

MARINER ENERGY INC  
Form DEFA14A  
October 19, 2010

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

**Mariner Energy, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

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

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

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

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

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

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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On October 19, 2010, Mariner Energy, Inc. made the following communication to holders of options exercisable for shares of Mariner's common stock:

The last day on which you may exercise your Mariner stock option is Friday, November 5, 2010, subject to any blackout to which you may be subject under Mariner's Insider Trading Policy. If you have not by then fully exercised your Mariner stock option, an administrative two business-day exercise blackout before closing is planned to facilitate the conversion of your Mariner stock option into a fully vested Apache stock option upon closing. The number of shares for which your Apache stock option will be exercisable will be the number of shares for which your Mariner stock option is exercisable multiplied by 0.24347, with any fractional share decreased to the next whole number of shares. The exercise price of your Apache stock option will be the exercise price of your Mariner stock option divided by 0.24347, with any fraction of a cent increased to the next whole cent. Your vested Apache stock option will be available as soon as administratively possible after closing. Once available, and after your on-line acceptance on the Fidelity system, you will immediately be able to exercise any or all vested Apache options in your brokerage account with Fidelity Investments.

#### **Additional Information**

In connection with the pending merger of Mariner Energy, Inc. into a wholly-owned subsidiary of Apache Corporation (the Merger), Mariner and Apache have filed a definitive proxy statement/prospectus and other documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission. INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS ARE URGED TO CAREFULLY READ THE DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS BECAUSE IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING MARINER, APACHE, AND THE MERGER.

A definitive proxy statement/prospectus will be sent to stockholders of Mariner seeking their approval of the Merger. Investors and security holders may obtain a free copy of the definitive proxy statement/prospectus and other documents filed by Mariner and Apache with the SEC at the SEC's website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Mariner are available free of charge on Mariner's website at [www.mariner-energy.com](http://www.mariner-energy.com) under the tab Investor Information or by contacting Mariner's Investor Relations Department at 713-954-5558. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Apache are available free of charge on Apache's website at [www.apachecorp.com](http://www.apachecorp.com) under the tab Investors or by contacting Apache's Investor Relations Department at 713-296-6000. You may also read and copy any reports, statements and other information filed with the SEC at the SEC public reference room at 100 F Street N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at (800) 732-0330 or visit the SEC's website for further information on its public reference room.

#### **Participants in Solicitation**

Mariner, its directors, executive officers and certain members of management and employees may, under the rules of the SEC, be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from stockholders of Mariner in connection with the Merger. Information concerning the interests of the persons who may be participants in the solicitation is set forth in the definitive proxy statement/prospectus. Information concerning beneficial ownership of Mariner stock by its directors and certain executive officers is included in its proxy statement dated March 29, 2010 and subsequent statements of changes in beneficial ownership on file with the SEC.

Apache, its directors, executive officers and certain members of management and employees may, under the rules of the SEC, be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from stockholders of Mariner in connection with the Merger. Information concerning the interests of the persons who may be participants in the solicitation is set forth in the definitive proxy statement/prospectus. Information concerning beneficial ownership of Apache stock by its directors and certain executive officers is included in its proxy statement dated March 31, 2010 and subsequent statements of changes in beneficial ownership on file with the SEC.

#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This communication contains forward-looking statements that involve significant risks and uncertainties. All statements other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be deemed forward-looking statements, including: statements regarding the anticipated timing of filings and approvals relating to the Merger; statements regarding the expected timing of the completion of the Merger; statements regarding the ability to complete the Merger considering the various closing conditions; any statements of expectation or belief; and any statements of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing. Investors and security holders are cautioned not to place undue reliance

on these forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from those currently anticipated due to a number of risks and uncertainties. Risks and uncertainties that could cause results to differ from expectations include, among others: the possibility that one or more closing conditions for the Merger may not be satisfied or waived, including the failure to obtain the requisite approval of Mariner's stockholders or the possibility that a governmental entity may prohibit, delay or refuse to grant approval for the consummation of the Merger; the effects of disruption from the Merger making it more difficult to maintain relationships with employees, business partners or governmental entities; other business effects, including the effects of industry, economic or political conditions outside of the control of Mariner or Apache; and other risks and uncertainties discussed in documents filed with the SEC by Mariner and Apache.