

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD

Form 10-Q

November 10, 2008

[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

x **QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 OR**

.. **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM _____ TO _____.**

Commission File Number: 001-32714

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

Alberta, Canada
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

98-0570897
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

1331 Lamar Street, Suite 1080

Houston, Texas 77010
(Address of principal executive offices)

77010
(ZIP Code)

(713) 739-1800

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company.) Smaller reporting company

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

Total number of common shares, no par value per share, as of November 7, 2008 was 209,939,913.

Table of Contents

**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD.
 QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q
 FOR THE THREE AND NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION		Page
Item 1.	Financial Statements	
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007</u>	1
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007</u>	2
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007</u>	3
	<u>Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	4
	<u>Cautionary Notes Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	27
Item 2.	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	28
Item 3.	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk</u>	36
Item 4.	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	36

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	37
Item 1A.	<u>Risk Factors</u>	37
Item 2.	<u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	38
Item 3.	<u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u>	38
Item 4.	<u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u>	38
Item 5.	<u>Other Information</u>	38
Item 6.	<u>Exhibits</u>	39
	<u>SIGNATURES</u>	40

Unless otherwise indicated or required by the context, (i) we, us, and our refer to Gastar Exploration Ltd. and its subsidiaries and predecessors, (ii) all dollar amounts appearing in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (Form 10-Q) are stated in United States dollars and (iii) all financial data included in this Form 10-Q have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (US GAAP).

General information about us can be found on our website at www.gastar.com. The information on our website is neither incorporated into, nor part of, this Form 10-Q. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as well as any amendments and exhibits to those reports, will be available free of charge through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we file or furnish them to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Information is also available at www.sec.gov for our United States filings and on SEDAR at www.sedar.com for our Canadian filings.

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****ASSETS**

	September 30, 2008 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2007
	(in thousands)	
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 14,074	\$ 85,854
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$564 and \$4,315, respectively	4,478	4,828
Commodity derivative contracts	3,725	
Due from related parties	2,706	904
Prepaid expenses	213	1,235
Total current assets	25,196	92,821
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:		
Natural gas and oil properties, full cost method of accounting:		
Unproved properties, not being amortized	138,990	69,844
Proved properties	286,839	247,372
Total natural gas and oil properties	425,829	317,216
Furniture and equipment	886	669
Total property, plant and equipment	426,715	317,885
Accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(179,131)	(160,765)
Total property, plant and equipment, net	247,584	157,120
OTHER ASSETS:		
Restricted cash	71	1,074
Commodity derivative contracts	767	
Deferred charges, net	7,302	8,334
Drilling advances	2,705	2,251
Other assets	150	150
Total other assets	10,995	11,809
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 283,775	\$ 261,750

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 9,837	\$ 12,001
Revenue payable	8,679	6,770
Accrued interest	4,732	1,534
Accrued drilling and operating costs	4,595	2,810
Commodity derivative contracts		480
Other accrued liabilities	2,727	4,831
Due to related parties	4,344	979

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

Current portion of long-term debt	3,215	
Total current liabilities	38,129	29,405
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:		
Long-term debt, less current maturities	129,563	132,685
Asset retirement obligation	4,887	4,391
Total long-term liabilities	134,450	137,076
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Note 13)		
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Common stock, no par value, unlimited shares authorized, 209,939,913 and 208,194,570 common shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively	249,980	249,980
Additional paid-in capital	22,197	14,366
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) fair value of commodity hedging	2,986	(480)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss foreign exchange	(38)	(29)
Accumulated deficit	(163,929)	(168,568)
Total shareholders equity	111,196	95,269
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	\$ 283,775	\$ 261,750

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

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****(Unaudited)**

	For the Three Months Ended September 30,		For the Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	(in thousands, except shares and per share data)			
REVENUES:				
Natural gas and oil revenues	\$ 12,465	\$ 9,775	\$ 45,195	\$ 25,246
Unrealized natural gas hedge income	3,432		1,506	
Total revenues	15,897	9,775	46,701	25,246
EXPENSES:				
Production taxes	340	256	1,083	770
Lease operating expenses	1,919	1,700	5,869	4,909
Transportation and treating	518	426	1,475	1,088
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	6,067	6,625	18,366	16,409
Impairment of natural gas and oil properties				28,514
Accretion of asset retirement obligation	86	77	250	215
Mineral resource properties		15		(108)
General and administrative expenses	3,190	3,193	11,529	13,504
Litigation settlement expense				1,365
Total expenses	12,120	12,292	38,572	66,666
INCOME (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	3,777	(2,517)	8,129	(41,420)
OTHER (EXPENSES) INCOME:				
Interest expense	(913)	(4,100)	(4,898)	(11,781)
Investment income and other	163	1,084	1,467	2,219
Gain on sale of unproved natural gas and oil properties				38,872
Foreign transaction gain (loss)	(21)	7	(59)	9
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES	3,006	(5,526)	4,639	(12,101)
Provision for income taxes				
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 3,006	\$ (5,526)	\$ 4,639	\$ (12,101)
NET INCOME (LOSS) PER SHARE:				
Basic	\$ 0.01	\$ (0.03)	\$ 0.02	\$ (0.06)
Diluted	\$ 0.01	\$ (0.03)	\$ 0.02	\$ (0.06)
WEIGHTED AVERAGE COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING:				
Basic	207,098,570	207,098,570	207,098,570	201,389,892
Diluted	207,098,570	207,098,570	207,098,570	201,389,892

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

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(Unaudited)**

	For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008 2007 (in thousands)	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income (loss)	\$ 4,639	\$ (12,101)
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	18,366	16,409
Impairment of natural gas and oil properties		28,514
Stock based compensation	2,442	3,065
Unrealized natural gas hedge income	(1,506)	(65)
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt discount	1,461	3,300
Accretion of asset retirement obligation	250	215
Gain on sale of unproved natural gas and oil properties		(38,872)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Restricted cash for hedging program	1,000	(1,000)
Accounts receivable	(1,452)	7,654
Prepaid expenses	444	675
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	15,438	2,394
 Net cash provided by operating activities	 41,082	 10,188
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Development and purchases of natural gas and oil properties	(109,102)	(55,267)
Drilling advances	(3,203)	(3,786)
Proceeds from sale of unproved natural gas and oil properties, net of transaction costs		66,849
Purchase of furniture and equipment	(217)	(62)
 Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	 (112,522)	 7,734
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from issuance of common shares, net of share issue costs		23,381
Decrease (increase) in restricted cash	3	(26)
Deferred financing charges and other	(343)	11
 Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	 (340)	 23,366
 NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	 (71,780)	 41,288
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	85,854	40,733
 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD	 \$ 14,074	 \$ 82,021

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

Table of Contents

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies followed by Gastar Exploration Ltd. and its subsidiaries (the Company) are set forth in the notes to the Company's audited condensed consolidated financial statements in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007. Additionally, refer to the notes to those financial statements for additional details of the Company's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. All material items included in those notes have not changed except as a result of normal transactions in the interim or as disclosed within this report. The accompanying interim condensed consolidated financial statements have not been audited by independent registered public accountants but, in the opinion of management, reflect all normal and recurring adjustments considered necessary for a fair presentation of the financial position and results of operations. The results of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the full year.

The condensed consolidated financial statements of the Company are presented in United States dollars unless otherwise noted and have been prepared by management in accordance with US GAAP. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with US GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates with regard to these financial statements include the estimate of proved natural gas and oil reserve quantities and the related present value of estimated future net cash flows.

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and the consolidated accounts of all its subsidiaries. The entities included in these consolidated accounts are all wholly owned. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Certain information provided for the prior period has been reclassified to conform to the presentation adopted in 2008.

New Accounting Pronouncements

Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities. In March 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statements of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) SFAS No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities* (SFAS No. 161). SFAS No. 161 does not change accounting policy for derivatives but requires enhanced disclosures about how and why an entity uses derivative instruments, how derivative instruments and related hedged items (if any) are accounted for, and how they affect the Company's financial position, financial performance and cash flows. SFAS No. 161 is effective for annual and interim periods beginning with the first quarter of 2009. The Company is evaluating the provisions of SFAS No. 161.

Non-controlling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements. In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements*, an amendment of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51 (SFAS No. 160), which improves the relevance, comparability and transparency of the financial information that a reporting entity provides in its consolidated financial statements by establishing accounting and reporting standards for the noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary and for the deconsolidation of a subsidiary. This statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008. The Company does not expect the adoption of SFAS No. 160 to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Business Combinations. In December 2007, FASB issued SFAS No. 141 (revised 2007), *Business Combinations* (SFAS No. 141R), which replaces SFAS No. 141, *Business Combinations* (SFAS No. 141). SFAS 141R retains the fundamental requirements in SFAS No. 141 that the acquisition method of accounting (which SFAS No. 141 called the purchase method) be used for all business combinations.

Table of Contents

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

SFAS No. 141R also establishes principles and requirements for how the acquirer: (a) recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree; (b) recognizes and measures the goodwill acquired in the business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase; and (c) determines what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. SFAS No. 141R is effective as of the beginning of an entity's fiscal year that begins after December 15, 2008. Early adoption is prohibited. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of adopting SFAS No. 141R, which also requires acquisition transaction costs to be expensed as incurred rather than capitalized as a direct cost of the acquisition, as transaction costs are not considered an element of the fair value of the company acquired. Depending upon the size, nature and complexity of a future acquisition transaction, such transaction costs could be material to the Company's results of operations.

Accounting Standard Fair Value for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities. In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* (SFAS No. 159). SFAS No. 159 allows entities the option to measure eligible financial instruments at fair value as of specified dates. Such election, which may be applied on an instrument-by-instrument basis, is typically irrevocable once elected. SFAS No. 159 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and early application is allowed under certain circumstances. The Company adopted SFAS No. 159 on January 1, 2008, which allows an entity the irrevocable option to elect fair value for the initial and subsequent measurement for certain financial assets and liabilities on a contract-by-contract basis. The Company did not elect fair value as an alternative, as provided under SFAS No. 159 for any of its financial assets and liabilities that are not currently measured at fair value.

Fair Value Measurements. In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (SFAS No. 157), which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. SFAS No. 157 applies to other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements; however, it does not require any new fair value measurements. The provisions of SFAS No. 157 are effective for the years beginning after November 15, 2007 and interim periods within those years. The FASB has also issued Staff Position FSP FAS No. 157-2 (FSP FAS No. 157-2), which delays the effective date of SFAS No. 157 for nonfinancial assets and liabilities, except for items that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis (at least annually), until fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008. In October 2008, the FASB also issued FSP SFAS 157-3, *Determining the Fair Value of a Financial Asset When the Market for That Asset Is Not Active*, which clarifies the application of SFAS No. 157 in an inactive market and illustrates how an entity would determine fair value when the market for a financial asset is not active. Effective January 1, 2008, the Company adopted SFAS No. 157 and has chosen to defer the implementation of nonfinancial assets and liabilities in accordance with FSP FAS No. 157-2. The effect of adoption in January 1, 2008 was immaterial to the Company's financial position. The adoption of FSP FAS No. 157-2 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's results of operations, cash flows or financial positions. See Note 10 for additional information regarding the adoption of SFAS No. 157.

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(Unaudited)****2. Property, Plant and Equipment**

The amount capitalized as natural gas and oil properties was incurred for the purchase and development of various properties in the states of California, Montana, Texas, West Virginia, southwestern Pennsylvania and Wyoming in the United States and in New South Wales in Australia. The following schedule represents natural gas and oil property costs by country:

	United States	Australia (in thousands)	Total
From inception to September 30, 2008:			
Natural gas and oil properties, full cost method of accounting:			
Unproved properties	\$ 119,127	\$ 19,863	\$ 138,990
Proved properties	286,235	604	286,839
Total natural gas and oil properties	405,362	20,467	425,829
Furniture and equipment	759	127	886
Total property and equipment	406,121	20,594	426,715
Impairment of proved natural gas and oil properties	(104,205)	(604)	(104,809)
Accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(74,307)	(15)	(74,322)
Total accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(178,512)	(619)	(179,131)
Total property and equipment, net	\$ 227,609	\$ 19,975	\$ 247,584

At September 30, 2008, unproved properties not being amortized consisted of United States drilling in progress costs of \$6.7 million, United States acreage acquisition costs of \$112.4 million and Australian unevaluated property costs of \$19.9 million.

There was no impairment of United States or Australian properties during the nine months ended September 30, 2008. For the nine months ended September 30, 2007, the results of management's ceiling test evaluation resulted in an impairment of United States proved properties of \$28.5 million. Management determined that no impairment was required on Australian properties during the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

3. Long-Term-Debt

The following shows the Company's long-term debt as of the dates indicated:

	September 30, 2008	December 31, 2007
	(in thousands)	
Revolving credit facility	\$	\$
12 ³ / ₄ % senior secured notes	99,563	99,506

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

9.75% Convertible senior debentures	30,000	30,000
10% Subordinated unsecured notes payable		3,179
Long-term portion of long-term debt	129,563	132,685
Current portion of long-term debt	3,215	
Total long-term debt	132,778	132,685
Debt discount costs to be accreted	472	565
Total long-term debt at maturity	\$ 133,250	\$ 133,250

12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes due 2012

On November 29, 2007, Gastar Exploration USA, Inc. (Gastar USA), a wholly owned subsidiary of Gastar Exploration Ltd. (Parent), sold \$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of 12³/₄% senior secured notes due December 1, 2012 (12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes) at an issue price of 99.50%. Approximately \$76.7 million of the \$92.5 million net proceeds from the offering were used to repay the

Table of Contents

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

then outstanding senior secured notes, with the remaining net proceeds to be used for general corporate purposes. Interest is payable semi-annually in arrears on June 1 and December 1, in cash on the principal amount at an annual rate of 12³/₄%. The annual effective interest rate, after amortization of the debt discount and fees paid to establish the 12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes, is 14.98%. The 12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed jointly and severally by Gastar USA, the Parent and all of the Parent's existing and future material domestic subsidiaries. The 12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes and the guarantees are secured by a lien on Gastar USA's principal domestic natural gas and oil properties and other assets that secure Gastar USA's revolving credit facility (Revolving Credit Facility), subject to certain exceptions. The 12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes mature on December 1, 2012.

As of September 30, 2008, the Company was in compliance with all debt covenants under the 12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes.

Revolving Credit Facility

On November 29, 2007, concurrent with the closing of the 12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes, Gastar USA entered into a Revolving Credit Facility providing for a first priority lien borrowing base. The borrowing base is to be re-determined at least semi-annually, using the lender's usual and customary criteria for natural gas and oil reserve valuation. As a result of the recent turmoil in the credit markets, the administrative agent to the Company's Revolving Credit Facility was unable to syndicate a proposed increase in the borrowing base to \$45.0 million. The borrowing base remains at \$19.4 million without syndication, of which \$500,000 is being utilized as collateral for a letter of credit to support the Company's hedging activities. The applicable interest rate margin varies from -0.75% to 0.0% in the case of borrowings based on the prime rate and from 1.5% to 2.25% in the case of borrowings based on the Eurodollar rate applicable to the interest period, depending on the utilization level in relation to the borrowing base. At September 30, 2008, the prime rate was 5.0%, and the Eurodollar rates for one and three months were 3.9% and 4.1%, respectively. The Revolving Credit Facility and related guarantees under the Revolving Credit Facility are guaranteed by the Parent and all its current domestic subsidiaries and all future domestic subsidiaries formed during the term of the Revolving Credit Facility and secured by a first priority lien on all domestic natural gas and oil properties currently owned by or later acquired by Gastar USA, excluding de minimus value properties as determined by the lender. The Revolving Credit Facility matures on October 15, 2009.

As of September 30, 2008, the Company was in compliance with all debt covenants under the Revolving Credit Facility.

Convertible Senior Unsecured Debentures

In November 2004, the Company issued \$30.0 million aggregate principal amount of convertible senior unsecured debentures. The convertible senior unsecured debentures have a term of five years and are due November 20, 2009 and bear interest at 9.75% per annum, payable quarterly. The convertible senior unsecured debentures are convertible by the holders into 6,849,315 common shares at a conversion price of \$4.38 per share and are redeemable, at the option of the Company, upon notice that the average price of the Company's common shares for 20 consecutive trading days is at least 130% of the conversion price.

Subordinated Unsecured Notes Payable

The Company's \$3.25 million subordinated unsecured notes mature between April 2009 and September 2009, bear interest at 10% per annum and are callable by the Company at 101%. As of September 30, 2008, \$3.25 million of the subordinated unsecured notes was reflected as current portion of long-term debt.

Table of Contents

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

4. Equity Compensation Plans

Share-Based Compensation Plans

2002 Stock Option Plan. The Company's 2002 Stock Option Plan was approved and ratified by the Company's shareholders in July 2002. It authorizes the Company's Board of Directors to issue stock options to directors, officers, employees and consultants of the Company and its subsidiaries to purchase a maximum of 25.0 million common shares. Stock option grant expirations vary between five and 10 years. The vesting schedule for stock option grants has varied from two years to four years but generally has occurred over a four-year period at 25% per year beginning on the first anniversary date of the grant. Stock options issued pursuant to the Company's 2002 Stock Option Plan have an exercise price determined by the Board of Directors, but the exercise price cannot be less than the market price on the date immediately prior to the date of grant, as reported by any stock exchange on which the Company's common shares are listed. If a stock option granted under the Company's 2002 Stock Option Plan expires or terminates for any reason in accordance with the terms of the 2002 Stock Option Plan, the unpurchased common shares subject to that stock option become available for other stock option grants.

In April 2004, the Board of Directors amended the provisions of the 2002 Stock Option Plan to specifically incorporate a provision to provide for stock options to be exercised on a cashless basis, whereby the Company issues to the optionee the number of common shares equal to the stock option exercised, less the number of common shares which when multiplied by the market price at the date of exercise equals the aggregate exercise price for all of the common shares exercised.

As of September 30, 2008, stock option grants covering the issuance of 9,648,750 common shares were outstanding under the 2002 Stock Option Plan.

2006 Gastar Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan. On June 1, 2006, the Company's shareholders approved the 2006 Gastar Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan. The 2006 Gastar Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan authorizes the Company's Board of Directors to issue stock options, stock appreciation rights, bonus stock awards and any other type of award established by the Remuneration Committee, which is consistent with the Plan's purposes, to directors, officers and employees of the Company and its subsidiaries covering a maximum of 5.0 million common shares. The contractual life and vesting period for a grant is determined by the Board of Directors at the time the grant is awarded. The vesting period for restricted common stock grants during 2007 and 2008 was over four years, with one-third vesting on the second, third and fourth anniversaries of the date of grant. As of September 30, 2008, grants covering the issuance of 2,841,343 restricted common shares were outstanding under the 2006 Gastar Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan.

Determining Fair Value under SFAS No. 123R

In determining fair value for stock option grants pursuant to SFAS 123R, *Share-Based Payments* (SFAS No. 123R), the Company utilized the following assumptions:

Valuation and Amortization Method. The Company estimates the fair value of share-based awards granted using the Black-Scholes-Merton valuation model. The fair value of all awards is expensed using the graded-vesting method.

Expected Life. The expected life of awards granted represents the period of time that stock options are expected to be outstanding. Prior to 2008, the Company determined the expected life using the simplified method resulting in a 6.25-year expected life in accordance with Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 107 for all stock options issued with a four-year vesting period and a ten-year grant expiration. Using the simplified method, stock options that have been issued with two and three-year vesting periods and having a ten-year expiration have an expected life of 5.75 and 6.0 years, respectively. Beginning in 2008, management determined the expected life of stock option grants to be 6.25 years, based on historical records.

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(Unaudited)**

Expected Volatility. Using the Black-Scholes-Merton valuation model, the Company estimates the volatility of its common shares at the beginning of the quarter in which the stock option is granted. The volatility is based on historical movements of the Company's common share price on the American Stock Exchange and the Toronto Stock Exchange over a period that approximates the expected life.

Risk-Free Interest Rate. The Company utilizes a risk-free interest rate equal to the rate of United States Treasury zero-coupon issues as of the date of grant with a term equivalent to the stock option's expected life.

Expected Dividend Yield. The Company has not paid any cash dividends on its common shares and does not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Consequently, a dividend yield of zero is utilized in the Black-Scholes-Merton valuation model.

Expected Forfeitures. Beginning March 1, 2008, the Company increased the forfeiture rate to 6% from 5%. The forfeiture rate is used in calculating compensation expense and is based on the number of forfeitures of all unvested stock option since January 1, 2004 as a percentage of all stock option grants since January 1, 2004 calculated at the beginning of the year. The forfeiture rate is evaluated annually at the beginning of the year.

The fair value of each stock option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes-Merton valuation pricing model. There were no stock options granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2008. The table below summarizes the number of stock options granted and the assumptions for the stock options granted for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

	For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007
Stock options granted	828,000
Expected life (years)	6.25
Expected volatility	44.4%-44.7%
Risk-free interest rate	4.3%-5.1%

The weighted average grant date fair value of stock options granted and the intrinsic value of stock options exercised are shown below for the periods indicated. Intrinsic value of stock options is calculated using the difference between the common share price on the date of exercise and the exercise price times the number of stock options exercised. There were no stock options granted or exercised during the nine months ended September 30, 2008. The table below sets forth the weighted average fair value per share of stock options granted and the intrinsic value of stock options exercised during the nine months ended September 30, 2007. There were no stock options exercised during the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

	For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007
Weighted average fair value per share of stock options granted	\$ 1.11
Intrinsic value of stock options exercised	\$

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(Unaudited)*****Stock Option Activity***

The following table summarizes the annual changes and option exercise prices for stock options under the Company's 2002 Stock Option Plan for the nine months ended September 30, 2008:

	Number of Shares Under Stock Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2007	10,173,750	\$ 3.19
Stock options granted		\$
Stock options exercised		\$
Stock options cancelled/expired	525,000	\$ 2.46
Stock options outstanding as of September 30, 2008	9,648,750	\$ 3.10
Stock options exercisable as of September 30, 2008	7,774,583	\$ 3.09

The table below summarizes certain information about the stock options for the nine months ended September 30, 2008. Fair value calculations are as of the date of grant.

	Number of Shares Under Stock Options	Weighted Average Fair Value
Unvested stock options at December 31, 2007	5,045,834	\$ 1.22
Unvested stock options at September 30, 2008	1,874,167	\$ 1.34
Stock options granted during the nine-month period		\$
Stock options that vested during the nine-month period (1)	2,821,667	\$ 1.15
Stock options forfeited/canceled during the nine-month period	525,000	\$ 1.09

(1) The number of common shares vested during the period excludes any common shares that vested during the reporting period but which were canceled prior to the end of the reporting period.

As of September 30, 2008, there was no aggregate intrinsic value for outstanding stock options, and the remaining weighted average contractual life of outstanding stock options was 4.4 years. As of September 30, 2008, there was no aggregate intrinsic value for exercisable stock options, and the remaining weighted average contractual life of exercisable stock options was 3.7 years. As of September 30, 2008, the total fair value of exercisable stock options was \$8.7 million.

Restricted Share Activities

The following table summarizes the changes and grant date prices for restricted common share grants for the nine months ended September 30, 2008:

	Number of Shares Under Stock Options	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Restricted common shares outstanding as of December 31, 2007	1,096,000	\$ 2.15
Restricted common shares granted	1,745,343	\$ 1.90
Restricted common shares vested		\$
Restricted common shares cancelled/expired		\$
Restricted common shares outstanding as of September 30, 2008	2,841,343	\$ 2.00

For the nine months ended September 30, 2008, the Company used a 6% forfeiture rate for restricted common share grants, the same percentage used for stock option grants.

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(Unaudited)**

The following table summarizes the range of grant dates (final vesting dates) and grant date prices for restricted common shares outstanding and unvested as of September 30, 2008:

	Restricted Common Shares Outstanding	Grant Date Fair Value
July 3, 2007 (July 3, 2011)	983,500	\$ 2.20
August 27, 2007 (August 27, 2011)	112,500	\$ 1.67
January 16, 2008 (January 16, 2012)	10,000	\$ 1.09
May 16, 2008 (May 16, 2012)	1,690,343	\$ 1.91
August 18, 2008 (August 18, 2012)	45,000	\$ 1.75
Total	2,841,343	\$ 2.00

Stock-Based Compensation Expense

For the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, the Company recorded stock-based compensation expense for stock options and restricted common shares granted using the fair-value method of \$731,000 and \$899,000, respectively. For the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, the Company recorded stock-based compensation expense for stock options and restricted common shares granted using the fair-value method of \$2.4 million and \$3.1 million, respectively. All stock-based compensation costs were expensed and not tax effected, as the Company currently records no income tax expense. All common shares issued upon exercise or vesting are reserved and non-assessable.

5. Commodity Hedging Contracts

The following costless collar transactions were outstanding with associated notional volumes and contracted floor and ceiling prices that represent hedge prices for the index specified as of September 30, 2008:

Date	Period	Derivative Instrument (1)	Hedge Strategy	Notional Daily Volume (MMBtu)	Total of Notional Volume Remaining (MMBtu)	Floor Price (MMBtu)	Ceiling Price (MMBtu)	Index	Production
									Area Hedged
09/21/07	Cal 08	CC	Cash flow	2,000	184,000	\$ 5.50	\$ 7.50	CIG (3)	WY
12/12/07	Cal 08	CC	Cash flow	5,000	460,000	\$ 6.75	\$ 8.00	HSC (2)	TX
01/03/08	Cal 08	CC	Cash flow	5,000	460,000	\$ 7.00	\$ 8.88	HSC (2)	TX
01/18/08	Cal 08	CC	Cash flow	800	73,600	\$ 6.00	\$ 7.90	CIG (3)	WY
02/19/08	Cal 09	CC	Cash flow	5,000	1,825,000	\$ 8.00	\$ 9.30	HSC (2)	TX
04/24/08	Cal 09	CC	Cash flow	5,000	1,825,000	\$ 9.00	\$ 11.85	HSC (2)	TX

(1) CC = Costless collars.

(2) East-Houston-Katy - Houston Ship Channel.

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

(3) Inside FERC Colorado Interstate Gas, Rocky Mountains.

As of September 30, 2008, the Company's current cash flow hedge positions were with counterparties that are major United States financial institutions, none of which are known to the Company to be in default on their hedge positions. The credit support for certain of the Company's hedges is a \$500,000 letter of credit, with the remaining credit support under the Revolving Credit Facility through intercreditor agreements. We currently utilize only costless collars which are placed with major financial institutions of high credit quality that we believe are a minimal credit risk. As such, the Company is exposed to credit risk to the extent of nonperformance by the counterparties in the derivative contracts discussed above; however, the Company does not anticipate such nonperformance. Based on the Company's projections, approximately 55% of its remaining 2008 and 41% of its 2009 estimated natural gas production was hedged as of September 30, 2008.

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(Unaudited)**

The Company recorded a short-term and a long-term derivative asset of \$3.7 million and \$767,000, respectively, related to the difference between hedged commodity prices and market prices on hedged volumes as of September 30, 2008, after application of SFAS No. 157. All of the Company's derivative instruments have been designated as cash flow hedging instruments and are deemed to be highly effective. For the nine months ended September 30, 2008, the Company recognized unrealized gains in the statement of operations of \$1.5 million related to the change in time value of the costless collars and did not recognize any ineffectiveness on the cash flow hedges. The Company records time value on the costless collars designated as cash flow hedges currently in earnings, as it has elected to exclude time value from its assessment of hedge effectiveness.

6. Common Shares*Authorized*

The Company's articles of incorporation allow the Company to issue an unlimited number of common shares without par value.

Other Share Issuances

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, the Company issued 1,745,343 restricted common shares to employees, subject to vesting, pursuant to the Company's 2006 Gastar Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan.

Shares Reserved

At September 30, 2008, the Company has reserved 26,730,586 common shares to be issued pursuant to the conversion of convertible debt (6,849,315 common shares), exercise of options (9,648,750 common shares) and the exercise of warrants (10,232,521 common shares).

7. Warrants

The following table summarizes warrant information to purchase common shares as of September 30, 2008:

	Number of Warrants	Fair Value of Warrants (in thousands)	Weighted Average Warrant Price	Weighted Average Remaining Life in Years	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Warrants issued in connection with \$3.25 million subordinated unsecured notes payable	232,521	\$ 235	\$ 2.80	0.6	\$ 2.80
Warrant issued in connection with the GeoStar litigation settlement	10,000,000	\$ 5,388	(1)	3.2	(1)

- (1) The warrant is exercisable for \$2.75 per share in the event that, on or before June 11, 2011, the Company sells all or substantially all of its present oil and gas interests located in Leon and Robertson Counties in East Texas for net proceeds exceeding \$500 million. A sale, or a series of sales, of all or substantially all of the Company's present East Texas properties prior to June 11, 2011 for \$500 million or less will terminate the warrant. If the Company does not sell all or substantially all of these properties by June 11, 2011, the warrant will be exercisable for a six-month period commencing on that date at \$3.00 per share. The Company is not obligated to sell any of its East Texas properties.

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(Unaudited)****8. Interest Expense**

The following tables summarize the components of interest expense:

	For the Three Months Ended September 30,		For the Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	(in thousands)			
Interest expense:				
Cash and accrued	\$ 3,967	\$ 2,968	\$ 11,965	\$ 8,481
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt discount	513	1,132	1,461	3,300
Capitalized interest	(3,567)		(8,528)	
Total interest expense	\$ 913	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,898	\$ 11,781

9. Income Taxes

Due to the Company's significant net operating loss carryforwards, the Company did not record any income tax expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007. The Company fully reserves its deferred tax asset through a valuation allowance.

10. Fair Value Measurements

Fair Value Measurements. In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. SFAS No. 157 applies to other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements; however, it does not require any new fair value measurements.

SFAS No. 157 establishes a valuation hierarchy for disclosure of the inputs to valuation used to measure fair value. This hierarchy prioritizes the inputs into three broad levels as follows:

Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 inputs are quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets or inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly through market corroboration, for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.

Level 3 inputs are measured based on prices or valuation models that require inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and less observable from objective sources. The Company's valuation models consider various inputs including (a) quoted forward prices for commodities, (b) time value, (c) volatility factors and (d) current market and contractual prices for the underlying instruments. Level 3 instruments are natural gas zero cost collars. Although the Company utilizes third party broker quotes to assess the reasonableness of prices and valuation techniques, the Company does not have sufficient corroborating market evidence to support classifying these instruments as Level 2.

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

A financial asset's or liability's classification within the hierarchy is determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The determination of the fair values below incorporates various factors required under SFAS No. 157, including the impact of the Company's counterparty's non-performance risk with respect to the Company's financial assets and the Company's non-performance risk with respect to the Company's financial liabilities. The following table provides the assets and liabilities carried at fair value measured on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2008:

	As of September 30, 2008			Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
	(in thousands)			
Asset:				
Derivative asset	\$	\$	\$ 4,492	\$ 4,492
Liabilities:				
Derivative liability	\$	\$	\$	\$

Table of Contents

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

The following table sets forth a reconciliation of changes in the fair value of financial assets and liabilities classified as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008:

	Derivatives Three Months Ended September 30, 2008	Derivatives Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008
	(in thousands)	
Balance as of June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively	\$ (14,503)	\$ (391)
Total gains or losses (realized or unrealized):		
Included in earnings (1)	3,254	(1,550)
Included in other comprehensive loss	15,173	2,986
Purchases, issuances and settlements	568	3,447
Transfers in and out of Level 3		
Balance as of September 30, 2008	\$ 4,492	\$ 4,492
Changes in unrealized losses relating to derivatives still held as of September 30, 2008	\$ 3,432	\$ 1,506

(1) This amount is included in total revenues on the statement of operations.

11. Earnings or Loss per Share

In accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Standards No. 128 Earnings per Share, basic earnings or loss per share is computed on the basis of the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the periods. Diluted earnings or loss per share is computed based upon the weighted average number of common shares plus the assumed issuance of common shares for all potentially dilutive securities. Diluted amounts are not included in the computation of diluted loss per share, as such would be anti-dilutive.

	For the Three Months Ended September 30,		For the Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	(in thousands, except share and per share data)			
Basic and diluted income (loss) and shares outstanding:				
Net income (loss)	\$ 3,006	\$ (5,526)	\$ 4,639	\$ (12,101)
Weighted average common shares outstanding:				
Basic	207,098,570	207,098,570	207,098,570	201,389,892
Diluted	207,098,570	207,098,570	207,098,570	201,389,892
Basic and diluted income (loss) per common share:				
Basic	\$ 0.01	\$ (0.03)	\$ 0.02	\$ (0.06)
Diluted	\$ 0.01	\$ (0.03)	\$ 0.02	\$ (0.06)

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

Common shares excluded from denominator as anti-dilutive:				
Stock options (1)	9,648,750	10,173,750	9,648,750	10,173,750
Unvested restricted common shares (2)	2,841,343	1,105,000	2,841,343	1,105,000
Warrants issued in connection with \$3.25 million subordinated unsecured notes payable (1)	232,521	2,732,521	232,521	2,732,521
Warrant issued in connection with the GeoStar litigation settlement (3)	10,000,000		10,000,000	
Convertible senior debentures (1)	6,849,315	6,849,315	6,849,315	6,849,315
Total	29,571,929	20,860,586	29,571,929	20,860,586

- (1) Common shares for the 2008 periods have been excluded as the strike price of each was greater than the market price as of September 30, 2008.

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(Unaudited)**

- (2) Unvested common shares are included in the total outstanding number of common shares but are excluded from the calculation of weighted average common shares when calculating income per share.
- (3) Underlying common shares are excluded, as events required for exercise are conditional.

12. GeoStar Settlement

On June 11, 2008, the Company entered into a settlement agreement with GeoStar Corporation (GeoStar) to settle the look-back dispute and all other related outstanding disputes. The settlement included cash payments by the Company of approximately \$29.0 million, plus the issuance to GeoStar of a warrant to purchase 10.0 million of the Company's common shares (the Warrant). Pursuant to the settlement, GeoStar assigned to the Company all of GeoStar's natural gas and oil interests in West Virginia, while the Company acknowledged GeoStar's clear title to an exploration license (EL 4416) and assigned to GeoStar its interest in an exploration license application (EL 4968), both located in Victoria, Australia. As of the settlement date, EL 4416 and EL 4968 had no attributable proved reserves or production. In addition, the Company released its claim to GeoStar on approximately 340 acres in East Texas that were in dispute. Certain other corrective lease assignments and releases are being made between the Company and GeoStar. The Company and GeoStar have mutually agreed to release all claims against each other, their affiliates and current and past officers and directors.

As part of the settlement, GeoStar has the right to farm-in from the Company two Hilltop well locations in East Texas. The designated farm-in area is not included in the Company's future Bossier or Knowles drilling plans and does not include any proven or probable reserves.

The Warrant is exercisable for \$2.75 per share in the event that on or before June 11, 2011, the Company sells up to all or substantially all of its present natural gas and oil interests located in Leon and Robertson Counties in East Texas for net proceeds exceeding \$500 million. A sale, or a series of sales, of all or substantially all of the Company's present East Texas properties prior to June 11, 2011 for \$500 million or less will terminate the Warrant. If the Company does not sell all or substantially all of these properties by June 11, 2011, the Warrant will be exercisable for a six-month period commencing on that date at \$3.00 per share. The Company is not obligated to sell any of its East Texas properties.

As a result of the settlement with GeoStar, the Company had, net of the fair market value of Australian properties conveyed and the West Virginia properties received, a net increase in natural gas and oil properties of \$31.5 million as of September 30, 2008. Major components of this increase in natural gas and oil properties are as follows:

	Amount (in thousands)
Cash payment	\$ 28,997
Value of warrant issued to GeoStar	5,388
Net forgiveness of GeoStar receivables, payables, related accruals and other	(2,912)
Net increase in natural gas and oil properties related to settlement	31,473
Fair market value of properties conveyed (received):	
Australia EL 4416	9,015
West Virginia	(882)
Gross settlement value	\$ 39,606

13. Commitments and Contingencies*Litigation*

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

The Company is party to various litigation matters. The ultimate outcome of the matters discussed below cannot presently be determined, nor can the liability that could potentially result from an adverse outcome be reasonably estimated at this time. The Company does not expect that the outcome of the following will have a material adverse effect on its financial position, results of operations or cash flow.

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(Unaudited)**

Navasota Resources L.P. (Navasota) vs. First Source Texas, Inc., First Source Gas L.P. (now Gastar Exploration Texas LP) and Gastar Exploration Ltd. (Cause No. 0-05-451) District Court of Leon County, Texas 12th Judicial District. This lawsuit, dated October 31, 2005, contends that the Company breached Navasota's preferential right to purchase 33.33% of the Company's interest in certain natural gas and oil leases located in Leon and Robertson Counties and sold to Chesapeake Energy Corporation pursuant to a transaction closed November 4, 2005. The preferential right claimed is under an operating agreement dated July 7, 2000. The Company contends, among other things, that Navasota neither properly nor timely exercised any preferential right election it may have had with respect to the inter-dependent Chesapeake transaction. In July 2006, the District Court of Leon County, Texas issued a summary judgment in favor of the Company and Chesapeake. Navasota filed a Notice of Appeal to the Tenth Court of Appeals in Waco. Oral argument was heard on September 26, 2007 and the Court of Appeals issued its opinion on January 9, 2008 reversing the trial court's rulings and rendering judgment in favor of Navasota on all counts. The Company and Chesapeake filed a motion for rehearing on February 6, 2008, which was denied on March 18, 2008. The Company and Chesapeake filed a joint Petition for Review in the Texas Supreme Court on May 13, 2008, and the Texas Supreme Court requested a Response from Navasota, which was filed on July 16, 2008. The Company and Chesapeake filed a Reply to Navasota's Response on July 31, 2008. On August 28, 2008, the Texas Supreme Court requested briefing on the merits, which briefing is not yet complete. Pursuant to an agreement between the Company and Chesapeake, any adverse result in this matter should impact only Chesapeake's assigned leasehold interests. While this matter is pending, it is possible that expenditures incurred, or authorizations for proposed expenditures, for drilling activities on leases which include the disputed interest may remain unpaid or not be authorized by the non-operators asserting competing ownership rights, which could require the Company to either fund a disproportionate amount of drilling costs at its own risk or postpone its drilling program on affected leases.

Gastar Exploration Texas LP v. John E. McFarlane, et al (Cause No. 0-06-161) 87th Judicial District Court of Leon County, Texas. This suit is to quiet title to an undivided 25% mineral interest under an oil and gas lease dated December 4, 2003, covering approximately 2,598 gross acres (the Lease). John E. McFarlane and certain other family members contend that an undivided 25% mineral interest in the lands covered by the Lease are owned in trust by the grandchildren of Fay W. McFarlane and are not covered by the Lease as Gastar claims. McFarlane, et al, filed an answer to the Company's petition and also filed several different motions for summary judgment, which were denied by the District Court. A day long mediation of this lawsuit occurred on August 24, 2007, but the parties were unable to settle this matter at that time. The lawsuit is in the discovery phase and is currently set for a non-jury trial on December 2, 2008. The existence of unleased mineral interests in this Lease could adversely impact the future development of the Lease. The Company will continue to vigorously pursue this claim.

Spencer D. Plummer, III v. GeoStar Corporation, Classic Star LLC, Gastar Exploration, Ltd., Thom Robinson, Tony Ferguson, and John W. Parrott; In the United States District Court of Utah, Central Division (Case No. 2:07-CV-00409). This lawsuit was filed on May 24, 2007 initially in Utah state court by Spencer Plummer, or the Plaintiff, in which he asserts breaches of his Employment Agreement and subsequent Termination Agreement (the Agreements) with his employer, Classic Star, a subsidiary of GeoStar and has been transferred to a Kentucky court as part of a multi-district litigation proceeding. The Plaintiff claims that he has not received benefits promised under such Agreements, including 699,249 shares of Company stock. The Company is not a party to the Agreements on which Plaintiff's claims are expressly based; however, the Company and Plaintiff are parties to a Stock Option Agreement on which Plaintiff claim to Company stock is partially based. The Company filed an Answer and Motion to Dismiss in the Kentucky court for lack of personal jurisdiction in the state of Utah and for Plaintiff's failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. On August 1, 2008, the Kentucky court granted the Company's Motion to Dismiss.

Craig S. Tillotson v. S. David Plummer 2nd, Spencer Plummer 3rd, Tony Ferguson, John Parrott, Thomas Robinson, GeoStar Corporation, First Source Wyoming, Inc. GeoStar Financial Services Corporation, Gastar Exploration Ltd., Zeus Investments, LLC and John Does 1-10 (Civil No. 080412334). This lawsuit was filed on July 7, 2008 in Utah state court by Craig S. Tillotson, or the Plaintiff, in which he alleges that he was fraudulently induced to invest in a mare leasing program operated by Classic Star LLC,

Table of Contents

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(Unaudited)

a subsidiary of GeoStar, on the basis of certain verbal representations, and to convert interests in that program into shares of a working interest in the Powder River Basin. The Plaintiff asserts causes of action against all defendants including common law fraud, fraudulent inducement, statutory securities fraud under Utah state law, civil conspiracy, and negligent misrepresentation, and asserts certain additional causes of action only against GeoStar, a GeoStar affiliate, and the Plummers. The Company has not been served and has not yet answered or otherwise responded. The Company intends to vigorously defend the suit.

Commitments

In March 2008, the Company entered into formal agreements with ETC Texas Pipeline, Ltd. (ETC) for the gathering, treating, purchase and transportation of the Company's natural gas production from the Hilltop area of East Texas. These agreements are effective September 1, 2007 and have a term of 10 years. ETC currently provides the Company 50 MMcfd of treating capacity and 120 MMcfd of gathering capacity. The Company has the right to request ETC build, at their cost, up to 150 MMcfd of treating and gathering capacity during the term of the agreement, provided that the Company's production equals 85% of the then existing treating and gathering capacity for a 30 day period. The Company may at any time elect to have its treating and gathering capacity increased subject to cost indemnifications to ETC. Additional treating and gathering capacity requests must be in at least 25 MMcfd and 5 MMcfd increments, respectively. In addition, the Company must furnish to ETC information that reasonably demonstrates that its projected production for the five years after expansion is sufficient to warrant the costs to create the expanded treating and gathering capacity. The incremental volume increases in treating and gathering capacity shall be subject to marginal increases in treating fees. Pursuant to the agreements, the Company has access of up to 150 MMcfd of firm transportation on ETC's system or the pipelines of its affiliates or subsidiaries from the tailgate of the treating facility to Katy Hub. The Company has the option to sell and ETC has the obligation to buy, up to 150 MMcfd of the Company's Hilltop production at delivery points upstream of ETC's gathering and treating facilities. The Company does not have an obligation to deliver to ETC volumes in excess of 150 MMcfd, but should ETC elect to purchase such excess volumes, purchases will be subject to the treating and gathering expansion terms set forth in the agreements.

Registration Obligation

On November 29, 2007, Gastar USA sold \$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of 12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes at an issue price of 99.50% in a private placement to qualified institutional buyers. In connection with the sale, Gastar USA, the Company and all of Gastar USA's existing domestic subsidiaries entered into a registration rights agreement providing for the exchange of new notes registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). On August 4, 2008, the Company completed the exchange offer in which it issued \$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of new 12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes due 2012 registered under the Securities Act in exchange for all of the old notes.

Table of Contents**GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(Unaudited)****14. Statement of Cash Flows Supplemental Information**

The following is a summary of supplemental cash paid and non-cash transactions disclosed in the notes to the condensed consolidated financial statements:

	For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008 2007 (in thousands)	
Cash paid for interest	\$ 8,767	\$ 8,356
Non-cash transactions:		
Non-cash capital expenditures excluded from accounts payable and accrued drilling costs	\$ (5,896)	\$ (3,002)
Asset retirement obligation included in oil and gas properties	\$ 320	\$ 1,237
Drilling advances application	\$ 2,749	\$ 3,470
Common shares issued under senior secured notes	\$	\$ 606
GeoStar settlement:		
Value of properties settled by assignment	\$ 8,133	\$
Warrant issued to GeoStar	\$ 5,388	\$
Other non-cash settlements	\$ (2,998)	\$

15. Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The Company's comprehensive income (loss) for the periods indicated was as follows:

	For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2008 2007 (in thousands)		For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008 2007 (in thousands)	
Net income (loss)	\$ 3,006	\$ (5,526)	\$ 4,639	\$ (12,101)
Change in:				
Commodity hedging activities	15,564	(65)	3,466	(65)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(66)	9	(9)	13
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 18,504	\$ (5,582)	\$ 8,096	\$ (12,153)

16. Issuer Subsidiaries Condensed Consolidating Financial Statements

The following tables present condensed consolidating balance sheets as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, the related condensed consolidating statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 and the condensed consolidating statements of cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 of Gastar Exploration Ltd. (Parent), Gastar Exploration USA, Inc. (Issuer) and Gastar Exploration Texas, Inc., Gastar Exploration Texas LP, Gastar Exploration Texas LLC, Gastar Exploration New South Wales, Inc., Gastar Exploration Victoria, Inc. and Gastar Power Pty Ltd., a minor non-guarantor subsidiary included in issuer subsidiaries, (collectively referred to as Issuer Subsidiaries). Each of the Parent and the Issuer Subsidiaries, except for Gastar Power Pty Ltd., have fully and

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

unconditionally guaranteed, on a joint and severally basis, the Revolving Credit Facility and the \$100.0 million 12^{3/4}% Senior Secured Notes. During 2007, Parent intercompany receivables were reclassified to investment in subsidiary with Issuer and Issuer Subsidiaries. Prior to January 1, 2008, interest was not charged on intercompany receivables or payables. Total intercompany interest charged by Parent to Issuer during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 were \$10,000 and \$39,000, respectively, which were eliminated in consolidation.

Table of Contents**Condensed Consolidating Parent and Issuer Subsidiaries Balance Sheets**

As of September 30, 2008

(Unaudited)

ASSETS

	Parent	Issuer	Issuer Subsidiaries (in thousands)	Reclassifications and Eliminations	Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Subsidiaries
CURRENT ASSETS:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 80	\$ 25	\$ 13,969	\$	\$ 14,074
Accounts receivable, net	3		4,475		4,478
Commodity derivative contracts		362	3,363		3,725
Due from related parties			2,706		2,706
Prepaid expenses	45	51	117		213
Total current assets	128	438	24,630		25,196
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:					
Natural gas and oil properties, full cost method of accounting:					
Unproved properties, not being amortized		27,402	111,588		138,990
Proved properties	8	49,385	237,446		286,839
Total natural gas and oil properties	8	76,787	349,034		425,829
Furniture and equipment			886		886
Total property, plant and equipment	8	76,787	349,920		426,715
Accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(7)	(43,174)	(135,950)		(179,131)
Total property, plant and equipment, net	1	33,613	213,970		247,584
OTHER ASSETS:					
Restricted cash	25		46		71
Commodity derivative contracts			767		767
Deferred charges, net	557	6,745			7,302
Drilling advances			2,705		2,705
Intercompany receivable and investment in subsidiaries	139,597	193,019		(332,616)	
Other assets		150			150
Total other assets	140,179	199,914	3,518	(332,616)	10,995
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 140,308	\$ 233,965	\$ 242,118	\$ (332,616)	\$ 283,775

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES:					
Accounts payable	\$ 1	\$	\$ 9,836	\$	\$ 9,837
Revenue payable			8,679		8,679
Accrued interest	482	4,250			4,732

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

Accrued drilling and operating costs		990	3,605		4,595
Other accrued liabilities	31	10	2,686		2,727
Due to related parties			4,344		4,344
Current portion of long-term debt	3,215				3,215
Total current liabilities	3,729	5,250	29,150		38,129
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:					
Long-term debt	30,000	99,563			129,563
Asset retirement obligation	5	2,513	2,369		4,887
Intercompany payable		2,379	6,810	(9,189)	
Total long-term liabilities	30,005	104,455	9,179	(9,189)	134,450
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	106,574	124,260	203,789	(323,427)	111,196
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	\$ 140,308	\$ 233,965	\$ 242,118	\$ (332,616)	\$ 283,775

Table of Contents**Condensed Consolidating Parent and Issuer Subsidiaries Balance Sheets**

As of December 31, 2007

ASSETS

	Parent	Issuer	Issuer Subsidiaries (in thousands)	Reclassifications and Eliminations	Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Subsidiaries
CURRENT ASSETS:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 73	\$	\$ 85,781	\$	\$ 85,854
Accounts receivable, net	10	265	5,188	(635)	4,828
Due from related parties			904		904
Prepaid expenses	291		944		1,235
Total current assets	374	265	92,817	(635)	92,821
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:					
Natural gas and oil properties, full cost method of accounting:					
Unproved properties, not being amortized		2,988	66,856		69,844
Proved properties	8	43,611	203,753		247,372
Total natural gas and oil properties	8	46,599	270,609		317,216
Furniture and equipment			669		669
Total property, plant and equipment	8	46,599	271,278		317,885
Accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(7)	(42,828)	(117,930)		(160,765)
Total property, plant and equipment, net	1	3,771	153,348		157,120
OTHER ASSETS:					
Restricted cash	1,029		45		1,074
Deferred charges, net	924	7,410			8,334
Drilling advances			2,251		2,251
Intercompany receivable and investment in subsidiaries	128,677	209,494		(338,171)	
Other assets		100	50		150
Total other assets	130,630	217,004	2,346	(338,171)	11,809
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 131,005	\$ 221,040	\$ 248,511	\$ (338,806)	\$ 261,750

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES:					
Accounts payable	\$ 47	\$	\$ 11,954	\$	\$ 12,001
Revenue payable			6,770		6,770
Accrued interest	401	1,133			1,534
Accrued drilling and operating costs		350	2,460		2,810
Commodity derivative contracts		480			480
Other accrued liabilities	244	586	4,636	(635)	4,831
Due to related parties			979		979

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

Total current liabilities	692	2,549	26,799	(635)	29,405
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:					
Long-term debt	33,179	99,506			132,685
Asset retirement obligation	5	2,289	2,097		4,391
Intercompany payable	589	1,615	26,668	(28,872)	
Total long-term liabilities	33,773	103,410	28,765	(28,872)	137,076
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	96,540	115,081	192,947	(309,299)	95,269
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	\$ 131,005	\$ 221,040	\$ 248,511	\$ (338,806)	\$ 261,750

Table of Contents**Condensed Consolidating Parent and Issuer Subsidiaries Statements of Operations****For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2008****(Unaudited)**

	Parent	Issuer	Issuer Subsidiaries (in thousands)	Reclassifications and Eliminations	Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Subsidiaries
REVENUES:					
Natural gas and oil revenues	\$	\$ 3,183	\$ 9,282	\$	\$ 12,465
Unrealized natural gas hedge income		101	3,331		3,432
Total revenues		3,284	12,613		15,897
EXPENSES:					
Production taxes		314	26		340
Lease operating expenses		889	1,030		1,919
Transportation and treating		518			518
Depreciation, depletion and amortization		347	5,720		6,067
Accretion of asset retirement obligation		44	42		86
General and administrative expenses	295	28	2,867		3,190
Total expenses	295	2,140	9,685		12,120
INCOME (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	(295)	1,144	2,928		3,777
OTHER (EXPENSES) INCOME:					
Interest expense	(954)	2	39		(913)
Investment income and other	10	(10)	163		163
Equity earnings in subsidiaries	4,248	3,112		(7,360)	
Foreign transaction loss	(3)		(18)		(21)
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	3,006	4,248	3,112	(7,360)	3,006
Provision for income taxes					
NET INCOME	\$ 3,006	\$ 4,248	\$ 3,112	\$ (7,360)	\$ 3,006

Table of Contents**Condensed Consolidating Parent and Issuer Subsidiaries Statements of Operations****For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2007****(Unaudited)**

	Parent	Issuer	Issuer Subsidiaries (in thousands)	Reclassifications and Eliminations	Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Subsidiaries
REVENUES	\$ 1	\$ 1,735	\$ 8,039	\$	\$ 9,775
EXPENSES:					
Production taxes		178	78		256
Lease operating expenses		777	923		1,700
Transportation and treating		426			426
Depreciation, depletion and amortization		1,698	4,927		6,625
Accretion of asset retirement obligation		43	34		77
Mineral resource properties			15		15
General and administrative expenses	343	11	2,839		3,193
Total expenses	343	3,133	8,816		12,292
LOSS FROM OPERATIONS	(342)	(1,398)	(777)		(2,517)
OTHER (EXPENSES) INCOME:					
Interest expense	(4,108)		8		(4,100)
Investment income and other	8		1,076		(1,084)
Equity earnings (loss) in subsidiaries	(1,088)	310		778	
Foreign transaction gain	4		3		7
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES	(5,526)	(1,088)	310	778	(5,526)
Provision for income taxes					
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (5,526)	\$ (1,088)	\$ 310	\$ 778	\$ (5,526)

Table of Contents**Condensed Consolidating Parent and Issuer Subsidiaries Statements of Operations****For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008****(Unaudited)**

	Parent	Issuer	Issuer Subsidiaries (in thousands)	Reclassifications and Eliminations	Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Subsidiaries
REVENUES:					
Natural gas and oil revenues	\$ 1	\$ 10,061	\$ 35,133	\$	\$ 45,195
Unrealized natural gas hedge income		25	1,481		1,506
Total revenues	1	10,086	36,614		46,701
EXPENSES:					
Production taxes		1,083			1,083
Lease operating expenses		2,295	3,574		5,869
Transportation and treating		1,475			1,475
Depreciation, depletion and amortization		347	18,019		18,366
Accretion of asset retirement obligation		128	122		250
General and administrative expenses	884	44	10,601		11,529
Total expenses	884	5,372	32,316		38,572
INCOME (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	(883)	4,714	4,298		8,129
OTHER (EXPENSES) INCOME:					
Interest expense	(2,841)	(2,091)	34		(4,898)
Investment income and other	48	(27)	1,446		1,467
Equity earnings in subsidiaries	8,362	5,766		(14,128)	
Foreign transaction loss	(47)		(12)		(59)
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	4,639	8,362	5,766	(14,128)	4,639
Provision for income taxes					
NET INCOME	\$ 4,639	\$ 8,362	\$ 5,766	\$ (14,128)	\$ 4,639

Table of Contents**Condensed Consolidating Parent and Issuer Subsidiaries Statements of Operations****For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007****(Unaudited)**

	Parent	Issuer	Issuer Subsidiaries (in thousands)	Reclassifications and Eliminations	Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Subsidiaries
REVENUES	\$ 2	\$ 5,216	\$ 20,028	\$	\$ 25,246
EXPENSES:					
Production taxes		548	222		770
Lease operating expenses	2	2,197	2,710		4,909
Transportation and treating		1,088			1,088
Depreciation, depletion and amortization		4,861	11,548		16,409
Impairment of natural gas and oil properties		1,141	27,373		28,514
Accretion of asset retirement obligation		124	91		215
Mineral resource properties			(108)		(108)
General and administrative expenses	1,082	12	12,410		13,504
Litigation settlement expense			1,365		1,365
Total expenses	1,084	9,971	55,611		66,666
LOSS FROM OPERATIONS	(1,082)	(4,755)	(35,583)		(41,420)
OTHER (EXPENSES) INCOME:					
Interest expense	(12,002)		221		(11,781)
Investment income and other	9		2,210		2,219
Equity earnings in subsidiaries	972	5,727		(6,699)	
Gain on sale of unproved natural gas and oil properties			38,872		38,872
Foreign transaction gain	2		7		9
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES	(12,101)	972	5,727	(6,699)	(12,101)
Provision for income taxes					
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (12,101)	\$ 972	\$ 5,727	\$ (6,699)	\$ (12,101)

Table of Contents**Condensed Consolidating Parent and Issuer Subsidiaries Statements of Cash Flows****For Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008****(Unaudited)**

	Parent	Issuer	Issuer Subsidiaries (in thousands)	Reclassifications and Eliminations	Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Subsidiaries
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:					
Net income	\$ 4,639	\$ 8,362	\$ 5,766	\$ (14,128)	\$ 4,636
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:					
Depreciation, depletion and amortization		347	18,019		18,366
Stock based compensation			2,442		2,442
Unrealized natural gas hedge income		(25)	(1,481)		(1,506)
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt discount	404	1,057			1,461
Accretion of asset retirement obligation		128	122		250
Equity in income of issuer subsidiaries	(8,362)	(5,766)		14,128	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, exclusive of effects of acquisition:					
Restricted cash for hedging program	1,000				1,000
Accounts receivable	7	(370)	(1,089)		(1,452)
Prepaid expenses	246	(51)	249		444
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(178)	3,600	12,016		15,438
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(2,244)	7,282	36,044		41,082
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:					
Development and purchases of natural gas and oil properties		(29,089)	(80,013)		(109,102)
Drilling advances			(3,203)		(3,203)
Purchase of furniture and equipment			(217)		(217)
Subsidiary equity investment repayments			(24,459)	24,459	
Other		(50)	50		
Net cash used in investing activities		(29,139)	(107,842)	24,459	(112,522)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:					
Subsidiary equity investment repayments	2,241	22,218		(24,459)	
Increase (decrease) in restricted cash	4		(1)		3
Deferred financing charges and other	6	(336)	(13)		(343)
Net cash provided by financing activities	2,251	21,882	(14)	(24,459)	(340)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	7	25	(71,812)		(71,780)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	73		85,781		85,854
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD	\$ 80	\$ 25	\$ 13,969	\$	\$ 14,074

Table of Contents**Condensed Consolidating Parent and Issuer Subsidiaries Statements of Cash Flows****For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007****(Unaudited)**

	Parent	Issuer	Issuer Subsidiaries (in thousands)	Reclassifications and Eliminations	Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Subsidiaries
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:					
Net income (loss)	\$ (12,101)	\$ 972	\$ 5,727	\$ (6,699)	\$ (12,101)
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:					
Depreciation, depletion and amortization		4,861	11,548		16,409
Impairment of natural gas and oil properties		1,141	27,373		28,514
Stock based compensation			3,065		3,065
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt discount	3,300				3,300
Accretion of asset retirement obligation		124	91		215
Change in commodity hedge liability			(65)		(65)
Gain on sale of unproved natural gas and oil properties			(38,872)		(38,872)
Equity in income of issuer subsidiaries	(972)	(5,727)		6,699	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, exclusive of effects of acquisition:					
Restricted cash for hedging program	(1,000)				(1,000)
Accounts receivable	4	223	7,427		7,654
Prepaid expenses	270	135	270		675
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(232)	(694)	3,320		2,394
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(10,731)	1,035	19,884		10,188
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:					
Development and purchases of natural gas and oil properties	(7)	(4,267)	(50,993)		(55,267)
Drilling advances			(3,786)		(3,786)
Proceeds from sale of unproved natural gas and oil properties, net of transaction costs			66,849		66,849
Purchase of furniture and equipment			(62)		(62)
Subsidiary equity investment repayments	(12,567)			12,567	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(12,574)	(4,267)	12,008	12,567	7,734
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:					
Subsidiary equity investment repayments		3,232	9,335	(12,567)	
Proceeds from issuance of common shares, net of share issue costs	23,381				23,381
Increase in restricted cash	(25)		(1)		(26)
Deferred financing charges and other	(6)		17		11
Net cash provided by financing activities	23,350	3,232	9,351	(12,567)	23,366
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	45		41,243		41,288
	46		40,687		40,733

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD	\$	91	\$	\$	81,930	\$	\$	82,021
--	----	----	----	----	--------	----	----	--------

Table of Contents

Cautionary Notes Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements and information in this Form 10-Q may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Act of 1995. The words believe, expect, anticipate, plan, intend, foresee, should, would, could or other similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, which are generally not historical in nature. These forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations and beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effect on us. Forward-looking statements may include statements that relate to, among other things our:

Financial position;

Business strategy and budgets;

Anticipated capital expenditures;

Drilling of wells;

Natural gas and oil reserves;

Timing and amount of future production of natural gas and oil;

Operating costs and other expenses;

Cash flow and anticipated liquidity;

Prospect development; and

Property acquisitions and sales.

While management believes that these forward-looking statements are reasonable as and when made, there can be no assurance that future developments affecting us will be those that we anticipate. All comments concerning our expectations for future revenues and operating results are based on our forecasts for our existing operations and do not include the potential impact of any future acquisitions. Our forward-looking statements involve significant risks and uncertainties (some of which are beyond our control) and assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from our historical experience and our present expectations or projections. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, those summarized below:

Low and/or declining prices for natural gas and oil;

Demand for natural gas and oil;

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

Natural gas and oil price volatility;

The risks associated with exploration, including cost overruns and the drilling of non-economic wells or dry holes;

Ability to raise capital to fund capital expenditures;

Ability to remain in compliance with financial covenants contained in our revolving credit facility agreement;

The ability to find, acquire, market, develop and produce new natural gas and oil properties;

Uncertainties in the estimation of proved reserves and in the projection of future rates of production and timing of development expenditures;

Operating hazards inherent to the natural gas and oil business;

Down hole drilling and completion risks that are generally not recoverable from third parties or insurance;

Potential mechanical failure or under-performance of significant wells or pipeline mishaps;

Adverse weather conditions;

Availability and cost of material and equipment, such as drilling rigs and transportation pipelines;

The number of well locations to be drilled and the time frame in which they will be drilled;

Delays in anticipated start-up dates;

Actions or inactions of third-party operators of our properties;

Ability to find and retain skilled personnel;

Strength and financial resources of competitors;

Potential defects in title to our properties;

Federal and state regulatory developments and approvals;

Losses possible from pending or future litigation;

Table of Contents

Environmental risks;

Worldwide political and economic conditions; and

Operational and financial risks associated with foreign exploration and production.

Other factors that could cause our actual results to differ from our projected results are described in (1) Part II, Item 1A. Risk Factors and elsewhere in this Form 10-Q, (2) our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, (3) our reports and registration statements filed from time to time with the SEC and (4) other announcements we make from time to time.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements after the date they are made, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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

We are an independent energy company engaged in the exploration, development and production of natural gas and oil in the United States and Australia. Gastar pursues a strategy combining select higher risk, deep natural gas exploration prospects with lower risk coal bed methane (CBM) development. Gastar owns and operates exploration and development acreage in the deep Bossier gas play of East Texas and has commenced exploration operations in the Marcellus Shale play in West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania. Gastar's CBM activities are conducted within the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana and on approximately 6.0 million gross acres controlled by us and our joint development partner in Australia's Gunnedah Basin, located in New South Wales.

Hilltop Area, East Texas

Hilltop Area, East Texas. The majority of our drilling activities have been in the deep Bossier and Knowles Limestone plays in the Hilltop area, located in East Texas approximately midway between Dallas and Houston in Leon and Robertson Counties. This exploration play has attracted some of the largest and most active operators in the United States. Wells in this area target multiple potentially productive natural gas formations and are typically characterized by high initial production, significant decline rates and long-lived reserves.

Our first successful operated well was spudded in 2003 and placed on production in September 2004. As of September 30, 2008, we had successfully completed 16 out of 17 deep Bossier wells and five out of six Knowles Limestone wells.

During the second quarter of 2008, we drilled the Lone Oak Ranch #6, or LOR #6, well which encountered two productive middle Bossier sands. The lower zone was completed and placed on production. During the three months ended September 30, 2008, we completed the well in the upper zone. The two zones have been commingled, and at September 30, 2008, the well was flowing at approximately 6.2 MMcfd. Gastar has a 50% working interest before payout (approximately 37.5% net revenue interest) in the LOR #6 well.

Currently, we are drilling one deep Bossier well, the Belin #1, (an offset to the Wildman #3) and one middle Bossier well, the Lone Oak Ranch #7, (an offset to the LOR #6). We expect to complete these wells and place them on production close to year-end. When these two wells are completed, we plan to drop one of our rigs and go to a one-rig program into early 2009 to conserve capital. Our next well will be a Bossier well with the location to be determined after review of the LOR #7 and Belin #1 results.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, net production from the Hilltop area averaged 14.5 MMcfe per day and 17.2 MMcfe per day, respectively. We expect total fourth quarter volumes to be approximately 19 MMcfe a day, with increased production from the recompletions and the startup of two new wells late in the fourth quarter.

Table of Contents

Marcellus Shale West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania

The Marcellus Shale, is a black shale of Middle Devonian age that underlies much of Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, West Virginia and adjacent states. The depth of the Marcellus Shale and its low permeability have historically made the Marcellus an unconventional exploration target. Within the past few years, advances in two technologies, stimulation and horizontal drilling, have produced promising results in the Marcellus Shale. These developments have resulted in increased leasing and drilling activity in the area. In late 2007, we began acquiring an acreage position in the Marcellus Shale in West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania. As of September 30, 2008, we had increased our acreage position in the play to approximately 42,000 net acres, all of which is in the core, over-pressured area of the Marcellus play and most of which is in close proximity to wells being drilled in the Marcellus by other operators.

To date, we have drilled 6 shallow wells, of which 3 are on production, and the remainder will produce before the end of the year. This shallow drilling program is being conducted primarily to hold certain leases by production while we develop an exploration and development program for the deeper Marcellus Shale objective. We will drill 4 more shallow wells before the end of the year and 13 in 2009. These wells cost about \$475,000 each to drill.

We are engaged in a process to identify a joint venture partner to help us develop this play and reduce our capital burden going forward. We anticipate that we will drill our first Marcellus Shale vertical well in the first half of 2009, depending on when we bring in a partner. Meanwhile, we are currently looking at participating in a well operated by another producer. This would give us additional data as we develop our proposed 2009 operated program.

Coalbed Methane Powder River Basin, Wyoming and Montana

We own an approximate 40% average non-operated working interest in approximately 55,000 gross (21,900 net) acres in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana. Generally, CBM wells are shallow and less costly than conventional natural gas wells. Our primary areas of activity in the Powder River Basin are the Squaw Creek, Ring of Fire and adjacent fields, all of which are located north of Gillette, Wyoming in an active drilling area.

We successfully drilled three gross wells in the Powder River Basin during the three months ended September 30, 2008 but anticipate an increase in capital activity over the next 12 months. For both of the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, our average net production from our CBM properties in the Powder River Basin was approximately 5.5 MMcf per day.

Coalbed Methane PEL 238, Gunnedah Basin, New South Wales, Australia

We have a 35% interest in PEL 238, a CBM exploratory property covering approximately 2.2 million gross (786,000 net) acres, located in the Gunnedah Basin of New South Wales (NSW), approximately 250 miles northwest of Sydney, Australia, near the town of Narrabri. We believe that the strategic location of the properties and potential CBM reserves near the large natural gas markets in the Sydney-Newcastle-Wollongong area and the concession's location relative to other developing gas markets should create a competitive marketing advantage for the natural gas reserves that may be developed on PEL 238.

The PEL 238 development project is moving forward successfully with our first production expected late in the first quarter of 2009. Beginning in 2008, we and Eastern Star Gas (ESG), our joint venture partner and license operator, expanded our pilot production drilling program in the Bohena Project Area of PEL 238, with 20-corehole exploration and appraisal drilling program on PEL 238. The results of the coreholes confirmed the presence of a thick Bohena coal seam developed to the south and east of the Bibblewindi pilot production area. We are currently drilling our seventh test in the program, the Dewhurst #8 We have also initiated the testing of a third exploration and appraisal area that is 26 miles southeast of Bibblewindi by spudding the Ederoi #1 corehole well. This third area was identified by a seismic survey

Table of Contents

that indicated the presence of another thick coal seam sequence. In our Bibblewindi pilot production area, we expect to spud the first of four multi-lateral horizontal production projects later this month. We have imported a special purpose drilling rig for these projects, and we expect to embark on a continuous drilling and coring program for calendar 2009.

In late June 2008, we announced, subject to certain approvals, an agreement to acquire a 35% interest in the Wilga Park Power Station in New South Wales, Australia from ESG, which owns the remaining 65% interest. This acquisition aligns both of our ownerships in PEL 238 and the Wilga Park Power Station. The power station is located approximately 20 miles north of the Bohena Project Area of PEL 238. The acquisition also includes a 35% working interest in Petroleum Production License 3, which contains the Coonarah conventional gas field. Upon closing, anticipated in the fourth quarter of 2008, we will pay \$3.0 million in cash to ESG, with an additional payment of \$250,000 contingent upon the Wilga Park Power Station being successfully expanded to a capacity of seven megawatts (MW). We are not required to close that acquisition until the final permitting and right of way for the pipeline is completed. Due to permitting delays, this will probably occur in the first quarter of 2009.

The facility currently has a capacity of four MW with plans in place to gradually increase capacity up to 40 MW as coal seam gas production from PEL 238 increases. Construction of a flowline to deliver gas from the PEL 238 production pilots to the power station is in the final stages of permitting and right-of-way acquisition and is expected to be completed by the end of 2008. The power station will be the primary market for natural gas from PEL 238 until we begin fulfilling our supply arrangements under the two previously announced MOUs. We now expect first commercial sales to the plant late in the first quarter of 2009.

In July 2008, we and ESG entered into a Heads of Agreement (HoA) with the APA Group (APA), owner of the Central West and Moomba Sydney Gas Pipelines. Under the HoA, options for early delivery of coal seam gas from PEL 238 into NSW gas market are to be investigated. Under the HoA, it is anticipated that coal seam gas would be initially delivered to New South Wales gas markets via APA 's Central West Pipeline, with APA 's NSW pipeline system to subsequently be expanded as gas production and markets grow. By matching gas production, pipeline and market requirements in this manner, we and ESG believe we can minimize capital requirements, while realizing favorable gas transportation tariffs.

Coal Bed Methane PEL 433-434, Gunnedah Basin, New South Wales, Australia

PEL 433 and PEL 434 are located adjacent to our PEL 238 project and cover approximately 3.8 million gross (1.3 million net) acres. Coal evaluation core-hole drilling completed during the 1970s and 1980s by the New South Wales government identified the distribution and thickness of the coal measures within a portion of PEL 433. The Hoskissons Coal Seam is believed to be approximately 4 to 6 meters thick and widely distributed within the eastern part of PEL 433. There has been no previous coal seam gas exploration and evaluation work in the area, and there is no information on gas content, gas composition or coal permeability.

In July 2007, we entered into a Farm-In Agreement with ESG under which we have earned a 35% working interest in the PEL 433 and PEL 434. Under the terms of the Farm-In Agreement, we paid the costs of a two core-hole program on PEL 433 and the related costs of the evaluation of the coal reservoirs intersected by the core-holes. A two corehole drilling program, designed to evaluate the coal seam gas permeability, gas content and gas composition, was completed in early 2008. The results from these wells showed good coal development, gas composition and excellent permeability in the area. Gas contents were low due to the shallow dept of the coal. Further investigation is underway to identify areas with improved gas content. Analysis of the core samples is continuing. This two corehole program fulfilled the first year capital expenditure commitment for PEL 433.

Both PEL 433 and 434 are set to expire February 2009. We and ESG plan to submit a renewal application including a drilling program to meet work commitment during the term of the renewal. As is customary, we and ESG anticipate that a renewal will necessitate a relinquishment of up to 25% of our current acreage.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations**

The following is a comparative discussion of the results of operations for the periods indicated. It should be read in conjunction with the condensed consolidated financial statements and the related notes to the condensed consolidated financial statements found elsewhere in this Form 10-Q.

The following table gives information about production volumes and prices of natural gas and oil for the periods indicated:

	For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2008		For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007	
Production:				
Natural gas (MMcf)	1,849	2,085	6,291	4,696
Oil (MBbl)	1	1	4	7
Total (MMcfe)	1,856	2,092	6,315	4,736
Total (MMcfed)	20.2	22.7	23.0	17.3
Average sales prices:				
Natural gas (per Mcf), including impact of realized hedging activities	\$ 6.67	\$ 4.65	\$ 7.12	\$ 5.29
Oil (per Bbl)	\$ 111.49	\$ 74.34	\$ 104.58	\$ 61.01

Three Months Ended September 30, 2008 compared to the Three Months Ended September 30, 2007

Revenues. Substantially all of our revenues are derived from the production of natural gas in the United States. Natural gas and oil revenues totaled \$12.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008, up 28% from \$9.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in revenues was the result of a 44% increase in prices, which was partially offset by a decrease in production volumes of 11%, primarily in East Texas. The decrease in East Texas volumes was primarily due to the high initial production rates from new wells in the three months ended September 30, 2007, which were subject to normal well declines. No new wells were completed during the three months ended September 30, 2008. We expect that two new East Texas wells will be completed during the fourth quarter of 2008.

During the three months ended September 30, 2008, approximately 68% of our total natural gas production was hedged. The realized effect of hedging on natural gas sales for the three months ended September 30, 2008 was a decrease of \$569,000 in revenues, resulting in a decrease in total natural gas price received from \$6.98 per Mcf to \$6.67 per Mcf.

Unrealized natural gas hedge income of \$3.4 million is related to the time value of the costless collars. For the remainder of 2008, we have approximately 55% of our estimated natural gas production hedged.

Production taxes. We reported production taxes of \$340,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2008, compared to \$256,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in production tax was primarily the result of higher natural gas prices in Wyoming.

Lease operating expenses. We reported lease operating expenses of \$1.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008, up from \$1.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007. Our lease operating expenses were \$1.03 per Mcfe for the three months ended September 30, 2008, compared to \$0.81 per Mcfe for the comparable period in 2007. The increase in total lease operating expenses was due to an increase in ad valorem costs and lease operating costs due to additional wells in Texas and Wyoming. During the current quarter, workover costs totaled \$166,000, or \$0.09 per Mcfe, compared to \$153,000, or \$0.07 per Mcfe for the same period in 2007.

Table of Contents

Transportation and treating. We reported transportation and treating expenses of \$518,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2008, up from \$426,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2007. This increase was primarily due to increased prices of natural gas in Wyoming.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization. We reported depreciation, depletion and amortization (DD&A) of \$6.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008, down from \$6.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in DD&A expense was primarily the result of an 11% decrease in production volumes. The DD&A rate for the three months ended September 30, 2008 was \$3.27 per Mcfe, compared to \$3.17 per Mcfe for the comparable period in 2007.

General and administrative. We reported general and administrative expenses of \$3.2 million for both of the three-month periods ended September 30, 2008 and 2007. General and administrative expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2008 included a reduction of legal costs related to the GeoStar litigation, which was offset by higher personnel costs. Legal costs related to the GeoStar litigation totaled approximately \$371,000 in the third quarter of 2007, compared to no costs for the current quarter in 2008. Non-cash stock-based compensation expense pursuant to the SFAS 123R, which is included in general and administrative expenses, was \$731,000 and \$899,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Interest expense. We reported interest expense of \$913,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2008, compared to \$4.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in interest expense was primarily the result of \$3.6 million of interest being capitalized during the three months ended September 30, 2008, resulting from capital activity expansion, which was partially offset by higher interest expense on the new 12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes. There was no capitalized interest recorded for the comparable period in 2007.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008 compared to the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007

Revenues. Substantially all of our revenues are derived from the production of natural gas in the United States. Natural gas and oil revenues were \$45.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, up 79% from \$25.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Of the increase in revenues, 58% was the result of a 34% increase in prices and 42% was due to a 33% increase in production volumes, primarily in East Texas.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, approximately 56% of our natural gas production was hedged. The realized effect of hedging on natural gas sales was a decrease of \$3.4 million in revenues, resulting in a decrease in total price received from \$7.67 per Mcf to \$7.12 per Mcf.

Unrealized natural gas hedge income of \$1.5 million is related to the time value of the costless collars. For the remainder of 2008, we have approximately 55% of our estimated natural gas production hedged.

Production taxes. We reported production taxes of \$1.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to \$770,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in production taxes was the result of higher production and prices, primarily in Wyoming.

Lease operating expenses. We reported lease operating expenses of \$5.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, up from \$4.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Our lease operating expenses were \$0.93 per Mcfe for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to \$1.04 per Mcfe for the comparable period in 2007. The increase in total lease operating expenses was due to higher Texas workover costs coupled with higher production volumes. During the current period, workover costs totaled \$1.1 million, or \$0.17 per Mcfe, compared to \$484,000, or \$0.10 per Mcfe during the same period in 2007. Excluding workover costs, lease operating costs for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was \$0.76 per Mcfe, compared to \$0.94 per Mcfe for the same period in 2007.

Table of Contents

Transportation and treating. We reported transportation and treating expenses of \$1.5 for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, up from \$1.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. This increase was primarily due to increased production and prices in Wyoming.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization. We reported DD&A of \$18.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, up from \$16.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in DD&A expense was the result of a 33% increase in production, primarily attributable to new East Texas wells. The DD&A rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was \$2.91 per Mcfe, compared to \$3.46 per Mcfe for the comparable period in 2007.

Impairment of natural gas and oil properties. There was no impairment of natural gas and oil properties recorded during the nine months ended September 30, 2008. We recorded a \$28.5 million impairment of natural gas and oil properties for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The weighted average natural gas price utilized for the September 30, 2007 ceiling impairment was \$5.75 per Mcf, held constant.

General and administrative. We reported general and administrative expenses of \$11.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, down from \$13.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. This decrease in general and administrative expenses was primarily due to a \$3.6 million allowance for doubtful accounts established for certain GeoStar receivables during the nine month period ended September 30, 2007. Excluding the GeoStar allowance, general and administrative expenses for the nine months ended 2008 increased \$1.6 million, primarily due to higher legal and personnel costs. Legal costs related to the GeoStar litigation totaled approximately \$1.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, an increase of \$1.3 million for the same period in 2007. Non-cash stock-based compensation expense pursuant to the SFAS 123R, which is included in general and administrative expenses, was \$2.4 and \$3.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Litigation settlement expense. There was no litigation settlement expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2008. The \$1.4 million litigation settlement expense incurred in the nine months ended September 30, 2007 was primarily the result of an accrual related to a proposed settlement with GeoStar on certain matters, which was not settled during the period.

Interest expense. We reported interest expense of \$4.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to \$11.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in interest expense was primarily the result of \$8.5 million of interest being capitalized during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, resulting from capital activity expansion, which was partially offset by higher interest expense on the new 12³/₄% Senior Secured Notes. There was no capitalized interest recorded for the comparable period in 2007.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we continued our two-rig drilling program in the Hilltop area of East Texas and focused on building a leasehold position in the Marcellus shale in West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania while continuing to expand our operations in New South Wales, Australia. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, total capital expenditures totaled approximately \$112.5 million, which was funded through cash provided by operating activities of \$41.1 million and from cash proceeds raised in our November 2007 sale of \$100.0 million of 12³/₄% senior secured notes discussed below. At September 30, 2008, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$14.1 million.

In late November 2007, our wholly-owned subsidiary, Gastar USA, Inc., sold \$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of 12³/₄% senior secured notes at an issue price of 99.50%. The 12³/₄% senior secured notes contain certain covenants that among other things limit our ability to: (i) incur additional indebtedness; (ii) pay distributions on, or repurchase or redeem equity interests; (iii) make certain investments; (iv) incur liens; (v) enter into certain transactions with affiliates; and (vi) sell assets or consolidate or merge into other companies.

Table of Contents

In November 2007, concurrent with the closing of the 12^{3/4}% senior secured notes, Gastar USA entered into a revolving credit facility, which currently provides for a first priority lien borrowing base of \$19.4 million. At September 30, 2008, there were no amounts outstanding under the revolving credit facility, except for a letter of credit of \$500,000 to support our hedging activity. Under the revolving credit facility, we are subject to certain financial covenants, including current ratio requirements. We are not currently in violation of any of the financial covenants. Although no such violations currently exist, adverse market conditions and decreased natural gas prices in the third quarter of 2008 have adversely affected our cash flow and ability to raise capital, which resulted in a risk of a future violation of one or more of the financial covenants in the near term. If such violations occur and we are unable to cure such violations or obtain waivers within the applicable cure periods, such violations will constitute an event of default under the revolving credit facility, and our lenders could cancel their commitment to lend, accelerate the due dates for the payments of all outstanding indebtedness and exercise their remedies as secured creditors with respect to the collateral securing the revolving credit facility.

Our lender recently proposed an increase in our borrowing base to \$45.0 million based on its borrowing base redetermination, subject to the syndication of a portion of the loan to other financial institutions. As a result of the recent turmoil in the credit markets, efforts to syndicate our loan have been unsuccessful to date. As our loan structuring efforts continue, our lead bank has elected to maintain the original borrowing base of \$19.4 million. As of quarter end, we have only an undrawn \$500,000 letter of credit obligation outstanding under the revolving credit facility to support our hedging program. The covenants applicable to our 12^{3/4}% senior secured notes currently permit us to incur up to \$67.3 million under any revolving credit facility.

We continually evaluate our capital needs and compare them to our capital resources and ability to raise funds in the financial markets. In light of the current events in the financial markets and after completing a review of our capital programs for the next 15 months, we are reducing our previously announced capital spending by approximately \$5.4 million for the fourth quarter and \$30.1 for the year ending December 31, 2009. This capital plan consists of expenditures for the fourth quarter of 2008 of \$11.2 million in East Texas, \$6.4 million in the Marcellus Shale, \$4.9 million in New South Wales, \$400,000 in the Powder River Basin and an additional \$4.7 million for capitalized interest and other capital costs. Capital expenditures for 2009 consist of \$24.0 million in East Texas, \$12.7 million in the Marcellus Shale, \$28.9 million in New South Wales, \$3.6 million in the Powder River Basin, and an additional \$18.7 million for capitalized interest and other capital costs. To supplement our cash flow and help fund this capital budget, we are seeking joint venture partners for the development of our properties, with immediate emphasis on securing a partner in our Marcellus Shale acreage, as well as the possibility of selected asset sales. If we are not successful in raising the additional capital required for our current plan, we may further reduce our drilling and development program. As the operator of our East Texas and Marcellus Shale properties, much of our budget can be adjusted at our discretion.

Based on our revised capital plan and after considering internally generated cash flow and utilizing the \$19.4 million available under our revolving credit facility, we project that over the next 15 months we will need to raise an additional \$90.0 million to fund our exploration and development activities, working capital needs and meet \$33.3 million in scheduled debt maturities in 2009. The funding of this capital short fall will focus on securing a partner for the joint venture development of the Marcellus Shale, the issuance of additional debt, or the sale of other properties. At current market prices, it is unlikely that we would seek to issue new common equity; although, we may consider the issuance of warrants or convertible securities to provide funding.

We cannot be certain that future funds from issuances of additional debt and the sale of selected assets in the Marcellus Shale will be available to fully execute our current business plan. Our 12^{3/4}% senior secured notes prohibit us from issuing new debt senior or pari passu to such notes. Should we not be successful in selling a portion of our Marcellus Shale assets or other assets, we may be in default at year end 2008 of our current ratio financial covenant and thus be required to solicit a waiver for such default. To the extent waivers are requested, no assurance can be provided that such amendments or waivers will be granted or that they will be granted on reasonable terms.

Table of Contents

We entered into various costless collar transactions with counterparties. The volumes currently hedged represent approximately 55% of our remaining 2008 projected production and 41% of our 2009 projected production. A covenant in our revolving credit facility-agreement restricts us from hedging more than 85% of the projected natural gas production from proved developed reserves.

Our cash flow and ability to raise capital are highly dependent upon natural gas pricing. Material decreases in natural gas prices during the three months ended September 30, 2008 have significantly and adversely affected our ability to fund our twelve-month capital program and our ability to raise additional capital. Additional material decreases in current and projected natural gas prices or production could impact our ability to fund future activities, further impairing our ability to raise additional capital on acceptable terms and could result in a financial covenant default under our revolving credit facility and our 12^{3/4}% senior secured notes, resulting in mandatory principal reduction under certain conditions. Should we not be successful in raising additional capital, we may be in default at year end 2008 of our current ratio financial covenant and thus be required to solicit a waiver for such default. To the extent waivers are requested, no assurance can be provided that such amendments or waivers will be granted or that they will be granted on reasonable terms. If we were not able to secure a waiver, such violation would constitute an event of default and our lenders could accelerate the due dates for the payments of all outstanding indebtedness and exercise their remedies as secured creditors with respect to the collateral securing the revolving credit facility and the 12^{3/4}% senior secured notes.

Covenants in our revolving credit facility-agreement, 12^{3/4}% senior secured notes indenture and our 9.75% convertible senior unsecured subordinated debentures indenture require us to make an offer to repurchase or repay all of the outstanding indebtedness thereunder in the event of a change of control of the Company, as defined in the respective agreements. Each of the indentures provides that if there is a change of control of the Company, we are required to make an offer to each holder to repurchase all or any part of the 12^{3/4}% senior secured notes or the 9.75% convertible senior unsecured debentures, as the case may be, at 101% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes or debentures tendered for repurchase, plus accrued and unpaid interest. The revolving credit facility agreement provides that in the event of a change of control, as defined therein, all obligations under the revolving credit facility-will become immediately due and payable. If the change of control event occurs in one or more of these agreements, we may not have adequate financing available to meet the resulting payment obligations.

At September 30, 2008, we were in compliance with all debt covenants.

Off Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of September 30, 2008, we had no off balance sheet arrangements. We have no plans to enter into any off balance sheet arrangements in the foreseeable future.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting US GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses, contingent assets and liabilities and the related disclosures in the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements. Changes in these estimates and assumptions could materially affect our financial position, results of operations or cash flows. Management considers an accounting estimate to be critical if:

It requires assumptions to be made that were uncertain at the time the estimate was made; and

Changes in the estimate or different estimates that could have been selected could have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations or financial condition.

Significant accounting policies that we employ and information about the nature of our most critical accounting estimates, our assumptions or approach used and the effects of hypothetical changes in the material assumptions used to develop each estimate are presented in Note 2 to our condensed consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

Table of Contents

For information as to new accounting pronouncements, see Note 1 to our condensed consolidated financial statements in this Form 10-Q.

Item 3. *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk* Commodity Price Risk

Our major commodity price risk exposure is to the prices received for our natural gas production. Realized commodity prices received for our production are the spot prices applicable to natural gas in the region produced. Prices received for natural gas are volatile and unpredictable and are beyond our control. We have entered into hedge transactions to mitigate our commodity pricing risk. For the nine months ended September 30, 2008, a 10% change in the prices received for natural gas production would have had an approximate \$4.5 million impact on our revenues before mitigating factors that might result from having hedge transactions in place. See Note 5 to our condensed consolidated financial statements for additional information on our commodity hedging activities.

Interest Rate Risk

The carrying value of our debt approximates fair value. At September 30, 2008, we had approximately \$133.3 million in principal amount of long-term debt, all of which was at a fixed interest rate. A 10% fluctuation in interest rates would have no impact on our annual interest expense.

Currency Translation Risk

Our revenues and expenses and the majority of our capital expenditures are primarily in United States dollars, thus limiting our exposure to currency translation risk. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we spent approximately \$5.6 million of capital expenditures on our Australian activities. We currently have no plans to implement hedges or financial instruments to manage international currency changes but may consider securing such hedges or financial instruments as our capital activity in Australia increases.

Item 4. *Controls and Procedures* Management's Evaluation on the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As required by SEC Rule 13a-15(b), we have evaluated, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this Form 10-Q. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the information required to be disclosed by us in reports we file under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure and is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC. Our principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2008 at the reasonable assurance level.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended September 30, 2008 that materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

A discussion of current legal proceedings is set forth in Note 13 to our condensed consolidated financial statements in this Form 10-Q.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

In addition to other information set forth in this Form 10-Q, you should carefully consider the factors discussed under the heading Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, which could materially affect our business, financial condition and future results. The risk factors described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K are not the only risk factors facing our Company. Listed below are additional risk factors currently known to us, which may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results and cash flows. Additional risk factors and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results and cash flows.

We may not be able to obtain funding, obtain funding on acceptable terms or obtain funding under our revolving credit facility because of the deterioration of the credit and capital markets. This may hinder or prevent us from meeting our future capital needs.

Global financial markets and economic conditions have been, and continue to be, disrupted and volatile. The debt and equity capital markets have been exceedingly distressed. These issues, along with significant write-offs in the financial services sector, the re-pricing of credit risk and the current weak economic conditions have made, and will likely continue to make, it difficult to obtain funding.

In particular, availability of funds from those markets generally has diminished significantly, while the cost of raising money in the debt and equity capital markets has increased substantially. Also, as a result of concerns about the stability of financial markets generally and the solvency of counterparties specifically, the cost of obtaining money from the credit markets generally has increased as many lenders and institutional investors have increased interest rates, enacted tighter lending standards, refused to refinance existing debt at maturity at all or on terms similar to current debt, and reduced and, in some cases, ceased to provide funding to borrowers.

In addition, we may be unable to obtain adequate funding under our revolving credit facility because (i) our borrowing base under our current credit facility, which is redetermined at least twice a year, may decrease as a result of lower natural gas and oil prices, lending requirements and regulations, or for any other reason or (ii) our lending counterparties may be unwilling or unable to meet their funding obligations.

Due to these factors, we cannot be certain that funding will be available for our planned exploration and development activities on acceptable terms. Additionally, as of September 30, 2008 we had \$3.3 million of 10.0% subordinated unsecured notes payable that become due between April and September 2009 and \$30.0 million of 9.75% convertible senior unsecured subordinated debentures that become due in November 2009. We may not be able to refinance or repay the obligations associated with these maturities. If we are unable to obtain funding for either of these items, it could have a material adverse effect on our liquidity, financial condition, and results of operations.

Our inability to meet a financial covenant contained in our revolving credit facility may adversely affect our liquidity, financial condition or results of operations.

Under the revolving credit facility we entered into in November 2007, we are subject to certain financial covenants, including current ratio requirements. While we are not currently in violation of any of the financial covenants, adverse market conditions and decreased natural gas prices in the third quarter of 2008 have significantly and adversely affected our cash flow and ability to raise capital. We project that,

Table of Contents

absent modifications to the financial covenants contained in our revolving credit facility, significant improvement in the results of our operations, or the successful syndication of our revolving credit facility, that we will violate the current ratio covenant at year end 2008 and thus be required to solicit a waiver for such default. To the extent waivers are requested, no assurance can be provided that such amendments or waivers will be granted or that they will be granted on reasonable terms.

If such violations occur and we are unable to cure such violations or obtain waivers from our lenders under the revolving credit facility within the applicable cure periods, such violations will constitute an event of default under the revolving credit facility and our lender could terminate any commitments it had to make available further funds, accelerate the due dates for the payments of all outstanding indebtedness and exercise its remedies as a secured creditor with respect to the collateral securing the revolving credit facility, which is substantially all of our natural gas and oil properties.

If the counterparties to the derivative instruments we use to hedge our business risks default or fail to perform, we may be exposed to risks we had sought to mitigate, which could materially adversely effect our financial condition and results of operations.

We use hedges to mitigate our natural gas price risk with a number of counterparties. If our counterparties fail or refuse to honor their obligations under these derivative instruments, our hedges of the related risk will be ineffective. This is a more pronounced risk to us in view of the recent stresses suffered by financial institutions. Such failure could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. We cannot provide assurance that our counterparties will honor their obligations now or in the future. A counterparty's insolvency, inability or unwillingness to make payments required under terms of derivative instruments with us could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. At the date of filing this Form 10-Q, our counterparties were BP Corporation North America USA, J.P. Morgan Ventures Energy Corporation and Amegy Bank, N.A.

Item 2. *Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds*
None.

Item 3. *Defaults Upon Senior Securities*
None.

Item 4. *Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders*
None

Item 5. *Other Information*
None.

Table of Contents

Item 6. Exhibits

The following is a list of exhibits filed or furnished (in the case of 32.1 and 32.2) as part of this Form 10-Q. Where so indicated by a note, exhibits, which were previously filed, are incorporated herein by reference.

Exhibit

Number	Description
31.1	Certification of chief executive officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of chief financial officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification of the chief executive officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	Certification of the chief financial officer pursuant Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Filed herewith.

Furnished herewith.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

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

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD.

Date: November 10, 2008

By: /s/ J. RUSSELL PORTER
J. Russell Porter
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
(Duly authorized officer and principal executive officer)

Date: November 10, 2008

By: /s/ MICHAEL A. GERLICH
Michael A. Gerlich
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
*(Duly authorized officer and

principal financial and accounting officer)*

Table of Contents**EXHIBIT INDEX****Exhibit**

Number	Description
3.1	Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Gastar Exploration Ltd. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 the Company's Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A filed October 13, 2005, Registration No. 333-127498).
3(ii)	Bylaws of Gastar Exploration Ltd. approved March 31, 2000 and amended August 21, 2006 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3(ii) of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 19, 2006. File No. 001-37214).
4.1	Indenture dated November 12, 2004 between Gastar Exploration Ltd. and CIBC Mellon Trust Company, as trustee for the 9.75% Convertible Senior Unsecured Subordinated Debenture (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
4.2	Form of 9.75% Convertible Senior Unsecured Subordinated Debenture of Gastar Exploration Ltd. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
4.3	Agency Agreement dated as of November 12, 2004 between Gastar Exploration Ltd. and West wind Partners Inc. in connection with issuances of 9.75% Convertible Senior Unsecured Subordinated Debenture of Gastar Exploration Ltd. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
4.4	Registration Rights Agreement dated as of June 17, 2005, by and among Gastar Exploration Ltd. and the purchasers named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.9 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
4.5	Form of 10% subordinated notes issued between April 2004 and September 2004 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.14 of the Company's Amendment No. 4 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, filed on December 22, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
4.6	Form of warrant to purchase common shares of Gastar Exploration Ltd issued between April 2004 and September 2004 in connection with the sale of 10% subordinated notes (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.15 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
4.7	Agreement between Gastar Exploration Ltd. and GeoStar Corporation dated August 11, 2005 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.17 of the Company's Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, filed on October 30, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
4.8	Registration Rights Agreement between Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Chesapeake Energy Corporation dated November 4, 2005 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.20 of the Company's Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, filed on November 22, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
4.9	Facsimile of common share certificate of Gastar Exploration Ltd. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.21 of the Company's Amendment No. 3 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, dated December 15, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
4.10	Indenture related to the 12 ³ / ₄ % Senior Secured Notes due November 29, 2012, dated as of November 29, 2007, between Gastar Exploration USA, Inc., Gastar Exploration Ltd., Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee and Collateral Agent and each of the other Guarantors party thereto (including the form of 12 ³ / ₄ % Senior Secured Note due 2012) 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 4, 2007).
4.11	Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of November 29, 2007, among Gastar Exploration USA, Inc., Gastar Exploration Ltd., each of the other Guarantors party thereto, Jefferies & Company, Inc., Johnson Rice & Company L.L.C. and Pritchard Capital Partners, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 4, 2007).
4.12	Warrant dated June 11, 2008, entitling GeoStar Corporation to acquire, subject to adjustments, 10,000,000 Gastar Exploration Ltd. common shares (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Current Report of Form 8-K dated June 13, 2008).
10.1*	The Gastar Exploration Ltd. 2002 Stock Option Plan, dated July 5, 2002 as amended February 14, 2004 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
10.2*	

Edgar Filing: GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD - Form 10-Q

Employment Agreement dated March 23, 2005 by and among First Sourcenergy Wyoming, Inc., Gastar Exploration Ltd. and J. Russell Porter (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).

Table of Contents

- 10.3* Employment Agreement dated April 26, 2005 by and among First Sourcenergy Wyoming, Inc., Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Michael A Gerlich (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.4 Form of Subscription Agreement for United States purchasers of 9.75% Convertible Senior Unsecured Subordinated Debenture of Gastar Exploration Ltd (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.5 Form of Subscription Agreement for foreign purchasers of 9.75% Convertible Senior Unsecured Subordinated Debenture of Gastar Exploration Ltd. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.6 Form of Subscription Agreement for United States purchasers of common shares of Gastar Exploration Ltd. in a private placement dated June 30, 2005 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.10 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.7 Form of Subscription Agreement for foreign purchasers of common shares of Gastar Exploration Ltd. in a private placement dated June 30, 2005 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.11 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on August 12, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.8 Purchase and Sale Agreement between GeoStar Corporation and Gastar Exploration Ltd. covering Wyoming and Montana producing properties dated June 16, 2005 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Company's Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, filed on October 30, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.9 Purchase and Sale Agreement between GeoStar Corporation and Gastar Exploration Ltd. covering Wyoming and Montana non-producing properties dated June 16, 2005 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 of the Company's Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, filed on October 30, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.10 Purchase and Sale Agreement between GeoStar Corporation and Gastar Exploration Ltd. covering Texas producing properties dated June 16, 2005 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 of the Company's Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, filed on October 30, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.11 Purchase and Sale Agreement between GeoStar Corporation and Gastar Exploration Ltd. covering Texas non-producing properties dated June 16, 2005 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 of the Company's Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, filed on October 30, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.12 Common Share Purchase Agreement between Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Chesapeake Energy Corporation dated November 4, 2005 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.19 of the Company's Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, filed on November 22, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.13 Participation and Operating Agreement between GeoStar Corporation and Gastar Exploration Ltd. dated June 15, 2001 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.19 of the Company's Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, filed on November 22, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.14 Promissory Note for \$15.0 million between GeoStar Corporation and Gastar Exploration Ltd. dated August 11, 2001 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 of the Company's Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, filed on October 30, 2005. Registration No. 333-127498).
- 10.15* Form of Gastar officer stock option grant (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.10 of the Company's annual Report on form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005. File No. 001-32714).
- 10.16* Gastar Exploration Ltd. 2006 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan approved June 1, 2006 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006. File No. 001-32714).
- 10.17 Form of Subscription Agreement for private offering of 25.0 million common shares (incorporated by reference to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 15, 2006.)
- 10.18* Form of Indemnity Agreement for Directors and Certain Executive Officers (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 19, 2006. File No. 001-32714).
- 10.19* Form of Gastar Exploration Ltd. Employee Change of Control Severance Plan effective as of March 23, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006. File No. 001-32714).

Table of Contents

- 10.20 Common Share Purchase Agreement between Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Navasota Resources, L.P. dated as of May 9, 2007, in connection with the issuance and sale of 10,000,000 common shares (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 15, 2007. File No. 001-32714).
- 10.21 Registration Rights Agreement by and between Gastar Exploration Ltd. and Navasota Resources, L.P. dated as of May 9, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 15, 2007. File No. 001-32714).
- 10.22 Ratification and Assumption of LOI between and among Gastar Exploration Ltd., Gastar Exploration Texas LP and Navasota Resources, L.P. dated May 9, 2007, with Letter of Intent dated April 27, 2007 between and among Gastar Exploration Ltd., Gastar Exploration Texas LP, Chesapeake Energy Corporation and Chesapeake Exploration Limited Partnership, attached thereto as Exhibit A (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 15, 2007. File No. 001-32714).
- 10.23* Letter Agreement dated July 5, 2007, which sets forth the terms of the appointment of Jeffrey C. Pettit as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Gastar Exploration Ltd. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 21, 2007. File No. 001-32714).
- 10.24 Intercreditor Agreement dated November 29, 2007 among Gastar Exploration USA, Inc., Gastar Exploration Ltd., each of the Guarantors party thereto, Amegy Bank National Association, as First Priority Agent, and Wells Fargo National Association, as Second Priority Agent 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 13, 2007).
- 10.25 Credit Agreement, dated November 29, 2007, among Gastar Exploration USA, Inc., the Guarantors party thereto and Amegy Bank National Association, as Administrative Agent, and Letter of Credit Issuer 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 4, 2007).
- 10.26* Form of Gastar Exploration Ltd. Employee Change of Control Severance Plan effective as of March 23, 2007 and as amended and restated effective February 15, 2008 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007. File No. 001-32714).
- 10.27 Waiver and First Amendment to Credit Agreement among Gastar Exploration USA, Inc., the Guarantors Signatory hereto, the Lenders Signatory hereto and Amegy Bank National Association, as Administrative Agent executed June 6, 2008 and effective as of April 1, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report of Form 8-K dated June 11, 2008).
- 10.28 Settlement Agreement and Comprehensive General Release dated June 11, 2008 for the resolution of disputes between GeoStar Corporation and Gastar Exploration Ltd. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report of Form 8-K dated June 13, 2008).
- 10.29* First Amendment to Employment Agreement entered into by and between Gastar Exploration, Ltd, Gastar Exploration USA, Inc., f/k/a First Sourceenergy Wyoming, Inc., and J. Russell Porter as of July 25, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report of Form 8-K dated July 28, 2008).
- 10.30* First Amendment to Employment Agreement entered into by and between Gastar Exploration, Ltd, Gastar Exploration USA, Inc., f/k/a First Sourceenergy Wyoming, Inc., and Michael A. Gerlich as of July 25, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Current Report of Form 8-K dated July 28, 2008).
- 14.1 Gastar Exploration Ltd. Code of Ethics, adopted effective December 15, 2005 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 14.1 of the Company's Amendment No 4 to Registration Statement on Form S-1/A, dated December 22, 2005, Registration No. 333-27498).
- 21.1 Subsidiaries of Gastar Exploration Ltd. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 21.1 of the Company's annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007. File No. 001-32714).
- 31.1 Certification of chief executive officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 Certification of chief financial officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1 Certification of chief executive officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.2 Certification of chief financial officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.
 Filed herewith.
 Furnished herewith.

