferred Units held in nominee or street name account will be voted by the broker or other nominee in accordance with the instruction of the beneficial owner unless the arrangement between the beneficial owner and his nominee provides otherwise.

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

Status as Limited Partner

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

Non-Taxpaying Assignees; Redemption

The Longview system is, and any additional interstate pipelines that we acquire or construct may be, subject to rate regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC. Our general partner has the right under our partnership agreement to institute procedures, by giving notice to each of our unitholders, that would require transferees of common units and Preferred Units and, upon the request of our general partner, existing holders of our common units and Preferred Units to certify that they are Eligible Holders. The purpose of these certification procedures would be to enable us to utilize a federal income tax expense as a component of the pipeline's cost of service upon which tariffs may be established under FERC rate making policies applicable to entities that pass-through their taxable income to their owners. Eligible Holders are individuals or entities subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by us or entities not subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by us, so long as all of the entity's owners are subject to such taxation. If these tax certification procedures are implemented, transferees of common units and Preferred Units will be required to certify and our general partner, acting on our behalf, may at any time require each unitholder to re-certify:

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

that, if the transferee unitholder is an entity not subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by us, as in the case, for example, of a mutual fund taxed as a regulated investment company or a partnership, all the entity's owners are subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by us.

Table of Contents

If, following institution of the certification procedures by our general partner, unitholders:

fail to furnish a transfer application containing the required certification;

fail to furnish a re-certification containing the required certification within 30 days after request; or

are unable to provide a certification to the effect set forth in one of the two bullet points in the second preceding paragraph; then we will have the right, which we may assign to any of our affiliates, to acquire all but not less than all of the units held by any such unitholder by giving written notice of redemption to such unitholder.

The purchase price in the event of such an acquisition for each unit held by such unitholder will be equal to the lesser of the price paid by such unitholder for the relevant unit and the current market price as of the date of redemption.

The purchase price will be paid in cash or by delivery of a promissory note, as determined by our general partner. Any such promissory note will bear interest at the rate of 5% annually and be payable in three equal annual installments of principal and accrued interest, commencing one year after the redemption date.

Non-Citizen Assignees; Redemption

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

Indemnification

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

our general partner;

any departing general partner;

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

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

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

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

any person designated by our general partner.

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

Table of Contents

Reimbursement of Expenses

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

Books and Reports

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

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

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

Right to Inspect Our Books and Records

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

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

a copy of our tax returns;

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

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

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

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

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

Registration Rights

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

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

Table of Contents

RIGHTS OFFERING

Launch of Rights Offering

On the first business day of the calendar month following the later of (i) the date on which the unitholders approve the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and (ii) the date on which our shelf registration statement is declared effective by the SEC, or as promptly as practicable thereafter, we will distribute to each holder of our common units as of the close of business on a record date for such distribution established by the Conflicts Committee 0.5412 rights pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions described in this section (unless the Conflicts Committee delays the launch date of the rights offering as described in the subsequent paragraph). We refer to the distribution of rights, the related offering of securities for which the rights are exercisable, and the issuance of such securities to the extent that the rights are exercised (including those for which oversubscription privileges are exercised) collectively as the rights offering.

The Conflicts Committee may delay the launch date of the rights offering if at the time the rights offering would otherwise launch:

- (i) the SEC has not declared our shelf registration statement to be effective or issued any stop order suspending the effectiveness of our shelf registration statement or any order preventing or suspending the use of the prospectus supplement to the base prospectus in the shelf registration statement (which we refer to, together with the base prospectus, as the rights offering prospectus) or initiated any proceedings for that purpose,
- (ii) our shelf registration statement has ceased to be effective for any reason or the prospectus contained in the shelf registration statement fails to satisfy the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act and failure to meet such requirement, in the good faith judgment of the Conflicts Committee, could not reasonably be expected to be remedied by the date on which the rights offering would otherwise launch following our use of commercially reasonable efforts to satisfy such requirement,
- (iii) we have experienced an event, transaction or development that in the good faith judgment of the Conflicts Committee is material to us or that otherwise would be required to be disclosed in the rights offering prospectus to avoid the rights offering prospectus from including any untrue statement of a material fact or omitting to state any material fact required to be stated in the rights offering prospectus or necessary to make the statements in the rights offering prospectus not misleading in light of the circumstances then existing, and the Conflicts Committee determines in good faith that we are unable to disclose such event, transaction or development in a manner sufficient to meet the requirements of the Securities Act or that it is in our best interest not to disclose such event, transaction or development, in each case at such time, or
- (iv) all of the conditions described below under Conditions to Our Obligations Related to the Rights Offering have not been satisfied or waived.

If the launch date of the rights offering is delayed as a result of any of the events described in clauses (i), (ii) or (iv) of the preceding paragraph, the launch date of the rights offering will be the first business day of the calendar month immediately following the time that any order or proceeding described in clauses (i) or (ii) of the preceding paragraph have been revoked or ceased or such conditions have been satisfied. If the launch date of the rights offering is delayed as a result of any event, transaction or development described in clause (iii) of the preceding paragraph, the launch date of the rights offering will be the date set by the Conflicts Committee, which date will not be any later than the first business day of the next calendar month; provided that the launch date of the rights offering may only be delayed once pursuant to clause (iii) of the preceding paragraph.

Exercise of Rights

Each whole right will entitle the holder of the right to subscribe for and purchase from us one Preferred Unit for a subscription price of \$6.50 per Preferred Unit (which we refer to as the right subscription price) for which

Table of Contents

such holder's rights are exercised. No fractional Preferred Units will be issued pursuant to the rights offering; accordingly, any person exercising rights will be entitled to exercise for an aggregate number of Preferred Units that is rounded down to the nearest whole number. The rights will be evidenced by one or more detachable subscription certificates (which may be evidenced by one global certificate) in form and substance reasonably acceptable to us.

The holders of rights will be entitled to exercise their rights from the date on which we begin distribution of the rights until the time disclosed in the rights offering prospectus as the expiration of the period in which holders of rights may exercise their rights and any extension of the exercise period in the manner described in this paragraph. The expiration time will initially be 5 p.m., New York City time, on the last business day of the month in which the rights offering is launched. The period during which holders of rights will be entitled to exercise their rights may be extended if extension is:

- (i) mutually agreed upon by the Conflicts Committee, Vitol and Charlesbank,
- (ii) as determined by the Conflicts Committee, if between the date on which the rights are first distributed and the day on which the rights offering expires, (a) we experience an event, transaction or development that, in the good faith judgment of the Conflicts Committee, is material to us or that otherwise would be required to be disclosed in the rights offering prospectus to avoid the rights offering prospectus from including any untrue statement of a material fact or omitting to state any material fact required to be stated in the rights offering prospectus or necessary to make the statements in the rights offering prospectus not misleading in light of the circumstances then existing and (b) the Conflicts Committee determines in good faith that we are unable to disclose such event, transaction or development in a manner sufficient to meet the requirements of the Securities Act or that it is in the best interest of us not to disclose such event, transaction or development, in each case prior to the time disclosed in the rights offering prospectus as the expiration of the rights offering (or a sufficient period of time prior to such time to allow adequate dissemination of such disclosure). In such circumstances, the Conflicts Committee will be entitled to extend the period during which holders of rights will be entitled to exercise their rights, but not more than 30 days without the consent of Vitol and Charlesbank.

Oversubscription Privileges

The rights offering will include oversubscription privileges for each person timely exercising rights in full, which privilege will permit each person exercising their oversubscription privileges to purchase any Preferred Units, at the right subscription price, for which rights were exercisable but with respect to which rights were not exercised, subject to a pro rata allotment (based on relative participation (i.e., number of rights exercised) in the initial exercise of rights) among all persons exercising oversubscription privileges.

Covenants Related to the Rights Offering

In connection with the rights offering, we have agreed to:

prepare the rights offering prospectus covering the Preferred Units for which the rights are exercisable, the warrants, and the common units for which the warrants are exercisable;

enter into a rights agent agreement with a bank or other intermediary, which agreement and such intermediary must be reasonably acceptable to us and which agreement will (among other things) appoint such intermediary as the rights agent for the rights offering;

enter into such agreements with, and provide such instruments and documents to, the Depository Trust Company and our partnership's transfer agent as are reasonably necessary or appropriate to consummate the rights offering; and

use our commercially reasonable efforts to, as promptly as practicable, take any and all action necessary or appropriate to keep effective all registrations, permits, consents and approvals of the SEC

Table of Contents

and any other applicable governmental authorities, and make such filings under applicable laws as are reasonably necessary or appropriate in connection with the rights offering; provided, that none of the foregoing requires us to disclose material non-public information regarding us or our subsidiaries if the Conflicts Committee determines in good faith that it is in our best interest not to disclose such information at such time and we are not otherwise required to disclose such information under the terms of the Global Transaction Agreement.

Conditions to Our Obligations Related to the Rights Offering

Our obligations set forth in the preceding paragraph are subject to the fulfillment (or the waiver by the Conflicts Committee on our behalf, which may be granted or withheld in the Conflicts Committee's sole discretion) of each of the following conditions precedent:

That no order has been issued and is continuing that restrains or prohibits the launch or consummation of the rights offering; and

The rights offering shall not violate any applicable law or any rules or regulations promulgated by any national securities exchange upon which the common units are traded.

Use of Proceeds of the Rights Offering

The proceeds of the rights offering will be used in the following order until all such proceeds are exhausted: (a) first, to pay for any and all expenses relating to conducting the rights offering, (b) second, to redeem our Convertible Debentures for an amount equal to the principal amount of such Convertible Debentures plus any interest payable thereon (such redemption to be pro rata among Vitol and Charlesbank if the net proceeds from the rights offering are less than the amount required to redeem such Convertible Debentures in full), (c) third, to repurchase, on a pro rata basis, up to a maximum of \$22 million of Preferred Units from Vitol and Charlesbank at a purchase price of \$6.50 per unit plus any pro rata distribution for the quarter in which such units are repurchased and (d) thereafter, for general partnership purposes.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL TWO: THE LTIP PROPOSAL

General Information About the Proposed LTIP

In connection with our initial public offering in 2007, our general partner adopted the Blueknight Energy Partners G.P., L.L.C. Long-Term Incentive Plan (the Current LTIP). The Current LTIP was later amended to allow for awards of subordinated units, to update the change of control provisions for changes of control that have occurred and to reflect changes relating to Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code. The Current LTIP provides for the grant of unit awards, restricted units, phantom units, unit options, unit appreciation rights and distribution equivalent rights.

Our common units are listed on the Nasdaq Global Market. We are asking for approval of the LTIP Proposal to comply with Nasdaq's listing rules requiring unitholder approval of material amendments to an equity compensation plan, pursuant to which common units may be acquired by officers, directors, employees or consultants. Approximately 500 officers, directors and employees would be eligible for awards under the Plan, as selected in the sole discretion of the Compensation Committee.

Awards under the Current LTIP are limited to 1,250,000 units. Awards under our general partner's existing incentive plan are limited to 1,250,000 units. As of June 6, 2011, there were 307,400 unvested common units underlying phantom units and restricted units outstanding under the Current LTIP and there were no common units underlying unit options and unit appreciation rights outstanding under the Current LTIP. As of June 6, 2011, approximately 177,376 common units remained available for future awards to participants under the Current LTIP. Subject to adjustment for certain events, the Proposed LTIP increases the number of common units that may be granted for any and all awards by 1,350,000 common units to a total of 2,600,000 common units. After such increase, 1,527,376 common units will be available for future awards under the Proposed LTIP. On June 6, 2011, the closing price of our common units was \$8.00.

Reasons for the Board of Directors Recommendation

While our board of directors is cognizant of the potential dilutive effect of compensatory unit awards, it also believes that increasing the total number of common units available for awards pursuant to the Proposed LTIP is in the best interests of us and our unitholders and should be approved for the following reasons:

the adoption of the Proposed LTIP will aid in attracting and retaining key individuals who are important to our success and will motivate such individuals to exert maximum efforts for our success;

the Proposed LTIP is intended to provide a means whereby our employees and our board of directors may develop a sense of proprietorship and personal involvement in the development and financial success of our partnership; and

the Proposed LTIP is intended to align potential increases in compensation of our officers and employees to our financial results that generally drive the value of our common units.

Summary of the Proposed LTIP

General

Employees, consultants and directors of our general partner and its affiliates who perform services for us are eligible to receive awards under the Proposed LTIP. The summary of the Proposed LTIP contained herein does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Proposed LTIP attached as Annex C to this proxy. The Proposed LTIP provides for the grant of unit awards, restricted units, phantom units, unit options, unit appreciation rights and distribution equivalent rights. Subject to adjustment for certain events, an aggregate of 2,600,000 common units may be delivered pursuant to awards under the Proposed LTIP of which 1,527,376 common units are available for future awards under the Proposed LTIP. Units withheld to satisfy tax

Table of Contents

withholding obligations will not be considered to be units delivered under the Proposed LTIP for purposes of applying the maximum unit limit under the Proposed LTIP. In addition, units that are cancelled, forfeited or are withheld to satisfy our general partner's tax withholding obligations are available for delivery pursuant to other awards. The Proposed LTIP will be administered by the compensation committee of our board of directors (the Compensation Committee), provided that its authority under the Proposed LTIP may be delegated on such terms and conditions as the Compensation Committee may establish consistent with applicable law. The Proposed LTIP Plan has been designed to furnish additional compensation to employees, consultants and directors and to align their economic interests with those of common unitholders.

Unit Awards

The Compensation Committee may grant unit awards to eligible individuals under the Proposed LTIP. A unit award is an award of common units that are fully vested upon grant and not subject to forfeiture.

Restricted Units and Phantom Units

A restricted unit is a common unit that is subject to forfeiture. Upon vesting, the forfeiture restrictions lapse and the recipient holds a common unit that is not subject to forfeiture. A phantom unit is a notional unit that entitles the grantee to receive a common unit upon the vesting of the phantom unit or, in the discretion of the Compensation Committee, cash equal to the fair market value of a common unit. The Compensation Committee may make grants of restricted units and phantom units under the Proposed LTIP to eligible individuals containing such terms, consistent with the Proposed LTIP, as the Compensation Committee may determine, including the period over which restricted units and phantom units granted will vest. The Compensation Committee may, in its discretion, base vesting on the grantee's completion of a period of service or upon the achievement of specified financial objectives or other criteria. In addition, the restricted and phantom units granted to a grantee will vest upon the termination without cause (as defined in the Proposed LTIP) of the grantee within one year following a change of control (as defined in the Proposed LTIP) of us or our general partner, subject to any contrary provisions in the award agreement.

If a grantee's employment, consulting or membership on our board of directors terminates for any reason, the grantee's restricted units and phantom units will be automatically forfeited unless, and to the extent, the award agreement or the Compensation Committee provides otherwise.

Distributions made by us with respect to awards of restricted units may, in the Compensation Committee's discretion, be subject to the same vesting requirements as the restricted units. The Compensation Committee, in its discretion, may also grant tandem distribution equivalent rights with respect to phantom units.

We intend for restricted units and phantom units granted under the Proposed LTIP to serve as a means of incentive compensation for performance and not primarily as an opportunity to participate in the equity appreciation of the common units. Therefore, participants will not pay any consideration for the common units they receive with respect to these types of awards, and neither we nor our general partner will receive remuneration for the units delivered with respect to these awards.

Unit Options and Unit Appreciation Rights.

The Proposed LTIP also permits the grant of options covering common units and unit appreciation rights. Unit options represent the right to purchase a number of common units at a specified exercise price. Unit appreciation rights represent the right to receive the appreciation in the value of a number of common units over a specified exercise price, either in cash or in common units as determined by the Compensation Committee. Unit options and unit appreciation rights may be granted to such eligible individuals and with such terms as the Compensation Committee may determine, consistent with the Proposed LTIP; however, a unit option or unit appreciation right must have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of a common unit on the date of grant.

Table of Contents

Distribution Equivalent Rights

Distribution equivalent rights are rights to receive all or a portion of the distributions otherwise payable on units during a specified time. Distribution equivalent rights may be granted alone or in combination with another award.

By giving participants the benefit of distributions paid to unitholders generally, grants of distribution equivalent rights provide an incentive for participants to operate our business in a manner that allows our partnership to provide increasing partnership distributions. Typically, distribution equivalent rights will be granted in tandem with a phantom unit, so that the amount of the participant's compensation is tied to both the market value of our units and the distributions that unitholders receive while the award is outstanding. We believe this aligns the participant's incentives directly to the measures that drive returns for our unitholders.

Prohibition on Repricing

Repricing of unit options and unit appreciation rights, directly or indirectly, is prohibited under the Proposed LTIP without approval of our unitholders, except in the case of adjustments implemented to reflect certain partnership transactions.

Source of Common Units; Cost

Common units to be delivered with respect to awards may be common units acquired by our general partner on the open market, common units already owned by our general partner, common units acquired by our general partner directly from us or any other person or any combination of the foregoing. Our general partner will be entitled to reimbursement by us for the cost incurred in acquiring common units. With respect to unit options, our general partner will be entitled to reimbursement by us for the difference between the cost incurred by our general partner in acquiring these units and the proceeds received from an optionee at the time of exercise. Thus, we will bear the cost of the unit options. If we issue new units with respect to these awards, the total number of units outstanding will increase, and our general partner will remit the proceeds it receives from a participant, if any, upon exercise of an award to us. With respect to any awards settled in cash, our general partner will be entitled to reimbursement by us for the amount of the cash settlement.

Adjustments

Upon certain transactions involving the partnership, the number of units available to grant under the Proposed LTIP, the number and kind of units or property subject to awards and the exercise or other unit price shall be adjusted as determined by the Compensation Committee.

Change of Control

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable award agreement, upon a termination without cause within one year following a change of control, as defined in the Proposed LTIP, outstanding awards shall vest or become exercisable, as applicable.

Amendment or Termination of the Proposed LTIP

Our board of directors, in its discretion, may terminate the Proposed LTIP at any time with respect to the units for which a grant has not theretofore been made. The Proposed LTIP will automatically terminate on the earlier of June 9, 2021 or when units are no longer available for delivery pursuant to awards under the Proposed LTIP. Our board of directors will also have the right to alter or amend the Proposed LTIP or any part of it from time to time and the Compensation Committee may amend any award; *provided, however*, that no change in any outstanding award may be made that would materially impair the rights of the participant without the consent of the affected participant.

Table of Contents

Interests of Certain Persons in the LTIP Proposal

The officers and employees of our general partner, its affiliates and our subsidiaries and the members of our board of directors will be eligible to receive awards under the Proposed LTIP if it is approved. Accordingly, the members of our board of directors and the executive officers of our general partner have a substantial interest in the approval of the LTIP Proposal.

Plan Benefits Under the Proposed LTIP

The awards, if any, that will be made to eligible persons under the Proposed LTIP are subject to the discretion of the plan administrator, and thus we cannot currently determine the benefits or number of common units subject to awards that may be granted in the future to our executive officers, employees and consultants or to members of our board of directors under the Proposed LTIP. Therefore, the New Plan Benefits Table is not provided.

If the Proposed LTIP is approved, we anticipate making annual equity grants to our executive officers and certain employees under the Proposed LTIP, but any amount of such grant is not determinable at this time. Such awards will be subject to a vesting schedule that will be specified in the applicable award agreement, and the number of common units subject to such awards will be determined at the date of grant of such awards.

Table of Contents

**MATERIAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSALS
AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

General

The following is a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal, the Rights Offering, and the exercise of rights and ownership of Preferred Units (together, the proposal and related transactions) that may be relevant to current public common unitholders. Unless otherwise noted, the description of the law and legal conclusions set forth in the discussion relating to the consequences of the proposal and related transactions to our partnership and our unitholders are the opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P. This discussion is based upon the current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Internal Revenue Code), existing final and proposed Treasury regulations promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code (the Treasury Regulations), administrative rulings and judicial decisions now in effect, all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. Changes in these authorities may cause the tax consequences to vary substantially from the consequences described below. We have not sought a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service, which is referred to as the IRS, with respect to any of the tax matters discussed below, and the IRS would not be precluded from taking positions contrary to those described herein. As a result, no assurance can be given that the IRS will agree with all of the tax characterizations and the tax consequences described below.

This discussion does not purport to be a complete description of all U.S. federal income tax consequences of the proposal and related transactions to the common unitholders of our partnership. Moreover, this discussion focuses on our common unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the United States and has only limited application to corporations, estates, trusts, nonresident aliens, other unitholders subject to specialized tax treatment, such as tax-exempt institutions, non-U.S. persons, individual retirement accounts (IRAs), real estate investment trusts (REITs), mutual funds (RICs), dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that elect to mark-to-market, unitholders who acquired our units from us in exchange for property other than cash (and those who acquired their units from such unitholders other than by purchase through a national securities exchange), affiliates of our general partner, or persons who hold our common units as part of a hedge, straddle or conversion transaction. Also, this discussion assumes that our common units are held as capital assets (within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code) at the time of the proposal and related transactions. Furthermore, except as specifically provided, this discussion does not address the tax considerations arising under the U.S. federal estate or gift tax laws or under the laws of any state, local, foreign or other taxing jurisdiction or under any applicable treaty.

If a unitholder is an entity or arrangement classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax treatment of each partner of such partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. A partner in a partnership that holds common units is encouraged to consult its own tax advisor.

As stated above, no ruling has been or will be requested from the IRS with respect to the tax consequences of the proposal and related transactions. Some tax aspects of the proposal and related transactions are not certain and no assurance can be given that the opinions and the statements made in this proxy statement with respect to tax matters will be sustained by a court if contested by the IRS. Any contest of this sort with the IRS may materially and adversely impact the market for our common units and the prices at which common units trade. In addition, the costs of any contest with the IRS, principally legal, accounting and related fees, will result in a reduction in cash available for distribution to our unitholders and our general partner and thus will be borne indirectly by our unitholders and our general partner. Furthermore, the tax treatment of the proposal and related transactions may be significantly modified by future legislative, regulatory or administrative changes or court decisions. Any modifications may or may not be retroactively applied.

Table of Contents

Other than as described herein, no opinions are being given with respect to any other tax matters arising from the proposal and related transactions. Moreover, the discussion herein assumes that the proposal and related transactions are consummated in the manner contemplated by, and in accordance with, the terms described in this proxy statement.

Unitholders should consult with, and must rely on, their own tax advisors in analyzing the federal, state, local and foreign consequences particular to them of the proposal and related transactions in light of their own particular circumstances, including the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.

The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal

The reset of minimum quarterly, first target, second target, and third target distribution levels, the waiver of the common unit arrearage, and the cancellation of the subordinated units which will occur pursuant to the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal are not expected to have any material adverse tax impact on common unitholders.

The Rights Offering

Under the Global Transaction Agreement, we will distribute to our existing unitholders 0.5412 rights for each outstanding common unit. Each whole right will entitle the holder to acquire, for an exercise price of \$6.50 (the Right Subscription Price), one Preferred Unit.

Rights Distribution

In general, the distribution of the rights should not be taxable to our common unitholders, except in the circumstances described in the following paragraph.

Although the treatment is not certain and meritorious arguments exist to the contrary, if the rights are freely tradable as a separate security, we intend to treat the rights as marketable securities under Section 731(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. In that case, the distribution of the rights would be treated as a cash distribution by us of an amount equal to the fair market value of the rights. The precise value of the rights is not currently known, but we intend to take the position that the fair market value of the rights is equal to the weighted average trading price of the rights for the period that the rights are traded. Even if the rights are considered marketable securities and, thus, treated as a cash distribution, such distribution of rights generally will not be taxable to a common unitholder for federal income tax purposes, except to the extent the amount of such distribution (plus any other cash distributions) exceeds his tax basis in his common units immediately before the distribution. Cash distributions made by us to a unitholder in an amount in excess of his tax basis in his common units generally will be considered to be taxable gain from the sale or exchange of those common units.

Disposition of Rights

In general, for federal income tax purposes, a holder of rights who chooses to sell such rights will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between the amount realized by the rights holder and that holder's basis in its rights. The amount realized upon the sale of rights will be measured by the sum of all consideration received by the seller of rights. To determine a unitholder's basis in the right the unitholder receives from us, the unitholder must equitably apportion his tax basis in his interests in us between his common units and his rights. Equitable apportionment generally means that the tax basis allocated to the interest being sold (the right) equals an amount that bears the same relation to the unitholder's tax basis in his entire interest in our partnership (the right and the units) as the value of the interest sold (the right) bears to the value of the unitholder's entire interest in our partnership (the right and the units). The precise value of the rights and common units are not currently known. We intend to take the position that the fair market value of the rights and common units will be established by using their respective weighted average trading prices for the period that the rights are traded. Unitholders may use the actual sales price they receive in determining the equitable apportionment of their basis among the rights they receive and their common units.

Table of Contents

Non-Partner Status of Holders of Rights

Ownership of a right alone should not cause the holder to be treated as a partner in our partnership for federal income tax purposes, as such rights holder will not have an interest in the capital or profits of the partnership unless or until the point at which the right is exercised and a newly issued Preferred Unit is issued.

Exercise of Rights

Treatment of Exercising Rights Holders

A Unitholder who exercises rights will recognize no gain or loss for tax purposes. The unitholder's basis in all its units (including the Preferred Units received) will be increased by the exercise price paid for the Preferred Units (i.e., \$6.50 per Preferred Unit). The unitholder's initial capital account balance in respect of each Preferred Unit received will equal the exercise price paid for the Preferred Unit (i.e., \$6.50 per Preferred Unit).

The IRS has ruled that a partner who acquires interests in a partnership in separate transactions must combine those interests and maintain a single adjusted tax basis for all those interests. Upon a sale or other disposition of less than all of those interests, a portion of that tax basis must be allocated to the interests sold using an equitable apportionment method, which generally means that the tax basis allocated to the interest sold equals an amount that bears the same relation to the partner's tax basis in his entire interest in the partnership as the value of the interest sold bears to the value of the partner's entire interest in the partnership. Thus, according to the ruling discussed above, a common unitholder will be unable to select high or low basis units to sell as would be the case with corporate stock.

Treatment of Non-Exercising Rights Holders

A unitholder who does not exercise its rights will suffer a decrease in such unitholder's percentage interest in our partnership and, therefore, a decrease in such common unitholder's share of our liabilities, which, in turn, will result in a corresponding deemed distribution of cash pursuant to Section 752 of the Internal Revenue Code. See Potential for Income or Gain Recognition as a Result of Reducing Debt Shifts, below, for a discussion regarding the impact of a reduction in the portion of our liabilities allocated to a unitholder.

Although there is no direct and controlling authority addressing the ability of a common unitholder to recognize a loss upon failing to exercise or otherwise dispose of a right it receives in respect of its common units, it is anticipated that no loss would be recognizable and that the unitholder would recombine the tax bases that may otherwise have been equitably apportioned to his rights with his tax basis apportioned to his common units.

Treatment of Preferred Units Acquired Upon Exercise

Allocations and Distributions With Respect to Preferred Units

Under our Partnership Agreement, distributions paid in respect of Preferred Units will be treated by us as a guaranteed payment under Section 707(c) of the Code. Accordingly, a holder of Preferred Units will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to 100% of the amount of distributions received by such unitholder in respect of its Preferred Units. Prior to conversion of the Preferred Units, it is not expected that any other material amounts of income or that any material amounts of losses would be allocated to a holder of Preferred Units, except in the unlikely event that the capital accounts of all subordinated units and common units had been reduced to zero, in which case losses would then be allocated to the holders of Preferred Units.

Conversion of Preferred Units

The conversion of Preferred Units into common units generally will not be a taxable event for the holder of Preferred Units, except in the circumstances described later in this paragraph. Under our partnership agreement

Table of Contents

and in accordance with proposed Treasury Regulations, immediately after the conversion of a Preferred Unit, we will adjust the capital accounts of all of our partners to reflect any positive difference (Unrealized Gain) or negative difference (Unrealized Loss) between the fair market value and the carrying value of our assets at such time as if such Unrealized Gain or Unrealized Loss had been recognized on an actual sale of each such asset for an amount equal to its fair market value at the time of such conversion. Such Unrealized Gain or Unrealized Loss (or items thereof) will be allocated first to the preferred unitholder in respect of common units received upon the conversion until the capital account of each such common unit is equal to the per unit capital account for each existing common unit. This allocation of Unrealized Gain or Unrealized Loss will not be taxable to the preferred unitholder or to any other unitholders. If the Unrealized Gain or Unrealized Loss allocated as a result of the conversion of a Preferred Unit is not sufficient to cause the capital account of each common unit received upon such conversion to equal the per unit capital account for each existing common unit, then capital account balances will be reallocated among the unitholders as needed to produce this result. In the event that such a reallocation is needed, a preferred unitholder would be allocated taxable gross income in an amount equal to the amount of any such reallocation to it.

Disposition of Convertible Preferred Units

Recognition of Gain or Loss. Gain or loss will be recognized on a sale of units equal to the difference between the amount realized and the unitholder's tax basis for the units sold. A unitholder's amount realized will be measured by the sum of the cash or the fair market value of other property received by him plus his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. Because the amount realized includes a unitholder's share of our nonrecourse liabilities, the gain recognized on the sale of units could result in a tax liability in excess of any cash received from the sale.

Except as noted below, gain or loss recognized by a unitholder, other than a dealer in units, on the sale or exchange of a unit will generally be taxable as capital gain or loss. Capital gain recognized by an individual on the sale of units held for more than twelve months will generally be taxed at a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 15% through December 31, 2012 and 20% thereafter (absent new legislation extending or adjusting the current rate). However, a portion of this gain or loss will be separately computed and taxed as ordinary income or loss under Section 751 of the Internal Revenue Code to the extent attributable to assets giving rise to depreciation recapture or other unrealized receivables or to inventory items we own. The term unrealized receivables includes potential recapture items, including depreciation recapture. Ordinary income attributable to unrealized receivables, inventory items and depreciation recapture may exceed net taxable gain realized upon the sale of a unit and may be recognized even if there is a net taxable loss realized on the sale of a unit. Thus, a unitholder may recognize both ordinary income and a capital loss upon a sale of units. Net capital losses may offset capital gains and no more than \$3,000 of ordinary income, in the case of individuals, and may only be used to offset capital gains in the case of corporations.

The IRS has ruled that a partner who acquires interests in a partnership in separate transactions must combine those interests and maintain a single adjusted tax basis for all those interests. Upon a sale or other disposition of less than all of those interests, a portion of that tax basis must be allocated to the interests sold using an equitable apportionment method, which generally means that the tax basis allocated to the interest sold equals an amount that bears the same relation to the partner's tax basis in his entire interest in the partnership (i.e., tax basis in all common units and Preferred Units held by the partner) as the value of the interest sold bears to the value of the partner's entire interest in the partnership. Treasury Regulations under Section 1223 of the Internal Revenue Code allow a selling unitholder who can identify common units or Preferred Units transferred with an ascertainable holding period to elect to use the actual holding period of the common units or Preferred Units transferred. Thus, according to the ruling discussed above, a unitholder will be unable to select high or low basis common units or Preferred Units to sell as would be the case with corporate stock, but, according to the Treasury Regulations, he may designate specific common units or Preferred Units sold for purposes of determining the holding period of units transferred. A unitholder electing to use the actual holding period of common units or Preferred Units transferred must consistently use that identification method for all

Table of Contents

subsequent sales or exchanges of common units and Preferred Units. A unitholder considering the purchase of additional units or a sale of common units or Preferred Units purchased in separate transactions is urged to consult his tax advisor as to the possible consequences of this ruling and application of the Treasury Regulations.

Specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code affect the taxation of some financial products and securities, including partnership interests, by treating a taxpayer as having sold an appreciated partnership interest, one in which gain would be recognized if it were sold, assigned or terminated at its fair market value, if the taxpayer or related persons enter(s) into:

a short sale;

an offsetting notional principal contract; or

a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest or substantially identical property.

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

Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees. In general, distributions made in respect of a Preferred Unit will be made to the record holder of that Preferred Unit on the record date for the distribution, and the ordinary taxable income resulting from such distribution will be treated as taxable income of the record holder who is entitled to receive the distribution.

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

Constructive Termination. We will be considered to have been terminated for tax purposes if there are sales or exchanges which, in the aggregate, constitute 50% or more of the total interests in our capital and profits within a twelve-month period. For purposes of measuring whether the 50% threshold is reached, multiple sales of the same interest are counted only once. A constructive termination results in the closing of our taxable year for all unitholders. In the case of a unitholder reporting on a taxable year other than a fiscal year ending December 31, the closing of our taxable year may result in more than twelve months of our taxable income or loss being includable in his taxable income for the year of termination. A constructive termination occurring on a date other than December 31 will result in us filing two tax returns (and unitholders receiving two Schedules K-1) for one fiscal year and the cost of the preparation of these returns will be borne by all unitholders. We would be required to make new tax elections after a termination, including a new election under Section 754 of the Internal Revenue Code, and a termination would result in a deferral of our deductions for depreciation. A termination could also result in penalties if we were unable to determine that the termination had occurred. Moreover, a termination might either accelerate the application of, or subject us to, any tax legislation enacted before the termination.

Potential for Income or Gain Recognition as a Result of Reducing Debt Shifts

A unitholder's initial tax basis in its common units consists of the amount such unitholder paid for the common units plus such unitholder's share of our liabilities. That basis is decreased, but not below zero, by any

Table of Contents

decreases in such unitholder's share of our liabilities. A significant portion of our liabilities are considered nonrecourse liabilities. For these purposes, nonrecourse liabilities are liabilities of our partnership for which no partner, including the general partner, bears the economic risk of loss. Our nonrecourse liabilities are generally allocated among the unitholders based on each unitholder's share of our profits. As stated above, a common unitholder who does not exercise its rights will suffer a reduction in its allocable share of our liabilities, which is referred to as a reducing debt shift. In such a case, the common unitholder will be deemed to have received a cash distribution equal to the amount of the reducing debt shift.

Distributions made by us to a common unitholder generally will not be taxable to the common unitholder for federal income tax purposes, except to the extent the amount of any such cash distributions exceeds the unitholder's tax basis in its common units immediately before the distribution. Cash distributions from us that are in excess of a unitholder's tax basis generally will be considered to be gain from the sale or exchange of the common units. Thus, if a reducing debt shift and the resulting deemed cash distribution exceeds such unitholder's basis in its common units, such unitholder would recognize gain in an amount equal to such excess. However, such unitholder generally will not recognize taxable gain solely as a result of the debt shift if such unitholder's tax basis in its common units is positive without including any basis associated with such unitholder's share of our liabilities.

The LTIP Proposal

The following discussion is for general information only and is intended to summarize briefly the U.S. federal tax consequences to participants arising from participation in the Proposed LTIP. This description is based on current law, which is subject to change (possibly retroactively). The tax treatment of participants in the Proposed LTIP may vary depending on the particular situation and may, therefore, be subject to special rules not discussed below. No attempt has been made to discuss any potential foreign, state, or local tax consequences. In addition, unit options or unit appreciation rights that provide for a deferral of compensation within the meaning of Section 409A, phantom units, and certain other awards that may be granted pursuant to the Proposed LTIP could be subject to additional taxes unless they are designed to comply with certain restrictions set forth in Section 409A and the guidance promulgated thereunder.

Unit Options; Unit Appreciation Rights. Participants will not realize taxable income upon the grant of a unit option or a unit appreciation right. Upon the exercise or, if later, the settlement of a unit option or a unit appreciation right, a participant will recognize ordinary compensation income in an amount equal to the excess of (i) the amount of cash or the fair market value of the common units received, over (ii) the exercise price (if any) paid therefor. A participant will generally have a tax basis in any common units received pursuant to the exercise of a unit appreciation right, or pursuant to the cash exercise of a unit option, that equals the fair market value of the common units on the date of exercise. Subject to the discussion under Tax Code Limitations on Deductibility below, we will be entitled to a deduction for federal income tax purposes that corresponds as to timing and amount with the compensation income recognized by a participant under the foregoing rules.

When a participant sells the common units acquired as a result of the exercise of a unit option or unit appreciation right, any appreciation (or depreciation) in the value of the common units after the exercise date is treated as long- or short-term capital gain (or loss) for federal income tax purposes, depending on the holding period. The common units must be held for more than 12 months in order to qualify for long-term capital gain treatment.

Phantom Unit Awards; Restricted Unit Awards; Other Awards. A participant will recognize ordinary compensation income upon receipt of cash pursuant to a cash award or, if earlier, at the time the cash is otherwise made available for the participant to draw upon. A participant will not have taxable income at the time of a grant of an award in the form of a phantom unit award, but rather, will generally recognize ordinary compensation income at the time he receives common units or a cash payment in satisfaction of the phantom unit award in an amount equal to the fair market value of the common units received or the cash payment, whichever is

Table of Contents

applicable. In addition, the participant will be subject to ordinary income tax upon the payment of a DER. In general, a participant will recognize ordinary compensation income as a result of the receipt of common units pursuant to a restricted unit award or a unit award in an amount equal to the fair market value of the common units when the common units are received, provided, that if the common units are not transferable or are subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture when received, the participant will recognize ordinary compensation income in an amount equal to the fair market value of common units (i) when the common units first become transferable or are no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, in cases where a Participant does not make a valid election under Section 83(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (ii) when the common units are received, in cases where a participant makes a valid election under Section 83(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.

A participant who is an employee will be subject to withholding for federal, and generally for state and local, income taxes at the time he recognizes income under the rules described above with respect to common units or cash received. Directors and consultants must make their own arrangements for satisfying any tax obligations they may incur in connection with the receipt of an award under the Proposed LTIP. Distributions that are received by a participant prior to the time that the common units are taxed to the participant under the rules described in the preceding paragraph are taxed as additional compensation, not as distributions on common units. The tax basis in the common units received by a participant will equal the amount recognized by him as compensation income under the rules described in the preceding paragraph, and the participant's capital gains holding period in those common units will commence on the date of receipt of the common units.

Subject to the discussion immediately below, we will be entitled to a deduction for federal income tax purposes that corresponds as to timing and amount with the compensation income recognized by a participant under the foregoing rules.

Tax Code Limitations on Deductibility. In order for the amounts described above to be deductible by our general partner or one of its affiliates, the amounts must constitute reasonable compensation for services rendered or to be rendered and must be ordinary and necessary business expenses.

Limited Partnership Interest. We are not a taxable entity, and as such, we do not incur any federal income tax liability. Instead, each holder of our common units is required to report on his income tax return his share of our income, gains, losses and deductions in computing his federal income tax liability, regardless of whether cash distributions are made to him by us. Distributions by us to a holder of common units are generally not taxable unless the amount of cash distributed is in excess of the holder's adjusted basis in his interest. Usually at the beginning of each year, we will mail to each partner a Schedule K-1 showing the amounts of income, gains, losses, and deductions that the partner is required to reflect on his federal income tax return as a limited partner for the preceding year. A limited partner will not qualify for using Form 1040EZ or 1040A, and may not file his federal income tax return until he has received his Schedule K-1 and reflected the relevant information contained therein in his tax return.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Throughout this section, each person who served as the Principal Executive Officer (*PEO*) of our general partner during 2010, each person who served as the Principal Financial Officer (*PFO*) of our general partner during 2010 and the three most highly compensated executive officers other than the *PEO* and *PFO* serving at December 31, 2010 are referred to as the Named Executive Officers (*NEOs*). The *NEOs* include the following:

James C. Dyer, IV, Chief Executive Officer;

J. Michael Cockrell, President and Chief Operating Officer;

Alex G. Stallings, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary;

Michael Prince, Vice President Business Development; and

Larry Hatley, Vice President Transportation Marketing and Operations.

As is the case with many publicly traded partnerships, we did not historically directly employ any persons responsible for managing or operating us or for providing services relating to day-to-day business affairs. Our general partner manages our operations and activities, and its board of directors and officers make decisions on our behalf. With the exception of Mr. Dyer, as described below, the compensation for the *NEOs* for services rendered to us is determined by the compensation committee of our general partner. During portions of 2008, certain of our executive officers were also employed by and provided services to SemCorp.

Mr. Dyer is an officer of Vitol Inc. In this capacity, he performs services for us as well as for Vitol and its other affiliates. Mr. Dyer received his 2010 compensation solely from Vitol. The compensation committee did not have any role in determining the base salary and short term and long term incentive compensation paid to him by Vitol during 2010. We did not directly or indirectly reimburse Vitol for the costs of compensation of Mr. Dyer in 2010 other than reimbursement of direct out-of-pocket expenses for serving as our Chief Executive Officer, such as travel expenses. Throughout this section we refer to our *NEOs* other than Mr. Dyer as our compensated *NEOs*.

Compensation Methodology

Prior to SemCorp's bankruptcy filings and the events related thereto, our general partner sought to improve our operating performance to provide a return to unitholders in the form of distributions and to maintain a capital structure to support future growth. Since the time of SemCorp's bankruptcy filings, our general partner has had to devote considerable time and effort to stabilizing our business, replacing the substantial amount of revenues previously derived from services provided to SemCorp with revenues to third parties, curing bank credit defaults and negotiating forbearance agreements and credit agreement amendments, negotiating a settlement with SemCorp, managing litigation, refinancing our prior credit facility and bringing current our various regulatory and financial filings. These additional challenges have played an important role in the compensation committee's deliberations concerning discretionary bonus awards in 2008, awards pursuant to our general partner's 2009 Executive Cash Bonus Plan and discretionary bonus awards relating to our results of operations in 2010.

The compensation committee of our board of directors seeks to provide a total compensation package designed to drive performance and reward contributions in support of these business strategies and to attract, motivate and retain high quality talent with the skills and competencies required by us. During 2010, our compensation committee again examined the compensation practices of certain of our peer companies, which included Buckeye Partners, L.P., Copano Energy, L.L.C., Crosstex Energy, L.P., Enbridge Energy Partners, L.P., Enterprise Products Partners L.P., Genesis Energy, L.P., Holly Energy Partners, L.P., Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P., NuStar Energy L.P., ONEOK Partners, L.P., Regency Energy Partners LP, Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P. and Targa Resources Partners LP. The compensation committee may review and, in certain cases,

Table of Contents

participate in, various relevant compensation surveys and consult with compensation consultants with respect to determining compensation for the NEOs. The compensation committee noted that we face certain unique challenges as compared to these competitors as outlined in the previous paragraph.

Because the compensation committee was reorganized in connection with the Vitol Change of Control, the historical compensation methodology and practices used to compensate our NEOs may not be indicative of the compensation committee's future compensation methodology and practices.

Elements of Compensation

Historically, the primary elements of our general partner's compensation program were a combination of annual cash and long-term equity-based compensation, and the principal elements of compensation for the NEOs were the following:

base salary;

discretionary bonus awards;

long-term incentive plan awards; and

other benefits.

Base Salary. Historically, our general partner's compensation committee established base salaries for the NEOs based on various factors including the amounts it considered necessary to attract and retain the highest quality executives, the responsibilities of the NEOs and market data including publicly available market data for the peer companies listed above as reported in their filings with the SEC. Prior to the settlement of certain items with SemCorp in its bankruptcy proceedings in 2009, the base salaries of the NEOs that were executive officers at the time were allocated to us by our general partner as general and administrative expenses and were included in the annual administrative fee that we paid to our general partner and SemCorp pursuant to an omnibus agreement with SemCorp, which provided for the provision of certain general and administrative functions.

Each of the compensated NEOs has entered into employment agreements with a subsidiary of our general partner. The employment agreements for our compensated NEOs provide for an annual base salary of \$282,000, \$300,000, \$165,688 and \$185,000, for Messrs. Cockrell, Stallings, Prince and Hatley, respectively. These base salary amounts were originally determined based upon the scope of each executive's responsibilities that were commensurate with such executive's position as well as the added responsibilities the executives have that were typical of executives in publicly traded partnerships, taking into account competitive market compensation paid by similar companies for comparable positions. In addition, the base salary amounts payable to Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley were determined, in part, by the base salary amount and other benefits each such individual received prior to joining our general partner's management team. In March 2009, Mr. Stallings' annual base salary was increased from \$275,000 to \$300,000 in connection with his appointment as the Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of our general partner.

Discretionary Bonus Awards. Our general partner's compensation committee may also award discretionary bonus awards to the NEOs. Our general partner may use discretionary bonus awards for achieving financial and operational goals and for achieving individual performance objectives. On December 18, 2008, the compensation committee awarded a \$225,000 cash bonus award to Alex G. Stallings who was then serving as an NEO. In awarding this cash bonus, the compensation committee considered, among other factors, the role and responsibility of each officer with our general partner, the change in each NEO's responsibility after SemCorp's bankruptcy filings, the difficult operational, financial, legal and working environment caused by SemCorp's bankruptcy filings, each NEO's past compensation, perceived contribution of each NEO to our general partner and to us generally, actual EBITDA achieved during the third quarter of 2008 and the projected EBITDA for the fourth quarter of 2008, obtaining forbearances under our credit agreement and satisfying the covenants in such agreements and each NEO's efforts in rebuilding our business after July 2008 as a substantial majority of our

Table of Contents

business was derived from services provided to SemCorp prior to SemCorp's bankruptcy filings in July 2008. In considering actual and projected EBITDA, the compensation committee compared these amounts with EBITDA estimates that had been included in budgets provided to our partnership's lenders after SemCorp's bankruptcy filings and the corresponding defaults under our credit agreement. Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley were not part of our general partner's management team during 2008.

On July 1, 2009, the compensation committee adopted the 2009 Cash Bonus Plan. This plan provided for incentive payments to certain of our NEOs based upon the overall financial performance measured by EBITDA of our asphalt and/or crude oil operations. In addition, the compensation committee may make discretionary incentive payments based upon the performance of such NEO. We made payments to Mr. Stallings of \$375,000 under the 2009 Cash Bonus Plan (\$75,000 of which was paid in 2010). Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley were not part of our general partner's management team at the time of the adoption of the 2009 Cash Bonus Plan.

During March 2011, the compensation committee awarded discretionary bonuses of \$175,000, \$125,000, \$75,000 and \$50,000 to each of Messrs. Cockrell, Stallings, Prince and Hatley, respectively, relating to our results of operations in 2010. Please see 2010 Incentive Compensation for a discussion of these discretionary bonuses.

Long-Term Incentive Plan Awards. Our general partner has adopted the Current LTIP for employees, consultants and directors of our general partner and its affiliates who perform services for us. Each of the NEOs is eligible to participate in the Current LTIP. The Current LTIP provides for the grant of unit awards, restricted units, phantom units, unit options, unit appreciation rights, distribution equivalent rights and substitute awards. For a more detailed description of this Current LTIP, please see Current LTIP.

On June 20, 2008, our general partner's compensation committee made grants of phantom units under the Current LTIP to eligible individuals who performed services for us, including the NEOs serving at such time. In connection therewith, the compensation committee approved two forms of Phantom Unit Grant Agreements to be used for grants of phantom units under the Long-Term Incentive Plan at such time.

Certain phantom units granted (Type A Awards) were to vest in one-third increments over a three year period, subject to earlier vesting on a change of control or upon a termination without cause or due to death or disability. The Type A Awards had distribution equivalent rights for each fiscal quarter in which our quarterly cash distribution to our subordinated and common unitholders for such quarter equaled or exceeded \$0.39 per unit (or \$1.56 per unit on an annualized basis). Pursuant to the distribution equivalent right, the grantee was entitled to receive a cash payment with respect to each phantom unit then outstanding equal to the product of (i) the per unit cash distributions paid to our partnership's unitholders during such fiscal quarter, if any, multiplied by (ii) the number of unvested phantom units.

Certain phantom units granted (Type B Awards) have substantially similar terms as Type A Awards, except that the phantom units had distribution equivalent rights for each fiscal quarter in which our quarterly cash distribution to our subordinated and common unitholders for such quarter equaled or exceeded \$0.47 per unit (or \$1.88 per unit on an annualized basis).

The NEOs serving at such time were granted Type A Awards and Type B Awards as indicated below:

Officer	Type A Awards	Type B Awards
Alex G. Stallings	24,000	21,000

The Manchester Change of Control of our general partner in July 2008 constituted a change of control under the Current LTIP, which resulted in the early vesting of all awards under the Long-Term Incentive Plan, including the Type A Awards and the Type B Awards described above. See Manchester Change of Control below.

Table of Contents

Our general partner's compensation committee did not make any awards to our NEOs under the Current LTIP during 2009 or 2010. During March 2011, the compensation committee made awards of phantom units to our compensated NEOs of 30,000 units, 15,000 units, 15,000 units, and 8,500 units to Messrs. Cockrell, Stallings, Prince and Hatley, respectively, relating to our results of operations in 2010. The awards vest on January 1, 2014. These phantom units contain distribution equivalent rights that entitle the holder of such units to receive a cash payment equal to the amount of any ordinary quarterly cash distribution paid to our common unitholders. Please see [2010 Incentive Compensation](#) for a discussion of these awards.

Other Benefits. The employment agreements entered into by each of the compensated NEOs with our general partner provide that such NEO is eligible to participate in any employee benefit plans maintained by our general partner. During 2008, 2009 and 2010, our general partner maintained an employee health insurance plan and an Exec-U-Care plan under which our officers were reimbursed for certain co-pays and deductibles for medical expenses in addition to the Current LTIP and the 2009 cash Bonus Plan described below. In addition, the employment agreements provide that each NEO is entitled to reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred while performing his duties under the employment agreement.

Prior to SemCorp's bankruptcy filings, SemCorp provided certain perquisites to our NEOs. After such bankruptcy filings, we provided certain of these perquisites, including country club memberships, car allowances and reimbursement of certain deductibles and co-payments for medical expenses, to our NEOs. Currently, we provide country club memberships, car allowances and reimbursement of certain deductibles and co-payments for medical expenses to our compensated NEOs.

2010 Incentive Compensation

During 2010, we continued to face uncertainty in our business and our ability to continue as a going concern. Our management team focused its efforts on stabilizing our business and operations, continuing to replace the revenue previously derived from services provided to SemCorp with revenues to third parties, transitioning services provided by SemCorp to us, managing litigation and refinancing our prior credit facility. Because our business had not yet been stabilized, the compensation committee did not adopt a specific plan for 2010 or set targets for 2010 compensation. Instead, the compensation committee and our board of directors set aside certain amounts in the 2010 budget that could be used for discretionary bonuses if the compensation committee determined to award such bonuses after a review of our partnership's performance during 2010. Management proposed an EBITDA target of \$60.4 million (before certain non-recurring expenses related to the Charlesbank Change of Control and the Global Transaction Agreement) for awards to be made. However, the committee never formally adopted this amount as a specific target as it wanted to keep full discretion of whether to award any bonuses related to performance during 2010.

During March 2011, our general partner's chief executive officer proposed to the compensation committee that each compensated NEO receive (i) a discretionary bonus award relating to our results of operations in 2010 as follows: \$175,000, \$125,000, \$75,000 and \$50,000 for Messrs. Cockrell, Stallings, Prince and Hatley, respectively, and (ii) awards of phantom units relating to our results of operations for 2010 as follows: 30,000 units, 15,000 units, 15,000 units, and 8,500 units to Messrs. Cockrell, Stallings, Prince, and Hatley, respectively. The compensation committee agreed with these recommendations and on March 11, 2011 made discretionary bonus awards and phantom unit grants in accordance with such recommendations. The discretionary bonus awards were paid during March 2011. The compensation committee considered the items of emphasis for our NEOs outlined in the prior paragraph as well as the performance of the individual compensated NEO in determining to make such awards.

In addition, during 2010, each of Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley received payments upon the Charlesbank Change of Control. Please see [Potential Payments Upon Change of Control or Termination](#) below for a discussion of these payment amounts.

Table of Contents

Compensation Mix

Our general partner's compensation committee determines the mix of compensation, both among short and long-term compensation and cash and non-cash compensation, to establish structures that it believes are appropriate for each of the compensated NEOs. As indicated above, the compensation committee is currently reviewing its compensation methodology for our compensated NEOs, including evaluating the mix of base salary, bonus awards, awards under the Current LTIP, the Proposed LTIP and the other benefits that are available to the compensated NEOs to ensure that such mix fits the overall compensation objectives of our general partner and us taking into account the changes to and rebuilding of our business as a result of SemCorp's bankruptcy filings, the Vitrol Change of Control, the Charlesbank Change of Control and related events.

Role of Executive Officers in Executive Compensation

Our general partner's compensation committee determines the compensation of the compensated NEOs. Our general partner's chief executive officer, Mr. Dyer, is assisting the compensation committee in reviewing its compensation methodology. Mr. Dyer also made recommendations to the compensation committee for the awards of phantom units and discretionary bonuses to be paid to our compensated NEOs relating to our results of operations in 2010. In addition, the employment agreement entered into by Mr. Stallings was originally approved by the management committee of SemCorp's general partner pursuant to its limited liability company agreement.

Employment Agreements

As indicated above, each of the compensated NEOs has entered into an employment agreement with our general partner. All of these agreements, other than Mr. Stallings' agreement, are substantially similar except for the term of the agreements, the base salary under such agreements and the deferred payments that are payable to the respective NEO. Mr. Stallings' employment agreement is described separately below.

Employment Agreements of Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley. Messrs. Cockrell and Prince entered into their employment agreements in December of 2009 with terms of five years and three years, respectively. Mr. Hatley entered into his employment agreement in March 2010 with a term of three years. These employment agreements provide for the initial base salaries described above. In addition, each of Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley are entitled, during the period from 2010 to 2013, to certain deferred payments as compensation for long-term incentive awards which such individual forfeited upon leaving his prior employer. The amount of such deferred payments totaled \$2,080,377, \$434,588 and \$383,652 for each of Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley, respectively. These deferred payments were subject to acceleration upon a Change of Control (as defined below), or upon such NEO's termination without Cause (as defined below), for Good Reason (as defined below) or due to death or disability. As a result of the Charlesbank Change of Control, these deferred payments were accelerated, resulting in the full amount of such deferred payments being paid to Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley in 2010. Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley are also eligible for discretionary bonus awards and long-term incentives which may be made from time to time in the sole discretion of our board of directors. The employment agreements also provide that Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley are eligible to participate in any employee benefit plans maintained by our general partner and are entitled to reimbursement for certain out-of-pocket expenses. Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley have agreed not to disclose any confidential information obtained while employed under their respective employment agreement and has agreed to a one year non-solicitation covenant, which in no event will continue past the fifth anniversary of the effective date of the agreement in the case of Messrs. Cockrell and Hatley, or the third anniversary of the effective date of the agreement in the case of Mr. Prince.

Except in the event of termination for Cause (as defined below), termination by the NEO other than for Good Reason (as defined below), termination after the expiration of the term of the NEO's employment agreement or termination due to death or disability, the employment agreements provide for payment of any unpaid base salary and vested benefits under any incentive plans, a lump sum payment equal to the NEO's base

Table of Contents

salary for the lesser of (i) two years or (ii) the remainder of the employment term, and continued participation in our general partner's welfare benefit programs for the same period of time. Based upon current base salary amounts, the maximum amount of the lump sum severance payment would be \$564,000, \$331,376 and \$370,000 for Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley, respectively, in addition to continued participation in our general partner's welfare benefit programs and the amounts of unpaid base salary and benefits under any incentive plans. Upon termination of his employment due to death or disability, the officer and/or his dependents would be entitled to the benefits continuation described above, his unpaid base salary and accelerated payment of the deferred payment amounts described above.

For purposes of the employment agreements of Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley:

Cause means (i) conviction of the officer by a court of competent jurisdiction of any felony or a crime involving moral turpitude; (ii) the officer's willful and intentional failure or willful intentional refusal to follow reasonable and lawful instructions of our board of directors; (iii) the officer's material breach or default in the performance of his obligations under the employment agreement; or (iv) the officer's act of misappropriation, embezzlement, intentional fraud or similar conduct involving our general partner.

Good Reason means (i) a material reduction in the officer's base salary; (ii) a material diminution of the officer's duties, authority or responsibilities as in effect immediately prior to such diminution; or (iii) the relocation of the officer's principal work location to a location more than 100 miles from its current location.

Change of Control means any of the following events: (i) any person or group other than SemGroup, L.P. or Vitol Inc., or their respective affiliates, shall become the beneficial owner, by way of merger, consolidation, recapitalization, reorganization or otherwise, of 50% or more of the combined voting power of the equity interests in our partnership or in our general partner; (ii) our partnership's limited partners approve, in one or a series of transactions, a plan of complete liquidation of our partnership; (iii) the sale or other disposition by either our general partner or our partnership of all or substantially all of the assets of our general partner or our partnership in one or more transactions to any person other than our general partner and its affiliates; or (iv) a transaction resulting in a person other than our general partner or an affiliate of our general partner being our partnership's general partner. The Charlesbank Change of Control resulted in a change of control under the employment agreement of Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley.

Employment Agreement of Mr. Stallings. The employment agreement entered into by Mr. Stallings has a term of two years that will automatically be extended for one year periods unless either party gives 90 days advance notice. This employment agreement provides for the initial annual base salary described above. As described above, Mr. Stallings' base salary was increased in March 2009 in connection with the realignment of our executive officers. In addition, each of the compensated NEOs is eligible for discretionary bonus awards and long-term incentives which may be made from time to time in the sole discretion of our board of directors. The employment agreements also provide that Mr. Stallings is eligible to participate in any employee benefit plans maintained by our general partner and are entitled to reimbursement for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

Pursuant to the employment agreement Mr. Stallings has agreed not to disclose any confidential information obtained by him while employed under the agreement. In addition, his employment agreement contains payment obligations that may be triggered by a termination after a change of control as defined therein.

Under the employment agreement entered into with Mr. Stallings, our general partner may be required to pay certain amounts upon a change of control of us or our general partner or upon the termination of the executive officer in certain circumstances. Except in the event of termination for Cause, termination by Mr. Stallings other than for Good Reason, or termination after the expiration of the term of the employment agreement, the employment agreement provides for payment of any unpaid base salary and vested benefits under any incentive plans, a lump sum payment equal to twelve months of base salary and continued participation in our general partner's welfare benefit programs for the longer of the remainder of the term of the employment agreement or one year after termination.

Table of Contents

If within one year after a change of control occurs, Mr. Stallings is terminated by our general partner without Cause or he terminates the agreement for Good Reason, he will be entitled to payment of any unpaid base salary and vested benefits under any incentive plans, a lump sum payment equal to 24 months of base salary and continued participation in our general partner's welfare benefit programs for the longer of the remainder of the term of the employment agreement or one year after termination. The Manchester Change of Control, Vitol Change of Control and Charlesbank Change of Control each resulted in a change of control under Mr. Stallings' employment agreement.

For purposes of the employment agreement with Mr. Stallings:

Cause means (i) conviction of the executive officer by a court of competent jurisdiction of any felony or a crime involving moral turpitude; (ii) the executive officer's willful and intentional failure or willful intentional refusal to follow reasonable and lawful instructions of our board of directors; (iii) the executive officer's material breach or default in the performance of his obligations under the employment agreement; or (iv) the executive officer's act of misappropriation, embezzlement, intentional fraud or similar conduct involving our general partner.

Good Reason means (i) a material reduction in the executive officer's base salary; (ii) a material diminution of the executive officer's duties, authority or responsibilities as in effect immediately prior to such diminution; or (iii) the relocation of such individual's principal work location to a location more than 50 miles from its current location.

Change of Control means any of the following events: (i) any person or group other than SemCorp and its affiliates shall become the beneficial owner, by way of merger, consolidation, recapitalization, reorganization or otherwise, of 50% or more of the combined voting power of the equity interests in us or our general partner; (ii) our limited partners approve, in one or a series of transactions, a plan of complete liquidation of us; (iii) the sale or other disposition by either our general partner or us of all or substantially all of the assets of our general partner or us in one or more transactions to any person other than our general partner and its affiliates; or (iv) a transaction resulting in a person other than our general partner or an affiliate of our general partner being the general partner of our partnership.

Potential Payments Upon Change of Control or Termination

Employment Agreements. Each of the employment agreements with our compensated NEOs contain provisions that could result in the payment of amounts to such individuals upon a termination or change of control (as defined in such employment agreements).

As described above, under Mr. Stallings' employment agreement, he is entitled to certain payments if the employment agreement is terminated in certain circumstances as described above. Upon such an event, Mr. Stallings would be entitled a lump sum payment of \$300,000, in addition to continued participation in our general partner's welfare benefit programs and the amounts of unpaid base salary and benefits under any incentive plans. In addition, as described above, under Mr. Stallings' employment agreement, if within one year after a Change of Control (as defined above) occurs his employment is terminated by our general partner without Cause or he terminates the agreement for Good Reason, he will be entitled to certain payments as described above. Upon such an event, Mr. Stallings would be entitled to a lump sum payment of \$600,000, in addition to continued participation in our general partner's welfare benefit programs and the amounts of unpaid base salary and benefits under any incentive plans. The Manchester Change of Control, Vitol Change of Control and the Charlesbank Change of Control each resulted in a change of control under Mr. Stallings' employment agreement.

As described above, pursuant to the employment agreements of Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley, such officer was entitled to certain deferred payments totaling \$2,080,377, \$434,588 and \$383,652 for each of Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley, respectively. These deferred payments were subject to acceleration upon,

Table of Contents

among other items, a Change of Control (as defined above). These deferred payment amounts accelerated upon the Charlesbank Change of Control. As a result of the Charlesbank Change of Control, these deferred payments were accelerated, resulting in the full amount of such deferred payments being paid to Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley in 2010. In addition, as described above, except in the event of termination for Cause, termination by such officer other than for Good Reason, termination after the expiration of the term of such officer's employment agreement or termination due to death or disability, each employment agreement provides for payment of any unpaid base salary and vested benefits under any incentive plans, a lump sum payment equal to his base salary for the lesser of (i) two years or (ii) the remainder of the employment term, and continued participation in our general partner's welfare benefit programs for the same period of time. Based upon current base salary amounts, the maximum amount of the lump sum severance payment would be \$564,000, \$331,376 and \$370,000 for Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley, respectively, in addition to continued participation in our general partner's welfare benefit programs and the amounts of unpaid base salary and benefits under any incentive plans. Upon termination of his employment due to death or disability, the officer and/or his dependents would be entitled to the benefits continuation described above, his unpaid base salary and accelerated payment of the deferred payment amounts described above.

LTIP Awards. The restricted and phantom units granted under the Long-Term Incentive Plan will vest automatically upon a change of control (as defined in the Long-Term Incentive Plan) of us or our general partner, subject to any contrary provisions in the award agreement.

Charlesbank Change of Control

As described above, the Charlesbank Change of Control resulted in a change of control under the employment agreements of Messrs. Cockrell, Stallings, Prince and Hatley and certain payments being made to Messrs. Cockrell, Prince and Hatley. If within one year after the Charlesbank Change of Control, the employment of Messrs. Cockrell, Stallings, Prince and Hatley is terminated by our General Partner without Cause or such individual terminates the agreement for Good Reason, such individual will be entitled to the payments outlined above under Potential Payments Upon Change of Control or Termination.

Vitol Change of Control

The Vitol Change of Control also resulted in a change of control under the employment agreement of Mr. Stallings. Mr. Stallings was not entitled to these benefits as he was not terminated by our general partner without Cause nor did he terminate his agreement for Good Reason during the one-year period following the Vitol Change in Control.

In addition, the Vitol Change of Control constituted a change of control under the 2009 Cash Bonus Plan. As such, awards under the 2009 Cash Bonus Plan were determined on a pro-rata basis as of the date of the Vitol Change of Control with the actual earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, and restructuring and certain other non-cash charges (EBITDA) of us, the crude business and the asphalt business, respectively, being calculated as of the most recently completed month prior to the Vitol Change of Control (the Change of Control Period) for which financial statements are available and the target performance measures being adjusted for the Change of Control Period as described in 2009 Cash Bonus Plan below. All payments made under the 2009 Cash Bonus Plan are subject to the discretion of the compensation committee. Mr. Stallings was paid \$180,000 in connection with the 2009 Cash Bonus Plan and awards that vested in connection with the Vitol Change of Control.

Manchester Change of Control

The Manchester Change of Control constituted a change of control under the Long-Term Incentive Plan, which resulted in the early vesting of all awards under the Long-Term Incentive Plan. As such, the phantom units awarded to Mr. Stallings fully vested upon the Manchester Change of Control.

Table of Contents

The Manchester Change of Control also resulted in a change of control under the employment agreement of Mr. Stallings. Mr. Stallings was not entitled to these benefits as he was not terminated by our general partner without Cause nor did he terminate his agreement for Good Reason during the one-year period following the Manchester Change in Control.

Current LTIP

General. Our general partner has adopted the Current LTIP for employees, consultants and directors of our general partner and its affiliates (including SemCorp prior to the Manchester Change of Control) who perform services for us. The summary of the Current LTIP contained herein does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Current LTIP. The Current LTIP provides for the grant of unit awards, restricted units, phantom units, unit options, unit appreciation rights, distribution equivalent rights and substitute awards. Subject to adjustment for certain events, an aggregate of 1,250,000 common units may be delivered pursuant to awards under the Current LTIP. The Proposed LTIP would increase the number of common units that may be delivered pursuant to the Proposed LTIP to an aggregate of 2,600,000 common units of which 1,527,376 common units would be available for future awards under the Proposed LTIP. Units that are cancelled, forfeited or are withheld to satisfy our general partner's tax withholding obligations are available for delivery pursuant to other awards. The Current LTIP is administered by the compensation committee of our board of directors. The Current LTIP has been designed to furnish additional compensation to employees, consultants and directors and to align their economic interests with those of common unitholders. In addition, in December 2008 the Current LTIP was amended to provide for the delivery of subordinated units in addition to common units. In March 2011, the Current LTIP was amended to update the change of control provisions for the Charlesbank Change of Control and to reflect changes relating to Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code.

Unit Awards. The compensation committee may grant unit awards to eligible individuals under the Current LTIP. A unit award is an award of common units or subordinated units that are fully vested upon grant and not subject to forfeiture.

Restricted Units and Phantom Units. A restricted unit is a common unit or subordinated unit that is subject to forfeiture. Upon vesting, the forfeiture restrictions lapse and the recipient holds a common unit or a subordinated unit that is not subject to forfeiture. A phantom unit is a notional unit that entitles the grantee to receive a common unit or subordinated unit upon the vesting of the phantom unit or, in the discretion of the compensation committee, cash equal to the fair market value of a common unit or subordinated unit. The compensation committee may make grants of restricted units and phantom units under the Current LTIP to eligible individuals containing such terms, consistent with the Current LTIP, as the compensation committee may determine, including the period over which restricted units and phantom units granted will vest. The compensation committee may, in its discretion, base vesting on the grantee's completion of a period of service or upon the achievement of specified financial objectives or other criteria. In addition, the restricted and phantom units will vest automatically upon a change of control (as defined in the Current LTIP) of us or our general partner, subject to any contrary provisions in the award agreement. Each of the Manchester Change of Control, Vitol Change of Control and Charlesbank Change of Control constituted a change of control under the Long-Term Incentive Plan. See Manchester Change of Control, Vitol Change of Control and Charlesbank Change of Control above.

If a grantee's employment, consulting or membership on our board of directors terminates for any reason, the grantee's restricted units and phantom units will be automatically forfeited unless, and to the extent, the award agreement or the compensation committee provides otherwise.

Distributions made by us with respect to awards of restricted units may, in the compensation committee's discretion, be subject to the same vesting requirements as the restricted units. The compensation committee, in its discretion, may also grant tandem distribution equivalent rights with respect to phantom units.

Table of Contents

We intend for restricted units and phantom units granted under the Current LTIP to serve as a means of incentive compensation for performance and not primarily as an opportunity to participate in the equity appreciation of the common units. Therefore, participants will not pay any consideration for the common units they receive with respect to these types of awards, and neither we nor our general partner will receive remuneration for the units delivered with respect to these awards.

Unit Options and Unit Appreciation Rights. The Current LTIP also permits the grant of options covering common units, subordinated units and unit appreciation rights. Unit options represent the right to purchase a number of common units or subordinated units at a specified exercise price. Unit appreciation rights represent the right to receive the appreciation in the value of a number of common units or subordinated units over a specified exercise price, either in cash or in common units or subordinated units as determined by the compensation committee. Unit options and unit appreciation rights may be granted to such eligible individuals and with such terms as the compensation committee may determine, consistent with the Current LTIP; however, a unit option or unit appreciation right must have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of a common unit or subordinated unit on the date of grant.

Distribution Equivalent Rights. Distribution equivalent rights are rights to receive all or a portion of the distributions otherwise payable on units during a specified time. Distribution equivalent rights may be granted alone or in combination with another award.

By giving participants the benefit of distributions paid to unitholders generally, grants of distribution equivalent rights provide an incentive for participants to operate our business in a manner that allows our partnership to provide increasing partnership distributions. Typically, distribution equivalent rights will be granted in tandem with a phantom unit, so that the amount of the participant's compensation is tied to both the market value of our units and the distributions that unitholders receive while the award is outstanding. We believe this aligns the participant's incentives directly to the measures that drive returns for our unitholders.

Substitute Awards. The compensation committee, in its discretion, may grant substitute or replacement awards to eligible individuals who, in connection with an acquisition made by us, our general partner or an affiliate, have forfeited an equity-based award in their former employer. A substitute award that is an option may have an exercise price less than the value of a common unit or subordinated unit on the date of grant of the award.

Source of Common Units; Cost. Common units to be delivered with respect to awards may be common or subordinated units acquired by our general partner on the open market, common or subordinated units already owned by our general partner, common or subordinated units acquired by our general partner directly from us or any other person or any combination of the foregoing. Our general partner will be entitled to reimbursement by us for the cost incurred in acquiring common and subordinated units. With respect to unit options, our general partner will be entitled to reimbursement by us for the difference between the cost incurred by our general partner in acquiring these units and the proceeds received from an optionee at the time of exercise. Thus, we will bear the cost of the unit options. If we issue new units with respect to these awards, the total number of units outstanding will increase, and our general partner will remit the proceeds it receives from a participant, if any, upon exercise of an award to us. With respect to any awards settled in cash, our general partner will be entitled to reimbursement by us for the amount of the cash settlement.

Amendment or Termination of Long-Term Incentive Plan. Our board of directors, in its discretion, may terminate the Current LTIP at any time with respect to the units for which a grant has not theretofore been made. The Current LTIP will automatically terminate on the earlier of the 10th anniversary of the date it was initially approved by our unitholders or when units are no longer available for delivery pursuant to awards under the Current LTIP. Our board of directors will also have the right to alter or amend the Current LTIP or any part of it from time to time and the compensation committee may amend any award; provided, however, that no change in any outstanding award may be made that would materially impair the rights of the participant without the consent of the affected participant.

Table of Contents**Compensation Committee Report**

The compensation committee of the board of directors of our general partner has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement with management of our general partner and, based on that review and discussion, has recommended that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

The Compensation Committee

John A. Shapiro, Committee Chair

Steven M. Bradshaw

Duke R. Ligon

The foregoing report shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference by any general statement or reference to this proxy statement into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under such Acts.

Summary Compensation Table

The following table summarizes the compensation of our NEOs for the fiscal years ended 2010, 2009 and 2008.

Name and Position	Year	Salary (\$) ⁽²⁾	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$) ⁽³⁾	Non-Equity			Total (\$)
					Option Awards (\$)	Incentive Compensation (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$) ^{(4) (5)}	
James C. Dyer, IV <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	2010							
	2009							
	2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
J. Michael Cockrell <i>President and Chief Operating Officer</i>	2010	282,000					2,102,200	2,384,200
	2009	21,700						21,700
	2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alex G. Stallings <i>Chief Financial Officer and Secretary</i>	2010	300,000	75,000				19,900	394,900
	2009	295,000	300,000				13,768	608,768
	2008	275,000	225,000	1,764,351			420	2,264,771
Michael Prince <i>Vice President Business Development</i>	2010	165,700					444,800	610,800
	2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2008			N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
Larry Hatley <i>Vice President Transportation Marketing and Operations</i>	2010	169,900					383,700	548,500
	2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2008	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A

(1) Mr. Dyer was appointed as our General Partner's Chief Executive Officer in December 2009 and is compensated by Vitol. Mr. Cockrell was appointed as our General Partner's President and Chief Operating Officer in December 2009. Mr. Stallings served as our General Partner's Chief Accounting Officer and Secretary prior to March 2009 and has served as our General Partner's Chief Financial Officer and Secretary since March 2009. Mr. Prince was appointed as our General Partner's Vice President Business Development in December 2009. Mr. Hatley was appointed as our Vice President Transportation and Marketing Operations in March 2010.

(2) Mr. Stallings' annual base salary was increased to \$300,000 in March 2009.

(3) Dollar amounts represent the grant date fair value of awards granted in each year with respect to phantom unit grants under the Long-Term Incentive Plan. See Note 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December

31, 2010 for assumptions used in calculating these amounts.

Table of Contents

- (4) Prior to the Bankruptcy Filings, SemCorp provided certain perquisites to our NEOs. After the Bankruptcy Filings, we provided certain of these perquisites, including country club memberships, car allowances and reimbursement of certain deductibles and co-payments for medical expenses, to our NEOs. Currently, we provide country club memberships, car allowances and reimbursement of certain deductibles and co-payments for medical expenses to our compensated NEOs.
- (5) Other compensation in 2010 includes deferred payments of \$2,080,377, \$434,588, and \$383,652 for Messrs. Cockrell, Prince, and Hatley, respectively, which were accelerated as a result of the Charlesbank Change of Control.

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End 2010

There was no outstanding equity award made to a NEO as of December 31, 2010.

Director Compensation for Fiscal 2010

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Duke R. Ligon	211,000	18,250					229,250
Miguel A Loya ⁽¹⁾							
Javed Ahmed ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾							
James C. Dyer, IV							
Christopher G. Brown ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾							
Steven M. Bradshaw	201,000	18,250					219,250
John A. Shapiro	201,000	18,250					219,250
Michael R. Eisenson ⁽³⁾							
Jon M. Biotti ⁽³⁾							

(1) Affiliated with Vitol.

(2) Resigned from the Board on November 12, 2010 in connection with the Charlesbank Change of Control.

(3) Affiliated with Charlesbank.

(4) These amounts represent the grant date fair value of restricted units awarded under the Long-Term Incentive Plan. The grant date fair value of these awards is computed in accordance with ASC 718 *Compensation - Stock Compensation*. See Note 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 for assumptions used in calculating these amounts.

Directors who are not officers or employees of any controlling entity or their affiliates receive compensation for attending meetings of the board of directors and committees thereof. Such directors receive (i) \$75,000 per year as an annual retainer fee, (ii) \$5,000 per year for serving on each committee of our board of directors (except that the chairperson of each committee will receive \$10,000 per year for serving as chairperson of such committee), (iii) \$10,000 per year if Chairman of the Board, (iv) \$2,000 per diem for each board of director or committee meeting attended, (v) 5,000 restricted common units upon becoming a director, vesting in one-third increments over a three-year period, (vi) 2,500 restricted common units on each anniversary of becoming a director, vesting in one-third increments over a three-year period, (vii) reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses associated with attending board of director or committee meetings and (viii) director and officer liability insurance coverage. In addition, each director is fully indemnified by us for actions associated with being a director to the fullest extent permitted under Delaware law.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

During the year ended December 31, 2010, the compensation committee of our general partner was comprised of Messrs. Ligon, Shapiro (Chairman) and Bradshaw. No member of the compensation committee was an officer or employee of our general partner.

Table of Contents

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPECIAL MEETING AND VOTING

Time, Date and Place

The special meeting will be held on _____, 2011 at _____, local time, at _____.

Purpose

At the special meeting, our unitholders will act upon the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal and the LTIP Proposal.

Record Date

Our general partner has fixed the close of business on _____, 2011 as the record date for determining which unitholders are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments thereof. A list of unitholders of record will be available for inspection by any unitholder during the meeting.

Holders Entitled to Vote

All holders who owned our common units, subordinated units and Preferred Units at the close of business on the record date, _____, 2011, are entitled to receive notice of the special meeting and to vote the common and subordinated units that they held on the record date at the special meeting, or any adjournments of the special meeting, except that holders of our Preferred Units are not entitled to vote on the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

Each unitholder may cast one vote at the special meeting for each common unit, subordinated unit or Preferred Unit owned at the close of business on the record date. On the record date, there were _____ common units, 12,570,504 subordinated units and 21,538,462 Preferred Units outstanding and entitled to be voted at the special meeting.

Vote Required

Under our partnership agreement, the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal requires approval by (i) our general partner, (ii) a majority of the outstanding common units (excluding common units owned by our general partner and its affiliates and excluding persons or groups beneficially owning 20% or more of our outstanding common units) and (iii) a majority of the outstanding subordinated units. Holders of our Preferred Units are not entitled to vote on the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

Based on the number of our common units expected to be outstanding on the record date, approximately _____ common units owned by our public unitholders must be voted in favor of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

Pursuant to the Global Transaction Agreement, both Vitol and Charlesbank, as the owners of all of our outstanding subordinated units, have agreed to vote all of their subordinated units in favor of the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal. As such, we are contractually assured of receiving the approval of the applicable unitholder proposals by holders of a majority of our outstanding subordinated units.

An abstention, a broker non-vote, or the failure to vote at all will have the effect of a negative vote for the purposes of votes required to approve the Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal.

The LTIP Proposal requires the approval of a majority of the votes cast by our unitholders. Vitol and Charlesbank own approximately 61% of our outstanding limited partner units and have indicated that they will vote for the LTIP Proposal.

Table of Contents

Quorum

A majority of our outstanding common units (including common units deemed owned by our general partner), a majority of our outstanding subordinated units and a majority of our outstanding Preferred Units present in person or by proxy at the special meeting will constitute a quorum and will permit us to conduct the proposed business at the special meeting. Your units will be counted as present at the special meeting if you:

are present and vote in person at the meeting; or

have submitted a properly executed proxy card, including a properly executed proxy card without voting instructions.

Proxies received but marked as abstentions will be counted as units that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. If an executed proxy is returned by a broker or other nominee holding units in street name indicating that the broker or nominee does not have discretionary authority as to certain units to vote on the proposals (a broker non-vote), such units will be considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum but will not be considered entitled to vote.

Voting by Proxy

Holders of record can ensure that their units are voted at the special meeting by completing, signing, dating and mailing the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed postage-prepaid envelope. Submitting instructions by this method will not affect your right to attend the special meeting and vote. If you hold your units through a broker, bank or other nominee, you should follow the separate voting instructions, if any, provided by the broker, bank or other nominee with this proxy statement.

Voting Via Telephone or the Internet

Voting via telephone or the Internet is fast, convenient and your vote is immediately confirmed and tabulated. If you choose to vote by telephone or the Internet, instructions to do so are set forth on the enclosed proxy card. The telephone and Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate votes cast by use of a personal identification number, which appears on the proxy card. These procedures, which comply with Delaware law, allow unitholders to appoint a proxy to vote their units and to confirm that their instructions have been properly recorded. If you vote by telephone or the Internet, you do not have to mail in your proxy card, but your vote must be received by _____, New York time, on _____, 2011.

If you own your units in your own name, you can vote via the Internet in accordance with the instructions provided on the enclosed proxy card. If your units are held by a bank, broker or other nominee, please follow the instructions provided with your proxy materials to determine if Internet or telephone voting is available. If your bank or broker does make Internet or telephone voting available, please follow the instructions provided on the voting form supplied by your bank or broker.

Revoking Your Proxy

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the special meeting by:

giving written notice of your revocation in person at the special meeting or in writing bearing a later date than your proxy, delivered to the Secretary of our partnership prior to the special meeting, Two Warren Place, 6120 South Yale Avenue, Suite 500, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136;

delivering to the Secretary of our partnership, prior to the special meeting, a duly executed subsequent proxy (including a proxy delivered by telephone or the Internet) bearing a later date and indicating a contrary vote; or

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

attending the special meeting and voting in person, although attendance at the special meeting will not by itself constitute a revocation of a proxy.

Table of Contents

If your units are held through a broker, bank or other nominee, you should follow the instructions of your broker, bank or nominee regarding the revocation of proxies. If your broker, bank or nominee allows you to submit a proxy by telephone or the Internet, you may be able to change your vote by submitting a proxy again by telephone or the Internet.

Who to Call for Assistance

If you need assistance, including help in changing or revoking your proxy, please contact MacKenzie Partners, Inc., which is acting as a proxy solicitation agent and information agent in connection with the refinancing and related transactions as follows:

MacKenzie Partners, Inc.

105 Madison Avenue

New York, NY 10016

(800) 322-2885

or

(212) 929-5500 (Collect)

Voting at the Special Meeting

Submitting a proxy now will not limit your right to vote at the special meeting if you decide to attend in person. If you plan to attend the special meeting and wish to vote in person, you will be given a ballot at the special meeting. Please note, however, that if your units are held in street name, which means your units are held of record by a broker, bank or other nominee, and you wish to vote at the special meeting, you must bring to the special meeting a proxy from the record holder of the units authorizing you to vote at the special meeting. Please contact your broker, bank or nominee for specific instructions.

Proxy Solicitation

This proxy statement is being furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by our partnership. We will bear the costs of soliciting proxies. These costs include the preparation, assembly and mailing of this proxy statement, the notice of the special meeting of unitholders and the enclosed proxy card, as well as the cost of forwarding these materials to the beneficial owners of our units. The directors, officers and regular employees of our partnership and our general partner may, without compensation other than their regular compensation, solicit proxies by telephone, e-mail, the Internet, facsimile or personal conversation, as well as by mail. We have retained MacKenzie Partners, Inc., a proxy solicitation firm, to assist with the solicitation of proxies for the special meeting for a fee estimated not to exceed \$ plus expenses. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, custodians, nominees, fiduciaries and others for expenses incurred in forwarding proxy material to the beneficial owners of our units.

Adjournment

Pursuant to our current partnership agreement, our general partner may designate a person to serve as chairman of the special meeting to adjourn the respective special meeting. Our general partner may adjourn the special meeting (including a further adjournment of an adjourned meeting) to a date within 45 days of the special meeting without further notice other than by an announcement made at the special meeting (or such adjourned meeting) and without setting a new record date. If proxies representing the required unitholder approvals have not been received at the time of the special meeting (or such adjourned meeting), we may choose to adjourn the meeting so that we may solicit additional proxies in favor of the proposals.

The Global Transaction Agreement places conditions upon our ability to adjourn the special meeting. Pursuant to the Global Transaction Agreement and subject to certain exceptions, once the special meeting has been called and noticed, our partnership will not adjourn the meeting past the Termination Date (as defined in the Global Transaction Agreement) without the consent of the purchasers under the Global Transaction Agreement.

Table of Contents

No Unitholder Proposals

Your units do not entitle you to make proposals at the special meeting. Under our partnership agreement, only our general partner can make a proposal at the meeting. Our partnership agreement establishes a procedure for calling meetings whereby limited partners owning 20% or more of the outstanding units of the class for which a meeting is proposed may call a meeting. In any case, limited partners are not allowed to vote on matters that would cause the limited partners to be deemed to be taking part in the management and control of the business and affairs of the partnership. Doing so would jeopardize the limited partners' limited liability under the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act (the Delaware Act) or the law of any other state in which we are qualified to do business.

Dissenters' Rights

We were formed as a limited partnership under the laws of the State of Delaware, including the Delaware Act. Under those laws, dissenters' rights are not available to our unitholders with respect to the matters to be voted on at the special meeting.

Table of Contents

OTHER MATTERS

Other Matters for Action at the Special Meeting

As of the date of this proxy statement, our board of directors knows of no matters that will be presented for consideration at the special meeting other than as described in this proxy statement.

Householding of Special Meeting Materials

Some banks, brokers and other nominees may be participating in the practice of householding proxy statements and annual reports. This means that only one copy of this notice and proxy statement may have been sent to multiple unitholders in your household. If you would prefer to receive separate copies of a proxy statement either now or in the future, please contact your bank, broker or other nominee. Upon written or oral request to MacKenzie Partners, Inc., we will provide a separate copy of the proxy statement. In addition, unitholders sharing an address can request delivery of a single copy of the proxy statement if you are receiving multiple copies upon written or oral request to MacKenzie Partners, Inc. at the address and telephone number stated herein.

Table of Contents

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP
OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND
MANAGEMENT OF OUR GENERAL PARTNER**

The following table sets forth the beneficial ownership of our units as of June 6, 2011 held by:

each person or group of persons who beneficially own 5% or more of the then outstanding common units;

all of the directors of our general partner;

each named executive officer of our general partner; and

all current directors and executive officers of our general partner as a group.

Except as indicated by footnote, the persons named in the table below have sole voting and investment power with respect to all units shown as beneficially owned by them, subject to community property laws where applicable. Percentage of total common, subordinated and Preferred Units beneficially owned is based on 21,890,224 common units, 12,570,504 subordinated units and 21,538,462 Preferred Units outstanding as of June 6, 2011.

Name of Beneficial Owner ⁽¹⁾	Common Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Common Units Beneficially Owned	Subordinated Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Subordinated Units Beneficially Owned	Preferred Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Preferred Units Beneficially Owned	Percentage of
							Total Common, Subordinated and Preferred Units Beneficially Owned
Blueknight Energy Holding, Inc. ⁽²⁾			6,285,252	50%	10,769,231	50%	30.5%
CB-Blueknight, LLC ⁽³⁾			6,285,252	50%	10,769,231	50%	30.5%
J. Michael Cockrell							
Alex G. Stallings ⁽⁴⁾	91,037	*					*
Mike Prince							
Larry Hatley							
Duke R. Ligon ⁽⁵⁾	7,500	*					*
Steven M. Bradshaw ⁽⁵⁾	6,000	*					*
John A. Shapiro ⁽⁵⁾	5,000	*					*
Miguel A. (Mike) Loyola ⁽⁶⁾							
James C. Dyer, IV ^{(2) (6)}							
Michael R. Eisenson ^{(3) (7)}							
Jon M. Biotti ^{(3) (7)}							
MSD Capital, L.P. ⁽⁸⁾	3,576,944	16.3%					6.4%
Swank Capital, LLC ⁽⁹⁾	3,516,315	16.1%					6.2%
Neuberger Berman Group LLC ⁽¹⁰⁾	2,697,974	12.3%					4.8%
Solus Alternative Asset Management LP ⁽¹¹⁾	1,570,000	7.2%					2.8%

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

All current executive officers and directors as a group (14 persons) 154,810 * *

* Less than 1%

- (1) Unless otherwise indicated, the address for all beneficial owners in this table is Two Warren Place, 6120 South Yale Avenue, Suite 500, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136.
- (2) Blueknight Energy Holding, Inc. is a subsidiary of Vitol. The address for Vitol is 1100 Louisiana Street, Suite 5500, Houston, Texas 77002. Blueknight Energy Holding, Inc. owns 50% of Blueknight GP Holdings, LLC, which owns the membership interests in our general partner.

Table of Contents

- (3) CB-Blueknight, LLC is a subsidiary of Charlesbank. The address for Charlesbank is 200 Clarendon Street, 54th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts. CB-Blueknight, LLC owns 50% of Blueknight GP Holdings, LLC, which owns the membership interests in our general partner.
- (4) Substantially all the common units owned by Mr. Stallings are pledged as collateral to a bank.
- (5) Does not include unvested restricted units granted under the Long-Term Incentive Plan, none of which will vest within 60 days of the date hereof.
- (6) Messrs. Loya and Dyer are affiliated with Vitol.
- (7) Messrs. Eisenson and Biotti are affiliated with Charlesbank.
- (8) Based on a Schedule 13D/A, filed April 29, 2011 by MSD Capital, L.P. with the SEC. The filing is made jointly with MSD Torchlight, L.P. The filers report that they have shared voting power with respect to the 3,576,944 common units and that their address is 645 Fifth Avenue, 21st Floor, New York, New York 10022.
- (9) Based on a Schedule 13D/A, filed April 28, 2011 by Swank Capital, LLC with the SEC. The filing is made jointly with Cushing MLP Asset Management, LP and Jerry V. Swank. The filers report that they have shared voting power with respect to the 3,516,315 common units and that their address is 8117 Preston Road, Suite 440, Dallas, TX 75225.
- (10) Based on a Schedule 13G/A, filed February 14, 2011 by Neuberger Berman Group LLC with the SEC. The filing is made jointly with Neuberger Berman, LLC. The filers report that they have shared voting power with respect to 2,240,864 common units and shared dispositive power with respect to 2,697,974 common units. Their address as reported in such Schedule 13G/A is 605 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10158.
- (11) Based on a Schedule 13D/A, filed April 29, 2011 by Solus Alternative Asset Management LP with the SEC. The filing is made jointly with Solus GP LLC and Christopher Pucillo. The filers report that they each have shared voting power with respect to the 1,570,000 common units and that their address is 430 Park Avenue, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10022.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. These reports, proxy statements and other information contain additional information about us. We will make these materials available for inspection and copying by any of our unitholders, or a representative of any unitholder who is so designated in writing, at its executive offices during regular business hours.

We also make available on our website (<http://www.bkep.com>) under Investor Relations the annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports that we file. Unless explicitly stated otherwise herein, the information on our website is not incorporated by reference into this proxy statement.

Our unitholders may read and copy any reports, statements or other information that we file at the SEC public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference rooms. Our filings with the SEC are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and at the website maintained by the SEC located at: <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this proxy statement. This means that we may disclose important information by referring to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this proxy statement. This proxy statement and the information that we file later with the SEC may update and supersede the information incorporated by reference. Similarly, the information that we later file with the SEC may update and supersede the information in this proxy statement. In addition to such documents specifically incorporated by reference in this proxy statement, we incorporate by reference in this proxy statement each document that we file under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act, after the date of the initial filing of this proxy statement and before the special meeting, other than information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K. We also incorporate by reference into this proxy statement the following documents filed by us with the SEC under the Exchange Act:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2011;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 18, 2011, April 5, 2011, May 6, 2011 and May 13, 2011; and

the description of our common units contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on May 10, 2011, and including any other amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

Our independent registered public accountants are not expected to be present at the special meeting.

We will provide a copy of any document incorporated by reference in this proxy statement and any exhibit specifically incorporated by reference in those documents, without charge, by written or oral request directed to our partnership at the following address and telephone number:

Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P.

Two Warren Place

6120 South Yale Avenue, Suite 500

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136

(918) 237-4000

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

This proxy statement does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities, or the solicitation of a proxy, in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom it is not lawful to make any offer

Table of Contents

or solicitation in that jurisdiction. The delivery of this proxy statement should not create an implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date of this proxy statement or that the information herein is correct as of any later date regardless of the time of delivery of this proxy statement.

The provisions of the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and the Proposed LTIP are extensive and not easily summarized. You should carefully read the Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement and the Proposed LTIP attached to this proxy statement.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this proxy statement to vote your units at the special meeting. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different from what is contained in this proxy statement. This proxy statement is dated _____, 2011. You should not assume that the information contained in this proxy statement is accurate as of any date other than that date, or that the information contained in any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document incorporated by reference. The mailing of the proxy statement shall not create any implication to the contrary.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This proxy statement, including information included or incorporated by reference in this proxy statement, contains certain forward-looking statements with respect to our financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, intentions, future performance and business and other statements that are not historical facts, as well as certain information relating to the refinancing and related transactions, including, without limitation:

statements relating to the benefits of the refinancing and related transactions;

the financial forecasts described under **Proposal One: The Partnership Agreement Amendment Proposal** **Special Factors** **Financial Forecasts Provided to Baird** and statements relating to the financial results of our partnership following the refinancing and related transactions or in the event that the refinancing and related transactions are not completed; and

statements preceded by, followed by or that include the words **believes**, **anticipates**, **plans**, **predicts**, **expects**, **envisions**, **hopes**, **estimates**, **intends**, **will**, **continue**, **may**, **potential**, **should**, **confident**, **could** or similar expressions. These forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements due to, among others, the assumptions, uncertainties and risks discussed under **Risk Factors** in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, as well as the following:

the risks associated with the completion of the refinancing and related transactions;

the negative impact of decreased volumes and revenues on our ability to make distributions to our unitholders;

the lawsuits in which we have been named as a party and the fact that we may be named in additional litigation in the future;

substantial costs relating to SemCorp's filing voluntary petitions for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code;

our ability to obtain funding or obtain funding on acceptable terms due to the deterioration of the credit and capital markets;

our debt levels under our credit agreement;

our ability to pursue acquisitions and other business opportunities if we borrow funds to make any permitted quarterly distributions;

we are not fully insured against all risks incident to our business;

our dependence on certain key customers for a portion of our revenues;

Edgar Filing: Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. - Form PRE 14A

our dependence on demand for crude oil and/or finished asphalt products in the areas served by our storage facilities and pipelines;

our dependence on the production of crude oil from the oil fields served by our pipelines;

our dependence on the production of liquid asphalt;

some of our pipeline systems are dependent upon their interconnections with other crude oil pipelines to reach end markets;

our exposure to costs associated with delays in the construction of new assets;

our exposure to the credit risk of our third-party customers in the ordinary course of our gathering activities;

Table of Contents

our operations are subject to environmental and worker safety laws and regulations that may expose us to significant costs and liabilities; and

our business involves many hazards and operational risks, including adverse weather conditions.

Additional factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements are discussed in reports we have filed with the SEC. Please read [Where You Can Find More Information](#) beginning on page 136.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this proxy statement or the date of any document incorporated by reference in this proxy statement. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning the refinancing and related transactions or other matters addressed in this proxy statement and attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section. Except to the extent required by applicable law or regulation, we do not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this proxy statement or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

Table of Contents

ANNEX A

**FORM OF FOURTH AMENDED AND RESTATED
AGREEMENT OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
OF
BLUEKNIGHT ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.**

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

Section 1.1	Definitions	A-2
Section 1.2	Construction	28 A-22

ARTICLE II

ORGANIZATION

Section 2.1	Formation	29 A-23
Section 2.2	Name	29 A-23
Section 2.3	Registered Office; Registered Agent; Principal Office; Other Offices	29 A-23
Section 2.4	Purpose and Business	30 A-23
Section 2.5	Powers	30 A-24
Section 2.6	Power of Attorney	30 A-24
Section 2.7	Term	32 A-25
Section 2.8	Title to Partnership Assets	32 A-25

ARTICLE III

RIGHTS OF LIMITED PARTNERS

Section 3.1	Limitation of Liability	33 A-25
Section 3.2	Management of Business	33 A-25
Section 3.3	Outside Activities of the Limited Partners	33 A-26
Section 3.4	Rights of Limited Partners	33 A-26

ARTICLE IV

CERTIFICATES; RECORD HOLDERS; TRANSFER OF

PARTNERSHIP INTERESTS; REDEMPTION OF

PARTNERSHIP INTERESTS

Section 4.1	Certificates	34 A-27
Section 4.2	Mutilated, Destroyed, Lost or Stolen Certificates	35 A-27
Section 4.3	Record Holders	36 A-28
Section 4.4	Transfer Generally	37 A-28
Section 4.5	Registration and Transfer of Limited Partner Interests	37 A-29
Section 4.6	Transfer of the General Partner's General Partner Interest	38 A-29
Section 4.7	Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights	39 A-30
Section 4.8	Restrictions on Transfers	39 A-30
Section 4.9	Citizenship Certificates; Non-citizen Assignees	41 A-31
Section 4.10	Redemption of Partnership Interests of Non-citizen Assignees	42 A-32
Section 4.11	Taxation Certifications; Ineligible Assignees	43 A-33
Section 4.12	Redemption of Partnership Interests of Ineligible Assignees	44 A-34

ARTICLE V

CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND ISSUANCE OF

PARTNERSHIP INTERESTS

Section 5.1	Organizational Contributions.	45
	<u>Cancellation of Subordinated Units.</u>	A-35
Section 5.2	<u>General Partner Interest ; Additional Contributions</u> by the General Partner	46 A-35

Section 5.3

~~Contributions by Initial Limited Partners.~~
[RESERVED].

47
A-36

Annex A-i

Table of Contents

Section 5.4	Interest and Withdrawal	47 A-36
Section 5.5	Capital Accounts	48 A-36
Section 5.6	Issuances of Additional Partnership Securities	52 A-39
Section 5.7	Conversion of Subordinated Units.	53
	<u>Limitation on Issuance of Additional Senior Securities.</u>	A-40
Section 5.8	Limited Preemptive Right	54 A-42
Section 5.9	Splits and Combinations	54 A-42
Section 5.10	Fully Paid and Non-Assessable Nature of Limited Partner Interests	55 A-43
Section 5.11	Issuance of Class B Units in Connection with Reset of Incentive Distribution Rights	55 A-43
Section 5.12	Establishment of Series A Preferred Units	57 A-44

ARTICLE VI

ALLOCATIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Section 6.1	Allocations for Capital Account Purposes	62 A-47
Section 6.2	Allocations for Tax Purposes	73 A-54
Section 6.3	Requirement and Characterization of Distributions;; Distributions to Record Holders	76 A-56
Section 6.4	Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus	76 A-57
Section 6.5	Distributions of Available Cash from Capital Surplus	80 A-59
Section 6.6	Adjustment of Minimum Quarterly Distribution and Target Distribution Levels	80 A-59
Section 6.7	Special Provisions Relating to the Holders of Subordinated Units and Class B Units	81 A-59
Section 6.8	Special Provisions Relating to the Holders of Incentive Distribution Rights	82 A-60
Section 6.9	Entity-Level Taxation	82 A-60

ARTICLE VII

MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF BUSINESS

Section 7.1	Management	83 A-61
Section 7.2	Certificate of Limited Partnership	85 A-63
Section 7.3	Restrictions on the General Partner's Authority	86 A-63
Section 7.4	Reimbursement of the General Partner	86 A-63
Section 7.5	Outside Activities	87 A-64
Section 7.6	Loans from the General Partner; Loans or Contributions from the Partnership or Group Members	88 A-65
Section 7.7	Indemnification	89 A-65
Section 7.8	Liability of Indemnitees	91 A-66
Section 7.9	Resolution of Conflicts of Interest; Standards of Conduct and Modification of Duties	91 A-67
Section 7.10	Other Matters Concerning the General Partner	93 A-68
Section 7.11	Purchase or Sale of Partnership Securities	94 A-69
Section 7.12	Registration Rights of the General Partner and its Affiliates	94 A-69
Section 7.13	Reliance by Third Parties	98 A-71

ARTICLE VIII

BOOKS, RECORDS, ACCOUNTING AND REPORTS

Section 8.1	Records and Accounting	98 A-72
Section 8.2	Fiscal Year	99 A-72
Section 8.3	Reports	99 A-72

Annex A-ii

Table of Contents

ARTICLE IX		
TAX MATTERS		
Section 9.1	Tax Returns and Information	99 A-73
Section 9.2	Tax Elections	99 A-73
Section 9.3	Tax Controversies	100 A-73
Section 9.4	Withholding	100 A-73
ARTICLE X		
ADMISSION OF PARTNERS		
Section 10.1	Admission of Limited Partners	100 A-74
Section 10.2	Admission of Successor General Partner	101 A-74
Section 10.3	Amendment of Agreement and Certificate of Limited Partnership	102 A-75
ARTICLE XI		
WITHDRAWAL OR REMOVAL OF PARTNERS		
Section 11.1	Withdrawal of the General Partner	102 A-75
Section 11.2	Removal of the General Partner	104 A-76
Section 11.3	Interest of Departing General Partner and Successor General Partner	104 A-76
Section 11.4	Termination of Subordination Period, Conversion of Subordinated Units and Extinguishment of Cumulative Common Unit Arrearages.	106
Section 11.5	Withdrawal of Limited Partners	106 A-78
ARTICLE XII		
DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION		
Section 12.1	Dissolution	107 A-78
Section 12.2	Continuation of the Business of the Partnership After Dissolution	107 A-78
Section 12.3	Liquidator	108 A-79
Section 12.4	Liquidation	109 A-79
Section 12.5	Cancellation of Certificate of Limited Partnership	110 A-80
Section 12.6	Return of Contributions	110 A-81
Section 12.7	Waiver of Partition	110 A-81
Section 12.8	Capital Account Restoration	110 A-81
ARTICLE XIII		
AMENDMENT OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT;		
MEETINGS; RECORD DATE		
Section 13.1	Amendments to be Adopted Solely by the General Partner	111 A-81
Section 13.2	Amendment Procedures	112 A-82
Section 13.3	Amendment Requirements	113 A-82
Section 13.4	Special Meetings	114 A-83
Section 13.5	Notice of a Meeting	114 A-83
Section 13.6	Record Date	114 A-84
Section 13.7	Adjournment	115 A-84
Section 13.8	Waiver of Notice; Approval of Meeting	115 A-84
Section 13.9	Quorum and Voting	115 A-84
Section 13.10	Conduct of a Meeting	116 A-85
Section 13.11	Action Without a Meeting	116 A-85
Section 13.12	Right to Vote and Related Matters	117 A-85

Table of Contents

ARTICLE XIV		
MERGER, CONSOLIDATION OR CONVERSION		
Section 14.1	Authority	117 A-86
Section 14.2	Procedure for Merger, Consolidation or Conversion	117 A-86
Section 14.3	Approval by Limited Partners	120 A-87
Section 14.4	Certificate of Merger or Articles of Conversion	121 A-88
Section 14.5	Effect of Merger, Consolidation or Conversion	121 A-88
ARTICLE XV		
RIGHT TO ACQUIRE LIMITED PARTNER INTERESTS		
Section 15.1	Right to Acquire Limited Partner Interests	122 A-89
ARTICLE XVI		
GENERAL PROVISIONS		
Section 16.1	Addresses and Notices; Written Communications	124 A-91
Section 16.2	Further Action	125 A-91
Section 16.3	Binding Effect	125 A-91
Section 16.4	Integration	125 A-91
Section 16.5	Creditors	125 A-91
Section 16.6	Waiver.	126 A-92
Section 16.7	Third-Party Beneficiaries	126 A-92
Section 16.8	Counterparts	126 A-92
Section 16.9	Applicable Law	126 A-92
Section 16.10	Invalidity of Provisions	126 A-92
Section 16.11	Consent of Partners	126 A-92
Section 16.12	Facsimile Signatures	126 A-92

Annex A-iv

Table of Contents

THIRDFOURTH AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIP OF BLUEKNIGHT ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P.

THIS ~~THIRD~~THIRDFOURTH AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIP OF BLUEKNIGHT ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P. dated as of ~~October 25, 2010~~, , 2011, is entered into by and between Blueknight Energy Partners G.P., L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company, as the General Partner, and the other Persons who are or who become Partners in the Partnership or parties hereto as provided herein.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Partnership was formed on February 22, 2007 by filing of the Certificate of Limited Partnership with the Delaware Secretary of State;

WHEREAS, the General Partner and the other parties thereto entered into the First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of the Partnership on July 20, 2007 (the *Original Agreement*);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 13.1(d) of the Original Agreement, the General Partner executed Amendment No. 1 to the First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of the Partnership on April 14, 2008, to be effective as of July 20, 2007 (~~the *First Amendment*~~);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 13.1(d) of the Original Agreement, the General Partner executed Amendment No. 2 to the First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of the Partnership on June 25, 2008 (~~the *Second Amendment*~~);

WHEREAS, the General Partner and the other parties thereto entered into the Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of the Partnership on December 1, 2009 (the *Second Amended and Restated Agreement*);

WHEREAS, ~~Section 5.6 of the Second~~ the General Partner and the other parties thereto entered into the Third Amended and Restated Agreement provides that the General Partner, without the approval of any Limited Partners, may issue additional Partnership Securities, or classes or series thereof, for any Partnership purpose at any time and from time to time, and may issue such Partnership Securities for such consideration and on such terms and conditions as shall be determined by the General Partner of Limited Partnership of the Partnership on October 25, 2010 (the *Third Amended and Restated Agreement*);

WHEREAS, ~~Section 13.1(g) of the Second Amended and Restated Agreement provides that the General Partner, without the approval of any Partner, may amend any provision of the Agreement necessary or appropriate in connection with the authorization or issuance of any class or series of Partnership Securities pursuant to Section 5.6 of the Agreement.~~

WHEREAS, in accordance with Sections 13.2 and 13.3 of the Third Amended and Restated Agreement, the General Partner has proposed and a Unit Majority has approved certain amendments to the Third Amended and Restated Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the General Partner deems it in the best interest of the Partnership to ~~effect~~ enter into this ~~Third~~THIRDFOURTH Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of the Partnership in order to ~~provide for the issuance of~~ effect the amendments approved by the Unit Majority and in order to effect certain amendments to the terms of the Series A Preferred Units to certain persons pursuant to that certain Global Transaction Agreement, dated as of October 25, 2010 by and among the Partnership, the General Partner and the Purchasers set forth on Schedule I thereto.

Annex A-1

Table of Contents

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants, conditions and agreements contained herein, the ~~Second~~Third Amended and Restated Agreement (as amended prior to the date hereto) is hereby amended and restated in its entirety as follows:

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

Section 1.1 *Definitions.*

The following definitions shall be for all purposes, unless otherwise clearly indicated to the contrary, applied to the terms used in this Agreement.

Acquisition means any transaction in which any Group Member acquires (through an asset acquisition, merger, stock acquisition or other form of investment) control over all or a portion of the assets, properties or business of another Person for the purpose of increasing the long-term operating capacity or revenues of the Partnership Group from the operating capacity or revenues of the Partnership Group existing immediately prior to such transaction.

Additional Book Basis means the portion of any remaining Carrying Value of an Adjusted Property that is attributable to positive adjustments made to such Carrying Value as a result of Book-Up Events. For purposes of determining the extent that Carrying Value constitutes Additional Book Basis:

(a) Any negative adjustment made to the Carrying Value of an Adjusted Property as a result of either a Book-Down Event or a Book-Up Event shall first be deemed to offset or decrease that portion of the Carrying Value of such Adjusted Property that is attributable to any prior positive adjustments made thereto pursuant to a Book-Up Event or Book-Down Event.

(b) If Carrying Value that constitutes Additional Book Basis is reduced as a result of a Book-Down Event and the Carrying Value of other property is increased as a result of such Book-Down Event, an allocable portion of any such increase in Carrying Value shall be treated as Additional Book Basis; *provided*, that the amount treated as Additional Book Basis pursuant hereto as a result of such Book-Down Event shall not exceed the amount by which the Aggregate Remaining Net Positive Adjustments after such Book-Down Event exceeds the remaining Additional Book Basis attributable to all of the Partnership's Adjusted Property after such Book-Down Event (determined without regard to the application of this clause (b) to such Book-Down Event).

Additional Book Basis Derivative Items means any Book Basis Derivative Items that are computed with reference to Additional Book Basis. To the extent that the Additional Book Basis attributable to all of the Partnership's Adjusted Property as of the beginning of any taxable period exceeds the Aggregate Remaining Net Positive Adjustments as of the beginning of such period (the *Excess Additional Book Basis*), the Additional Book Basis Derivative Items for such period shall be reduced by the amount that bears the same ratio to the amount of Additional Book Basis Derivative Items determined without regard to this sentence as the Excess Additional Book Basis bears to the Additional Book Basis as of the beginning of such period.

Adjusted Capital Account means the Capital Account maintained for each Partner as of the end of each fiscal year of the Partnership, (a) increased by any amounts that such Partner is obligated to restore under the standards set by Treasury Regulation Section 1.704-1(b)(2)(ii)(c) (or is deemed obligated to restore under Treasury Regulation Sections 1.704-2(g) and 1.704-2(i)(5)) and (b) decreased by (i) the amount of all losses and deductions that, as of the end of such fiscal year, are reasonably expected to be allocated to such Partner in subsequent years under Sections 704(e)(2) and 706(d) of the Code and Treasury Regulation Section 1.751-1(b)(2)(ii), and (ii) the amount of all distributions that, as of the end of such fiscal year, are reasonably expected to be made to such Partner in subsequent years in accordance with the terms of this Agreement or otherwise to the extent they exceed offsetting increases to such Partner's Capital Account that are reasonably expected to occur during (or prior to) the year in which such distributions are reasonably expected to

Annex A-2

Table of Contents

be made (other than increases as a result of a minimum gain chargeback pursuant to Section 6.1(d)(i) or 6.1(d)(ii)). The foregoing definition of Adjusted Capital Account is intended to comply with the provisions of Treasury Regulation Section 1.704-1(b)(2)(ii)(d) and shall be interpreted consistently therewith. The Adjusted Capital Account of a Partner in respect of a General Partner Unit, a Common Unit, a Series A Preferred Unit, ~~a Subordinated Unit~~, a Class B Unit or an Incentive Distribution Right or any other Partnership Interest shall be the amount that such Adjusted Capital Account would be if such General Partner Unit, Common Unit, Series A Preferred Unit, ~~Subordinated Unit~~, Class B Unit, Incentive Distribution Right or other Partnership Interest were the only interest in the Partnership held by such Partner from and after the date on which such General Partner Unit, Common Unit, Class B Unit, Series A Preferred Unit, ~~Subordinated Unit~~, Incentive Distribution Right or other Partnership Interest was first issued.

Adjusted Operating Surplus means, with respect to any period, Operating Surplus generated with respect to such period (a) less (i) any net increase in Working Capital Borrowings with respect to such period and (ii) any net decrease in cash reserves for Operating Expenditures with respect to such period not relating to an Operating Expenditure made with respect to such period, and (b) plus (i) any net decrease in Working Capital Borrowings with respect to such period and (ii) any net increase in cash reserves for Operating Expenditures with respect to such period required by any debt instrument for the repayment of principal, interest or premium. Adjusted Operating Surplus does not include that portion of Operating Surplus included in clause (a)(i) of the definition of Operating Surplus.

Adjusted Property means any property the Carrying Value of which has been adjusted pursuant to Section 5.5(d)(i) or 5.5(d)(ii).

Affiliate means, with respect to any Person, any other Person that directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries controls, is controlled by or is under common control with, the Person in question. As used herein, the term control means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a Person, whether through ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise.

Aggregate Quantity of Class B Units has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 5.11(a).

Aggregate Remaining Net Positive Adjustments means, as of the end of any taxable period, the sum of the Remaining Net Positive Adjustments of all the Partners.

Agreed Allocation means any allocation, other than a Required Allocation, of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.1, including a Curative Allocation (if appropriate to the context in which the term Agreed Allocation is used).

Agreed Value of any Contributed Property means the fair market value of such property or other consideration at the time of contribution as determined by the General Partner. The General Partner shall use such method as it determines to be appropriate to allocate the aggregate Agreed Value of Contributed Properties contributed to the Partnership in a single or integrated transaction among each separate property on a basis proportional to the fair market value of each Contributed Property.

Agreement means ~~this Third~~ ^{Fourth} Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P., as it may be amended, supplemented or restated from time to time.

As-Converted Distribution Amount means, with respect to any Quarter, the product of (a) the number of Common Units that a Series A Preferred Unit would be convertible into pursuant to Section 5.12(c)(i) as of the date of determination and (b) the actual distribution made to a Common Unit for such Quarter under Section 6.4.

Table of Contents

Associate means, when used to indicate a relationship with any Person, (a) any corporation or organization of which such Person is a director, officer or partner or is, directly or indirectly, the owner of 20% or more of any class of voting stock or other voting interest; (b) any trust or other estate in which such Person has at least a 20% beneficial interest or as to which such Person serves as trustee or in a similar fiduciary capacity; and (c) any relative or spouse of such Person, or any relative of such spouse, who has the same principal residence as such Person.

Available Cash means, with respect to any Quarter ending prior to the Liquidation Date:

(a) the sum of (i) all cash and cash equivalents of the Partnership Group on hand at the end of such Quarter, and (ii) all additional cash and cash equivalents of the Partnership Group on hand on the date of determination of Available Cash with respect to such Quarter resulting from Working Capital Borrowings made subsequent to the end of such Quarter, less

(b) the amount of any cash reserves established by the General Partner to (i) provide for the proper conduct of the business of the Partnership Group (including reserves for future capital expenditures and for anticipated future credit needs of the Partnership Group) subsequent to such Quarter, (ii) comply with applicable law or any loan agreement, security agreement, mortgage, debt instrument or other agreement or obligation to which any Group Member is a party or by which it is bound or its assets are subject or (iii) provide funds for distributions under Section 6.4 or 6.5 in respect of any one or more of the next four Quarters; *provided, however*, that the General Partner may not establish cash reserves pursuant to clause (iii) above if the effect of such reserves would be that the Partnership is unable to distribute the Minimum Quarterly Distribution on all Common Units, ~~plus any Cumulative Common Unit Arrearage on all Common Units~~, with respect to such Quarter; and, *provided further*, that disbursements made by a Group Member or cash reserves established, increased or reduced after the end of such Quarter but on or before the date of determination of Available Cash with respect to such Quarter shall be deemed to have been made, established, increased or reduced, for purposes of determining Available Cash, within such Quarter if the General Partner so determines.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, *Available Cash* with respect to the Quarter in which the Liquidation Date occurs and any subsequent Quarter shall equal zero.

Board of Directors means the board of directors or managers of a corporation or limited liability company or the board of directors or board of managers of the general partner of a limited partnership, as applicable.

Book Basis Derivative Items means any item of income, deduction, gain or loss included in the determination of Net Income or Net Loss that is computed with reference to the Carrying Value of an Adjusted Property (e.g., depreciation, depletion, or gain or loss with respect to an Adjusted Property).

Book-Down Event means an event that triggers a negative adjustment to the Capital Accounts of the Partners pursuant to Section 5.5(d).

Book-Tax Disparity means with respect to any item of Contributed Property or Adjusted Property, as of the date of any determination, the difference between the Carrying Value of such Contributed Property or Adjusted Property and the adjusted basis thereof for federal income tax purposes as of such date. A Partner's share of the Partnership's Book-Tax Disparities in all of its Contributed Property and Adjusted Property will be reflected by the difference between such Partner's Capital Account balance as maintained pursuant to Section 5.5 and the hypothetical balance of such Partner's Capital Account computed as if it had been maintained strictly in accordance with federal income tax accounting principles.

Book-Up Event means an event that triggers a positive adjustment to the Capital Accounts of the Partners pursuant to Section 5.5(d).

Table of Contents

Business Day means Monday through Friday of each week, except that a legal holiday recognized as such by the government of the United States of America or the State of Oklahoma shall not be regarded as a Business Day.

Capital Account means the capital account maintained for a Partner pursuant to Section 5.5. The *Capital Account* of a Partner in respect of a General Partner Unit, a Common Unit, a Series A Preferred Unit, ~~a Subordinated Unit~~, a Class B Unit, an Incentive Distribution Right or any Partnership Interest shall be the amount that such Capital Account would be if such General Partner Unit, Common Unit, Series A Preferred Unit, ~~Subordinated Unit~~, Class B Unit, Incentive Distribution Right or other Partnership Interest were the only interest in the Partnership held by such Partner from and after the date on which such General Partner Unit, Common Unit, Series A Preferred Unit, Class B Unit, ~~Subordinated Unit~~, Incentive Distribution Right or other Partnership Interest was first issued.

Capital Contribution means any cash, cash equivalents or the Net Agreed Value of Contributed Property that a Partner contributes to the Partnership.

Capital Improvement means any (a) addition or improvement to the capital assets owned by any Group Member, (b) acquisition of existing, or the construction of new, capital assets (including pipelines, terminals, tankage, tanker trucks, docks, truck racks and other storage, distribution or transportation facilities and related or similar midstream assets or other assets that produce *qualifying income* as defined by Section 7704 of the Code) or (c) capital contributions by a Group Member to a Person in which a Group Member has an equity interest to fund such Group Member's pro rata share of the cost of the acquisition of existing, or the construction of new, capital assets (including pipelines, terminals, tankage, tanker trucks, docks, truck racks and other storage, distribution or transportation facilities and related or similar midstream assets or other assets that produce *qualifying income* as defined by Section 7704 of the Code) by such Person, in each case if such addition, improvement, acquisition or construction is made to increase the long-term operating capacity or revenues of the Partnership Group, in the case of clauses (a) and (b), or such Person, in the case of clause (c), from the operating capacity or revenues of the Partnership Group or such Person, as the case may be, existing immediately prior to such addition, improvement, acquisition or construction.

Capital Surplus has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 6.3(a).

Carrying Value initially means (a) with respect to a Contributed Property, the Agreed Value of such property as of the time of Contribution, and (b) with respect to any other Partnership property, the initial adjusted tax basis of such property for federal income tax purposes as of the time of its acquisition by the Partnership. The initial Carrying Value of any property shall thereafter be (i) reduced (but not below zero) by all depreciation, amortization and cost recovery deductions charged to the Partners' Capital Accounts in respect of such property and (ii) adjusted from time to time in accordance with Sections 5.5(d)(i) and 5.5(d)(ii) and to reflect changes, additions or other adjustments to the Carrying Value for dispositions and acquisitions of Partnership properties, as deemed appropriate by the General Partner.

Cause means a court of competent jurisdiction has entered a final, non-appealable judgment finding the General Partner liable for actual fraud or willful misconduct in its capacity as a general partner of the Partnership.

Certificate means (a) a certificate (i) substantially in the form of Exhibit A to this Agreement, (ii) issued in global form in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Depository or (iii) in such other form as may be adopted by the General Partner, issued by the Partnership evidencing ownership of one or more Common Units or (b) a certificate, in such form as may be adopted by the General Partner, issued by the Partnership evidencing ownership of one or more other Partnership Securities.

Table of Contents

Certificate of Limited Partnership means the Certificate of Limited Partnership of the Partnership filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware as referenced in Section 7.2, as such Certificate of Limited Partnership may be amended, supplemented or restated from time to time.

Citizenship Certification means a properly completed certificate in such form as may be specified by the General Partner by which a Limited Partner certifies that he (and if he is a nominee holding for the account of another Person, that to the best of his knowledge such other Person) is an Eligible Citizen.

claim (as used in Section 7.12(d)) has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 7.12(d).

Class Action Litigation Resolution means final disposition of all pending claims (including indemnity obligations related thereto) and any appeals with respect to the consolidated litigation titled *In Re: SemGroup Energy Partners, L.P. Securities Litigation*, Case No. 08-CV-425-GKF-PJC.

Class B Units means a Partnership Security representing a fractional part of the Partnership Interests of all Limited Partners, and having the rights and obligations specified with respect to Class B Units in this Agreement.

Closing Date means the first date on which Common Units are sold by SemGroup Holdings to the Underwriters pursuant to the provisions of the Underwriting Agreement.

Closing Price has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 15.1(a).

Code means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and in effect from time to time. Any reference herein to a specific section or sections of the Code shall be deemed to include a reference to any corresponding provision of any successor law.

Combined Interest has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 11.3(a).

Commences Commercial Service means the date upon which a Capital Improvement is first put into commercial service following construction and testing.

Commission means the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Commodity Hedge Contract means any commodity exchange, swap, forward, cap, floor, collar or other similar agreement or arrangement entered into for the purpose of hedging the Partnership Group's exposure to fluctuations in the price of hydrocarbons.

Common Unit means a Partnership Security representing a fractional part of the Partnership Interests of all Limited Partners, and having the rights and obligations specified with respect to Common Units in this Agreement. The term *Common Unit* does not include a Series A Preferred Unit, ~~Subordinated Unit~~ or Class B Unit prior to its conversion into a Common Unit pursuant to the terms hereof

~~*Common Unit Arrearage* means, with respect to any Common Unit, whenever issued, as to any Quarter within the Subordination Period, the excess, if any, of (a) the Minimum Quarterly Distribution with respect to a Common Unit in respect of such Quarter over (b) the sum of all Available Cash distributed with respect to a Common Unit in respect of such Quarter pursuant to Section 6.4(a)(iii).~~

Conflicts Committee means a committee of the Board of Directors of the General Partner composed entirely of two or more directors, each of whom (a) is not a security holder, officer or employee of the General Partner, (b) is not an officer, director or employee of any Affiliate of the General Partner, (c) is not a holder of any ownership interest in the Partnership Group other than Common Units and (d) meets the independence standards required of directors who serve on an audit committee of a board of directors established by the Securities Exchange Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder and by the National Securities Exchange on which the Common Units are listed or admitted to trading.

Table of Contents

Contributed Property means each property or other asset, in such form as may be permitted by the Delaware Act, but excluding cash, contributed to the Partnership. Once the Carrying Value of a Contributed Property is adjusted pursuant to Section 5.5(d), such property shall no longer constitute a Contributed Property, but shall be deemed an Adjusted Property.

~~*Contribution Agreement* means that certain Closing Contribution, Conveyance, Assignment and Assumption Agreement, dated as of July 20, 2007, among SemGroup Holdings, the General Partner, the Partnership, the Operating Company and certain other parties, together with the additional conveyance documents and instruments contemplated or referenced thereunder, as such may be amended, supplemented or restated from time to time.~~

Conversion Effective Time has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 5.12(c)(jii).

Conversion Units means Common Units issued upon conversion of Series A Preferred Units pursuant to Section 5.12(c).

Converted Common Units has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 6.1(d)(~~x~~)(B).

Convertible Debentures has the meaning assigned to such term in the Global Transaction Agreement.

Converting Unitholder means a Person entitled to receive Common Units upon conversion of Series A Preferred Units.

~~*Cumulative Common Unit Arrearage* means, with respect to any Common Unit, whenever issued, and as of the end of any Quarter, the excess, if any, of (a) the sum resulting from adding together the Common Unit Arrearage as to an Initial Common Unit for each of the Quarters within the Subordination Period ending on or before the last day of such Quarter over (b) the sum of any distributions theretofore made pursuant to Section 6.4(a)(iv) and the second sentence of Section 6.5 with respect to an Initial Common Unit (including any distributions to be made in respect of the last of such Quarters).~~

Curative Allocation means any allocation of an item of income, gain, deduction, loss or credit pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.1(d)(xi).

Current Market Price has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 15.1(a).

Delaware Act means the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act, 6 Del C. Section 17-101, et seq., as amended, supplemented or restated from time to time, and any successor to such statute.

Departing General Partner means a former general partner from and after the effective date of any withdrawal or removal of such former general partner pursuant to Section 11.1 or Section 11.2.

Depository means, with respect to any Units issued in global form, The Depository Trust Company and its successors and permitted assigns.

Disposed of Adjusted Property has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 6.1(d)(xii)(B).

Economic Risk of Loss has the meaning set forth in Treasury Regulation Section 1.752-2(a).

Eight Quarter Period means the eight-Quarter period ended _____, 2013.

¹ To be the end of the eight-Quarter period beginning with the Quarter in which the Unitholder Meeting occurs.

Table of Contents

Eligible Citizen means a Person qualified to own interests in real property in jurisdictions in which any Group Member does business or proposes to do business from time to time, and whose status as a Limited Partner the General Partner determines does not or would not subject such Group Member to a significant risk of cancellation or forfeiture of any of its properties or any interest therein.

Eligible Holder means a Person either (a) subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by the Partnership or (b) in the case of entities that are pass through entities for United States federal income taxation, all of whose beneficial owners are subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by the Partnership.

Estimated Incremental Quarterly Tax Amount has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 6.9.

Event of Withdrawal has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 11.1(a).

Expansion Capital Expenditures means cash expenditures for Acquisitions or Capital Improvements, and shall not include Maintenance Capital Expenditures. Expansion Capital Expenditures shall include interest (and related fees) on debt incurred to finance the construction or development of a Capital Improvement and paid during the period beginning on the date that the Partnership enters into a binding commitment to commence construction or development of a Capital Improvement and ending on the earlier to occur of the date that such Capital Improvement Commences Commercial Service and the date that such Capital Improvement is abandoned or disposed of. Debt incurred to fund such construction period interest payments (including periodic net payments under related interest rate swap agreements) paid during such period shall also be deemed to be debt incurred to finance the construction or development of a Capital Improvement.

FERC means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

FERC Notice means the giving of notice by the Partnership to the Limited Partners in the manner specified in Section 16.1 that the Partnership is implementing procedures pursuant to this Agreement to require a Limited Partner or a transferee of a Limited Partner Interest to certify that such Person is a Eligible Holder.

~~Final Subordinated Units~~ has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 6.1(d)(x).

~~First Amendment~~ has the meaning assigned to such term in the Recitals.

First Liquidation Target Amount has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 6.1(c)(4)(FE).

First Target Distribution means ~~\$0.3594 per Unit per Quarter (or, with respect to the period commencing on the Closing Date and ending on September 30, 2007, it means the product of \$0.3594 multiplied by a fraction of which the numerator is the number of days in such period, and of which the denominator is 92)~~ \$0.1265 per Unit per Quarter, subject to adjustment in accordance with Sections 5.11, 6.6 and 6.9. For purposes of calculating distributions under clauses (E) and (F) of Section 6.1(c)(i), the amount specified in the preceding sentence shall be deemed to have been the First Target Distribution amount that has applied for each Quarter of the Partnership's existence.

Fully Diluted Basis means, when calculating the number of Outstanding Units for any period, a basis that includes, in addition to the Outstanding Units, all Partnership Securities and options, rights, warrants and appreciation rights relating to an equity interest in the Partnership (a) that are convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for Units that are senior to or pari passu with the ~~Subordinated Common~~ Units, (b) whose conversion, exercise or exchange price is less than the Current Market Price on the date of such calculation, (c) that may be converted into or exercised or exchanged for such Units prior to or during the Quarter immediately following the end of the period for which the calculation is being made without the satisfaction of any contingency beyond the control of the holder other than the payment of consideration and the compliance

Table of Contents

with administrative mechanics applicable to such conversion, exercise or exchange and (d) that were not converted into or exercised or exchanged for such Units during the period for which the calculation is being made; *provided, however*, ~~that for purposes of determining the number of Outstanding Units on a Fully Diluted Basis when calculating whether the Subordination Period has ended or Subordinated Units are entitled to convert into Common Units pursuant to Section 5.7, such Partnership Securities, options, rights, warrants and appreciation rights shall be deemed to have been Outstanding Units only for the four Quarters that comprise the last four Quarters of the measurement period; provided, further,~~ that if consideration will be paid to any Group Member in connection with such conversion, exercise or exchange, the number of Units to be included in such calculation shall be that number equal to the difference between (i) the number of Units issuable upon such conversion, exercise or exchange and (ii) the number of Units that such consideration would purchase at the Current Market Price.

Fully Diluted Percentage Interest means as of any date of determination (a) as to the General Partner with respect to General Partner Units and as to any Unitholder with respect to Units, the product obtained by multiplying (i) 100% less the percentage applicable to clause (b) below by (ii) the quotient obtained by dividing (A) the number of General Partner Units held by the General Partner or the number of Units held by such Unitholder (which, in the case of Series A Preferred Units, shall equal the number of Common Units into which such Series A Preferred Units held by such Unitholder would then convert under Section 5.12(c) if such Series A Preferred Units were converted on such date of determination and, in the case of the General Partner Units, shall be increased by the number of additional General Partner Units that would then be issued under Section 5.2(~~db~~) if all Series A Preferred Units were converted on such date of determination), by (B) the total number of General Partner Units and Outstanding Units (which, in the case of the Series A Preferred Units, shall equal the number of Common Units into which the Series A Preferred Units would then convert under Section 5.12(c) if such Series A Preferred Units were converted on such date of determination and, in the case of the General Partner Units, shall be increased by the number of additional General Partner Units that would then be issued under Section 5.2(~~db~~) if all Series A Preferred Units were converted on such date of determination), and (b) as to the holders of other Partnership Securities issued by the Partnership in accordance with Section 5.6, the percentage established as a part of such issuance. The Fully Diluted Percentage Interest with respect to an Incentive Distribution Right shall at all times be zero.

General Partner means Blueknight Energy Partners, G.P., L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company (formerly known as SemGroup Energy Partners, G.P., L.L.C.), and its successors and permitted assigns that are admitted to the Partnership as general partner of the Partnership, in its capacity as general partner of the Partnership (except as the context otherwise requires).

General Partner Interest means the ownership interest of the General Partner in the Partnership (in its capacity as a general partner without reference to any Limited Partner Interest held by it), which is evidenced by General Partner Units, and includes any and all benefits to which the General Partner is entitled as provided in this Agreement, together with all obligations of the General Partner to comply with the terms and provisions of this Agreement.

General Partner Unit means a fractional part of the General Partner Interest having the rights and obligations specified with respect to the General Partner Interest. A General Partner Unit is not a Unit.

Global Transaction Agreement means that certain Global Transaction Agreement, dated as of October 25, 2010 by and between the Partnership, the General Partner and the Purchasers, as amended by that certain First Amendment to Global Transaction Agreement, dated as of May 12, 2011, and as such agreement may be further amended, supplemented or restated from time to time.

Group means a Person that with or through any of its Affiliates or Associates has any contract, arrangement, understanding or relationship for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting (except voting pursuant to a revocable proxy or consent given to such Person in response to a proxy or consent solicitation made to 10 or

Table of Contents

more Persons), exercising investment power or disposing of any Partnership Interests with any other Person that beneficially owns, or whose Affiliates or Associates beneficially own, directly or indirectly, Partnership Interests.

Group Member means a member of the Partnership Group.

Group Member Agreement means the partnership agreement of any Group Member, other than the Partnership, that is a limited or general partnership, the limited liability company agreement of any Group Member that is a limited liability company, the certificate of incorporation and bylaws or similar organizational documents of any Group Member that is a corporation, the joint venture agreement or similar governing document of any Group Member that is a joint venture and the governing or organizational or similar documents of any other Group Member that is a Person other than a limited or general partnership, limited liability company, corporation or joint venture, as such may be amended, supplemented or restated from time to time.

Holder as used in Section 7.12, has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 7.12(a).

IDR Reset Election has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 5.11(a).

Incentive Distribution Right means a non-voting Limited Partner Interest issued to the General Partner, which Limited Partner Interest will confer upon the holder thereof only the rights and obligations specifically provided in this Agreement with respect to Incentive Distribution Rights (and no other rights otherwise available to or other obligations of a holder of a Partnership Interest). Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, the holder of an Incentive Distribution Right shall not be entitled to vote such Incentive Distribution Right on any Partnership matter except as may otherwise be required by law.

Incentive Distributions means any amount of cash distributed to the holders of the Incentive Distribution Rights pursuant to Sections ~~6.4(a)(vii), (viii) and (ix) and 6.4(b)(v), (vi) and (vii)~~.

Incremental Income Taxes has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 6.9.

Indemnified Persons has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 7.12(d).

Indemnitee means (a) the General Partner, (b) any Departing General Partner, (c) any Person who is or was an Affiliate of the General Partner or any Departing General Partner, (d) any Person who is or was a member, partner, director, officer, fiduciary or trustee of any Group Member, the General Partner or any Departing General Partner or any Affiliate of any Group Member, the General Partner or any Departing General Partner, (e) any Person who is or was serving at the request of the General Partner or any Departing General Partner or any Affiliate of the General Partner or any Departing General Partner as an officer, director, member, partner, fiduciary or trustee of another Person; *provided* that a Person shall not be an Indemnitee by reason of providing, on a fee-for-services basis, trustee, fiduciary or custodial services, and (f) any Person the General Partner designates as an Indemnitee for purposes of this Agreement.

Ineligible Assignee means a Person whom the General Partner has determined is not an Eligible Holder.

~~*Initial Common Units* means the Common Units sold in the Initial Offering.~~

~~*Initial Limited Partner* means the Organizational Limited Partner, the General Partner (with respect to the Incentive Distribution Rights received by it pursuant to Section 5.2) and the Underwriters upon the issuance by the Partnership of Common Units as described in Section 5.3(a) in connection with the Initial Offering.~~

~~*Initial Offering* means the initial offering and sale of Common Units to the public, as described in the Registration Statement.~~

Table of Contents

Initial Limited Partner has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 1.1 of the Third Amended and Restated Agreement.

Initial Unit Price means (a) with respect to the ~~Common Units and the Subordinated~~ Units, the initial public offering price per Common Unit at which the Common Units were first offered to the public for sale as set forth on the cover page of the prospectus included as part of the Registration Statement and first issued at or after the time the Registration Statement first became effective or (b) with respect to any other class or series of Units, the price per Unit at which such class or series of Units is initially sold by the Partnership, as determined by the General Partner, in each case adjusted as the General Partner determines to be appropriate to give effect to any distribution, subdivision or combination of Units.

Interim Capital Transactions means the following transactions if they occur prior to the Liquidation Date: (a) borrowings, refinancings or refundings of indebtedness (other than Working Capital Borrowings and other than for items purchased on open account in the ordinary course of business) by any Group Member and sales of debt securities of any Group Member; (b) sales of equity interests of any Group Member (including the Common Units sold to the Underwriters pursuant to the exercise of the Over-Allotment Option); (c) sales or other voluntary or involuntary dispositions of any assets of any Group Member other than (i) sales or other dispositions of inventory, accounts receivable and other assets in the ordinary course of business, and (ii) sales or other dispositions of assets as part of normal retirements or replacements; (d) capital contributions received; or (e) corporate reorganizations or restructurings.

Issue Price means the price at which a Unit is purchased pursuant to the Underwriting Agreement, net of any sales commission or underwriting discount; provided, that with respect to the Series A Preferred Units, the Issue Price shall be the Series A Issue Price.

Limited Partner means, unless the context otherwise requires, the Organizational Limited Partner prior to its withdrawal from the Partnership, each Initial Limited Partner, each additional Person that becomes a Limited Partner pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and any Departing General Partner upon the change of its status from General Partner to Limited Partner pursuant to Section 11.3, in each case, in such Person's capacity as limited partner of the Partnership; *provided, however*, that when the term Limited Partner is used herein in the context of any vote or other approval, including Articles XIII and XIV, such term shall not, solely for such purpose, include any holder of an Incentive Distribution Right (solely with respect to its Incentive Distribution Rights and not with respect to any other Limited Partner Interest held by such Person) except as may otherwise be required by law.

Limited Partner Interest means the ownership interest of a Limited Partner in the Partnership, which may be evidenced by Common Units, Series A Preferred Units, Class B Units, ~~Subordinated Units~~, Incentive Distribution Rights or other Partnership Securities or a combination thereof or interest therein, and includes any and all benefits to which such Limited Partner is entitled as provided in this Agreement, together with all obligations of such Limited Partner to comply with the terms and provisions of this Agreement; *provided, however*, that when the term Limited Partner Interest is used herein in the context of any vote or other approval, including Articles XIII and XIV, such term shall not, solely for such purpose, include any Incentive Distribution Right except as may otherwise be required by law.

Liquidation Date means (a) in the case of an event giving rise to the dissolution of the Partnership of the type described in clauses (a) and (b) of the first sentence of Section 12.2, the date on which the applicable time period during which the holders of Outstanding Units have the right to elect to continue the business of the Partnership has expired without such an election being made, and (b) in the case of any other event giving rise to the dissolution of the Partnership, the date on which such event occurs.

Liquidator means one or more Persons selected by the General Partner to perform the functions described in Section 12.4 as liquidating trustee of the Partnership within the meaning of the Delaware Act.

Annex A-11

Table of Contents

Maintenance Capital Expenditures means cash expenditures (including expenditures for the addition or improvement to the capital assets owned by any Group Member or for the acquisition of existing, or the construction of new, capital assets) if such expenditures are made to maintain, including over the long term, the operating capacity or revenues of the Partnership Group.

Merger Agreement has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 14.1.

Minimum Quarterly Distribution means ~~\$0.3125 per Unit per Quarter (or with respect to the period commencing on the Closing Date and ending on September 30, 2007, it means the product of \$0.3125 multiplied by a fraction of which the numerator is the number of days in such period and of which the denominator is 92)~~ \$0.11 per Unit per Quarter, subject to adjustment in accordance with Sections 5.11, 6.6 and 6.9.

National Securities Exchange means an exchange registered with the Commission under Section 6(a) of the Securities Exchange Act.

Net Agreed Value means, (a) in the case of any Contributed Property, the Agreed Value of such property reduced by any liabilities either assumed by the Partnership upon such contribution or to which such property is subject when contributed, and (b) in the case of any property distributed to a Partner by the Partnership, the Partnership's Carrying Value of such property (as adjusted pursuant to Section 5.5(d)(ii)) at the time such property is distributed, reduced by any indebtedness either assumed by such Partner upon such distribution or to which such property is subject at the time of distribution, in either case, as determined under Section 752 of the Code.

Net Income means, for any taxable year, the excess, if any, of the Partnership's items of income and gain (other than those items taken into account in the computation of Net Termination Gain or Net Termination Loss) for such taxable year over the Partnership's items of loss and deduction (other than those items taken into account in the computation of Net Termination Gain or Net Termination Loss) including items of deduction constituting guaranteed payments under Section 707(c) of the Code for such taxable year. The items included in the calculation of Net Income shall be determined in accordance with Section 5.5(b) and shall not include any items specially allocated under Section 6.1(d); *provided*, that the determination of the items that have been specially allocated under Section 6.1(d) shall be made as if Section 6.1(d)(xii) were not in this Agreement.

Net Loss means, for any taxable year, the excess, if any, of the Partnership's items of loss and deduction (other than those items taken into account in the computation of Net Termination Gain or Net Termination Loss) for such taxable year over the Partnership's items of income and gain (other than those items taken into account in the computation of Net Termination Gain or Net Termination Loss) including items of deduction constituting guaranteed payments under Section 707(c) of the Code for such taxable year. The items included in the calculation of Net Loss shall be determined in accordance with Section 5.5(b) and shall not include any items specially allocated under Section 6.1(d); *provided*, that the determination of the items that have been specially allocated under Section 6.1(d) shall be made as if Section 6.1(d)(xii) were not in this Agreement.

Net Positive Adjustments means, with respect to any Partner, the excess, if any, of the total positive adjustments over the total negative adjustments made to the Capital Account of such Partner pursuant to Book-Up Events and Book-Down Events.

Net Termination Gain means, for any taxable year, the sum, if positive, of all items of income, gain, loss or deduction recognized by the Partnership (a) after the Liquidation Date or (b) upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Partnership Group, taken as a whole, in a single transaction or a series of related transactions (excluding any disposition to a member of the Partnership Group). The items included in the determination of Net Termination Gain shall be determined in accordance with Section 5.5(b) and shall not include any items of income, gain or loss specially allocated under Section 6.1(d) or under Section 12.4(c).

Annex A-12

Table of Contents

Net Termination Loss means, for any taxable year, the sum, if negative, of all items of income, gain, loss or deduction recognized by the Partnership (a) after the Liquidation Date or (b) upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Partnership Group, taken as a whole, in a single transaction or a series of related transactions (excluding any disposition to a member of the Partnership Group). The items included in the determination of Net Termination Loss shall be determined in accordance with Section 5.5(b) and shall not include any items of income, gain or loss specially allocated under Section 6.1(d) or under Section 12.4(c).

~~*New BKEP Crude* has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 5.2(a).~~

Non-citizen Assignee means a Person whom the General Partner has determined does not constitute an Eligible Citizen and as to whose Partnership Interest the General Partner has become the substituted limited partner, pursuant to Section 4.9.

Nonrecourse Built-in Gain means with respect to any Contributed Properties or Adjusted Properties that are subject to a mortgage or pledge securing a Nonrecourse Liability, the amount of any taxable gain that would be allocated to the Partners pursuant to Sections 6.2(b)(i)(A), 6.2(b)(ii)(A) and 6.2(b)(iii) if such properties were disposed of in a taxable transaction in full satisfaction of such liabilities and for no other consideration.

Nonrecourse Deductions means any and all items of loss, deduction or expenditure (including any expenditure described in Section 705(a)(2)(B) of the Code) that, in accordance with the principles of Treasury Regulation Section 1.704-2(b), are attributable to a Nonrecourse Liability.

Nonrecourse Liability has the meaning set forth in Treasury Regulation Section 1.752-1(a)(2).

Notice of Election to Purchase has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 15.1(b).

Operating Company means Blueknight Energy Partners Operating, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company (formerly known as SemGroup Energy Partners Operating, L.L.C.), and any successors thereto.

Operating Expenditures means all Partnership Group cash expenditures, including, but not limited to, taxes, reimbursements of the General Partner in accordance with this Agreement, interest payments, repayment of Working Capital Borrowings, Maintenance Capital Expenditures and non-Pro Rata repurchases of Units (other than those made with the proceeds of an Interim Capital Transaction), subject to the following:

(a) repayment of Working Capital Borrowings deducted from Operating Surplus pursuant to clause (b)(iii) of the definition of Operating Surplus shall not constitute Operating Expenditures when actually repaid;

(b) payments (including prepayments and prepayment penalties) of principal of and premium on indebtedness other than Working Capital Borrowings shall not constitute Operating Expenditures; and

(c) Operating Expenditures shall not include (i) Expansion Capital Expenditures, (ii) payment of transaction expenses (including taxes) relating to Interim Capital Transactions or (iii) distributions to Partners. Where capital expenditures consist of both Maintenance Capital Expenditures and Expansion Capital Expenditures, the General Partner, with the concurrence of the Conflicts Committee, shall determine the allocation between the portion consisting of Maintenance Capital Expenditures and the portion consisting of Expansion Capital Expenditures.

Operating Surplus means, with respect to any period ending prior to the Liquidation Date, on a cumulative basis and without duplication,

(a) the sum of (i) an amount equal to two times the amount needed for any one Quarter for the Partnership to pay a distribution on all Units, the General Partner Units and the Incentive Distribution Rights at the same per

Table of Contents

Unit amount as was distributed immediately preceding the date of determination ~~(or with respect to the period commencing on the Closing Date and ending on September 30, 2007, it means the product of (x) \$0.3125 multiplied by (y) a fraction of which the numerator is the number of days in such period and the denominator is 92 multiplied by (z) the number of Units and General Partner Units Outstanding on the Record Date with respect to such period)~~, (ii) all cash receipts of the Partnership Group for the period beginning on the Closing Date and ending on the last day of such period, but excluding cash receipts from Interim Capital Transactions (except to the extent specified in Section 6.5 and provided that cash receipts from the termination of a Commodity Hedge Contract or interest rate swap prior to its specified termination date shall be included in Operating Surplus in equal quarterly installments over the remaining scheduled life of such Commodity Hedge Contract or interest rate swap), (iii) all cash receipts of the Partnership Group after the end of such period but on or before the date of determination of Operating Surplus with respect to such period resulting from Working Capital Borrowings and (iv) the amount of distributions paid on equity issued in connection with the construction or development of a Capital Improvement or replacement asset that are paid during the period beginning on the date that the Partnership enters into a binding commitment to commence construction or development of such Capital Improvement or replacement asset and ending on the earlier to occur of the date that such Capital Improvement or replacement asset Commences Commercial Service and the date that it is abandoned or disposed of (equity issued to fund the construction period interest payments on debt incurred (including periodic net payments under related interest rate swap agreements), or construction period distributions on equity issued, to finance the construction of a Capital Improvement or replacement asset shall also be deemed to be equity issued to finance the construction or development of a Capital Improvement or replacement asset for purposes of this clause (iv)), less

(b) the sum of (i) Operating Expenditures for the period beginning on the Closing Date and ending on the last day of such period, (ii) the amount of cash reserves established by the General Partner to provide funds for future Operating Expenditures and (iii) all Working Capital Borrowings not repaid within twelve months after having been incurred; *provided, however*, that disbursements made (including contributions to a Group Member or disbursements on behalf of a Group Member) or cash reserves established, increased or reduced after the end of such period but on or before the date of determination of Available Cash with respect to such period shall be deemed to have been made, established, increased or reduced, for purposes of determining Operating Surplus, within such period if the General Partner so determines.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, *Operating Surplus* with respect to the Quarter in which the Liquidation Date occurs and any subsequent Quarter shall equal zero.

Opinion of Counsel means a written opinion of counsel (who may be regular counsel to the Partnership or the General Partner or any of its Affiliates) acceptable to the General Partner.

Option Closing Date means the date or dates on which any Common Units are sold by the Partnership to the Underwriters upon exercise of the Over-Allotment Option.

Organizational Limited Partner means SemGroup Holdings in its capacity as the organizational limited partner of the Partnership pursuant to the Original Agreement.

Original Agreement has the meaning assigned to such term in the Recitals.

Outstanding means, with respect to Partnership Securities, all Partnership Securities that are issued by the Partnership and reflected as outstanding on the Partnership's books and records as of the date of determination; *provided, however*, that if at any time any Person or Group (other than the General Partner or its Affiliates) beneficially owns 20% or more of the Outstanding Partnership Securities of any class then Outstanding, all Partnership Securities owned by such Person or Group shall not be voted on any matter and shall not be considered to be Outstanding when sending notices of a meeting of Limited Partners to vote on any matter (unless otherwise required by law), calculating required votes, determining the presence of a quorum or for other

Table of Contents

similar purposes under this Agreement, except that Units so owned shall be considered to be Outstanding for purposes of Section 11.1(b)(iv) (such Units shall not, however, be treated as a separate class of Partnership Securities for purposes of this Agreement); *provided, further*, that the foregoing limitation shall not apply to (i) any Person or Group who acquired 20% or more of the Outstanding Partnership Securities of any class then Outstanding directly from the General Partner or its Affiliates, (ii) any Person or Group who acquired 20% or more of the Outstanding Partnership Securities of any class then Outstanding directly or indirectly from a Person or Group described in clause (i) *provided* that the General Partner shall have notified such Person or Group in writing that such limitation shall not apply, or (iii) any Person or Group who acquired 20% or more of any Partnership Securities issued by the Partnership with the prior approval of the Board of Directors of the General Partner.

Over-Allotment Option means the over-allotment option granted to the Underwriters by the Partnership pursuant to the Underwriting Agreement.

Partner Nonrecourse Debt has the meaning set forth in Treasury Regulation Section 1.704-2(b)(4).

Partner Nonrecourse Debt Minimum Gain has the meaning set forth in Treasury Regulation Section 1.704-2(i)(2).

Partner Nonrecourse Deductions means any and all items of loss, deduction or expenditure (including any expenditure described in Section 705(a)(2)(B) of the Code) that, in accordance with the principles of Treasury Regulation Section 1.704-2(i), are attributable to a Partner Nonrecourse Debt.

Partners means the General Partner and the Limited Partners.

Partnership means Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (formerly known as SemGroup Energy Partners, L.P.).

Partnership Group means the Partnership and its Subsidiaries treated as a single consolidated entity.

Partnership Interest means an interest in the Partnership, which shall include the General Partner Interest and Limited Partner Interests.

Partnership Minimum Gain means that amount determined in accordance with the principles of Treasury Regulation Section 1.704-2(d).

Partnership Security means any class or series of equity interest in the Partnership (but excluding any options, rights, warrants and appreciation rights relating to an equity interest in the Partnership), including Common Units, Class B Units, Series A Preferred Units, ~~Subordinated Units~~, General Partner Units and Incentive Distribution Rights.

Per Unit Capital Amount means, as of any date of determination, the Capital Account, stated on a per Unit basis, underlying any Unit held by a Person other than the General Partner or any Affiliate of the General Partner who holds Units.

Percentage Interest means as of any date of determination (a) as to the General Partner with respect to General Partner Units and as to any Unitholder with respect to Units, the product obtained by multiplying (i) 100% less the percentage applicable to clause (b) below by (ii) the quotient obtained by dividing (A) the number of General Partner Units held by the General Partner or the number of Units held by such Unitholder (which, in the case of Series A Preferred Units, shall equal the number of Series A Preferred Units held by such Unitholder), by (B) the total number of General Partner Units and Outstanding Units (which, in the case of the

Table of Contents

Series A Preferred Units, shall equal the number of Series A Preferred Units held by such Unitholder), and (b) as to the holders of other Partnership Securities issued by the Partnership in accordance with Section 5.6, the percentage established as a part of such issuance. The Percentage Interest with respect to an Incentive Distribution Right shall at all times be zero.

Person means an individual or a corporation, firm, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, trust, unincorporated organization, association, government agency or political subdivision thereof or other entity.

Plan of Conversion has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 14.1.

Pro Rata means (a) when used with respect to Units or any class thereof, apportioned equally among all designated Units in accordance with their relative Percentage Interests, (b) when used with respect to Partners or Record Holders, apportioned among all Partners or Record Holders in accordance with their relative Percentage Interests and (c) when used with respect to holders of Incentive Distribution Rights, apportioned equally among all holders of Incentive Distribution Rights in accordance with the relative number or percentage of Incentive Distribution Rights held by each such holder.

Proxy Statement means the Proxy Statement filed by the Partnership with the Commission in connection with the transactions contemplated by the Global Transaction Agreement, as it has been or may be supplemented from time to time.

Purchase Date means the date determined by the General Partner as the date for purchase of all Outstanding Limited Partner Interests of a certain class (other than Limited Partner Interests owned by the General Partner and its Affiliates) pursuant to Article XV.

Purchasers means the Purchasers identified in Schedule I to the Global Transaction Agreement.

Quarter means, unless the context requires otherwise, a fiscal quarter of the Partnership, or, with respect to the fiscal quarter of the Partnership which includes the Closing Date, the portion of such fiscal quarter after the Closing Date.

Recapture Income means any gain recognized by the Partnership (computed without regard to any adjustment required by Section 734 or Section 743 of the Code) upon the disposition of any property or asset of the Partnership, which gain is characterized as ordinary income because it represents the recapture of deductions previously taken with respect to such property or asset.

Record Date means the date established by the General Partner or otherwise in accordance with this Agreement for determining (a) the identity of the Record Holders entitled to notice of, or to vote at, any meeting of Limited Partners or entitled to vote by ballot or give approval of Partnership action in writing without a meeting or entitled to exercise rights in respect of any lawful action of Limited Partners or (b) the identity of Record Holders entitled to receive any report or distribution or to participate in any offer.

Record Holder means the Person in whose name a Common Unit or Series A Preferred Unit is registered on the books of the Transfer Agent as of the opening of business on a particular Business Day, or with respect to other Partnership Interests, the Person in whose name any such other Partnership Interest is registered on the books that the General Partner has caused to be kept as of the opening of business on such Business Day.

Redeemable Interests means any Partnership Interests for which a redemption notice has been given, and has not been withdrawn, pursuant to Section 4.10 or Section 4.12.

Table of Contents

Registration Statement means the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-141196) as it has been or as it may be amended or supplemented from time to time, filed by the Partnership with the Commission under the Securities Act to register the offering and sale of the Common Units in the Initial Offering.

Remaining Net Positive Adjustments means as of the end of any taxable period, (i) with respect to the Unitholders holding Common Units, Series A Preferred Units, or Class B Units or Subordinated Units, the excess of (a) the Net Positive Adjustments of the Unitholders holding Common Units, Series A Preferred Units, or Class B Units or Subordinated Units as of the end of such period over (b) the sum of those Partners' Share of Additional Book Basis Derivative Items for each prior taxable period, (ii) with respect to the General Partner (as holder of the General Partner Units), the excess of (a) the Net Positive Adjustments of the General Partner as of the end of such period over (b) the sum of the General Partner's Share of Additional Book Basis Derivative Items with respect to the General Partner Units for each prior taxable period, and (iii) with respect to the holders of Incentive Distribution Rights, the excess of (a) the Net Positive Adjustments of the holders of Incentive Distribution Rights as of the end of such period over (b) the sum of the Share of Additional Book Basis Derivative Items of the holders of the Incentive Distribution Rights for each prior taxable period.

Repurchased Preferred Units has the meaning assigned to such term in the Global Transaction Agreement.

Required Allocations means (a) any limitation imposed on any allocation of Net Losses or Net Termination Losses under Section 6.1(b) or Section 6.1(c)(ii) and (b) any allocation of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction pursuant to Section 6.1(d)(i), Section 6.1(d)(ii), Section 6.1(d)(iv), Section 6.1(d)(vii) or Section 6.1(d)(ix).

Residual Gain or Residual Loss means any item of gain or loss, as the case may be, of the Partnership recognized for federal income tax purposes resulting from a sale, exchange or other disposition of a Contributed Property or Adjusted Property, to the extent such item of gain or loss is not allocated pursuant to Section 6.2(b)(i)(A) or Section 6.2(b)(ii)(A), respectively, to eliminate Book-Tax Disparities.

Reset MQD has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 5.11(e).

Reset Notice has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 5.11(b).

~~*Retained Converted Subordinated Unit* has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 5.5(e)(ii).~~

Rights Offering has the meaning assigned to such term in the Global Transaction Agreement.

Second Amended and Restated Agreement has the meaning assigned to such term in the Recitals.

~~*Second Amendment* has the meaning assigned to such term in the Recitals.~~

Second Liquidation Target Amount has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 6.1(c)(4)(GF).

Second Target Distribution means \$0.3906 per Unit per Quarter (or, with respect to the period commencing on the Closing Date and ending on September 30, 2007, it means the product of \$0.3906 multiplied by a fraction of which the numerator is equal to the number of days in such period and of which the denominator is 92) \$0.1375 per Unit per Quarter, subject to adjustment in accordance with Section Sections 5.11, Section 6.6 and Section 6.9. For purposes of calculating distributions under clauses (F) and (G) of Section 6.1(c)(i), the amount specified in the preceding sentence shall be deemed to have been the Second Target Distribution amount that has applied for each Quarter of the Partnership's existence.

Table of Contents

Securities Act means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, supplemented or restated from time to time and any successor to such statute.

Securities Exchange Act means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, supplemented or restated from time to time and any successor to such statute.

SemGroup Holdings has the meaning assigned to such term in Section ~~5.3(a)1.1~~ of the Third Amended and Restated Agreement.

Senior Securities means any class or series of Partnership Securities that, with respect to distributions on such Partnership Securities or distributions upon liquidation of the Partnership, ranks senior to the Common Units during the Senior Security Restriction Period.

Senior Security Restriction Period means the period beginning on the date of the Unitholder Meeting and ending on June 30, 2015.

Series A Ceiling Price means \$6.50 per Unit, subject to adjustment as set forth in Section 5.12(c)(iv).

Series A Closing Date means the first date on which Series A Preferred Units ~~are~~were sold to the Purchasers pursuant to the Global Transaction Agreement.

Series A Conversion Date has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 5.12(c)(iii).

Series A Conversion Notice has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 5.12(c)(i).

Series A Conversion Notice Date has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 5.12(c)(i).

Series A Conversion Price is an amount equal to ~~(a) in the event the Unitholder Meeting occurs prior to the Termination Date, the volume-weighted average trading price per Common Unit during the 20 consecutive Trading Days ending on the tenth (10th) Trading Day after the date of the Unitholder Meeting or (b) in the event the Unitholder Meeting does not occur prior to the Termination Date, the volume-weighted average trading price per Common Unit during the 20 consecutive Trading Days ending on the tenth (10th) Trading Day after the Termination Date; provided that in either case; provided that~~ the Series A Conversion Price shall be no greater than the Series A Ceiling Price and no lower than the Series A Floor Price. Prior to the ~~earlier to occur of the~~ tenth (10th) Trading Day after the date of the Unitholder Meeting ~~or the tenth (10th) Trading Day after the Termination Date~~, the Series A Conversion Price shall be deemed to be equal to the Series A Midpoint Price.

Series A Cumulative Distribution Arrearage means, with respect to any Series A Preferred Unit, whenever issued, as of the end of any Quarter, the excess, if any, of (a) the sum resulting from adding together the Series A Quarterly Distribution Arrearage for each of the Quarters ending on or before the last day of such Quarter over (b) the sum of any distributions theretofore made pursuant to Sections 6.4(a)(ii) and 6.4(b)(ii) and clause (i) of Section 6.5 with respect to such Series A Preferred Unit (including any distributions to be made in respect of the last of such Quarters).

Series A Floor Price means \$5.50 per Unit, subject to adjustment as set forth in Section 5.12(c)(iv).

Series A Forced Conversion Notice is defined in Section 5.12(c)(ii).

Series A Forced Conversion Notice Date is defined in Section 5.12(c)(ii).

~~*Series A Issuance Date* means October 25, 2010~~

Table of Contents

Series A Issue Price means \$6.50 per Series A Preferred Unit.

Series A Liquidation Value means, with respect to each Series A Preferred Unit Outstanding as of the date of such determination, an amount equal to (i) the Series A Issue Price, plus (ii) the Series A Cumulative Distribution Arrearage, plus (iii) any accrued but unpaid Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount with respect to the Quarter in which the liquidation occurs, minus (iv) any distributions of Capital Surplus to such Series A Preferred Unit pursuant to clause (ii) of Section 6.5.

Series A Midpoint Price means \$6.00 per Unit, subject to adjustment as set forth in Section 5.12(c)(iv).

Series A Parity Securities means any class or series of Partnership Securities that, with respect to distributions on such Partnership Securities or distributions upon liquidation of the Partnership, ranks pari passu with the Series A Preferred Units.

Series A Preferred Unit means a Partnership Security representing a fractional part of the Partnership Interests of all Limited Partners and having the rights and obligations specified with respect to Series A Preferred Units in this Agreement.

Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount means an amount per Series A Preferred Unit per Quarter equal to:

(a) in the case of any Quarter or partial Quarter during the period beginning on ~~the Series A Issuance Date~~ October 25, 2010 and ending on ~~the date that is one (1) year after the Series A Issuance Date~~ October 24, 2011, 2.125% of the Series A Issue Price, or

(b) in the case of any Quarter or partial Quarter during the period beginning on October 25, 2011 and thereafter, 2.75% of the ~~date that is one (1) year after the Series A Issue Price Issuance Date either:~~

~~(i) 2.75% of the Series A Issue Price if the Holders of the Common Units have approved the Unitholder Proposals on or prior to the date that is one (1) year after the Series A Issuance Date, or (ii) 4.375% of the Series A Issue Price if the Holders of the Common Units have not approved the Unitholder Proposals on or prior to the date that is one (1) year after the Series A Issuance Date; provided, however, the rate used to calculate the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount under clause (b)(ii) shall be reduced to 2.75% beginning as of the first day of the Quarter in which the Holders of Common Units have approved the Unitholder Proposals and thereafter.~~

Any calculations of Series A Quarterly Distribution Amounts for any partial Quarter under the foregoing clauses (a) or (b) ~~(other than the calculation set forth in the proviso contained in clause (b)(ii))~~ shall be pro rated based on the number of days in such partial Quarter.

Series A Quarterly Distribution Arrearage means, with respect to any Series A Preferred Unit for a particular Quarter, the excess, if any, of (a) the Series A Quarterly Distribution Amount with respect to a Series A Preferred Unit in respect of such Quarter over (b) the sum of all Available Cash distributed with respect to a Series A Preferred Unit in respect of such Quarter pursuant to Section 6.4(a)(i) or Section 6.4(b)(i).

Series A Senior Securities means any class or series of Partnership Securities that, with respect to distributions on such Partnership Securities or distributions upon liquidation of the Partnership, ranks senior to the Series A Preferred Units.

Series A Unitholder means a Record Holder of Series A Preferred Units.

Share of Additional Book Basis Derivative Items means in connection with any allocation of Additional Book Basis Derivative Items for any taxable period, (i) with respect to the Unitholders holding Common Units,

Table of Contents

Series A Preferred Units, ~~or Class B Units or Subordinated~~ Units, the amount that bears the same ratio to such Additional Book Basis Derivative Items as the Unitholders Remaining Net Positive Adjustments as of the end of such period bears to the Aggregate Remaining Net Positive Adjustments as of that time, (ii) with respect to the General Partner (as holder of the General Partner Units), the amount that bears the same ratio to such Additional Book Basis Derivative Items as the General Partner's Remaining Net Positive Adjustments as of the end of such period bears to the Aggregate Remaining Net Positive Adjustment as of that time, and (iii) with respect to the Partners holding Incentive Distribution Rights, the amount that bears the same ratio to such Additional Book Basis Derivative Items as the Remaining Net Positive Adjustments of the Partners holding the Incentive Distribution Rights as of the end of such period bears to the Aggregate Remaining Net Positive Adjustments as of that time.

Special Approval means approval by a majority of the members of the Conflicts Committee acting in good faith.

~~—Special Distribution—~~ has the meaning assigned to such term in the Global Transaction Agreement.

~~Subordinated Unit—~~ means a Partnership Security representing a fractional part of the Partnership Interests of all Limited Partners and having the rights and obligations specified with respect to Subordinated Units in this Agreement. The term ~~—Subordinated Unit—~~ does not include a Common Unit, Series A Preferred Unit or Class B Unit. A Subordinated Unit that is convertible into a Common Unit shall not constitute a Common Unit until such conversion occurs has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 1.1 of the Third Amended and Restated Agreement.

~~—Subordination Period—~~ means the period commencing on the Closing Date and ending on the first to occur of:

(a) the first day of any Quarter beginning after June 30, 2010 in respect of which (i) (A) distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus on each of the Outstanding Common Units, Subordinated Units and General Partner Units and any other Outstanding Units (other than the Series A Preferred Units) that are senior or equal in right of distribution to the Subordinated Units with respect to each of the three consecutive, non-overlapping four-Quarter periods immediately preceding such date equaled or exceeded the sum of the Minimum Quarterly Distribution on all Outstanding Common Units, Subordinated Units and General Partner Units and any other Outstanding Units (other than the Series A Preferred Units) that are senior or equal in right of distribution to the Subordinated Units during such periods and (B) the Adjusted Operating Surplus generated during each of the three consecutive, non-overlapping four-Quarter periods immediately preceding such date equaled or exceeded the sum of the Minimum Quarterly Distribution on all of the Common Units, Subordinated Units and General Partner Units and any other Units that are senior or equal in right of distribution to the Subordinated Units that were Outstanding during such periods on a Fully Diluted Basis and (ii) there are no Cumulative Common Unit Arrearages;

(b) the first date on which there are no longer outstanding any Subordinated Units due to the conversion of Subordinated Units into Common Units pursuant to Section 5.7 or otherwise; and

(c) the date on which the General Partner is removed as general partner of the Partnership upon the requisite vote by holders of Outstanding Units under circumstances where Cause does not exist and Units held by the General Partner and its Affiliates are not voted in favor of such removal.

Subsidiary means, with respect to any Person, (a) a corporation of which more than 50% of the voting power of shares entitled (without regard to the occurrence of any contingency) to vote in the election of directors or other governing body of such corporation is owned, directly or indirectly, at the date of determination, by such Person, by one or more Subsidiaries of such Person or a combination thereof, (b) a partnership (whether general or limited) in which such Person or a Subsidiary of such Person is, at the date of determination, a general or

Table of Contents

limited partner of such partnership, but only if more than 50% of the partnership interests of such partnership (considering all of the partnership interests of the partnership as a single class) is owned, directly or indirectly, at the date of determination, by such Person, by one or more Subsidiaries of such Person, or a combination thereof, or (c) any other Person (other than a corporation or a partnership) in which such Person, one or more Subsidiaries of such Person, or a combination thereof, directly or indirectly, at the date of determination, has (i) at least a majority ownership interest or (ii) the power to elect or direct the election of a majority of the directors or other governing body of such Person.

Surviving Business Entity has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 14.2(b).

Target Distributions means, collectively, the First Target Distribution, Second Target Distribution and Third Target Distribution.

Taxation Certification means a properly completed certificate in such form as may be specified by the General Partner by which a Limited Partner certifies that he (and if he is a nominee holding for the account of another Person, that to the best of his knowledge such other Person) is an Eligible Holder.

~~*Termination Date* has the meaning assigned to such term in the Global Transaction Agreement.~~

~~*Third Target Distribution* means \$0.4688 per Unit per Quarter (or, with respect to the period commencing on the Closing Date and ending on September 30, 2007, it means the product of \$0.4688 multiplied by a fraction of which the numerator is equal to the number of days in such period and of which the denominator is 92) \$0.1825 per Unit per Quarter, subject to adjustment in accordance with Sections 5.11, 6.6 and 6.9. For purposes of calculating distributions under clause (G) of Section 6.1(c)(i), the amount specified in the preceding sentence shall be deemed to have been the Third Target Distribution amount that has applied for each Quarter of the Partnership's existence.~~

Top Up Quotient has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 5-2(ca).

Trading Day has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 15.1(a).

transfer has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 4.4(a).

Transfer Agent means such bank, trust company or other Person (including the General Partner or one of its Affiliates) as shall be appointed from time to time by the General Partner to act as registrar and transfer agent for the Common Units and/or the Series A Preferred Units; *provided*, that if no Transfer Agent is specifically designated for any other Partnership Securities, the General Partner shall act in such capacity.

Underwriter means each Person named as an underwriter in Schedule I to the Underwriting Agreement who purchases Common Units pursuant thereto.

Underwriting Agreement means that certain Underwriting Agreement dated as of July 17, 2007 among the Underwriters, SemGroup Holdings, the Partnership, the General Partner, the Operating Company and other parties thereto, providing for the purchase of Common Units by the Underwriters.

Unit means a Partnership Security that is designated as a Unit and shall include Common Units, Class B-Units, and Series A Preferred Units, and Subordinated Units but shall not include (i) General Partner Units (or the General Partner Interest represented thereby) or (ii) Incentive Distribution Rights.

~~*Unit Majority* means (i) during the Subordination Period, at least a majority of the Outstanding Common Units (excluding Common Units owned by the General Partner and its Affiliates) and Series A Preferred Units (excluding Series A Preferred Units owned by the General Partner and its Affiliates), voting as a single class, and~~

Table of Contents

~~at least a majority of the Outstanding Subordinated Units, voting as a class, and (ii) after the end of the Subordination Period, at least a majority of the Outstanding Common Units, Series A Preferred Units, and Class B Units, if any, voting as a single class; provided, that with respect to the Unitholder Proposals, Unit Majority means at least a majority of the Outstanding Common Units (excluding Common Units and Series A Preferred Units owned by the General Partner and its Affiliates), voting as a class, and at least a majority of the Outstanding Subordinated Units, voting as a class; provided, further, that the number of Outstanding Series A Preferred Units shall be measured on an as if converted basis for purposes of this definition.~~

Unitholder Meeting has the meaning assigned to such term in the Global Transaction Agreement.

~~*Unitholder Proposals* has the meaning assigned to such term in the Global Transaction Agreement.~~

Unitholders means the holders of Units.

Unpaid MQD has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 6.1(c)(i)(C).

Unrealized Gain attributable to any item of Partnership property means, as of any date of determination, the excess, if any, of (a) the fair market value of such property as of such date (as determined under Section 5.5(d)) over (b) the Carrying Value of such property as of such date (prior to any adjustment to be made pursuant to Section 5.5(d) as of such date).

Unrealized Loss attributable to any item of Partnership property means, as of any date of determination, the excess, if any, of (a) the Carrying Value of such property as of such date (prior to any adjustment to be made pursuant to Section 5.5(d) as of such date) over (b) the fair market value of such property as of such date (as determined under Section 5.5(d)).

Unrecovered Initial Unit Price means at any time, with respect to a Unit, the Initial Unit Price less the sum of all distributions constituting Capital Surplus theretofore made in respect of an Initial Common Unit and any distributions of cash (or the Net Agreed Value of any distributions in kind) in connection with the dissolution and liquidation of the Partnership theretofore made in respect of an Initial Common Unit, adjusted as the General Partner determines to be appropriate to give effect to any distribution, subdivision or combination of such Units.

U.S. GAAP means United States generally accepted accounting principles consistently applied.

Withdrawal Opinion of Counsel has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 11.1(b).

Working Capital Borrowings means borrowings used solely for working capital purposes or to pay distributions to Partners, made pursuant to a credit facility, commercial paper facility or similar financing arrangement; *provided* that when incurred it is the intent of the borrower to repay such borrowings within 12 months from other than additional Working Capital Borrowings.

Section 1.2 Construction.

Unless the context requires otherwise: (a) any pronoun used in this Agreement shall include the corresponding masculine, feminine or neuter forms, and the singular form of nouns, pronouns and verbs shall include the plural and vice versa; (b) references to Articles and Sections refer to Articles and Sections of this Agreement; (c) the terms include, includes, including or words of like import shall be deemed to be followed by the words without limitation; and (d) the terms hereof, herein or hereunder refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular provision of this Agreement. The table of contents and headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only, and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

Table of Contents

ARTICLE II

ORGANIZATION

Section 2.1 *Formation.*

The General Partner and the Organizational Limited Partner have previously formed the Partnership as a limited partnership pursuant to the provisions of the Delaware Act. On July 20, 2007, the General Partner and the Limited Partners entered into that certain First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of SemGroup Energy Partners, L.P. On December 1, 2009, the General Partner and the Limited Partners entered into that certain Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P., which amended and restated the First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of SemGroup Energy Partners, L.P. in its entirety. On October 25, 2010, the General Partner and the Limited Partners entered into that certain Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P., which amended and restated the Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. in its entirety. This Agreement amends and restates the ~~Second~~ Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. in its entirety and shall become effective on the date of this Agreement. Except as expressly provided to the contrary in this Agreement, the rights, duties (including fiduciary duties), liabilities and obligations of the Partners and the administration, dissolution and termination of the Partnership shall be governed by the Delaware Act. All Partnership Interests shall constitute personal property of the owner thereof for all purposes.

Section 2.2 *Name.*

The name of the Partnership shall be Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. The Partnership's business may be conducted under any other name or names as determined by the General Partner, including the name of the General Partner. The words Limited Partnership, L.P., Ltd. or similar words or letters shall be included in the Partnership's name where necessary for the purpose of complying with the laws of any jurisdiction that so requires. The General Partner may change the name of the Partnership at any time and from time to time and shall notify the Limited Partners of such change in the next regular communication to the Limited Partners.

Section 2.3 *Registered Office; Registered Agent; Principal Office; Other Offices*

Unless and until changed by the General Partner, the registered office of the Partnership in the State of Delaware shall be located at 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware 19801, and the registered agent for service of process on the Partnership in the State of Delaware at such registered office shall be The Corporation Trust Company. The principal office of the Partnership shall be located at 6120 South Yale Avenue, Suite 500, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136, or such other place as the General Partner may from time to time designate by notice to the Limited Partners. The Partnership may maintain offices at such other place or places within or outside the State of Delaware as the General Partner shall determine necessary or appropriate. The address of the General Partner shall be 6120 South Yale Avenue, Suite 500, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136, or such other place as the General Partner may from time to time designate by notice to the Limited Partners.

Section 2.4 *Purpose and Business.*

The purpose and nature of the business to be conducted by the Partnership shall be to (a) engage directly in, or enter into or form, hold and dispose of any corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company or other arrangement to engage indirectly in, any business activity that is approved by the General Partner and that lawfully may be conducted by a limited partnership organized pursuant to the Delaware Act and, in connection therewith, to exercise all of the rights and powers conferred upon the Partnership pursuant to the agreements relating to such business activity, and (b) do anything necessary or appropriate to the foregoing, including the making of capital contributions or loans to a Group Member; *provided, however,* that the General Partner shall not cause the Partnership to engage, directly or indirectly, in any business activity that the General Partner

Table of Contents

determines would cause the Partnership to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the General Partner shall have no duty or obligation to propose or approve, and may decline to propose or approve, the conduct by the Partnership of any business free of any fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to the Partnership or any Limited Partner and, in declining to so propose or approve, shall not be required to act in good faith or pursuant to any other standard imposed by this Agreement, any Group Member Agreement, any other agreement contemplated hereby or under the Delaware Act or any other law, rule or regulation or at equity.

Section 2.5 Powers.

The Partnership shall be empowered to do any and all acts and things necessary or appropriate for the furtherance and accomplishment of the purposes and business described in Section 2.4 and for the protection and benefit of the Partnership.

Section 2.6 Power of Attorney.

(a) Each Limited Partner hereby constitutes and appoints the General Partner and, if a Liquidator shall have been selected pursuant to Section 12.3, the Liquidator (and any successor to the Liquidator by merger, transfer, assignment, election or otherwise) and each of their authorized officers and attorneys-in-fact, as the case may be, with full power of substitution, as his true and lawful agent and attorney-in-fact, with full power and authority in his name, place and stead, to:

(i) execute, swear to, acknowledge, deliver, file and record in the appropriate public offices (A) all certificates, documents and other instruments (including this Agreement and the Certificate of Limited Partnership and all amendments or restatements hereof or thereof) that the General Partner or the Liquidator determines to be necessary or appropriate to form, qualify or continue the existence or qualification of the Partnership as a limited partnership (or a partnership in which the limited partners have limited liability) in the State of Delaware and in all other jurisdictions in which the Partnership may conduct business or own property; (B) all certificates, documents and other instruments that the General Partner or the Liquidator determines to be necessary or appropriate to reflect, in accordance with its terms, any amendment, change, modification or restatement of this Agreement; (C) all certificates, documents and other instruments (including conveyances and a certificate of cancellation) that the General Partner or the Liquidator determines to be necessary or appropriate to reflect the dissolution and liquidation of the Partnership pursuant to the terms of this Agreement; (D) all certificates, documents and other instruments relating to the admission, withdrawal, removal or substitution of any Partner pursuant to, or other events described in, Article IV, Article X, Article XI or Article XII; (E) all certificates, documents and other instruments relating to the determination of the rights, preferences and privileges of any class or series of Partnership Securities issued pursuant to Section 5.6; and (F) all certificates, documents and other instruments (including agreements and a certificate of merger or conversion) relating to a merger, consolidation or conversion of the Partnership pursuant to Article XIV; and

(ii) execute, swear to, acknowledge, deliver, file and record all ballots, consents, approvals, waivers, certificates, documents and other instruments that the General Partner or the Liquidator determines to be necessary or appropriate to (A) make, evidence, give, confirm or ratify any vote, consent, approval, agreement or other action that is made or given by the Partners hereunder or is consistent with the terms of this Agreement or (B) effectuate the terms or intent of this Agreement; *provided*, that when required by Section 13.3 or any other provision of this Agreement that establishes a percentage of the Limited Partners or of the Limited Partners of any class or series required to take any action, the General Partner and the Liquidator may exercise the power of attorney made in this Section 2.6(a)(ii) only after the necessary vote, consent or approval of the Limited Partners or of the Limited Partners of such class or series, as applicable.

Nothing contained in this Section 2.6(a) shall be construed as authorizing the General Partner to amend this Agreement except in accordance with Article XIII or as may be otherwise expressly provided for in this Agreement.

Annex A-24

Table of Contents

(b) The foregoing power of attorney is hereby declared to be irrevocable and a power coupled with an interest, and it shall survive and, to the maximum extent permitted by law, not be affected by, the subsequent death, incompetency, disability, incapacity, dissolution, bankruptcy or termination of any Limited Partner and the transfer of all or any portion of such Limited Partner's Limited Partner Interest and shall extend to such Limited Partner's heirs, successors, assigns and personal representatives. Each such Limited Partner hereby agrees to be bound by any representation made by the General Partner or the Liquidator acting in good faith pursuant to such power of attorney; and each such Limited Partner, to the maximum extent permitted by law, hereby waives any and all defenses that may be available to contest, negate or disaffirm the action of the General Partner or the Liquidator taken in good faith under such power of attorney. Each Limited Partner shall execute and deliver to the General Partner or the Liquidator, within 15 days after receipt of the request therefor, such further designation, powers of attorney and other instruments as the General Partner or the Liquidator may request in order to effectuate this Agreement and the purposes of the Partnership.

Section 2.7 Term.

The term of the Partnership commenced upon the filing of the Certificate of Limited Partnership in accordance with the Delaware Act and shall continue in existence until the dissolution of the Partnership in accordance with the provisions of Article XII. The existence of the Partnership as a separate legal entity shall continue until the cancellation of the Certificate of Limited Partnership as provided in the Delaware Act.

Section 2.8 Title to Partnership Assets.

Title to Partnership assets, whether real, personal or mixed and whether tangible or intangible, shall be deemed to be owned by the Partnership as an entity, and no Partner, individually or collectively, shall have any ownership interest in such Partnership assets or any portion thereof. Title to any or all of the Partnership assets may be held in the name of the Partnership, the General Partner, one or more of its Affiliates or one or more nominees, as the General Partner may determine. The General Partner hereby declares and warrants that any Partnership assets for which record title is held in the name of the General Partner or one or more of its Affiliates or one or more nominees shall be held by the General Partner or such Affiliate or nominee for the use and benefit of the Partnership in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement; *provided, however,* that the General Partner shall use reasonable efforts to cause record title to such assets (other than those assets in respect of which the General Partner determines that the expense and difficulty of conveyancing makes transfer of record title to the Partnership impracticable) to be vested in the Partnership as soon as reasonably practicable; *provided, further,* that, prior to the withdrawal or removal of the General Partner or as soon thereafter as practicable, the General Partner shall use reasonable efforts to effect the transfer of record title to the Partnership and, prior to any such transfer, will provide for the use of such assets in a manner satisfactory to the General Partner. All Partnership assets shall be recorded as the property of the Partnership in its books and records, irrespective of the name in which record title to such Partnership assets is held.

ARTICLE III

RIGHTS OF LIMITED PARTNERS

Section 3.1 Limitation of Liability.

The Limited Partners shall have no liability under this Agreement except as expressly provided in this Agreement or the Delaware Act.

Section 3.2 Management of Business.

No Limited Partner, in its capacity as such, shall participate in the operation, management or control (within the meaning of the Delaware Act) of the Partnership's business, transact any business in the Partnership's name

Annex A-25

Table of Contents

or have the power to sign documents for or otherwise bind the Partnership. Any action taken by any Affiliate of the General Partner or any officer, director, employee, manager, member, general partner, agent or trustee of the General Partner or any of its Affiliates, or any officer, director, employee, manager, member, general partner, agent or trustee of a Group Member, in its capacity as such, shall not be deemed to be participation in the control of the business of the Partnership by a limited partner of the Partnership (within the meaning of Section 17-303(a) of the Delaware Act) and shall not affect, impair or eliminate the limitations on the liability of the Limited Partners under this Agreement.

Section 3.3 *Outside Activities of the Limited Partners.*

Subject to the provisions of Section 7.5, which shall continue to be applicable to the Persons referred to therein, regardless of whether such Persons shall also be Limited Partners, any Limited Partner shall be entitled to and may have business interests and engage in business activities in addition to those relating to the Partnership, including business interests and activities in direct competition with the Partnership Group. Neither the Partnership nor any of the other Partners shall have any rights by virtue of this Agreement in any business ventures of any Limited Partner.

Section 3.4 *Rights of Limited Partners.*

(a) In addition to other rights provided by this Agreement or by applicable law, and except as limited by Section 3.4(b), each Limited Partner shall have the right, for a purpose reasonably related to such Limited Partner's interest as a Limited Partner in the Partnership, upon reasonable written demand stating the purpose of such demand, and at such Limited Partner's own expense:

(i) to obtain true and full information regarding the status of the business and financial condition of the Partnership (*provided* that the requirements of this Section 3.4(a)(i) shall be satisfied by furnishing to a Limited Partner upon its demand pursuant to this Section 3.4(a)(i) the Partnership's most recent filings with the Commission on Form 10-K and any subsequent filings on Form 10-Q and 8-K);

(ii) promptly after its becoming available, to obtain a copy of the Partnership's federal, state and local income tax returns for each year;

(iii) to obtain a current list of the name and last known business, residence or mailing address of each Partner;

(iv) to obtain a copy of this Agreement and the Certificate of Limited Partnership and all amendments thereto, together with copies of the executed copies of all powers of attorney pursuant to which this Agreement, the Certificate of Limited Partnership and all amendments thereto have been executed;

(v) to obtain true and full information regarding the amount of cash and a description and statement of the Net Agreed Value of any other Capital Contribution by each Partner and that each Partner has agreed to contribute in the future, and the date on which each became a Partner; and

(vi) to obtain such other information regarding the affairs of the Partnership as is just and reasonable.

(b) The General Partner may keep confidential from the Limited Partners, for such period of time as the General Partner deems reasonable, (i) any information that the General Partner reasonably believes to be in the nature of trade secrets or (ii) other information the disclosure of which the General Partner in good faith believes (A) is not in the best interests of the Partnership Group, (B) could damage the Partnership Group or its business or (C) that any Group Member is required by law or by agreement with any third party to keep confidential (other than agreements with Affiliates of the Partnership the primary purpose of which is to circumvent the obligations set forth in this Section 3.4).

Table of Contents

ARTICLE IV

CERTIFICATES; RECORD HOLDERS; TRANSFER OF PARTNERSHIP

INTERESTS; REDEMPTION OF PARTNERSHIP INTERESTS

Section 4.1 *Certificates.*

Upon the Partnership's issuance of Common Units, ~~Subordinated Units~~, Class B Units or Series A Preferred Units to any Person, the Partnership shall issue, upon the request of such Person, one or more Certificates in the name of such Person (or, if issued in global form, in the name of the Depositary or its nominee) evidencing the number of such Units being so issued. In addition, (a) upon the General Partner's request, the Partnership shall issue to it one or more Certificates in the name of the General Partner evidencing its General Partner Units and (b) upon the request of any Person owning Incentive Distribution Rights or any other Partnership Securities other than Common Units, ~~Subordinated Units~~, Class B Units or Series A Preferred Units, the Partnership shall issue to such Person one or more certificates evidencing such Incentive Distribution Rights or other Partnership Securities other than Common Units, ~~Subordinated Units~~, Class B Units or Series A Preferred Units. Certificates shall be executed on behalf of the Partnership by the Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, President or any Executive Vice President, Senior Vice President or Vice President and the Secretary or any Assistant Secretary of the General Partner. No Common Unit Certificate or Series A Preferred Unit Certificate shall be valid for any purpose until it has been countersigned by the Transfer Agent; *provided, however*, that the Units may be certificated or uncertificated as provided in the Delaware Act; *provided further* that if the General Partner elects to issue Common Units or Series A Preferred Units in global form, the Common Unit Certificates or Series A Preferred Unit Certificates shall be valid upon receipt of a certificate from the Transfer Agent certifying that the Common Units or Series A Preferred Units have been duly registered in accordance with the directions of the Partnership. Subject to the requirements of Section ~~6.7(b)~~ 6.7(e), the Partners holding Certificates evidencing ~~Subordinated Units~~ may exchange such Certificates for Certificates evidencing Common Units on or after the date on which such ~~Subordinated Units~~ are converted into Common Units pursuant to the terms of Section 5.7. Subject to the requirements of Section 6.7(e), the Partners holding Certificates evidencing Class B Units may exchange such Certificates for Certificates evidencing Common Units on or after the period set forth in Section 5.11(f) pursuant to the terms of Section 5.11. The Partners holding Certificates evidencing Series A Preferred Units may exchange such Certificates for Certificates evidencing Common Units on or after the period set forth in Section 5.12(c)(i) pursuant to the terms of Section 5.12(c)(iii). ~~The Partnership hereby irrevocably elects that all Subordinated Units shall be securities governed by Article 8 of the Uniform Commercial Code as in effect in the State of Delaware.~~

Section 4.2 *Mutilated, Destroyed, Lost or Stolen Certificates.*

(a) If any mutilated Certificate is surrendered to the Transfer Agent (for Common Units and Series A Preferred Units, if applicable) or the General Partner (for Partnership Securities other than Common Units and Series A Preferred Units), the appropriate officers of the General Partner on behalf of the Partnership shall execute, and the Transfer Agent (for Common Units and Series A Preferred Units, if applicable) or the General Partner (for Partnership Securities other than Common Units and Series A Preferred Units) shall countersign and deliver in exchange therefor, a new Certificate evidencing the same number and type of Partnership Securities as the Certificate so surrendered.

(b) The appropriate officers of the General Partner on behalf of the Partnership shall execute and deliver, and the Transfer Agent (for Common Units and Series A Preferred Units, if applicable) shall countersign, a new Certificate in place of any Certificate previously issued, or issue uncertificated Common Units and Series A Preferred Units, if applicable, if the Record Holder of the Certificate:

(i) makes proof by affidavit, in form and substance satisfactory to the General Partner, that a previously issued Certificate has been lost, destroyed or stolen;

(ii) requests the issuance of a new Certificate or the issuance of uncertificated Units before the General Partner has notice that the Certificate has been acquired by a purchaser for value in good faith and without notice of an adverse claim;

Table of Contents

(iii) if requested by the General Partner, delivers to the General Partner a bond, in form and substance satisfactory to the General Partner, with surety or sureties and with fixed or open penalty as the General Partner may direct to indemnify the Partnership, the Partners, the General Partner and the Transfer Agent against any claim that may be made on account of the alleged loss, destruction or theft of the Certificate; and

(iv) satisfies any other reasonable requirements imposed by the General Partner.

If a Limited Partner fails to notify the General Partner within a reasonable period of time after he has notice of the loss, destruction or theft of a Certificate, and a transfer of the Limited Partner Interests represented by the Certificate is registered before the Partnership, the General Partner or the Transfer Agent receives such notification, the Limited Partner shall be precluded from making any claim against the Partnership, the General Partner or the Transfer Agent for such transfer or for a new Certificate or uncertificated Units.

(c) As a condition to the issuance of any new Certificate or uncertificated Unit under this Section 4.2, the General Partner may require the payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in relation thereto and any other expenses (including the fees and expenses of the Transfer Agent) reasonably connected therewith.

Section 4.3 *Record Holders.*

The Partnership shall be entitled to recognize the Record Holder as the Partner with respect to any Partnership Interest and, accordingly, shall not be bound to recognize any equitable or other claim to, or interest in, such Partnership Interest on the part of any other Person, regardless of whether the Partnership shall have actual or other notice thereof, except as otherwise provided by law or any applicable rule, regulation, guideline or requirement of any National Securities Exchange on which such Partnership Interests are listed or admitted to trading. Without limiting the foregoing, when a Person (such as a broker, dealer, bank, trust company or clearing corporation or an agent of any of the foregoing) is acting as nominee, agent or in some other representative capacity for another Person in acquiring and/or holding Partnership Interests, as between the Partnership on the one hand, and such other Persons on the other, such representative Person shall be the Record Holder of such Partnership Interest.

Section 4.4 *Transfer Generally.*

(a) The term **transfer**, when used in this Agreement with respect to a Partnership Interest, shall be deemed to refer to a transaction (i) by which the General Partner assigns its General Partner Units to another Person or by which a holder of Incentive Distribution Rights assigns its Incentive Distribution Rights to another Person, and includes a sale, assignment, gift, pledge, encumbrance, hypothecation, mortgage, exchange or any other disposition by law or otherwise or (ii) by which the holder of a Limited Partner Interest (other than an Incentive Distribution Right) assigns such Limited Partner Interest to another Person who is or becomes a Limited Partner, and includes a sale, assignment, gift, exchange or any other disposition by law or otherwise, excluding a pledge, encumbrance, hypothecation or mortgage but including any transfer upon foreclosure of any pledge, encumbrance, hypothecation or mortgage.

(b) No Partnership Interest shall be transferred, in whole or in part, except in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Article IV. Any transfer or purported transfer of a Partnership Interest not made in accordance with this Article IV shall be null and void.

(c) Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent a disposition by any stockholder, member, partner or other owner of the General Partner of any or all of the shares of stock, membership interests, partnership interests or other ownership interests in the General Partner.

Annex A-28

Table of Contents

Section 4.5 Registration and Transfer of Limited Partner Interests.

(a) The General Partner shall keep or cause to be kept on behalf of the Partnership a register in which, subject to such reasonable regulations as it may prescribe and subject to the provisions of Section 4.5(b), the Partnership will provide for the registration and transfer of Limited Partner Interests. The Transfer Agent is hereby appointed registrar and transfer agent for the purpose of registering Common Units and Series A Preferred Units and transfers of such Common Units and Series A Preferred Units as herein provided. The Partnership shall not recognize transfers of Certificates evidencing Limited Partner Interests unless such transfers are effected in the manner described in this Section 4.5. Upon surrender of a Certificate for registration of transfer of any Limited Partner Interests evidenced by a Certificate, and subject to the provisions of Section 4.5(b), the appropriate officers of the General Partner on behalf of the Partnership shall execute and deliver, and in the case of Common Units, the Transfer Agent shall countersign and deliver, in the name of the holder or the designated transferee or transferees, as required pursuant to the holder's instructions, one or more new Certificates evidencing the same aggregate number and type of Limited Partner Interests as was evidenced by the Certificate so surrendered.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Section 4.9 and Section 4.11, the General Partner shall not recognize any transfer of Limited Partner Interests until (i) the Certificates evidencing such Limited Partner Interests are surrendered for registration of transfer and (ii) following a FERC Notice, such Certificates are accompanied by a Taxation Certification, properly completed and duly executed by the transferee (or the transferee's attorney-in-fact duly authorized in writing). No charge shall be imposed by the General Partner for such transfer; *provided*, that as a condition to the issuance of any new Certificate under this Section 4.5, the General Partner may require the payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed with respect thereto.

(c) Upon the receipt of proper transfer instructions from the registered owner of uncertificated Common Units, such uncertificated Common Units shall be cancelled, issuance of new equivalent uncertificated Common Units or Certificates shall be made to the holder of Common Units entitled thereto and the transaction shall be recorded upon the books of the Partnership.

(d) Subject to (i) the foregoing provisions of this Section 4.5, (ii) Section 4.3, (iii) Section 4.8, (iv) with respect to any class or series of Limited Partner Interests, the provisions of any statement of designations or an amendment to this Agreement establishing such class or series, (v) any contractual provisions binding on any Limited Partner and (vi) provisions of applicable law including the Securities Act, Limited Partner Interests (other than the Incentive Distribution Rights) shall be freely transferable.

(e) The General Partner and its Affiliates shall have the right at any time to transfer their ~~Subordinated Units~~, Series A Preferred Units, Class B Units and Common Units (whether issued upon conversion of ~~the Subordinated Units~~, the Series A Preferred Units, the Class B Units or otherwise) to one or more Persons.

Section 4.6 Transfer of the General Partner's General Partner Interest.

(a) Subject to Section 4.6(c) below, prior to June 30, 2017, the General Partner shall not transfer all or any part of its General Partner Interest (represented by General Partner Units) to a Person unless such transfer (i) has been approved by the prior written consent or vote of the holders of at least a majority of the Outstanding Common Units (excluding Common Units held by the General Partner and its Affiliates) or (ii) is of all, but not less than all, of its General Partner Interest to (A) an Affiliate of the General Partner (other than an individual) or (B) another Person (other than an individual) in connection with the merger or consolidation of the General Partner with or into such other Person or the transfer by the General Partner of all or substantially all of its assets to such other Person.

(b) Subject to Section 4.6(c) below, on or after June 30, 2017, the General Partner may transfer all or any of its General Partner Interest without Unitholder approval.

Table of Contents

(c) Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, no transfer by the General Partner of all or any part of its General Partner Interest to another Person shall be permitted unless (i) the transferee agrees to assume the rights and duties of the General Partner under this Agreement and to be bound by the provisions of this Agreement, (ii) the Partnership receives an Opinion of Counsel that such transfer would not result in the loss of limited liability of any Limited Partner under the Delaware Act or cause the Partnership to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise to be taxed as an entity for federal income tax purposes (to the extent not already so treated or taxed) and (iii) such transferee also agrees to purchase all (or the appropriate portion thereof, if applicable) of the partnership or membership interest of the General Partner as the general partner or managing member, if any, of each other Group Member. In the case of a transfer pursuant to and in compliance with this Section 4.6, the transferee or successor (as the case may be) shall, subject to compliance with the terms of Section 10.3, be admitted to the Partnership as the General Partner immediately prior to the transfer of the General Partner Interest, and the business of the Partnership shall continue without dissolution.

Section 4.7 Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights.

Prior to June 30, 2017, a holder of Incentive Distribution Rights may transfer any or all of the Incentive Distribution Rights held by such holder without any consent of the Unitholders to (a) an Affiliate of such holder (other than an individual) or (b) another Person (other than an individual) in connection with (i) the merger or consolidation of such holder of Incentive Distribution Rights with or into such other Person, (ii) the transfer by such holder of all or substantially all of its assets to such other Person or (iii) the sale of all the ownership interests in such holder. Any other transfer of the Incentive Distribution Rights prior to June 30, 2017 shall require the prior approval of holders of at least a majority of the Outstanding Common Units (excluding Common Units held by the General Partner and its Affiliates). On or after June 30, 2017, the General Partner or any other holder of Incentive Distribution Rights may transfer any or all of its Incentive Distribution Rights without Unitholder approval. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, (i) the transfer of Class B Units issued pursuant to Section 5.11, or the transfer of Common Units issued upon conversion of the Class B Units, shall not be treated as a transfer of all or any part of the Incentive Distribution Rights and (ii) no transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights to another Person shall be permitted unless the transferee agrees to be bound by the provisions of this Agreement.

Section 4.8 Restrictions on Transfers.

(a) Except as provided in Section 4.8(d) below, and notwithstanding the other provisions of this Article IV, no transfer of any Partnership Interests shall be made if such transfer would (i) violate the then applicable federal or state securities laws or rules and regulations of the Commission, any state securities commission or any other governmental authority with jurisdiction over such transfer, (ii) terminate the existence or qualification of the Partnership under the laws of the jurisdiction of its formation, or (iii) cause the Partnership to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise to be taxed as an entity for federal income tax purposes (to the extent not already so treated or taxed).

(b) The General Partner may impose restrictions on the transfer of Partnership Interests if it receives an Opinion of Counsel that such restrictions are necessary to avoid a significant risk of the Partnership becoming taxable as a corporation or otherwise becoming taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes. The General Partner may impose such restrictions by amending this Agreement; *provided, however*, that any amendment that would result in the delisting or suspension of trading of any class of Limited Partner Interests on the principal National Securities Exchange on which such class of Limited Partner Interests is then listed or admitted to trading must be approved, prior to such amendment being effected, by the holders of at least a majority of the Outstanding Limited Partner Interests of such class.

(c) ~~The transfer of a Subordinated Unit that has converted into a Common Unit shall be subject to the restrictions imposed by Section 6.7(e).~~ [Reserved]

Table of Contents

(d) The transfer of a Class B Unit that has converted into a Common Unit shall be subject to the restrictions imposed by Section 6.7(eb).

(e) Nothing contained in this Article IV, or elsewhere in this Agreement, shall preclude the settlement of any transactions involving Partnership Interests entered into through the facilities of any National Securities Exchange on which such Partnership Interests are listed or admitted to trading.

(f) Each certificate evidencing Partnership Interests shall bear a conspicuous legend in substantially the following form:

THE HOLDER OF THIS SECURITY ACKNOWLEDGES FOR THE BENEFIT OF BLUEKNIGHT ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P. THAT THIS SECURITY MAY NOT BE SOLD, OFFERED, RESOLD, PLEDGED OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED IF SUCH TRANSFER WOULD (A) VIOLATE THE THEN APPLICABLE FEDERAL OR STATE SECURITIES LAWS OR RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY WITH JURISDICTION OVER SUCH TRANSFER, (B) TERMINATE THE EXISTENCE OR QUALIFICATION OF BLUEKNIGHT ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P. UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, OR (C) CAUSE BLUEKNIGHT ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P. TO BE TREATED AS AN ASSOCIATION TAXABLE AS A CORPORATION OR OTHERWISE TO BE TAXED AS AN ENTITY FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES (TO THE EXTENT NOT ALREADY SO TREATED OR TAXED). BLUEKNIGHT ENERGY PARTNERS G.P., L.L.C., THE GENERAL PARTNER OF BLUEKNIGHT ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P., MAY IMPOSE ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRANSFER OF THIS SECURITY IF IT RECEIVES AN OPINION OF COUNSEL THAT SUCH RESTRICTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO AVOID A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF BLUEKNIGHT ENERGY PARTNERS, L.P. BECOMING TAXABLE AS A CORPORATION OR OTHERWISE BECOMING TAXABLE AS AN ENTITY FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. THE RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH ABOVE SHALL NOT PRECLUDE THE SETTLEMENT OF ANY TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THIS SECURITY ENTERED INTO THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY NATIONAL SECURITIES EXCHANGE ON WHICH THIS SECURITY IS LISTED OR ADMITTED TO TRADING.

Section 4.9 Citizenship Certificates; Non-citizen Assignees.

(a) If any Group Member is or becomes subject to any federal, state or local law or regulation that the General Partner determines would create a substantial risk of cancellation or forfeiture of any property in which the Group Member has an interest based on the nationality, citizenship or other related status of a Limited Partner, the General Partner may request any Limited Partner to furnish to the General Partner, within 30 days after receipt of such request, an executed Citizenship Certification or such other information concerning his nationality, citizenship or other related status (or, if the Limited Partner is a nominee holding for the account of another Person, the nationality, citizenship or other related status of such Person) as the General Partner may request. If a Limited Partner fails to furnish to the General Partner within the aforementioned 30-day period such Citizenship Certification or other requested information or if upon receipt of such Citizenship Certification or other requested information the General Partner determines that a Limited Partner is not an Eligible Citizen, the Limited Partner Interests owned by such Limited Partner shall be subject to redemption in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.10. In addition, the General Partner may require that the status of any such Limited Partner be changed to that of a Non-citizen Assignee and, thereupon, the General Partner shall be substituted for such Non-citizen Assignee as the Limited Partner in respect of the Non-citizen Assignee's Limited Partner Interests; *provided, however*, that such Non-citizen Assignee shall continue to receive allocations and distributions until the date fixed for redemption of such Limited Partner Interests (if applicable) pursuant to Section 4.10(a)(i).

Table of Contents

(b) The General Partner shall, in exercising voting rights in respect of Limited Partner Interests held by it on behalf of Non-citizen Assignees, distribute the votes in the same ratios as the votes of Partners (including the General Partner) in respect of Limited Partner Interests other than those of Non-citizen Assignees are cast, either for, against or abstaining as to the matter.

(c) Upon dissolution of the Partnership, a Non-citizen Assignee shall have no right to receive a distribution in kind pursuant to Section 12.4 but shall be entitled to the cash equivalent thereof, and the Partnership shall provide cash in exchange for an assignment of the Non-citizen Assignee's share of any distribution in kind. Such payment and assignment shall be treated for Partnership purposes as a purchase by the Partnership from the Non-citizen Assignee of his Limited Partner Interest (representing his right to receive his share of such distribution in kind).

(d) At any time after he can and does certify that he has become an Eligible Citizen, a Non-citizen Assignee may, upon application to the General Partner, request that with respect to any Limited Partner Interests of such Non-citizen Assignee not redeemed pursuant to Section 4.10, such Non-citizen Assignee be admitted as a Limited Partner, and upon approval of the General Partner, such Non-citizen Assignee shall be admitted as a Limited Partner and shall no longer constitute a Non-citizen Assignee and the General Partner shall cease to be deemed to be the Limited Partner in respect of the Non-citizen Assignee's Limited Partner Interests.

Section 4.10 Redemption of Partnership Interests of Non-citizen Assignees.

(a) If at any time a Limited Partner fails to furnish a Citizenship Certification or other information requested within the 30-day period specified in Section 4.9(a), or if upon receipt of such Citizenship Certification or other information the General Partner determines that a Limited Partner is not an Eligible Citizen, the Partnership may, unless the Limited Partner establishes to the satisfaction of the General Partner prior to the date fixed for redemption as provided below that such Limited Partner is an Eligible Citizen or has transferred his Partnership Interests to a Person who is an Eligible Citizen and who furnishes a Citizenship Certification to the General Partner prior to the date fixed for redemption as provided below, redeem the Limited Partner Interest of such Limited Partner as follows:

(i) The General Partner shall, not later than the 30th day before the date fixed for redemption, give notice of redemption to the Limited Partner, at his last address designated on the records of the Partnership or the Transfer Agent, by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid. The notice shall be deemed to have been given when so mailed. The notice shall specify the Redeemable Interests, the date fixed for redemption, the place of payment, that payment of the redemption price will be made upon surrender of the Certificate evidencing the Redeemable Interests or, if uncertificated, upon receipt of evidence satisfactory to the General Partner of the ownership of the Redeemable Interests, and that on and after the date fixed for redemption no further allocations or distributions to which the Limited Partner would otherwise be entitled in respect of the Redeemable Interests will accrue or be made.

(ii) The aggregate redemption price for Redeemable Interests shall be an amount equal to the Current Market Price (the date of determination of which shall be the date fixed for redemption) of Limited Partner Interests of the class to be so redeemed multiplied by the number of Limited Partner Interests of each such class included among the Redeemable Interests. The redemption price shall be paid, as determined by the General Partner, in cash or by delivery of a promissory note of the Partnership in the principal amount of the redemption price, bearing interest at the rate of 5% annually and payable in three equal annual installments of principal together with accrued interest, commencing one year after the redemption date.

(iii) Upon surrender by or on behalf of the Limited Partner, at the place specified in the notice of redemption, of (x) if certificated, the Certificate evidencing the Redeemable Interests, duly endorsed in blank or accompanied by an assignment duly executed in blank, or (y) if uncertificated, upon receipt of evidence satisfactory to the General Partner of the ownership of the Redeemable Interests, the Limited Partner or his duly authorized representative shall be entitled to receive the payment therefor.

Table of Contents

(iv) After the redemption date, Redeemable Interests shall no longer constitute issued and Outstanding Limited Partner Interests.

(b) The provisions of this Section 4.10 shall also be applicable to Limited Partner Interests held by a Limited Partner as nominee of a Person determined to be other than an Eligible Citizen.

(c) Nothing in this Section 4.10 shall prevent the recipient of a notice of redemption from transferring his Limited Partner Interest before the redemption date if such transfer is otherwise permitted under this Agreement. Upon receipt of notice of such a transfer, the General Partner shall withdraw the notice of redemption, *provided* the transferee of such Limited Partner Interest certifies to the satisfaction of the General Partner that he is an Eligible Citizen. If the transferee fails to make such certification, such redemption shall be effected from the transferee on the original redemption date.

Section 4.11 *Taxation Certifications; Ineligible Assignees.*

(a) Following a FERC Notice, if a transferee of a Limited Partner Interest fails to furnish a properly completed Taxation Certification in the manner specified in Section 4.5(b) or if, upon receipt of such Taxation Certification or otherwise, the General Partner determines that such transferee is not an Eligible Holder, the Limited Partner Interests owned by such transferee shall be subject to redemption in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.12.

(b) Following a FERC Notice, the General Partner may request any Limited Partner to furnish to the General Partner, within 30 days after receipt of such request, an executed Taxation Certification or such other information concerning his federal income tax status with respect to the income and loss generated by the Partnership (or, if the Limited Partner is a nominee holding for the account of another Person, the federal income tax status of such Person) as the General Partner may reasonably request. If a Limited Partner or Assignee fails to furnish to the General Partner within the aforementioned 30-day period such Taxation Certification or other requested information or if upon receipt of such Taxation Certification or other requested information the General Partner determines that a Limited Partner is an Ineligible Assignee, the Limited Partner Interests owned by such Limited Partner shall be subject to redemption in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.12. The General Partner shall be substituted for such Ineligible Assignee as the Limited Partner in respect of the Ineligible Assignee's Limited Partner Interests; *provided, however*, that such Ineligible Assignee shall continue to receive allocations and distributions until the date fixed for redemption of such Limited Partner Interests (if applicable) pursuant to Section 4.12(a)(i).

(c) Following a FERC Notice, the General Partner shall, in exercising voting rights in respect of Limited Partner Interests held by it on behalf of Ineligible Assignees, distribute the votes in the same ratios as the votes of Partners (including without limitation the General Partner) in respect of Limited Partner Interests other than those of Ineligible Assignees are cast, either for, against or abstaining as to the matter.

(d) Upon dissolution of the Partnership, an Ineligible Assignee shall have no right to receive a distribution in kind pursuant to Section 12.4 but shall be entitled to the cash equivalent thereof, and the Partnership shall provide cash in exchange for an assignment of the Ineligible Assignee's share of any distribution in kind. Such payment and assignment shall be treated for Partnership purposes as a purchase by the Partnership from the Ineligible Assignee of his Limited Partner Interest (representing his right to receive his share of such distribution in kind).

(e) At any time after an Ineligible Assignee can and does certify that it has become an Eligible Holder, such Ineligible Assignee may, upon application to the General Partner, request that with respect to any Limited Partner Interests of such Ineligible Assignee not redeemed pursuant to Section 4.12, such Ineligible Assignee be admitted as a Limited Partner, and upon approval of the General Partner, such Ineligible Assignee shall be admitted as a

Table of Contents

Limited Partner and shall no longer constitute a Ineligible Assignee and the General Partner shall cease to be deemed to be the Limited Partner in respect of such Ineligible Assignee s Limited Partner Interests.

Section 4.12 Redemption of Partnership Interests of Ineligible Assignees.

(a) If at any time following a FERC Notice, a transferee of a Limited Partner Interest fails to furnish the General Partner a Taxation Certification in the manner specified in Section 4.5(b) or any Limited Partner fails to furnish the General Partner a Taxation Certification or other information requested within the 30-day period specified in Section 4.11(b), or if upon receipt of such Taxation Certification or other information the General Partner determines that a Limited Partner or transferee is not an Eligible Holder, the Partnership may redeem the Limited Partner Interest of such Limited Partner or transferee as follows:

(i) The General Partner shall, not later than the 30th day before the date fixed for redemption, give notice of redemption to the Limited Partner or transferee, at his last address designated on the records of the Partnership or the Transfer Agent, by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid. The notice shall be deemed to have been given when so mailed. The notice shall specify the Redeemable Interests, the date fixed for redemption, the place of payment, that payment of the redemption price will be made upon surrender of the Certificate evidencing the Redeemable Interests or, if uncertificated, upon receipt of evidence satisfactory to the General Partner of the ownership of the Redeemable Interests, and that on and after the date fixed for redemption no further allocations or distributions to which the Limited Partner would otherwise be entitled in respect of the Redeemable Interests will accrue or be made.

(ii) The aggregate redemption price for Redeemable Interests shall be an amount equal to the lesser of (A) the Current Market Price (the date of determination of which shall be the date fixed for redemption) of Limited Partner Interests of the class to be so redeemed multiplied by the number of Limited Partner Interests of each such class included among the Redeemable Interests and (B) the price paid for such Limited Partner Interests by the Limited Partner or transferee. The redemption price shall be paid as determined by the General Partner, in cash or by delivery of a promissory note of the Partnership in the principal amount of the redemption price, bearing interest at the rate of 5% annually and payable in three equal annual installments of principal together with accrued interest, commencing one year after the redemption date.

(iii) Upon surrender by or on behalf of the Limited Partner, at the place specified in the notice of redemption, of (x) if certificated, the Certificate evidencing th