

Western Gas Partners LP  
Form 424B3  
October 09, 2012  
**Table of Contents**

**The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of an effective registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where such offer or sale is not permitted.**

**SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED OCTOBER 9, 2012**

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)  
Registration No. 333-174043**

**PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

**(To Prospectus Dated May 9, 2011)**

**\$**

**4.0% SENIOR NOTES DUE 2022**

We are offering \$ \_\_\_\_\_ aggregate principal amount of 4.0% Senior Notes due 2022 (the "new notes"). The new notes are being offered as additional notes under an indenture pursuant to which we issued \$520 million aggregate principal amount of 4.0% Senior Notes due 2022 on June 28, 2012 (the "existing notes" and, together with the new notes, the "notes"). The new notes offered hereby and the existing notes will be treated as a single class of securities under the indenture. Interest on the notes will be paid semi-annually on January 1 and July 1 of each year, commencing January 1, 2013. The notes will mature on July 1, 2022 unless redeemed prior to maturity.

We may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at any time or from time to time prior to their maturity at a redemption price that includes a make-whole premium, as described under "Description of Notes - Optional Redemption."

Like the existing notes, the new notes will be our senior unsecured obligations, ranking equally in right of payment with our other existing and future senior indebtedness.

For a more detailed description of the notes, see [Description of Notes](#) beginning on page S-17.

**Investing in the notes involves risks. See [Risk Factors](#) beginning on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement and on page 5 of the accompanying prospectus.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

	Per Note	Total
Public Offering Price (1)	%	\$
Underwriting Discount	%	\$
Proceeds to Us (before expenses) (1)	%	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest from June 28, 2012.

The underwriters expect to deliver the new notes to purchasers on or about October , 2012 through the book-entry facilities of The Depository Trust Company.

#### Joint Book-Running Managers

## RBS

October , 2012

**Table of Contents****TABLE OF CONTENTS****Prospectus Supplement**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>Summary</u>	S-1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-8
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-12
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-13
<u>Description of Other Indebtedness</u>	S-14
<u>Description of Notes</u>	S-16
<u>Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	S-29
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-35
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-38
<u>Experts</u>	S-38
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-38
<u>Information Incorporated by Reference</u>	S-40

**Prospectus**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>About Western Gas Partners, LP</u>	1
<u>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	3
<u>Risk Factors</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	5
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	5
<u>Description of Debt Securities and Guarantees</u>	6
<u>Income Tax Considerations</u>	17
<u>Investment in Our Units or Debt Securities by Employee Benefit Plans</u>	34
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	37
<u>Legal Matters</u>	39
<u>Experts</u>	39
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	39

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering of the new notes. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering of the new notes. Generally, when we refer only to the prospectus, we are referring to both parts combined. If the information about the offering of the new notes varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, the information in this prospectus supplement will control.

Any statement made in the prospectus or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into the prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of the prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in the prospectus or in any other subsequently filed document that is also incorporated by reference into the prospectus modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of the prospectus. Please read Information Incorporated by Reference on page S-40 of this prospectus supplement.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into the prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us relating to this offering of the new notes. Neither we nor the underwriters have authorized anyone to provide you with

**Table of Contents**

additional or different information. If anyone provides you with additional, different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We and the underwriters are offering to sell the new notes, and seeking offers to buy the new notes, only in jurisdictions where such offers and sales are permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the dates shown in these documents or that any information we have incorporated by reference herein is accurate as of any date other than the date of the applicable document incorporated by reference. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since such dates.

We expect delivery of the new notes will be made against payment therefor on or about October 1, 2012, which is the seventh business day following the date of pricing of the notes (such settlement being referred to as T+7). Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade the new notes on the date of pricing of the new notes or the next succeeding three business days will be required, by virtue of the fact that the new notes initially will settle in T+7, to specify an alternate settlement cycle at the time of any such trade to prevent failed settlement and should consult their own advisers.

None of Western Gas Partners, LP, the underwriters or any of their respective representatives is making any representation to you regarding the legality of an investment in the new notes by you under applicable laws. You should consult with your own advisors as to legal, tax, business, financial and related aspects of an investment in the new notes.

**Table of Contents**

**SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. It does not contain all of the information that you should consider before making an investment decision. You should read this entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference for a more complete understanding of this offering of the new notes. Please read Risk Factors beginning on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement and on page 5 of the accompanying prospectus for information regarding risks you should consider before investing in the new notes.*

*Throughout this prospectus supplement, when we use the terms we, us, our or the partnership, we are referring either to Western Gas Partners, LP in its individual capacity or to Western Gas Partners, LP and its subsidiaries collectively, as the context requires. References in this prospectus supplement to our general partner refer to Western Gas Holdings, LLC, the general partner of Western Gas Partners, LP.*

**Our Business**

We are a growth-oriented Delaware master limited partnership organized by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation ( Anadarko ) to own, operate, acquire and develop midstream energy assets. We currently own assets located in East, West and South Texas, the Rocky Mountains (Colorado, Utah and Wyoming) and the Mid-Continent (Kansas and Oklahoma) and are engaged in the business of gathering, processing, compressing, treating and transporting natural gas, condensate, natural gas liquids ( NGLs ) and crude oil for Anadarko, as well as third-party producers and customers. Approximately two-thirds of our services are provided under long-term contracts with fee-based rates with the remainder provided under percent-of-proceeds and keep-whole contracts. We have entered into fixed-price swap agreements with Anadarko to manage the commodity price risk inherent in our percent-of-proceeds and keep-whole contracts. A substantial part of our business is conducted under long-term contracts with Anadarko.

We believe that one of our principal strengths is our relationship with Anadarko. Approximately 75% and 76% of our total natural gas gathering, transportation and treating throughput during the year ended December 31, 2011 and the six months ended June 30, 2012, respectively, was attributable to natural gas production owned or controlled by Anadarko. Approximately 64% and 59% of our total processing throughput during the year ended December 31, 2011 and the six months ended June 30, 2012, respectively, was attributable to natural gas production owned or controlled by Anadarko. In executing our growth strategy, which includes acquiring and constructing additional midstream assets, we utilize the significant experience of Anadarko's management team. Anadarko's total domestic midstream asset portfolio (excluding assets which we fully consolidate into our results) had an aggregate average throughput of approximately 2.4 Bcf/d for the six months ended June 30, 2012, and as of that date consisted of 16 gathering systems, approximately 3,800 miles of pipeline and eight processing and/or treating facilities.

**Table of Contents****Our Assets and Areas of Operation**

As of June 30, 2012, our assets consisted of thirteen gathering systems, seven natural gas treating facilities, ten natural gas processing facilities, two NGL pipelines, one interstate natural gas pipeline that is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), one intrastate natural gas pipeline and interests in two natural gas gathering systems and a crude oil pipeline. The following table provides information regarding our assets by geographic region, other than natural gas processing facilities currently under construction in South Texas and Colorado, as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2012:

Area	Asset Type	Miles of Pipeline	Approximate Number of Receipt Points	Gas Compression (horsepower)	Processing or Treating Capacity (MMcf/d)	Average Gathering, Processing and Transportation Throughput (MMcf/d)
Rocky Mountains(1)	Gathering, Processing and Treating	7,106	4,887	344,137	2,480	2,208
	Transportation	982	32	26,828		87
Mid-Continent	Gathering	2,012	1,498	92,097		82
East Texas	Gathering and Treating	590	843	37,820	502	248
West Texas	Gathering	120	90			53
Total		10,810	7,350	500,882	2,982	2,678

(1) Throughput includes 100% of Chipeta Processing LLC (Chipeta) system volumes; 50% of Newcastle gathering system volumes; 22% of Rendezvous Gas Services LLC's volumes and 14.81% of Fort Union Gas Gathering, L.L.C.'s volumes. For the six months ended June 30, 2012, throughput excludes 26 MBbls/d of average NGL pipeline volumes from the Chipeta assets and 6 MBbls/d of oil pipeline volumes representing our 10% share of average White Cliffs Pipeline, LLC volumes.

**Recent Developments*****Acquisition of Additional Chipeta Interest***

On August 1, 2012, we acquired an additional 24% membership interest in Chipeta from Anadarko, bringing our total membership interest in Chipeta to 75%. Consideration paid for the 24% membership interest consisted of \$128.3 million of cash on hand and the issuance of 151,235 common units and 3,086 general partner units.

**Table of Contents**

**Ownership and Principal Offices of Western Gas Partners, LP**

The chart below depicts our organization and ownership structure as of the date of this prospectus.

Our principal executive offices are located at 1201 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77380-1046, and our telephone number is (832) 636-6000. Our website is located at <http://www.westerngas.com>. The information on our website is not part of this prospectus supplement.

S-3

**Table of Contents**

**The Offering**

Issuer	Western Gas Partners, LP.
Notes Offered	\$ million aggregate principal amount of 4.0% Senior Notes due 2022 (the new notes ). The new notes are being offered as additional notes under an indenture pursuant to which we issued \$520 million aggregate principal amount of 4.0% Senior Notes due 2022 on June 28, 2012 (the existing notes and, together with the new notes, the notes ). The new notes offered hereby and the existing notes will be treated as a single class of securities under the indenture.
Maturity Date	July 1, 2022.
Interest Rate	Interest will accrue on the new notes from June 28, 2012 at a rate of 4.0% per annum.
Interest Payment Dates	Interest is payable semiannually in arrears on January 1 and July 1 of each year, beginning on January 1, 2013.
Future Subsidiary Guarantees	Currently, the notes are not guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries. In the future, however, if any of our subsidiaries guarantees our obligations under our revolving credit facility, then that subsidiary will, jointly and severally, fully and unconditionally guarantee our payment obligations under the notes so long as such subsidiary has any guarantee obligation under our revolving credit facility. If we cannot make payments on the notes when they are due, any such guarantor subsidiaries existing at such time must make them instead. See Description of Notes Future Subsidiary Guarantees.
Use of Proceeds	We expect to receive net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$ million after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us and excluding accrued interest from June 28, 2012 to be paid by the purchasers of the new notes.  We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general partnership purposes. See Use of Proceeds.
Ranking	Like the existing notes, the new notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will:  rank equally in right of payment with all of our existing and future senior indebtedness;  rank senior in right of payment to all of our future subordinated indebtedness;





**Table of Contents**

rank junior in right of payment to all of our future secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness; and

be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of any of our subsidiaries, other than any subsidiaries that may guarantee the notes in the future.

As of June 30, 2012, after giving effect to the issuance and sale of the notes and the application of the net proceeds as set forth under Use of Proceeds, we would have had total consolidated indebtedness of approximately \$ billion, none of which constitutes secured indebtedness, consisting entirely of our senior notes, including the new notes offered hereby, and we would be able to incur an additional \$800.0 million of indebtedness under our revolving credit facility. See Capitalization and Description of Other Indebtedness.

Optional Redemption

At our option, any or all of the notes may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at any time prior to maturity. If we elect to redeem and repay the notes before April 1, 2022, we will pay an amount equal to the greater of 100% of the principal amount of the notes redeemed and repaid, or the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the notes, plus a make-whole premium. If we elect to redeem and repay the notes on or after April 1, 2022, we will pay an amount equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes redeemed and repaid. We will pay accrued interest on the notes redeemed to the redemption date. See Description of Notes Optional Redemption.

Covenants

We issued the existing notes, and we will issue the new notes, under an indenture with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. The indenture contains covenants that, among other things, limit our ability and the ability of certain of our subsidiaries to:

create liens on our principal properties;

engage in sale and leaseback transactions; and

merge or consolidate with another entity or sell, lease or transfer substantially all of our properties or assets to another entity.

These covenants are subject to a number of important exceptions, limitations and qualifications. See Description of Notes Certain Covenants, Description of Notes Certain Covenants Limitation on Liens and Description of Notes Certain Covenants Limitation on Sale-Leaseback Transactions.

**Table of Contents**

Further Issuances	We may, from time to time, without notice to or consent of the holders of the notes, again issue additional notes having the same interest rate, maturity and other terms as the existing notes and the new notes. Any additional notes having such similar terms, together with the existing notes and the new notes, will constitute a single series under the indenture.
Listing and Trading	We do not intend to list the notes for trading on any securities exchange. Certain of the underwriters have advised us that they currently intend to continue to make, or to commence to make, a market in the notes. However, they are not obligated to do so, and they may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice.
Governing Law	The indenture and the notes provide that they are governed by, and will be construed in accordance with, the laws of the state of New York.
Risk Factors	Investing in the new notes involves risks. Before making an investment decision in the new notes offered hereby, you should read Risk Factors beginning on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement and on page 5 of the accompanying prospectus together with the documents and other cautionary statements contained or incorporated by reference herein or therein.

**Table of Contents****Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges**

	<b>Six Months Ended June 30, 2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>			
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1)	5.6x	7.5x	9.9x	13.9x	68.6x	21.1x

- (1) These ratios were computed by dividing earnings by fixed charges. For this purpose, earnings include pre-tax income before adjustment for income or loss from equity investees, plus fixed charges to the extent they affect current year earnings, amortization of capitalized interest and distributed income of equity investees, then subtracting equity income, noncontrolling interests in pre-tax income from subsidiaries that did not incur fixed charges, and interest capitalized during the year. Fixed charges include interest expensed and capitalized, amortized premiums, discounts and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness, and estimates of interest within rental expenses.

---

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

*An investment in the new notes involves risk. Before making an investment in the new notes offered hereby, you should carefully consider the risk factors below and those included under the caption Risk Factors beginning on page 5 of the accompanying prospectus, as well as the risk factors included in Item 1A. Risk Factors in our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011 and our Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2012, together with all of the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.*

**Risks Related to the Notes**

*Our significant indebtedness, and any future indebtedness, and the restrictions in our debt agreements may adversely affect our future financial and operating flexibility and our ability to service the notes.*

As of June 30, 2012, after giving effect to this offering and the application of the net proceeds as described in Use of Proceeds, our consolidated indebtedness would have been approximately \$ billion, and we would have been able to incur an additional \$800.0 million of indebtedness under our revolving credit facility. Our substantial indebtedness and the additional debt we may incur in the future for potential acquisitions or operating activities may adversely affect our liquidity and therefore our ability to make interest payments on the notes.

Among other things, our significant indebtedness may be viewed negatively by credit rating agencies, which could result in increased costs for us to access the capital markets. Any future downgrade of the debt issued by us or our subsidiaries could significantly increase our capital costs or adversely affect our ability to raise capital in the future.

Debt service obligations and restrictive covenants in our revolving credit facility and the indenture governing the notes may adversely affect our ability to finance future operations, pursue acquisitions and fund other capital needs. In addition, our indebtedness may make our results of operations more susceptible to adverse economic or operating conditions by limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry in which we operate and may place us at a competitive disadvantage as compared to our competitors that have less debt.

The indenture governing the notes permits us to incur additional debt, which would be equal in right of payment to the notes. If we incur any additional indebtedness, including trade payables, that ranks equally with the notes, the holders of that debt will be entitled to share ratably with you in any proceeds distributed in connection with any insolvency, liquidation, reorganization, dissolution or other winding up of us. This may have the effect of reducing the amount of proceeds paid to you. If new debt is added to our current debt levels, the related risks that we now face could intensify.

*The notes are our senior unsecured obligations and as a result, the notes are effectively junior to our future secured indebtedness, to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness, and to the indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries, other than subsidiaries that may guarantee the notes in the future.*

The notes are our senior unsecured obligations and rank equally in right of payment with all of our other existing and future senior indebtedness and are structurally subordinated to the claims of all creditors, including trade creditors and tort claimants, of our subsidiaries, other than subsidiaries that may guarantee the notes in the future. In the event of the liquidation, dissolution, reorganization, bankruptcy or similar proceeding of the business of a subsidiary that is not a guarantor, creditors of that subsidiary, including trade creditors, would generally have the right to be paid in full before any distribution is made to us or the holders of the notes. Accordingly, there may not be sufficient funds remaining to pay amounts due on all or any of the notes. As of

---

**Table of Contents**

June 30, 2012, our subsidiaries had no debt for borrowed money owing to any unaffiliated third parties. However, such subsidiaries are not prohibited under the indenture from incurring indebtedness in the future.

In addition, because the notes are, and any future guarantees of the notes will be, unsecured, holders of any secured indebtedness of ours or our subsidiaries would have claims with respect to the assets constituting collateral for such indebtedness that are senior to the claims of the holders of the notes. Currently, neither we nor any of our subsidiaries has any secured indebtedness. Although the indenture governing the notes places some limitations on our ability to create liens securing indebtedness, there are significant exceptions to these limitations that will allow us to secure significant amounts of indebtedness without equally and ratably securing the notes. If we or our subsidiaries incur secured indebtedness and such indebtedness is either accelerated or becomes subject to a bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization, our and our subsidiaries' assets would be used to satisfy obligations with respect to the indebtedness secured thereby before any payment could be made on the notes. Consequently, any such secured indebtedness would effectively be senior to the notes and any future guarantees of the notes, to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such secured indebtedness. In that event, you may not be able to recover all the principal or interest you are due under the notes.

*Any future subsidiary guarantees could be deemed fraudulent conveyances under certain circumstances, and in such event a court may try to subordinate or void the subsidiary guarantees.*

Currently, none of our subsidiaries guarantees the notes. However, in the future one or more of our subsidiaries may do so. Under the federal bankruptcy laws and comparable provisions of state fraudulent transfer laws, a subsidiary guarantee could be voided, or claims in respect of a subsidiary guarantee could be subordinated to all other debts of that subsidiary guarantor if, among other things, the subsidiary guarantor, at the time it incurred the indebtedness evidenced by its subsidiary guarantee:

received less than reasonably equivalent value or fair consideration for the incurrence of such subsidiary guarantee;

was insolvent or rendered insolvent by reason of such incurrence;

was engaged in a business or transaction for which the subsidiary guarantor's remaining assets constituted unreasonably small capital;  
or

intended to incur, or believed that it would incur, debts beyond its ability to pay such debts as they mature.

In addition, any payment by that subsidiary guarantor pursuant to its subsidiary guarantee could be voided and required to be returned to the subsidiary guarantor, or to a fund for the benefit of the creditors of the subsidiary guarantor. The measures of insolvency for purposes of these fraudulent transfer laws will vary depending upon the law applied in any proceeding to determine whether a fraudulent transfer has occurred. Generally, however, a subsidiary guarantor would be considered insolvent if:

the sum of its debts, including contingent liabilities, was greater than the fair saleable value of all of its assets;

the present fair saleable value of its assets was less than the amount that would be required to pay its probable liability, including contingent liabilities, on its existing debts, as they become absolute and mature; or

it could not pay its debts as they become due.

## **Table of Contents**

***We have made only limited covenants in the indenture governing the notes and these limited covenants may not protect your investment.***

The indenture governing the notes does not:

require us to maintain any financial ratios or specific levels of net worth, revenues, income, cash flows or liquidity and, accordingly, does not protect holders of the notes in the event that we experience significant adverse changes in our financial condition or results of operations;

limit our subsidiaries' ability to incur indebtedness which would structurally rank senior to the notes;

limit our ability to incur indebtedness that is equal in right of payment to the notes; or

restrict our ability to make investment or to pay distributions or make other payments in respect of our common units or other securities ranking junior to the notes.

The indenture also permits us and our subsidiaries to incur additional indebtedness, including secured indebtedness, that could effectively rank senior to the notes, and to engage in leaseback arrangements, subject to certain limitations. Any of these actions could adversely affect our ability to make principal and interest payments on the notes.

***We have a holding company structure in which our subsidiaries conduct our operations and own our operating assets.***

We are a holding company, and our subsidiaries conduct all of our operations and own all of our operating assets. We do not have significant assets other than equity in our subsidiaries and equity investees. As a result, our ability to make required payments on the notes depends on the performance of our subsidiaries and their ability to distribute funds to us. The ability of our subsidiaries to make distributions to us may be restricted by, among other things, credit instruments, applicable state business organization laws and other laws and regulations. If our subsidiaries are prevented from distributing funds to us, we may be unable to pay all the principal and interest on the notes when due.

***Your ability to transfer the notes at a time or price you desire may be limited by the absence of an active trading market, which may not develop.***

Although we have registered the notes under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), we do not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any securities exchange or for quotation of the notes in any automated dealer quotation system. In addition, although certain of the underwriters have informed us that they intend to continue to make, or to commence to make, a market in the notes, as permitted by applicable laws and regulations, they are not obligated to make a market in the notes, and they may discontinue their market-making activities at any time without notice. In the absence of an active trading market, you may not be able to transfer the notes within the time or at the price you desire.

### **Risks Inherent to an Investment in our Notes**

***We do not have the same flexibility as other types of organizations to accumulate cash, which may limit cash available to service the notes or to repay them at maturity.***

Unlike a corporation, our partnership agreement requires us to distribute, on a quarterly basis, 100% of our available cash to our unitholders of record and our general partner. Available cash is generally defined as all of our cash on hand as of the end of a fiscal quarter, adjusted for cash distributions and net changes to reserves. Our general partner determines the amount and timing of such distributions and has broad discretion to establish and

## **Table of Contents**

make additions to our reserves or the reserves of our operating subsidiaries in amounts it determines, in its reasonable discretion, to be necessary or appropriate:

to provide for the proper conduct of our business and the businesses of our operating subsidiaries (including reserves for future capital expenditures and for our anticipated future credit needs);

to reimburse our general partner for all expenses it has incurred on our behalf;

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

to comply with applicable law or any of our or our loan or other agreements.

Although our payment obligations to our unitholders are subordinate to our payment obligations to you, the value of our common units may decrease with decreases in the amount we distribute per unit. Accordingly, if we experience a liquidity problem in the future, the value of our common units may decrease, and we may not be able to issue equity to recapitalize or otherwise improve our liquidity.

***We may not be able to generate sufficient cash to service all of our indebtedness, including the notes and our indebtedness under our revolving credit facility, and we may be forced to take other actions to satisfy our obligations under our indebtedness, which may not be successful.***

Our ability to make scheduled payments on or to refinance our debt obligations depends on our financial and operating performance, which is subject to prevailing economic and competitive conditions and to certain financial, business and other factors beyond our control. We cannot assure you that we will maintain a level of cash flows from operating activities sufficient to permit us to pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest on our indebtedness.

If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to fund our debt service obligations, we may be forced to reduce or delay capital expenditures, sell assets or operations, seek additional capital or restructure or refinance our indebtedness, including the notes. We cannot assure you that we would be able to take any of these actions, that these actions would be successful and would permit us to meet our scheduled debt service obligations or that these actions would be permitted under the terms of our existing or future debt agreements, including our credit agreement and the indenture that will govern the notes. In the absence of such cash flows and capital resources, we could face substantial liquidity problems and might be required to dispose of material assets or operations to meet our debt service and other obligations. Our revolving credit facility contains restrictions on our ability to dispose of assets. We may not be able to consummate those dispositions or to obtain the proceeds that we could realize from them, and any such proceeds may not be adequate to meet any debt service obligations then due. See Description of Other Indebtedness and Description of Notes.

***The credit and risk profile of our general partner and its owner could adversely affect our credit ratings and profile.***

The credit and business risk profiles of our general partner and its owner, Anadarko, may be factors in credit evaluations of us due to the control of our general partner and the significant influence of Anadarko over our business activities, including our cash distributions, acquisition strategy and business risk profile. Another factor that may be considered is the financial condition of our general partner and its owner, including the degree of their financial leverage and their dependence on cash flow from us to service their indebtedness.



**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We expect to receive net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_ million after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us and excluding accrued interest from June 28, 2012 to be paid by the purchasers of the new notes.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general partnership purposes.

S-12

**Table of Contents****CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and capitalization as of June 30, 2012 on:

a historical basis; and

as adjusted to reflect the sale of notes in this offering and the application of the net proceeds therefrom as described in Use of Proceeds in this prospectus.

	<b>As of June 30, 2012</b>	
	<b>Historical</b>	<b>As Adjusted</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 258,052	\$
Revolving credit facility	\$	\$
5.375% Senior Notes due 2021(1)	494,416	494,416
4.0% Senior Notes due 2022(1)	515,812	
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>\$ 1,010,228</b>	<b>\$</b>
Partners' capital/parent net investment:		
Common units	\$ 1,617,196	\$ 1,617,196
General partner units	39,758	39,758
Non-controlling interests	140,233	140,233
<b>Total equity and partners' capital</b>	<b>\$ 1,797,187</b>	<b>\$ 1,797,187</b>
<b>Total capitalization</b>	<b>\$ 2,807,415</b>	<b>\$</b>

(1) Net of unamortized discount amount.

You should read our financial statements and notes thereto that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for additional information about our capital structure.

---

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF OTHER INDEBTEDNESS**

As of June 30, 2012 our consolidated indebtedness consisted of \$500.0 million of our senior notes due 2021 and \$520.0 million of our senior notes due 2022, in each case without taking into account unamortized discount amounts, with no outstanding borrowings under our revolving credit facility. For additional detail, please see Note 7 Debt and Interest Expense included in the notes to the unaudited consolidated financial statements included under Part I, Item I of our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012, which is incorporated by reference herein.

**Revolving Credit Facility**

On March 24, 2011, we entered into an amended and restated \$800.0 million senior unsecured revolving credit facility. The revolving credit facility amended and restated our \$450.0 million credit facility, which was originally entered into in October 2009. The revolving credit facility matures on March 24, 2016 and bears interest at LIBOR plus applicable margins ranging from 1.30% to 1.90%, or an alternate base rate equal to the greatest of (a) the prime rate, (b) the federal funds effective rate plus 0.5%, or (c) LIBOR plus 1%, in each case plus applicable margins ranging from 0.30% to 0.90%. We are also required to pay a quarterly facility fee ranging from 0.20% to 0.35% of the commitment amount (whether used or unused), based upon our senior unsecured debt rating. Following our achievement of an investment grade rating (as defined in the revolving credit facility) on June 13, 2012, the guarantees provided by our wholly owned subsidiaries were discharged, and we are no longer required to comply with certain of the restrictive covenants.

The revolving credit facility contains covenants that limit, among other things, our, and certain of our subsidiaries', ability to incur additional indebtedness, grant certain liens, merge, consolidate or allow any material change in the character of our business, make certain transfers, enter into certain affiliate transactions and use proceeds other than for partnership purposes. The revolving credit facility also contains various customary covenants, customary events of default and a maximum consolidated leverage ratio (as defined in the revolving credit facility) as of the end of each quarter, as defined in the revolving credit facility, of 5.0 to 1.0, or a consolidated leverage ratio of 5.5 to 1.0 with respect to quarters ending in the 270-day period immediately following certain acquisitions. As of June 30, 2012, there were no borrowings outstanding under the revolving credit facility, \$800.0 million was available for borrowing and we were in compliance with all covenants thereunder.

**Senior Notes**

***5.375% Senior Notes due 2021***

On May 18, 2011, we completed the offering of \$500.0 million aggregate principal amount of 5.375% Senior Notes due 2021, which we refer to as our 2021 notes, at a price to the public of 98.778% of the face amount of the 2021 notes. Including the effects of the issuance and underwriting discounts, the effective interest rate is 5.648%. Interest on the 2021 notes is paid semi-annually on June 1 and December 1 of each year, with payments commencing on December 1, 2011. Proceeds from the offering of the 2021 notes (net of the underwriting discount of \$3.3 million and debt issuance costs) were used to repay the then-outstanding balance on our revolving credit facility, with the remainder used for general partnership purposes.

The 2021 notes mature on June 1, 2021, unless redeemed at a redemption price that includes a make-whole premium. We may redeem the 2021 notes in whole or in part, at any time before March 1, 2021, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the 2021 notes to be redeemed or (ii) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on such 2021 notes (exclusive of interest accrued to the redemption date) discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate (as defined in the indenture governing the 2021 notes) plus 40 basis points, plus, in either case, accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the principal amount being redeemed to such redemption date. On or after March 1, 2021, the 2021 notes will be redeemable and

**Table of Contents**

repayable, at any time in whole, or from time to time in part, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2021 notes to be redeemed, plus accrued interest on the 2021 notes to be redeemed to the date of redemption.

Upon their issuance, the 2021 notes were fully and unconditionally guaranteed on a senior unsecured basis by each of our wholly owned subsidiaries. However, following the release of guarantees under the revolving credit facility discussed above under [Revolving Credit Facility](#), the guarantees by our wholly owned subsidiaries of the 2021 notes were released. To the extent any such subsidiary again incurs obligations under our revolving credit facility, we will cause such subsidiary to again guarantee the 2021 notes in accordance with the indenture relating thereto.

The 2021 notes indenture contains customary events of default including, among others, (i) default in any payment of interest on any debt securities when due that continues for 30 days; (ii) default in payment, when due, of principal of or premium, if any, on the 2021 notes at maturity; and (iii) certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency with respect to us. The indenture governing the 2021 notes also contains covenants that limit, among other things, the ability of us and any subsidiary guarantors to (i) create liens on their principal properties; (ii) engage in sale and leaseback transactions; and (iii) merge or consolidate with another entity or sell, lease or transfer substantially all of their properties or assets to another entity. At June 30, 2012, we were in compliance with all covenants under the 2021 notes.

***Existing Notes***

On June 28, 2012, we completed the offering of the existing notes at a price to the public of 99.194% of the principal amount. Proceeds (net of underwriting discount of \$3.4 million and debt issuance costs) were used to repay all amounts then outstanding under our revolving credit facility and our \$175.0 million note payable to Anadarko. For a detailed description of the terms of the existing notes, please read [Description of Notes](#).

---

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF NOTES**

You can find the definitions of certain terms used in this Description of Notes under Certain Definitions. In this Description of Notes, the term Partnership, us, our or we refers only to Western Gas Partners, LP and not to any of its Subsidiaries. In this Description of Notes, references to the new notes are to the additional 4.0% Senior Notes due 2022 offered hereby, references to the existing notes are to the \$520 million aggregate principal amount of 4.0% Senior Notes due 2022 initially issued on June 28, 2012, and references to the notes are to the new notes and the existing notes together.

We have entered into a base indenture, dated as of May 18, 2011, among us, our prior subsidiary guarantors and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee, pursuant to which we may issue multiple series of debt securities from time to time. On June 28, 2012, we issued the existing notes as a second series of debt securities under the base indenture, as amended and supplemented by a supplemental indenture setting forth the specific terms of the existing notes (as so amended and supplemented, the Indenture ). We will issue the new notes as additional notes under the Indenture, and the new notes will be treated with the existing notes as a single series of senior debt securities under the Indenture.

The following description of the particular terms of the notes supplements the general description of the debt securities of the Partnership included in the accompanying prospectus under the caption Description of Debt Securities and Guarantees. The notes are a series of senior debt securities issued by the Partnership, as described herein and therein. You should review this Description of Notes together with the Description of Debt Securities and Guarantees included in the accompanying prospectus. To the extent that this Description of Notes is inconsistent with the Description of Debt Securities and Guarantees in the accompanying prospectus, this Description of Notes will control and replace the inconsistent Description of Debt Securities and Guarantees in the accompanying prospectus.

We have summarized some of the material provisions of the notes and the Indenture below. The summary supplements the description of additional material provisions in the accompanying prospectus that may be important to you. We also urge you to read the Indenture because it, and not this Description of Notes, defines your rights as a holder of notes. You may request copies of the base indenture and the supplemental indenture from us as set forth under Additional Information. Capitalized terms defined in the accompanying prospectus and the Indenture have the same meanings when used in this prospectus supplement. The terms of the notes include those expressly set forth in the Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

The registered holder of a note will be treated as the owner of the note for all purposes. Only registered holders will have rights under the Indenture.

**Brief Description of the Notes**

***The New Notes***

Like the existing notes, the new notes will be:

our senior unsecured obligations ranking equally in right of payment with all of our existing and future senior indebtedness, including indebtedness under our Revolving Credit Facility;

senior in right of payment to any of our future subordinated indebtedness;

effectively junior to any of our future secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness; and

structurally junior to all debt and other liabilities of each Subsidiary of the Partnership, other than any Subsidiaries that may guarantee such notes in the future.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Further Issuances**

We may, from time to time after the closing of this offering, without notice to or the consent of the holders of the notes or the trustee, again increase the principal amount of this series of notes under the Indenture and issue such increased principal amount (or any portion thereof), in which case any additional notes so issued will have the same form and terms (other than the date of issuance and, under certain circumstances, the date from which interest thereon will begin to accrue and the initial interest payment date), and will carry the same right to receive accrued and unpaid interest, as the existing notes and the new notes, and such additional notes will form a single series with the notes for all purposes under the Indenture.

### **Principal, Maturity and Interest**

We issued the existing notes in June 2012 in an initial aggregate amount principal amount of \$520 million, and we will issue the new notes in an aggregate principal amount of \$ million. The notes will mature on July 1, 2022 and bear interest at the annual rate of 4.0%. Interest on the new notes will accrue from June 28, 2012 and will be payable semi-annually in arrears on January 1 and July 1 of each year, commencing on January 1, 2013. We will make each interest payment to the holders of record at the close of business on the December 15 and June 15 preceding such interest payment date (whether or not a business day). Interest will be computed and paid on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

### **Form, Denomination and Registration of Notes**

We will issue the new notes only in registered form, without interest coupons, in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. The new notes, like the existing notes, will be represented by one or more global notes, as described below under Book-Entry Delivery and Settlement.

### **Transfer and Exchange**

A holder may transfer or exchange notes in accordance with the Indenture. No service charge will be imposed in connection with any transfer or exchange of any note, but we, the registrar and the trustee may require such holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents, and we may require such holder to pay any taxes and fees required by law or permitted by the Indenture. We are not required to transfer or exchange any notes selected for redemption. Also, we are not required to transfer or exchange any notes in respect of which a notice of redemption has been given or for a period of 15 days before any mailing of notice of redemption.

### **Paying Agent and Registrar**

The trustee currently acts as paying agent and registrar for the notes. We may change the paying agent or registrar without prior notice to the holders of the notes, and we or any of our Subsidiaries may act as paying agent or registrar; provided, however, that we will be required to maintain at all times an office or agency in The City of New York (which may be an office of the trustee or an affiliate of the trustee or the registrar or a co-registrar for the notes) where the notes may be presented for payment and where notes may be surrendered for registration of transfer or for exchange and where notices and demands to or upon us in respect of the notes and the Indenture may be served. We may also from time to time designate one or more additional offices or agencies where the notes may be presented or surrendered for any or all such purposes and may from time to time rescind such designations.

### **Future Subsidiary Guarantees**

Currently, the notes are not guaranteed by any of our existing Subsidiaries. If in the future any of our Subsidiaries guarantees, becomes a borrower or guarantor under, or grants any Lien to secure any obligations pursuant to, our Revolving Credit Facility, then we will cause such Subsidiary to become a Guarantor by

---

## **Table of Contents**

executing a supplement to the Indenture and delivering such supplement to the trustee promptly (but in any event, within ten business days of the date on which it guaranteed or incurred such obligations or granted such Lien, as the case may be). In the event of a bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization of any Subsidiary that does not guarantee the notes, such non-Guarantor Subsidiary will pay the holders of its Debt and its trade creditors before it will distribute any of its assets to us.

Any Subsidiary Guarantees will be joint and several obligations of the Guarantors. The obligations of each Guarantor under its Subsidiary Guarantee will be limited as necessary to prevent that Subsidiary Guarantee from constituting a fraudulent conveyance under applicable law. If a Subsidiary Guarantee is rendered voidable, it could be subordinated by a court to all other Debt (including guarantees and other contingent liabilities) of the applicable Guarantor, and, depending on the amount of such Debt, a Guarantor's liability on its Subsidiary Guarantee could be reduced to zero.

The Indenture limits the ability of a Guarantor to consolidate with or merge with or into any other Person, or sell, assign, transfer, lease, convey or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its properties or assets and the properties or assets of its Subsidiaries (taken as a whole with the properties or assets of such Guarantor) to another Person in one or more related transactions.

If any of our Subsidiaries guarantees the notes, its Subsidiary Guarantee will be released:

- (1) in connection with any sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of, or all of our direct or indirect limited partnership, limited liability company or other equity interests in, that Guarantor (including by way of merger or consolidation) to a Person that is not (either before or after giving effect to such transaction) an Affiliate of the Partnership;
- (2) upon the merger of the Guarantor into us or any other Guarantor or the liquidation or dissolution of the Guarantor;
- (3) upon legal defeasance or covenant defeasance as described below under the caption **Discharge, Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance** or upon satisfaction and discharge of the Indenture as described in the accompanying prospectus under the caption **Description of Debt Securities and Guarantees** **Satisfaction and Discharge**; or
- (4) upon delivery of written notice to the trustee of the release of all guarantees or other obligations of the Guarantor under our Revolving Credit Facility.

If at any time following any release of a Guarantor from its guarantee of the notes pursuant to clause (4) in the preceding paragraph, the Guarantor again incurs obligations under our Revolving Credit Facility, then we will cause the Guarantor to again guarantee the notes in accordance with the Indenture.

### **Optional Redemption**

We have the right to redeem the notes, in whole or in part at any time before April 1, 2022, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (1) 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed and (2) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on such notes (exclusive of interest accrued to the redemption date) discounted to the redemption date on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate plus 37.5 basis points, plus, in either case, accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the principal amount being redeemed to such redemption date. On or after April 1, 2022, the notes will be redeemable and repayable, at our option, at any time in whole, or from time to time in part, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed plus accrued interest on the notes to be redeemed to the date of redemption.

*Comparable Treasury Issue* means the United States Treasury security selected by the Quotation Agent as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the

## **Table of Contents**

time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such notes; provided, however, that if no maturity is within three months before or after the maturity date for such notes, yields for the two published maturities most closely corresponding to such United States Treasury security will be determined and the Treasury Rate will be interpolated or extrapolated from those yields on a straight line basis rounding to the nearest month.

*Comparable Treasury Price* means, with respect to any redemption date for notes, (1) the average of four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date after excluding the highest and lowest of all of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations or (2) if the Quotation Agent obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations.

*Quotation Agent* means the Reference Treasury Dealer appointed by us.

*Reference Treasury Dealer* means (i) each of RBS Securities Inc. and Barclays Capital Inc., and their respective successors; provided, however, that if either of the foregoing shall cease to be a U.S. government securities dealer, we will substitute therefor another U.S. government securities dealer in The City of New York ( a Primary Treasury Dealer ) and (ii) two other Primary Treasury Dealers selected by us.

*Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation* means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the Quotation Agent, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Quotation Agent by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third business day preceding the redemption date.

*Treasury Rate* means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per year equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, calculated using a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date. We will calculate the Treasury Rate on the third business day preceding any redemption date and notify the trustee in writing of the Treasury Rate prior to the redemption.

## **Redemption Procedures**

If fewer than all of the notes are to be redeemed at any time, such notes will be selected for redemption not more than 60 days prior to the redemption date and such selection will be made by the trustee on a pro rata basis, by lot or by such other method as the trustee deems appropriate (or, in the case of notes represented by a note in global form, by such method as DTC may require); provided, that no partial redemption of any note will occur if such redemption would reduce the principal amount of such note to less than \$2,000. Notices of redemption with respect to the notes shall be mailed by first class mail at least 30 but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of notes to be redeemed at its registered address.

If any note is to be redeemed in part only, the notice of redemption that relates to such note shall state the portion of the principal amount thereof to be redeemed. A new note in principal amount equal to the unredeemed portion thereof will be issued in the name of the holder thereof upon cancellation of the original note. Notes called for redemption shall become due on the date fixed for redemption. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the notes or portions of the notes called for redemption.

## **Open Market Purchases; No Mandatory Redemption or Sinking Fund**

We may at any time and from time to time repurchase notes in the open market or otherwise, in each case without any restriction under the Indenture. We are not required to make mandatory redemption or sinking fund payments with respect to the notes.



---

**Table of Contents**

**Certain Covenants**

***Limitation on Liens***

The Indenture provides that while any of the notes remain outstanding, the Partnership will not, and will not permit any of its Principal Subsidiaries to, create, or permit to be created or to exist, any mortgage, lien, pledge, security interest, charge, adverse claim, or other encumbrance ( Lien ) upon any Principal Property of the Partnership or any of its Principal Subsidiaries, or upon any equity interests of any Principal Subsidiary, whether such Principal Property is, or equity interests are, owned on or acquired after the date of the Indenture, to secure any Debt, unless the notes then outstanding are equally and ratably secured by such Lien for so long as any such Debt is so secured, other than:

(1) purchase money mortgages, or other purchase money Liens of any kind upon property acquired by the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary after the date of the Indenture, or Liens of any kind existing on any property or any equity interests at the time of the acquisition thereof (including Liens that exist on any property or any equity interests of a Person that is consolidated with or merged with or into the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary or that transfers or leases all or substantially all of its properties or assets to the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary), or conditional sales agreements or other title retention agreements and leases in the nature of title retention agreements with respect to any property hereafter acquired, so long as no such Lien shall extend to or cover any other property of the Partnership or such Principal Subsidiary;

(2) Liens upon any property of the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary or any equity interests of any Principal Subsidiary existing as of the date of the initial issuance of the notes or upon the property or any equity interests of any entity, which Liens existed at the time such entity became a Subsidiary of the Partnership;

(3) Liens for taxes or assessments or other governmental charges or levies relating to amounts that are not yet delinquent or are being contested in good faith;

(4) pledges or deposits to secure: (a) any governmental charges or levies; (b) obligations under workers' compensation laws, unemployment insurance and other social security legislation; (c) performance in connection with bids, tenders, contracts (other than contracts for the payment of money) or leases to which the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary is a party; (d) public or statutory obligations of the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary; and (e) surety, stay, appeal, indemnity, customs, performance or return-of-money bonds or pledges or deposits in lieu thereof;

(5) builders', materialmen's, mechanics', carriers', warehousemen's, workers', repairmen's, operators', landlords' or other similar Liens, in the ordinary course of business;

(6) Liens created by or resulting from any litigation or proceeding that at the time is being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings, including Liens relating to judgments thereunder as to which the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary has not exhausted its appellate rights;

(7) Liens on deposits required by any Person with whom the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary enters into forward contracts, futures contracts, swap agreements or other commodities contracts in the ordinary course of business and in accordance with established risk management policies and Liens in connection with leases (other than capital leases) made, or existing on property acquired, in the ordinary course of business;

(8) easements (including, without limitation, reciprocal easement agreements and utility agreements), zoning restrictions, rights-of-way, covenants, consents, reservations, encroachments, variations and other restrictions on the use of property or minor irregularities in title thereto, charges or encumbrances (whether or not recorded) affecting the use of real property and which are incidental to, and do not materially impair the use of such property in the operation of the business of the Partnership and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or the value of such property for the purpose of such business;

**Table of Contents**

(9) Liens in favor of the United States of America, any State, any foreign country or any department, agency or instrumentality or political subdivision of any such jurisdiction, to secure partial, progress, advance or other payments pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure any Debt incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or the cost of constructing or improving the property subject to such Liens, including, without limitation, Liens to secure Debt of the pollution control or industrial revenue bond type;

(10) Liens of any kind upon any property acquired, constructed, developed or improved by the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary (whether alone or in association with others) after the date of the Indenture that are created prior to, at the time of, or within 12 months after such acquisition (or in the case of property constructed, developed or improved, after the completion of such construction, development or improvement and commencement of full commercial operation of such property, whichever is later) to secure or provide for the payment of any part of the purchase price or cost thereof; provided that in the case of such construction, development or improvement the Liens shall not apply to any property theretofore owned by the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary other than theretofore unimproved real property;

(11) Liens in favor of the Partnership, one or more Principal Subsidiaries, one or more wholly-owned Subsidiaries of the Partnership or any of the foregoing in combination;

(12) the replacement, extension or renewal (or successive replacements, extensions or renewals), as a whole or in part, of any Lien, or of any agreement, referred to in the clauses above, or the replacement, extension or renewal of the Debt secured thereby (not exceeding the principal amount of Debt secured thereby, other than to provide for the payment of any underwriting or other fees related to any such replacement, extension or renewal, as well as any premiums owed on and accrued and unpaid interest payable in connection with any such replacement, extension or renewal); provided that such replacement, extension or renewal is limited to all or a part of the same property that secured the Lien replaced, extended or renewed (plus improvements thereon or additions or accessions thereto); or

(13) any Lien not excepted by the foregoing clauses; provided that immediately after the creation or assumption of such Lien the aggregate principal amount of Debt of the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary secured by all Liens created or assumed under the provisions of this clause, together with all net sale proceeds from any Sale-Leaseback Transactions, subject to certain exceptions, shall not exceed an amount equal to 15% of the Consolidated Net Tangible Assets for the fiscal quarter that was most recently completed prior to the creation or assumption of such Lien.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, for purposes of making the calculation set forth in clause (13) of the preceding paragraph, with respect to any such secured Debt of a non-wholly-owned Principal Subsidiary of the Partnership with no recourse to the Partnership or any wholly-owned Principal Subsidiary thereof, only that portion of the aggregate principal amount of such secured Debt reflecting the Partnership's pro rata ownership interest in such non-wholly-owned Principal Subsidiary shall be included in calculating compliance herewith.

***Limitation on Sale-Leaseback Transactions***

While the notes remain outstanding, the Partnership will not, and will not permit any of its Principal Subsidiaries to engage in a Sale-Leaseback Transaction, unless:

(1) the Sale-Leaseback Transaction occurs within one year from the date of acquisition of the relevant Principal Property or the date of the completion of construction or commencement of full operations on such Principal Property, whichever is later, and the Partnership has elected to designate, as a credit against (but not exceeding) the purchase price or cost of construction of such Principal Property, an amount equal to all or a portion of the net sale proceeds from such Sale-Leaseback Transaction (with any such amount not being so designated to be applied as set forth in clause (2) below);

## **Table of Contents**

(2) the Partnership or such Principal Subsidiary would be entitled to incur Debt secured by a Lien on the Principal Property subject to the Sale-Leaseback Transaction in a principal amount equal to or exceeding the net sale proceeds from such Sale-Leaseback Transaction without equally and ratably securing the notes; or

(3) the Partnership or such Principal Subsidiary, within a 270-day period after such Sale-Leaseback Transaction, applies or causes to be applied an amount not less than the net sale proceeds from such Sale-Leaseback Transaction to (1) the prepayment, repayment, redemption or retirement of any unsubordinated Debt of the Partnership or any of its Subsidiaries (A) for borrowed money or (B) evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other similar instruments, or (2) invest in another Principal Property.

## ***Reports***

So long as any notes are outstanding, the Partnership will:

during such time as it is subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), file with the trustee, within 15 days after it files the same with the SEC, copies of the annual reports and the information, documents and other reports which it is required to file with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act; and

during such time as it is not subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, file with the trustee, within 15 days after it would have been required to file the same with the SEC, financial statements, including any notes thereto (and with respect to annual reports, an auditors report by a firm of established national reputation) and a Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, both comparable to what it would have been required to file with the SEC had it been subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act.

## ***Consolidation, Merger, Conveyance or Transfer***

The Indenture provides that the Partnership may not consolidate with or merge with or into any other Person, or sell, assign, transfer, lease, convey or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its properties or assets and the properties or assets of its Subsidiaries (taken as a whole with the properties or assets of the Partnership) to another Person in one or more related transactions unless:

either: (a) in the case of a merger or consolidation, the Partnership is the survivor; or (b) the Person formed by or surviving any such consolidation or merger (if other than the Partnership) or to which such sale, assignment, transfer, lease, conveyance or other disposition has been made, is a Person formed, organized or existing under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

the Person formed by or surviving any such consolidation or merger (if other than the Partnership) or the Person to which such sale, assignment, transfer, lease, conveyance or other disposition has been made, expressly assumes all of the Partnership's obligations under the Indenture, including the Partnership's obligation to pay all principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, the notes pursuant to the Indenture;

we or the successor Person delivers an officers' certificate and opinion of counsel to the trustee, each stating that such consolidation, merger, sale, assignment, transfer, lease, conveyance or other disposition and any supplemental indenture required in connection therewith comply with the Indenture and that all conditions precedent set forth in the Indenture have been complied with;

if the Partnership is not the survivor, each Guarantor, if any, delivers an officers' certificate to the trustee stating that its Subsidiary Guarantee will continue to apply to the notes; and

Edgar Filing: Western Gas Partners LP - Form 424B3

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default or default under the Indenture will have occurred and be continuing.

S-22

## **Table of Contents**

Upon the assumption of the Partnership's obligations under the Indenture by a successor, the Partnership will be discharged from all obligations under the Indenture (except in the case of a lease).

### **Discharge, Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance**

The Indenture provides that we may be:

discharged from our obligations, with certain limited exceptions, with respect to the notes, as described in the Indenture, such a discharge being called a "legal defeasance" in this prospectus supplement; and

released from our obligations under certain covenants, including those described in "Certain Covenants - Limitation on Liens" and "Certain Covenants - Limitation on Sale-Leaseback Transactions," such a release being called a "covenant defeasance" in this prospectus supplement.

The defeasance provisions of the Indenture described in the accompanying prospectus apply to the notes. See "Description of Debt Securities and Guarantees - Defeasance" in the accompanying prospectus.

The Indenture is subject to discharge with respect to the notes as described in the accompanying prospectus under "Description of Debt Securities and Guarantees - Satisfaction and Discharge."

### **Concerning the Trustee**

The trustee will perform only those duties that are specifically set forth in the Indenture unless an event of default occurs and is continuing. If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the trustee will exercise the same degree of care and skill in the exercise of its rights and powers under the Indenture as a prudent man would exercise in the conduct of his own affairs. The trustee is under no obligation to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of any of its duties under the Indenture, or in the exercise of any of its rights or powers.

### **Notice**

Notice to holders of the notes will be given by first-class mail at such holder's address as it appears in the security register.

### **Title**

We, the Guarantors, if any, the trustee and any of our, any Guarantors or the trustee's agents may treat the person in whose name the notes are registered as the owner of the notes, whether or not such notes may be overdue, for the purpose of making payment and for all other purposes.

### **Governing Law**

The Indenture and the notes are governed by, and will be construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

### **Additional Information**

Anyone who receives this prospectus supplement may obtain a copy of each of the base indenture and the supplemental indenture without charge by writing to Western Gas Partners, LP, 1201 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77380, Telephone (832) 636-6000.

### **Book-Entry Delivery and Settlement**

#### ***Global Notes***

We will issue the new notes, like the existing notes, in the form of one or more permanent global notes in fully registered, book-entry form. The global notes will be deposited with or on behalf of The Depository Trust Company (the "DTC") and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as

nominee of DTC.

S-23

---

**Table of Contents**

***DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear***

Beneficial interests in the global notes will be represented through book-entry accounts of financial institutions acting on behalf of beneficial owners as direct and indirect participants in DTC. Investors may hold interests in the global notes through either DTC (in the United States of America), Clearstream Banking, société anonyme, Luxembourg ( Clearstream ), or Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. (the Euroclear Operator ), as operator of the Euroclear System (in Europe) ( Euroclear ), either directly if they are participants of such systems or indirectly through organizations that are participants in such systems. Clearstream and Euroclear will hold interests on behalf of their participants through customers securities accounts in Clearstream s and Euroclear s names on the books of their U.S. depositaries, which in turn will hold such interests in customers securities accounts in the U.S. depositaries names on the books of DTC.

DTC has advised us as follows:

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered under Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues and money market instruments (from over 100 countries) that DTC s participants deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among its participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between the accounts of its participants. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates.

Direct participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations.

DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ( DTCC ). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries.

Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly.

The rules applicable to DTC and its direct and indirect participants are on file with the SEC.

We have provided the descriptions of the operations and procedures of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear in this prospectus supplement solely as a matter of convenience. These operations and procedures are solely within the control of those organizations and are subject to change by them from time to time. None of us, the underwriters nor the trustee takes any responsibility for these operations or procedures, and you are urged to contact DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear or their participants directly to discuss these matters.

We expect that under procedures established by DTC:

upon deposit of the global notes with DTC or its custodian, DTC will credit on its internal system the accounts of direct participants designated by the underwriters with portions of the principal amounts of the global notes; and

## Edgar Filing: Western Gas Partners LP - Form 424B3

ownership of the notes will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee, with respect to interests of direct participants, and the records of direct and indirect participants, with respect to interests of persons other than participants.

S-24



## **Table of Contents**

The laws of some jurisdictions may require that purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in definitive form. Accordingly, the ability to transfer interests in the notes represented by a global note to those persons may be limited. In addition, because DTC can act only on behalf of its participants, who in turn act on behalf of persons who hold interests through participants, the ability of a person having an interest in notes represented by a global note to pledge or transfer those interests to persons or entities that do not participate in DTC's system, or otherwise to take actions in respect of such interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical definitive security in respect of such interest.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of a global note, DTC or that nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the notes represented by that global note for all purposes under the Indenture and under the notes. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a global note will not be entitled to have notes represented by that global note registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of definitive notes and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the Indenture or under the notes for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instruction or approval to the trustee. Accordingly, each holder owning a beneficial interest in a global note must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if that holder is not a direct or indirect participant, on the procedures of the participant through which that holder owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder of notes under the Indenture or the global note.

None of us, the Guarantors, if any, the underwriters nor the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of notes by DTC, Clearstream or Euroclear, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of those organizations relating to the notes.

Payments on the notes represented by the global notes will be made to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner thereof. We expect that DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any payment on the notes represented by a global note, will credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the global note as shown in the records of DTC or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global note held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practice as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in the names of nominees for such customers. The participants will be responsible for those payments.

Distributions on the notes held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of its customers in accordance with its rules and procedures, to the extent received by the U.S. depositary for Clearstream.

Securities clearance accounts and cash accounts with the Euroclear Operator are governed by the Terms and Conditions Governing Use of Euroclear and the related Operating Procedures of the Euroclear System, and applicable Belgian law (collectively, the Terms and Conditions). The Terms and Conditions govern transfers of securities and cash within Euroclear, withdrawals of securities and cash from Euroclear, and receipts of payments with respect to securities in Euroclear. All securities in Euroclear are held on a fungible basis without attribution of specific certificates to specific securities clearance accounts. The Euroclear Operator acts under the Terms and Conditions only on behalf of Euroclear participants and has no record of or relationship with persons holding through Euroclear participants.

Distributions on the notes held beneficially through Euroclear will be credited to the cash accounts of its participants in accordance with the Terms and Conditions, to the extent received by the U.S. depositary for Euroclear.

### ***Clearance and Settlement Procedures***

Initial settlement for the notes will be made in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between DTC participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in

## **Table of Contents**

immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between Clearstream customers and/or Euroclear participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with the applicable rules and operating procedures of Clearstream and Euroclear and will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds in immediately available funds.

Cross-market transfers between persons holding directly or indirectly through DTC, on the one hand, and directly or indirectly through Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants, on the other, will be effected in DTC's system in accordance with DTC rules on behalf of the relevant European international clearing system by the U.S. depository; however, such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to the relevant European international clearing system by the counterparty in such system in accordance with its rules and procedures and within its established deadlines (European time). The relevant European international clearing system will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to the U.S. depository to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving the notes in DTC's system, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC.

Clearstream customers and Euroclear participants may not deliver instructions directly to their U.S. depositories.

Because of time-zone differences, credits of the notes received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant will be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date. Such credits or any transactions in the notes settled during such processing will be reported to the relevant Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants on such business day. Cash received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of sales of the notes by or through a Clearstream customer or a Euroclear participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the DTC settlement date but will be available in the relevant Clearstream or Euroclear cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have agreed to the foregoing procedures to facilitate transfers of the notes among participants of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and such procedures may be changed or discontinued at any time.

### ***Definitive Notes***

We will issue definitive notes to each person that DTC identifies as the beneficial owner of the notes represented by the global notes upon surrender by DTC of the global notes only if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or ineligible to continue as a depository for the global notes, and we have not appointed a successor depository within 90 days of that notice;

DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act at a time when DTC is required to be so registered and we have not appointed a successor depository within 90 days of becoming aware of such cessation;

we, subject to the procedures of DTC, determine that the global notes may be exchangeable for definitive notes; or

an event of default has occurred and is continuing, and DTC requests the issuance of certificated notes.

Neither we nor the trustee will be liable for any delay by DTC, its nominee or any direct or indirect participant in identifying the beneficial owners of the related notes. We and the trustee may conclusively rely on, and will be protected in relying on, instructions from DTC or its nominee for all purposes, including with respect to the registration and delivery, and the respective principal amounts, of the notes to be issued.

---

## **Table of Contents**

### **Certain Definitions**

*Consolidated Net Tangible Assets* means at any date of determination, the total amount of consolidated assets of the Partnership and its Subsidiaries after deducting therefrom (1) all current liabilities (excluding (a) any current liabilities that by their terms are extendable or renewable at the option of the obligor thereon to a time more than 12 months after the time as of which the amount thereof is being computed and (b) current maturities of long-term debt), and (2) the value (net of any applicable reserves) of all goodwill, trade names, trademarks, patents and other like intangible assets, all as set forth, or on a pro forma basis would be set forth, on the consolidated balance sheet of the Partnership and its Subsidiaries for the most recently completed fiscal quarter, prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States.

*Debt* of any Person means, without duplication, (1) all indebtedness of such Person for borrowed money (whether or not the recourse of the lender is to the whole of the assets of such Person or only to a portion thereof), (2) all obligations of such Person evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other similar instruments, (3) all obligations of such Person in respect of letters of credit or other similar instruments (or reimbursement obligations with respect thereto), other than standby letters of credit, performance bonds and other obligations issued by or for the account of such Person in the ordinary course of business, to the extent not drawn or, to the extent drawn, if such drawing is reimbursed not later than the third Business Day following demand for reimbursement, (4) all obligations of such Person to pay the deferred and unpaid purchase price of property or services, except trade payables and accrued expenses incurred in the ordinary course of business, (5) all capitalized lease obligations of such Person, (6) all Debt of others secured by a Lien on any asset of such Person, whether or not such Debt is assumed by such Person (provided that if the obligations so secured have not been assumed in full by such Person or are not otherwise such Person's legal liability in full, then such obligations shall be deemed to be in an amount equal to the greater of (a) the lesser of (i) the full amount of such obligations and (ii) the fair market value of such assets, as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors of such Person, which determination shall be evidenced by a Board Resolution, and (b) the amount of obligations as have been assumed by such Person or which are otherwise such Person's legal liability), and (7) all Debt of others (other than endorsements in the ordinary course of business) guaranteed by such Person to the extent of such guarantee.

*guarantee* means a guarantee other than by endorsement of negotiable instruments for collection in the ordinary course of business, direct or indirect, in any manner including, without limitation, by way of a pledge of assets or through letters of credit or reimbursement agreements in respect thereof, of all or any part of any Debt. When used as a verb, *guarantee* has a correlative meaning.

*Guarantors* means any Subsidiary of the Partnership that becomes a Guarantor in accordance with the provisions of the Indenture.

*obligations* means any principal, premium, if any, interest (including interest accruing on or after the filing of any petition in bankruptcy or for reorganization, whether or not a claim for post-filing interest is allowed in such proceeding), penalties, fees, charges, expenses, indemnifications, reimbursement obligations, damages, guarantees, and other liabilities or amounts payable under the documentation governing any Debt or in respect thereto.

*Person* means any individual, corporation, partnership, joint venture, joint stock company, association, trust, unincorporated organization, limited liability company, government or any agency or political subdivision thereof or any other entity.

*Principal Property* means whether currently owned or leased or subsequently acquired, any pipeline, gathering system, terminal, storage facility, processing plant or other plant or facility located in the United States of America or any territory or political subdivision thereof owned or leased by the Partnership or any of its Subsidiaries and used in the transportation, distribution, terminalling, gathering, treating, processing, marketing or storage of natural gas and natural gas liquids and propane except (1) any property or asset consisting of

**Table of Contents**

inventories, furniture, office fixtures and equipment (including data processing equipment), vehicles and equipment used on, or useful with, vehicles (but excluding vehicles that generate transportation revenues) and (2) any such property or asset, plant or terminal which, in the good faith opinion of the Board of Directors of the General Partner as evidenced by resolutions of the Board of Directors of the General Partner, is not material in relation to the activities of the Partnership and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole.

*Principal Subsidiary* means any of the Partnership's Subsidiaries that owns or leases, directly or indirectly, a Principal Property.

*Revolving Credit Facility* means the Revolving Credit Agreement, dated as of March 24, 2011, among the Partnership, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as the administrative agent and the lenders party thereto, as amended, restated, refinanced, replaced or refunded from time to time.

*Sale-Leaseback Transaction* means the sale or transfer by the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary of any Principal Property to a Person (other than the Partnership or a Principal Subsidiary) and the taking back by the Partnership or any Principal Subsidiary, as the case may be, of a lease of such Principal Property.

*Subsidiary* means, as to any Person, (1) any corporation, association or other business entity (other than a partnership or limited liability company) of which more than 50% of the outstanding capital stock having ordinary voting power is at the time owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by such Person or one or more of the other Subsidiaries of such Person or (2) any general or limited partnership or limited liability company, (a) the sole general partner or member of which is the Person or a Subsidiary of the Person or (b) if there is more than one general partner or member, either (i) the only managing general partners or managing members of such partnership or limited liability company are such Person or Subsidiaries of such Person or (ii) such Person owns or controls, directly or indirectly, a majority of the outstanding general partner interests, member interests or other voting equities of such partnership or limited liability company, respectively.

*Subsidiary Guarantee* means any guarantee by a Guarantor of the Partnership's obligations under the Indenture and on the notes.

**Table of Contents**

**CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following discussion summarizes certain U.S. federal income tax considerations, and in the case of a non-U.S. holder (as defined below), estate tax considerations, that may be relevant to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the new notes. This discussion is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, judicial authority and administrative interpretations, as of the date of this document, all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, or are subject to different interpretations. We cannot assure you that the Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, will not challenge one or more of the tax consequences described in this discussion, and we have not obtained, nor do we intend to obtain, a ruling from the IRS or an opinion of counsel with respect to the U.S. federal tax consequences of acquiring, holding or disposing of the new notes.

The new notes will be issued as additional notes under the indenture pursuant to which we issued \$520 million aggregate principal amount of our 4% Senior Notes due 2022 on June 28, 2012. The notes offered hereby and those previously issued notes will be treated as a single class of debt securities under the indenture and will be subject to the same information reporting for U.S. federal income tax purposes. This discussion pertains only to the new notes being issued in this offering and does not apply to the notes presently outstanding under the indenture.

This discussion is limited to holders who purchase the new notes in this offering for cash at the initial offering price and who hold the new notes as capital assets (generally, property held for investment). This discussion does not address the tax considerations arising under the laws of any foreign, state, local or other jurisdiction or any tax treaty. In addition, this discussion does not address all tax considerations that may be important to a particular holder in light of the holder's circumstances, or to certain categories of investors that may be subject to special rules, such as:

dealers in securities or currencies;

traders in securities that have elected the mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities;

U.S. holders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;

persons holding the new notes as part of a hedge, straddle, conversion or other synthetic security or other risk reduction transaction;

U.S. expatriates;

financial institutions;

insurance companies;

regulated investment companies;

real estate investment trusts;

persons subject to the alternative minimum tax;

## Edgar Filing: Western Gas Partners LP - Form 424B3

entities that are tax-exempt for U.S. federal income tax purposes; and

partnerships and other pass-through entities and holders of interests therein.

If a partnership (or an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds new notes, the U.S. federal tax treatment of a partner of the partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership acquiring the new notes, you are urged to consult your own tax advisor about the U.S. federal income tax consequences of acquiring, holding and disposing of the new notes.

S-29

---

**Table of Contents**

INVESTORS CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE OF NEW NOTES ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS TO THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATIONS AS WELL AS ANY TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF THE NEW NOTES UNDER U.S. FEDERAL ESTATE OR GIFT TAX LAWS OR UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY STATE, LOCAL OR FOREIGN JURISDICTION OR UNDER ANY APPLICABLE TAX TREATY.

**Certain Additional Payments**

In certain circumstances (see Description of Notes Optional Redemption ), we may be obligated to pay amounts on the new notes that are in excess of interest or principal on the new notes. These potential payments may implicate the provisions of the U.S. Treasury Regulations relating to contingent payment debt instruments. We do not intend to treat the possibility of paying such additional amounts as causing the new notes to be treated as contingent payment debt instruments. This position is based, in part, on our assumptions regarding the likelihood, as of the date of issuance of the new notes, that such additional amounts will be paid. However, additional income will be recognized if any such additional payment is made. It is possible that the IRS may take a different position, in which case a holder might be required to accrue interest income at a higher rate than the interest rate and to treat as ordinary interest income any gain realized on the taxable disposition of the new note. The remainder of this discussion assumes that the new notes will not be treated as contingent payment debt instruments. Investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the possible application of the contingent payment debt instrument rules to the new notes.

**Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders**

You are a U.S. holder for purposes of this discussion if you are a beneficial owner of a new note and you are for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien;

a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, that was created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust (1) if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (2) that has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations to be treated as a United States person.

***Interest on the New Notes***

Interest on the new notes generally will be taxable to you as ordinary income at the time it is received or accrued in accordance with your regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes, subject to the discussion of pre-issuance accrued interest below.

***Pre-issuance Accrued Interest***

A portion of the purchase price of the new notes is attributable to the amount of interest accrued from June 28, 2012 until the date of issuance (the pre-issuance accrued interest ). Pre-issuance accrued interest should be excluded from your income and, when received, reduces your tax basis in your new notes.

---

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Amortizable Bond Premium***

If you purchase a new note for an amount in excess of the new note's stated principal amount, you will be considered to have purchased the new note with bond premium equal to the excess of the purchase price over the new note's stated redemption price at maturity. You may elect to amortize such premium using a constant yield method over the remaining term of the new note (or if it results in a smaller premium, any premium computed with reference to the amount payable on an earlier call date, if applicable) and you may offset interest income otherwise required to be included in respect of the new note during any taxable year by the amortized amount of such excess for the taxable year. If you elect to amortize any premium on the new notes, you must reduce your tax basis in the new notes by the amount of the premium amortized in any year. An election to amortize bond premium applies to all taxable debt obligations then owned and thereafter acquired by the holder and may be revoked only with the consent of the IRS. If you do not elect to amortize bond premium, that premium will decrease the gain or increase the loss you would otherwise recognize on the disposition of the new note.

### ***Disposition of the New Notes***

You will generally recognize capital gain or loss on the sale, redemption, exchange, retirement or other taxable disposition of a new note. This gain or loss will equal the difference between the proceeds you receive (excluding any proceeds attributable to accrued but unpaid interest that is not pre-issuance accrued interest, which will be taxable as ordinary interest income to the extent you have not previously included such amounts in income) and your adjusted tax basis in the new note. The proceeds you receive will include the amount of any cash and the fair market value of any other property received for the new note. Your adjusted tax basis in the new note will generally equal the amount you paid for the new note less any pre-issuance accrued interest previously received and any amortizable bond premium you have previously amortized. The gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if you held the new note for more than one year at the time of the sale, redemption, exchange, retirement or other disposition. Long-term capital gains of individuals, estates and trusts currently are subject to a reduced rate of U.S. federal income tax. The deductibility of capital losses may be subject to limitation.

### ***Information Reporting and Backup Withholding***

Information reporting will apply to payments of interest on, and the proceeds of the sale or other disposition (including a redemption, exchange or retirement) of, new notes held by you, and backup withholding will apply to such payments unless you provide the appropriate intermediary with a taxpayer identification number, certified under penalties of perjury, as well as certain other information or otherwise establish an exemption from backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amount withheld under the backup withholding rules is allowable as a credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, and a refund may be obtained if the amounts withheld exceed your actual U.S. federal income tax liability and you timely provide the required information or appropriate claim form to the IRS.

### ***Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders***

You are a non-U.S. holder for purposes of this discussion if you are a beneficial owner of new notes that is an individual, corporation, estate or trust that is not a U.S. holder.

### ***Interest on the New Notes***

Payments to you of interest on the new notes generally will be exempt from withholding of U.S. federal income tax under the portfolio interest exemption if you properly certify as to your foreign status, as described below, and:

you do not own, directly or indirectly, actually or constructively, 10% or more of our capital or profits interest;



---

**Table of Contents**

you are not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to us (actually or constructively);

you are not a bank whose receipt of interest on the new notes is in connection with an extension of credit made pursuant to a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of your trade or business; and

interest on the new notes is not effectively connected with your conduct of a U.S. trade or business.

The portfolio interest exemption and several of the special rules for non-U.S. holders described below generally apply only if you appropriately certify as to your foreign status. You can generally meet this certification requirement by providing a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN or appropriate substitute form to the withholding agent. If you hold the new notes through a financial institution or other agent acting on your behalf, you may be required to provide appropriate certifications to the agent. Your agent will then generally be required to provide appropriate certifications to the applicable withholding agent, either directly or through other intermediaries. Special rules apply to foreign partnerships, estates and trusts, and in certain circumstances certifications as to foreign status of partners, trust owners or beneficiaries may have to be provided to the withholding agent. In addition, special rules apply to qualified intermediaries that enter into withholding agreements with the IRS.

If you cannot satisfy the requirements described above, payments of interest made to you will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a 30% rate, unless you provide the withholding agent with a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN (or successor form) claiming an exemption from (or a reduction of) withholding under the benefits of an income tax treaty, or the payments of interest are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, are treated as attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by you in the United States) and you meet the certification requirements described below. (See *Income or Gain Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business.* )

***Disposition of New Notes***

You generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on any gain realized on the sale, redemption, exchange, retirement or other taxable disposition of a new note (other than any amount allocable to accrued and unpaid interest, which generally will be taxable as interest and may be subject to the rules discussed above in *Interest on the Notes* or below in *Income or Gain Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business* ) unless:

the gain is effectively connected with the conduct by you of a U.S. trade or business (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is treated as attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by you in the United States); or

you are an individual who has been present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of disposition and certain other requirements are met.

If you are a non-U.S. holder whose gain is described in the first bullet point above, you generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the same manner described under *Income or Gain Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business* . If you are a non-U.S. holder described in the second bullet point above, you will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at a flat rate of 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate) on the gain derived from the sale or other disposition, which may be offset by U.S. source capital losses.

***Income or Gain Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business***

If any interest (excluding pre-issuance accrued interest) on the new notes or gain from the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of the new notes is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by you (and if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is treated as attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by you in the United States), then the interest income or gain will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in generally the same manner as if you were a U.S. holder, unless an applicable income tax treaty provides otherwise. Effectively connected income will not be subject to U.S. withholding tax if you satisfy certain certification requirements by providing to the applicable withholding agent a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI (or IRS Form W-8BEN if a treaty exemption applies) or successor form. If you are a corporation, that



---

**Table of Contents**

portion of your earnings and profits that is effectively connected with your U.S. trade or business may also be subject to a branch profits tax at a 30% rate, unless an applicable income tax treaty provides for a lower rate.

***U.S. Federal Estate Tax***

If you are an individual and are not a resident of the United States (as specially defined for U.S. federal estate tax purposes) at the time of your death, the new notes will not be included in your estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes provided, at the time of your death, interest on the new notes qualifies for the portfolio interest exemption under the rules described above in Interest on the New Notes (without regard to the certification requirement necessary to qualify for the portfolio interest exemption).

***Information Reporting and Backup Withholding***

Payments to you of interest on a new note, and amounts withheld from such payments, if any, generally will be required to be reported to the IRS and to you. Copies of the information returns reporting such interest payments and withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities of the country in which you reside under the provisions of a specific treaty or agreement.

United States backup withholding generally will not apply to payments to you of interest on a new note if the statement described in Interest on the New Notes is duly provided or you otherwise establish an exemption, provided that we do not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person.

Payment of the proceeds of a disposition of a new note effected by the U.S. office of a U.S. or foreign broker will be subject to information reporting requirements and backup withholding unless you properly certify under penalties of perjury as to your foreign status and certain other conditions are met or you otherwise establish an exemption. Information reporting requirements and backup withholding generally will not apply to any payment of the proceeds of the disposition of a new note effected outside the United States by a foreign office of a broker. However, unless such a broker has documentary evidence in its records that you are a non-U.S. holder and certain other conditions are met, or you otherwise establish an exemption, information reporting will apply to a payment of the proceeds of the disposition of a new note effected outside the United States by such a broker if it has certain relationships with the United States.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amount withheld under the backup withholding rules is allowable as a credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, and a refund may be obtained if the amounts withheld exceed your actual U.S. federal income tax liability and you timely provide the required information or appropriate claim form to the IRS.

***Additional Tax Relating to Net Investment Income***

For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, an additional 3.8% tax will be imposed on the net investment income of certain U.S. citizens and resident aliens, and on the undistributed net investment income of certain estates and trusts. Among other items, net investment income will generally include gross income from interest and net gain from the disposition of property, such as the new notes, less certain deductions. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences of this additional tax.

***Foreign Account Tax Compliance***

Legislation enacted in 2010 would impose a 30% withholding tax on any payments on our obligations made to a foreign financial institution or non-financial foreign entity (including, in some cases, when such foreign financial institution or entity is acting as an intermediary), and on the gross proceeds of the sale or other disposition of our obligations, unless (i) in the case of a foreign financial institution, such institution enters into an agreement with the U.S. government to withhold on certain payments, and to collect and provide to the U.S.

**Table of Contents**

tax authorities substantial information regarding U.S. account holders of such institution (which includes certain equity and debt holders of such institution, as well as certain account holders that are foreign entities with U.S. owners), (ii) in the case of a non-financial foreign entity, such entity provides the withholding agent with a certification identifying the direct and indirect substantial U.S. owners of the entity or certifies that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners, or (iii) the foreign financial institution or non-financial foreign entity otherwise qualifies for an exemption from these rules. Under certain circumstances, a holder might be eligible for refunds or credits of such taxes. Although this legislation currently applies to payments made after December 31, 2012, the Treasury and the IRS have issued administrative guidance indicating that they plan to issue Treasury Regulations providing that withholding will only apply to payments of interest on debt obligations made on or after January 1, 2014 and to payments of gross proceeds from a sale or other disposition of debt securities made on or after January 1, 2015. Proposed Treasury Regulations have been issued which, if finalized, would confirm the extension of the effective dates for withholding. Additionally, payments with respect to debt obligations that were outstanding on March 18, 2012 are not subject to these rules; however, proposed regulations not yet in effect would, if adopted, extend this grandfathering date to debt securities issued before January 1, 2013 (and not materially modified after December 31, 2012). If these proposed regulations are adopted, withholding under these rules would not be required on the new notes. You are encouraged to consult with your own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation on an investment in the new notes.

**THE PRECEDING DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME AND ESTATE TAX CONSIDERATIONS IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND IS NOT TAX ADVICE. WE URGE EACH PROSPECTIVE INVESTOR TO CONSULT ITS OWN TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE PARTICULAR FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN TAX CONSEQUENCES OF PURCHASING, HOLDING AND DISPOSING OF OUR NEW NOTES, INCLUDING THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY PROPOSED CHANGE IN APPLICABLE LAWS.**

**Table of Contents**

**UNDERWRITING**

Subject to the terms and conditions in the underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement by and among us and the underwriters named below, for whom RBS Securities Inc. is acting as representative, we have agreed to sell to each of the underwriters, and each of the underwriters has agreed to purchase from us, severally and not jointly, the principal amount of the new notes set forth opposite the underwriter's name.

Name of Underwriter	Principal amount of new notes
RBS Securities Inc.	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the new notes are subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and certain other conditions. Under the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, if the underwriters purchase any of the new notes, then they are obligated to purchase all of the new notes.

The underwriters propose to offer the new notes initially at the public offering price on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. After the initial offering of the new notes to the public, the public offering price and other selling terms to dealers may be changed.

We estimate that the total expenses of this offering of the new notes to be paid by us, excluding the underwriting discount, will be approximately \$200,000.

In connection with this offering and in compliance with applicable law, the underwriters may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing and syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act.

Over-allotment involves syndicate sales in excess of the offering size, which creates a syndicate short position.

The underwriters may also effect transactions which stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the notes at levels above those which might otherwise prevail in the open market. Such transactions may include placing bids for the notes or effecting purchases of the notes for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the notes.

Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions.

Penalty bids permit the representative of the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the notes sold by that syndicate member are purchased in a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. These stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes. They may also cause the price of the notes to be



## **Table of Contents**

higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of these transactions. These transactions may be effected in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. The underwriters are not required to engage in any of these activities and such activities, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Neither we nor any of the underwriters makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the notes. In addition, neither we nor any of the underwriters makes any representation that the underwriters will engage in such transactions or that such transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

We and the underwriters are offering to sell the new notes, and seeking offers to buy the new notes, only in jurisdictions where such offers and sales are permitted.

We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized and will not authorize the making of any offer of securities through any financial intermediary on their behalf, other than offers made by the underwriters with a view to the final placement of the securities as contemplated in this prospectus. Accordingly, no purchaser of the securities, other than the underwriters, is authorized to make any further offer of the securities on behalf of us or the underwriters.

The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or included in any automated quotation system. Certain of the underwriters have advised us that, following completion of the offering of the new notes, they intend to continue to make, or to commence to make, a market in the notes, as permitted by applicable law. They are not obligated, however, to make a market in the notes, and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice, in their sole discretion. If any of the underwriters ceases to act as a market-maker for the notes for any reason, there can be no assurance that another firm or person will make a market in the notes. Accordingly, we cannot assure you as to the development or liquidity of any market for the notes.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, the Exchange Act or other Federal or state statutory law or to contribute to payments that the underwriters may be required to make in respect of any such liabilities.

We expect delivery of the new notes will be made against payment therefor on or about the closing date specified on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, which is the seventh business day following the date of this prospectus supplement (such settlement being referred to as T+7 ). Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade the new notes on the date of this prospectus supplement or during the next succeeding three business days will be required, by virtue of the fact that the new notes initially will settle in T+7, to specify an alternate settlement cycle at the time of any such trade to prevent failed settlement and should consult their own advisers.

## **Relationships**

The underwriters and their affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have performed investment banking, commercial banking and advisory services for and have had lending relationships with us and our affiliates, including Anadarko, from time to time for which they have received customary fees and expenses. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates may, from time to time in the future, engage in transactions with and perform services for us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of business. In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the underwriters and their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. The underwriters and their affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

---

**Table of Contents**

**Notice to Investors**

***United Kingdom***

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been approved by an authorized person for the purposes of section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 ( FSMA ) and are, accordingly, only being distributed in the United Kingdom to, and are only directed at (i) investment professionals falling within the description of persons in Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended (the Financial Promotion Order ); or (ii) high net worth companies and other persons falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Financial Promotion Order; or (iii) to any other person to whom they may otherwise lawfully be communicated or made in accordance with the Financial Promotion Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons ).

The notes are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such notes will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

An invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of FSMA) in connection with the issue or sale of any notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus will only be communicated or caused to be communicated in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of FSMA does not apply to our partnership.

***European Economic Area***

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that relevant member state (the relevant implementation date), an offer of securities described in this prospectus may not be made to the public in that relevant member state other than:

to any legal entity that is authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;

to any legal entity that has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;

to fewer than 100 or, if the relevant member state has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 Prospectus Directive Amending Directive, 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representative; or

in any other circumstances that do not require the publication of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of securities shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of securities to the public in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the securities to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the securities, as the expression may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 Prospective Directive Amending Directive to the extent implemented in the relevant member state) and includes any relevant implementing measure in each relevant member state.



**Table of Contents**

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the notes offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Houston, Texas. Certain legal matters in connection with the notes offered hereby will be passed upon for the underwriters by Latham & Watkins LLP, Houston, Texas.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Western Gas Partners, LP and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2011, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

We have made in this prospectus supplement and in the reports and documents incorporated by reference herein, and may from time to time otherwise make in other public filings, press releases and statements by our management, forward-looking statements concerning our operations, economic performance and financial condition. These forward-looking statements include statements preceded by, followed by or that otherwise include the words believes, expects, anticipates, intends, estimates, projects, target, goal, plans, objective, should or similar variations on such expressions.

Although we and our general partner believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, neither we nor our general partner can give any assurance that such expectations will prove to have been correct. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations include, but are not limited to, the following:

our assumptions about the energy market;

future throughput, including Anadarko's production, which is gathered or processed by or transported through our assets;

operating results;

competitive conditions;

technology;

the availability of capital resources to fund acquisitions, capital expenditures and other contractual obligations, and our ability to access those resources from Anadarko or through the debt or equity capital markets;

the supply of and demand for, and the price of oil, natural gas, NGLs and other products or services;

the weather;

inflation;

the availability of goods and services;

general economic conditions, either internationally or nationally or in the jurisdictions in which we are doing business;

S-38

**Table of Contents**

changes in environmental and safety regulations; environmental risks; regulations by FERC; and liability under federal and state laws and regulations;

legislative or regulatory changes affecting our status as a partnership for federal income tax purposes;

changes in the financial or operational condition of our sponsor, Anadarko, including changes as a result of the remaining claims related to the Deepwater Horizon events for which Anadarko is not indemnified;

changes in Anadarko's capital program, strategy or desired areas of focus;

our commitments to capital projects and the ability to complete such projects on time and within budget expectations;

the ability to utilize our revolving credit facility;

the creditworthiness of Anadarko or our other counterparties, including financial institutions, operating partners and other parties;

our ability to repay debt;

our ability to maintain and/or obtain rights to operate our assets on land owned by third parties;

our ability to acquire assets on acceptable terms;

nonpayment or nonperformance of Anadarko or other significant customers, including under our gathering, processing and transportation agreements and our \$260.0 million note receivable from Anadarko;

the timing, amount and terms of future issuances of common equity and debt securities; and

other factors discussed in Item 1A, Risk Factors and in Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates included in our Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) on February 28, 2012, in our Forms 10-Q filed with the SEC on May 3, 2012 and August 2, 2012 and in our other public filings and press releases.

The risk factors and other factors incorporated by reference in this prospectus could cause our actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

**Table of Contents**

**INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

We file annual, quarterly and other reports with and furnish other information to the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file with or furnish to the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, NE, Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-732-0330 for further information on their public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we have filed with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you without actually including the specific information in this prospectus by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and may replace information in this prospectus and information previously filed with the SEC. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (excluding any information furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 on any current report on Form 8-K), including all such documents we may file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement and until the termination of this offering:

Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 filed on February 28, 2012;

Forms 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 filed on May 3, 2012 and for the quarter ended June 30, 2012 filed on August 2, 2012; and

Current Reports on Form 8-K or Form 8-K/A filed on January 17, 2012, March 27, 2012, May 22, 2012, June 14, 2012, June 20, 2012, June 26, 2012, June 28, 2012 and July 23, 2012.

You may obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus from the SEC through the SEC's website at the address provided above. You may request a copy of any document incorporated by reference into this prospectus (including exhibits to those documents specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement), at no cost, by visiting our website at <http://www.westerngas.com>, or by writing or calling us at the following address:

Investor Relations

Western Gas Partners, LP

1201 Lake Robbins Drive

The Woodlands, Texas 77380-1046

Telephone: (832) 636-6000

The information contained on our website is not part of this prospectus.

S-40

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS**

**WESTERN GAS PARTNERS, LP**

**Common Units**

**Debt Securities**

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more series:

common units representing limited partner interests in Western Gas Partners, LP; and

debt securities, which may be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. Any direct or indirect subsidiaries of Western Gas Partners, LP may guarantee the debt securities.

The securities we may offer:

will be offered at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more accompanying prospectus supplements; and

may be offered separately or together, or in separate series.

Our common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol WES. We will provide information in the prospectus supplement for the trading market, if any, for any debt securities we may offer.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer to sell securities we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about those securities and the terms of that offering, including the specific manner in which we will offer the securities. The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus may be used to offer and sell securities only if accompanied by a prospectus supplement. We urge you to read carefully this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. You should also read the documents we refer to in the **Where You Can Find More Information** section of this prospectus for information on us and our financial statements.

Our principal executive offices are located at 1201 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77380. Our telephone number is (832) 636-6000.

**Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider each of the factors described under Risk Factors, which begin on page 5 of this prospectus, before you make an investment in our securities.**

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is May 9, 2011

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>ABOUT WESTERN GAS PARTNERS, LP</u>	1
<u>CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	5
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	5
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	5
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES AND GUARANTEES</u>	6
<u>INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	17
<u>INVESTMENT IN OUR UNITS OR DEBT SECURITIES BY EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS</u>	34
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	37
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	39
<u>EXPERTS</u>	39
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	39

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. You should not assume that the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of each such document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

## **Table of Contents**

### **ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer from time to time our common units or debt securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of us and the securities offered under this prospectus.

Each time we sell securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering and the securities being offered. The prospectus supplement also may add to, update, or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, the information in the prospectus supplement will control. We urge you to read carefully this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the additional information described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by reference to the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed or will be filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below in the section entitled **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, references in this prospectus to **Western Gas Partners**, **we**, **our**, **us** or like terms refer to Western Gas Partners, LP and its subsidiaries. **Anadarko** refers to Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries, excluding Western Gas Partners.

### **ABOUT WESTERN GAS PARTNERS, LP**

Western Gas Partners, LP is a growth-oriented Delaware master limited partnership, or MLP, organized by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation ( **Anadarko** ) in 2008 to own, operate, acquire and develop midstream energy assets. Our common units are publicly traded and listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the symbol **WES**. With midstream assets in East and West Texas, the Rocky Mountains and the Mid-Continent, we are engaged in the business of gathering, processing, compressing, treating and transporting natural gas, condensate, natural gas liquids ( **NGLs** ) and crude oil for Anadarko and other producers and customers. As of March 31, 2011, our assets included eleven gathering systems, six natural gas treating facilities, seven natural gas processing facilities, one NGL pipeline, one interstate pipeline and noncontrolling interests in Fort Union Gas Gathering, L.L.C. and White Cliffs Pipeline, L.L.C.

Approximately two-thirds of our services are provided under long-term contracts with fee-based rates with the remainder provided under percent-of-proceeds and keep-whole contracts. We have entered into fixed-price swap agreements with Anadarko to manage the commodity price risk otherwise inherent in our percent-of-proceeds and keep-whole contracts. A substantial part of our business is conducted under long-term contracts with Anadarko.

We believe that one of our principal strengths is our relationship with Anadarko. Over 74% of our total natural gas gathering, processing and transportation throughput during the year ended December 31, 2010 was comprised of natural gas production owned or controlled by Anadarko. In addition and solely with respect to the Wattenberg gathering system and the gathering systems included in our initial assets, which consist of MIGC LLC, Anadarko Gathering Company LLC and Pinnacle Gas Treating LLC, all contributed to us by Anadarko concurrent with our May 2008 initial public offering, Anadarko has dedicated to us all of the natural gas production it owns or controls from (i) wells that are currently connected to such gathering systems, and



**Table of Contents**

(ii) additional wells that are drilled within one mile of wells connected to these gathering systems, as those systems currently exist and as they are expanded to connect additional wells in the future. As a result, this dedication will continue to expand as long as additional wells are connected to these gathering systems.

Our principal executive offices are located at 1201 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77380-1046, and our telephone number is (832) 636-6000. Our website is located at <http://www.westerngas.com>. Information contained on our Internet website is not incorporated by reference into, and does not constitute a part of, this prospectus.

**Table of Contents**

**CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

We have made in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein, and may from time to time otherwise make in other public filings, press releases and discussions by the management of Western Gas Holdings, LLC, our general partner, forward-looking statements concerning our operations, economic performance and financial condition. These statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology including may, will, believe, expect, anticipate, estimate, continue, or other similar words. These statements discuss future expectations, contain projections of results of operations or financial condition or include other forward-looking information. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to have been correct.

These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations include, but are not limited to, the following risks and uncertainties:

our assumptions about the energy market;

future throughput, including Anadarko's production, which is gathered or processed by or transported through our assets;

operating results;

competitive conditions;

technology;

the availability of capital resources to fund acquisitions, capital expenditures and other contractual obligations, and our ability to access those resources from Anadarko or through the debt or equity capital markets;

the supply of and demand for, and the prices of, oil, natural gas, NGLs and other products or services;

the weather;

inflation;

the availability of goods and services;

general economic conditions, either internationally or nationally or in the jurisdictions in which we are doing business;

legislative or regulatory changes, including changes in environmental regulations; environmental risks; regulations by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, and liability under federal and state laws and regulations;

## Edgar Filing: Western Gas Partners LP - Form 424B3

changes in the financial or operational condition of our sponsor, Anadarko, including the outcome of the Deepwater Horizon events;

changes in Anadarko's capital program, strategy or desired areas of focus;

our commitments to capital projects;

the ability to utilize our revolving credit facility;

the creditworthiness of Anadarko or our other counterparties, including financial institutions, operating partners, and other parties;

our ability to repay debt;

our ability to maintain and/or obtain rights to operate our assets on land owned by third parties;

**Table of Contents**

our ability to acquire assets on acceptable terms;

non-payment or non-performance of Anadarko or other significant customers, including under our gathering, processing and transportation agreements and our \$260.0 million note receivable from Anadarko; and

other factors discussed below, elsewhere in **Risk Factors** and in **Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**, **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates** included in our most-recent annual report on Form 10-K and our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and in **Risk Factors** in our current reports on Form 8-K that are incorporated by reference herein, and in our other public filings and press releases.

The risk factors and other factors noted throughout or incorporated by reference in this prospectus could cause our actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

Limited partner interests are inherently different from the capital stock of a corporation, although many of the business risks to which we are subject are similar to those that would be faced by a corporation engaged in a similar business. Before you invest in our securities, you should carefully consider the risk factors included in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K that are incorporated herein by reference and those that may be included in the applicable prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference.

If any of the risks discussed in the foregoing documents were actually to occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations, or cash flow could be materially adversely affected. In that case, our ability to make distributions to our unitholders or pay interest on, or the principal of, any debt securities, may be reduced, the trading price of our securities could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless we specify otherwise in any prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of securities covered by this prospectus for general partnership purposes, which may include, among other things:

paying or refinancing all or a portion of our indebtedness outstanding at the time (some or all of which may be owed to Anadarko);

funding working capital;

funding either maintenance or expansion capital expenditures; and

funding future acquisitions either from Anadarko or third parties.

The actual application of proceeds from the sale of any particular offering of securities using this prospectus will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to such offering. The precise amount and timing of the application of these proceeds will depend upon our funding requirements and the availability and cost of other funds.

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Year Ended December 31,			
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1)	6.8x	8.1x	12.3x	58.8x	14.5x	3.3x

(1) These ratios were computed by dividing earnings by fixed charges. For this purpose, earnings include pre-tax income before adjustment for income or loss from equity investees, plus fixed charges to the extent they affect current year earnings, amortization of capitalized interest and distributed income of equity investees, then subtracting equity income, noncontrolling interests in pre-tax income from subsidiaries that did not incur fixed charges, and interest capitalized during the year. Fixed charges include interest expensed and capitalized, amortized premiums, discounts and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness, and estimates of interest within rental expenses.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES AND GUARANTEES**

We will issue debt securities under an indenture among Western Gas Partners, LP, any guarantors party thereto and a trustee that we will name in the related prospectus supplement. If we offer senior debt securities, we will issue them under a senior indenture. If we issue subordinated debt securities, we will issue them under a subordinated indenture. The term "Trustee" as used in this prospectus refers to the trustee under any of the above indentures. References in this prospectus to an "Indenture" refer to the particular indenture under which Western Gas Partners, LP issues a series of debt securities. The debt securities will be governed by the provisions of the related Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

The debt securities may have the benefit of guarantees (each, a "guarantee"), by one or more existing or future subsidiaries of Western Gas Partners, LP (each, a "guarantor"). If a guarantor issues a guarantee, such guarantee will be the unsecured and, if guaranteeing senior debt securities, unsubordinated or, if guaranteeing subordinated debt securities, subordinated obligation of the respective guarantor. Unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, as used in this section, the term "guaranteed debt securities" means debt securities that, as described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto, are guaranteed by one or more guarantors pursuant to the applicable indenture.

This description is a summary of the material provisions of the debt securities and the Indentures. We urge you to read the forms of Indentures filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part because those Indentures, and not this description, govern your rights as a holder of debt securities.

**General**

Any series of debt securities:

may be issued in fully registered form; and

will be our general obligations.

The Indenture does not limit the total amount of debt securities that may be issued. Debt securities under the Indenture may be issued from time to time in separate series, up to the aggregate amount authorized for each such series.

We will prepare a prospectus supplement and either an indenture supplement or a resolution of the board of directors of the general partner of the issuer and accompanying officers' certificate relating to any series of debt securities that we offer, which will include specific terms relating to some or all of the following:

whether the debt securities are senior or subordinated debt securities;

the form and title of the debt securities;

the total principal amount of the debt securities;

the date or dates on which the debt securities may be issued;

the portion of the principal amount which will be payable if the maturity of the debt securities is accelerated;

Edgar Filing: Western Gas Partners LP - Form 424B3

the dates on which the principal of and premium, if any, on the debt securities will be payable;

the rates at which the debt securities will bear interest and the interest payment dates for the debt securities;

any option or conversion provisions;

any optional redemption provisions;

## **Table of Contents**

any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to redeem or otherwise repurchase the debt securities;

whether the debt securities may be issued in amounts other than \$1,000 each or multiples thereof;

any changes to or additional Events of Default or covenants; and

any other terms of the debt securities.

This description of debt securities will be deemed modified, amended or supplemented by any description of any series of debt securities set forth in a prospectus supplement related to that series.

The prospectus supplement will also describe any material United States federal income tax consequences or other special considerations regarding the applicable series of debt securities, including those relating to:

debt securities with respect to which payments of principal, premium or interest are determined with reference to an index or formula, including changes in prices of particular securities, currencies or commodities;

debt securities with respect to which principal, premium or interest is payable in a foreign or composite currency;

debt securities that are issued at a discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below market rates; and

variable rate debt securities that are exchangeable for fixed rate debt securities.

Interest payments on debt securities in certificated form may be made by check mailed to the registered holders or, if so stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, at the option of a holder, by wire transfer to an account designated by the holder.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities may be transferred or exchanged at the office of the Trustee at which its corporate trust business is principally administered in the United States, subject to the limitations provided in the Indenture, without the payment of any service charge, other than any applicable tax or other governmental charge.

Any funds paid to the Trustee or any paying agent for the payment of amounts due on any debt securities that remain unclaimed for two years will be returned to us, and the holders of the debt securities must look only to us for payment after that time.

### **Certain Covenants**

The covenants set forth in the Indenture include the following:

*Payment of Principal, any Premium, Interest or Additional Amounts.* We will duly and punctually pay the principal of, and premium and interest on or any additional amounts payable with respect to, any debt securities of any series in accordance with their terms and the terms of the Indenture.

*Maintenance of Office or Agency.* We will maintain an office or agency in each place of payment for each series of debt securities for notice and demand purposes and for the purposes of presenting or surrendering debt securities for payment, registration of transfer or exchange.

*Additional Covenants.* Any additional covenants with respect to any series of debt securities will be set forth in the supplemental indenture or board resolution and officer's certificate and prospectus supplement relating thereto.





## **Table of Contents**

### **Events of Default, Remedies and Notice**

#### ***Events of Default***

Unless otherwise specified in a supplement to the Indenture, each of the following events will be an Event of Default under the Indenture with respect to a series of debt securities:

default in any payment of interest on any debt securities of that series when due that continues for 30 days;

default in the payment of principal of or premium, if any, on any debt securities of that series when due at its stated maturity, upon redemption, upon required repurchase or otherwise;

default in the payment of any sinking fund payment on any debt securities of that series when due;

failure by us to comply for 60 days after notice with the other agreements contained in the Indenture, any supplement to the Indenture with respect to that series or any board resolution authorizing the issuance of that series;

if the debt securities of that series are guaranteed debt securities, the guarantee of the debt securities of that series by any guarantor shall for any reason cease to be in full force and effect and enforceable in accordance with its terms, except to the extent contemplated or permitted by the Indenture or the debt securities of that series; or

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the issuer.

#### ***Exercise of Remedies***

If an Event of Default, other than an Event of Default described in the sixth bullet point above, occurs and is continuing, the Trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare the entire principal of, premium, if any, and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. If an Event of Default described in the sixth bullet point above occurs, the principal of, premium, if any, and accrued and unpaid interest on all outstanding debt securities of all series will become immediately due and payable without any declaration of acceleration or other act on the part of the Trustee or any holders.

A default under the fourth bullet point above will not constitute an Event of Default until the Trustee or the holders of 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series notifies us of the default and such default is not cured within 60 days after receipt of notice.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series may rescind any declaration of acceleration by the Trustee or the holders with respect to the debt securities of that series, but only if:

rescinding the declaration of acceleration would not conflict with any judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction; and

all existing Events of Default with respect to that series have been cured or waived, other than the nonpayment of principal, premium or interest on the debt securities of that series that has become due solely by the declaration of acceleration.

If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee will be under no obligation, except as otherwise provided in the Indenture, to exercise any of the rights or powers under the Indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders unless such holders have offered to the

## Edgar Filing: Western Gas Partners LP - Form 424B3

Trustee reasonable indemnity or security against any costs, liability or expense. No holder may pursue any remedy with respect to the Indenture or the debt securities of any series, except to enforce the right to receive payment of principal, premium or interest on its own debt securities when due, unless:

such holder has previously given the Trustee notice that an Event of Default with respect to that series is continuing;

**Table of Contents**

holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have requested that the Trustee pursue the remedy;

such holders have offered the Trustee reasonable indemnity or security against any cost, liability or expense to be incurred thereby;

the Trustee has not complied with such request within 60 days after the receipt of the request and the offer of indemnity or security; and

the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have not given the Trustee a direction that is inconsistent with such request within such 60-day period.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series have the right, subject to certain restrictions, to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee or of exercising any right or power conferred on the Trustee with respect to that series of debt securities. The Trustee, however, may refuse to follow any direction that:

conflicts with law;

is inconsistent with any provision of the Indenture;

the Trustee determines is unduly prejudicial to the rights of any other holder; or

would involve the Trustee in personal liability.

***Notice of Event of Default***

Within 30 days after the occurrence of an Event of Default, we are required to give written notice to the Trustee and indicate the status of the default and what action we are taking or proposes to take to cure the default. In addition, we are required to deliver to the Trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, a compliance certificate indicating that we have complied with all covenants contained in the Indenture or whether any default or Event of Default has occurred during the previous year.

Within 90 days after the occurrence of any default known to it, the Trustee must mail to each holder a notice of the default. Except in the case of a default in the payment of principal, premium or interest with respect to any debt securities, the Trustee may withhold such notice, but only if and so long as the board of directors, the executive committee or a committee of directors or responsible officers of the Trustee in good faith determines that withholding such notice is in the interests of the holders.

**Amendments and Waivers**

We may supplement or amend the Indenture without the consent of any holder of debt securities to, among other things:

cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;

provide for the assumption by a successor of our obligations under the Indenture;

## Edgar Filing: Western Gas Partners LP - Form 424B3

secure the debt securities;

add covenants for the benefit of the holders or surrender any right or power conferred upon us;

in the case of any subordinated debt security, to make any change in the subordination provisions that limits or terminates the benefits applicable to any holder of our Senior Indebtedness;

make any change that does not adversely affect the rights of any holder;

reflect the addition of, succession to or release of any guarantor of guaranteed debt securities otherwise permitted under the Indenture;

**Table of Contents**

add or appoint a successor or separate Trustee;

comply with any requirement of the SEC in connection with the qualification of the Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act; or

establish the form or terms of the debt securities of any new series.

In addition, we may amend the Indenture if the holders of a majority in principal amount of all debt securities of each series that would be affected then outstanding under the Indenture consent to it. We may

not, however, without the consent of each holder of outstanding debt securities of each series that would be affected, amend the Indenture to:

reduce the percentage in principal amount of debt securities of any series whose holders must consent to an amendment;

reduce the rate of or extend the time for payment of interest on any debt securities;

reduce the principal of or extend the stated maturity of any debt securities;

reduce the premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities or change the time at which any debt securities may or shall be redeemed;

make any debt securities payable in a currency other than that stated in the debt security;

in the case of any subordinated debt security, make any change in the subordination provisions that adversely affects the rights of any holder under those provisions;

impair the right of any holder to receive payment of premium, principal or interest with respect to such holder's debt securities on or after the applicable due date;

impair the right of any holder to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment with respect to such holder's debt securities;

release any security that has been granted in respect of the debt securities;

make any change in the amendment provisions which require each holder's consent; or

make any change in the waiver provisions.

It shall not be necessary for the consent of the holders under the Indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It is sufficient if such consent approves the substance of the proposed amendment. After an amendment under the Indenture requiring the consent of the holders becomes effective, we are required to mail to all holders a notice briefly describing the amendment. The failure to give, or any defect in, such notice, however, will not impair or affect the validity of the amendment.

## Edgar Filing: Western Gas Partners LP - Form 424B3

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each affected series, on behalf of all such holders, and subject to certain rights of the Trustee, may waive:

compliance with certain restrictive provisions of the Indenture; and

any past default under the Indenture;  
except that such majority of holders may not waive a default:

in the payment of principal, premium or interest; or

in respect of a provision that under the Indenture cannot be amended without the consent of all holders of the series of debt securities that is affected.

---

## **Table of Contents**

### **Satisfaction and Discharge**

The Indenture will be discharged and will cease to be of further effect as to all outstanding debt securities of any series issued thereunder, when:

(a) either:

(1) all outstanding debt securities of that series that have been authenticated (except lost, stolen or destroyed debt securities that have been replaced or paid and debt securities for whose payment money has theretofore been deposited in trust and thereafter repaid to the issuer) have been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation; or

(2) all outstanding debt securities of that series that have not been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation have become due and payable or will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee and in any case we have irrevocably deposited with the Trustee as trust funds cash, certain U.S. government obligations or a combination thereof, in such amounts as will be sufficient, to pay the entire indebtedness of such debt securities not delivered to the Trustee for cancellation, for principal, premium, if any, and accrued interest to the stated maturity or redemption date;

(b) we have paid or caused to be paid all other sums payable by us under the Indenture with respect to the debt securities of that series; and

(c) we have delivered to the Trustee an accountants certificate as to the sufficiency of the trust funds, without reinvestment, to pay the entire indebtedness of such debt securities at maturity.

Notwithstanding such satisfaction and discharge, our obligations to compensate and indemnify the trustee, to pay additional amounts, if any, in respect of debt securities in certain circumstances and to transfer or exchange debt securities pursuant to the terms thereof and our obligations and the obligations of the trustee to hold funds in trust and to apply such funds pursuant to the terms of the Indenture, with respect to issuing temporary debt securities, with respect to the registration, transfer and exchange of debt securities, with respect to the replacement of mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities and with respect to the maintenance of an office or agency for payment, shall in each case survive such satisfaction and discharge.

### **Defeasance**

At any time, we may terminate, with respect to debt securities of a particular series, all our obligations under such series of debt securities and the Indenture, which we call a legal defeasance. If we decide to make a legal defeasance, however, we may not terminate our obligations specified in the Indenture, including those:

relating to the defeasance trust;

to register the transfer or exchange of the debt securities;

to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities; or

to maintain a registrar and paying agent in respect of the debt securities.

At any time we may also effect a covenant defeasance, which means we have elected to terminate our obligations under the additional covenants established pursuant to the terms of a particular series of debt securities, which covenants are not described in the prospectus but are described in the prospectus supplement applicable to such series, other than as described in such prospectus supplement, and any Event of Default resulting from a failure to observe such covenants.

The legal defeasance option may be exercised notwithstanding a prior exercise of the covenant defeasance option. If the legal defeasance option is exercised, payment of the affected series of debt securities may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default with respect to that series. If the covenant defeasance option is





## **Table of Contents**

exercised, payment of the affected series of debt securities may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default with respect to the breach of certain agreements specified in the fourth or fifth bullet points under Events of Default, Remedies and Notice Events of Default above or an Event of Default that is added specifically for such series and described in a prospectus supplement.

In order to exercise either defeasance option, we must:

irrevocably deposit in trust with the Trustee money or certain U.S. government obligations for the payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the series of debt securities to redemption or stated maturity, as the case may be;

comply with certain other conditions, including that no bankruptcy or default with respect to the issuer has occurred and is continuing 91 days after the deposit in trust; and

deliver to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that holders of the defeased series of debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance and will be subject to Federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance had not occurred. In the case of legal defeasance only, such opinion of counsel must be based on a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable Federal income tax law.

Upon the effectiveness of defeasance with respect to any series of guaranteed debt securities, each guarantor of the debt securities of such series shall be automatically and unconditionally released and discharged from all of its obligations under its guarantee of the debt securities of such series and all of its other obligations under the applicable indenture in respect of the debt securities of that series, without any action by us, any guarantor or the trustee and without the consent of the holders of any debt securities.

## **No Personal Liability**

Our partners and any directors, officers, employees, incorporators, shareholders, partners and members of our general partner or any guarantor will not be liable for:

any of our obligations under the debt securities or the Indenture; or

any claim based on, in respect of, or by reason of, such obligations or their creation.

By accepting a debt security, each holder will be deemed to have waived and released all such liability. This waiver and release are part of the consideration for the issuance of the debt securities. This waiver may not be effective, however, to waive liabilities under the Federal securities laws and it is the view of the SEC that such a waiver is against public policy.

## **No Protection in the Event of a Change of Control**

Unless otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not contain any provisions that protect the holders of the debt securities in the event of our change of control or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction, whether or not such transaction results in our change of control.

## **Provisions Relating only to the Senior Debt Securities**

The senior debt securities will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other unsubordinated debt. The senior debt securities will be effectively subordinated, however, to all of our secured debt to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such debt. We will disclose the amount of our secured debt in the prospectus supplement.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Provisions Relating only to the Subordinated Debt Securities**

#### ***Subordinated Debt Securities Subordinated to Senior Indebtedness***

The subordinated debt securities will rank junior in right of payment to all of our Senior Indebtedness. Senior Indebtedness will be defined in a supplemental indenture or authorizing resolutions respecting any issuance of a series of subordinated debt securities, and the definition will be set forth in the prospectus supplement.

#### ***Payment Blockages***

The subordinated indenture will provide that no payment of principal, interest and any premium on the subordinated debt securities may be made in the event:

we or our property is involved in any voluntary or involuntary liquidation or bankruptcy;

we fail to pay the principal, interest, any premium or any other amounts on any Senior Indebtedness of the issuer within any applicable grace period or the maturity of such Senior Indebtedness is accelerated following any other default, subject to certain limited exceptions set forth in the subordinated indenture; or

any other default on any of our Senior Indebtedness occurs that permits immediate acceleration of its maturity, in which case a payment blockage on the subordinated debt securities will be imposed for a maximum of 179 days at any one time.

#### ***No Limitation on Amount of Senior Debt***

The subordinated indenture will not limit the amount of Senior Indebtedness that we may incur, unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement.

### **Guarantees**

The debt securities of any series may be guaranteed by one or more of our subsidiaries. However, the applicable Indenture governing the debt securities will not require that any of our subsidiaries be a guarantor of any series of debt securities and will permit the guarantors for any series of guaranteed debt securities to be different from any of the subsidiaries listed above under General. As a result, a series of debt securities may not have any guarantors and the guarantors of any series of guaranteed debt securities may differ from the guarantors of any other series of guaranteed debt securities. If we issue a series of guaranteed debt securities, the identity of the specific guarantors of the debt securities of that series will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If we issue a series of guaranteed debt securities, a description of some of the terms of guarantees of those debt securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to a series of guaranteed debt securities, each guarantor of the debt securities of such series will fully and unconditionally guarantee, on a joint and several basis with each other guarantor, the due and punctual payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on each debt security of such series, all in accordance with the terms of such debt securities and the applicable indenture.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to a series of guaranteed debt securities, the applicable Indenture will contain provisions to the effect that the obligations of each guarantor under its guarantees and such Indenture shall be limited to the maximum amount as will, after giving effect to all other contingent and fixed liabilities of such guarantor, result in the obligations of such guarantor under such guarantees and such indenture not constituting a fraudulent conveyance or fraudulent transfer under applicable law. However, there can be no assurance that, notwithstanding such limitation, a court

## **Table of Contents**

would not determine that a guarantee constituted a fraudulent conveyance or fraudulent transfer under applicable law. If that were to occur, the court could void the applicable guarantor's obligations under that guarantee, subordinate that guarantee to other debt and other liabilities of that guarantor or take other action detrimental to holders of the debt securities of the applicable series, including directing the holders to return any payments received from the applicable guarantor.

Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to a series of guaranteed debt securities, the applicable indenture will (i) provide that, upon the sale or disposition (by merger or otherwise) of any guarantor, (x) if the transferee is not an affiliate of us, such guarantor will automatically be released from all obligations under its guarantee of such debt securities or (y) otherwise, the transferee (if other than us or another guarantor) will assume the guarantor's obligations under its guarantee of such debt securities and (ii) permit us to cause the guarantee of any guarantor of such debt securities to be released at any time if we satisfy such conditions, if any, as are specified in the prospectus supplement for such debt securities.

The applicable prospectus supplement relating to any series of guaranteed debt securities will specify other terms of the applicable guarantees.

If the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a series of our senior debt securities provides that those senior debt securities will have the benefit of a guarantee by any or all of our subsidiaries, unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, each such guarantee will be the unsubordinated and unsecured obligation of the applicable guarantor and will rank equally in right of payment with all of the unsubordinated indebtedness of such guarantor.

Any guarantee of any debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future secured indebtedness of the applicable guarantor, including any secured guarantees of other partnership debt, to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness. Consequently, in the event of a bankruptcy, or similar proceeding with respect to any guarantor that has provided a guarantee of any debt securities, the holders of that guarantor's secured indebtedness will be entitled to proceed directly against the collateral that secures such secured indebtedness and such collateral will not be available for satisfaction of any amount owed by such guarantor under its unsecured indebtedness, including its guarantees of any debt securities, until that secured debt is satisfied in full. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indenture will not limit the ability of any guarantor to incur secured indebtedness.

If the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a series of our subordinated debt securities provides that those subordinated debt securities will have the benefit of a guarantee by any or all of our subsidiaries, unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, each such guarantee will be the subordinated and unsecured obligation of the applicable guarantor and, in addition to being effectively subordinated to secured debt of such guarantor, will be subordinated in right of payment to all of such guarantor's existing and future senior indebtedness, including any guarantee of the senior debt securities, to the same extent and in the same manner as the subordinated debt securities are subordinated to our senior debt. See **Provisions Relating only to the Subordinated Debt Securities** above.

## **Book Entry, Delivery and Form**

The debt securities of a particular series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global certificates that will be deposited with the Trustee as custodian for The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ( **DTC** ). This means that we will not issue certificates to each holder except in the limited circumstances described below. Instead, one or more global debt securities will be issued to DTC, who will keep a computerized record of its participants (for example, your broker) whose clients have purchased the debt securities. The participant will then keep a record of its clients who purchased the debt securities. Unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for a certificated debt security, a global debt security may not be transferred, except that DTC, its nominees and their successors may transfer a global debt security as a whole to one another.

---

## **Table of Contents**

Beneficial interests in global debt securities will be shown on, and transfers of global debt securities will be made only through, records maintained by DTC and its participants.

DTC has provided us the following information: DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the United States Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered under the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds securities that its participants ( Direct Participants ) deposit with DTC. DTC also records the settlement among Direct Participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through computerized records for Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need to exchange certificates. Direct Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations.

DTC's book-entry system is also used by other organizations such as securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that work through a Direct Participant. The rules that apply to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

DTC is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ( DTCC ). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries.

We will wire all payments on the global debt securities to DTC's nominee. We and the Trustee will treat DTC's nominee as the owner of the global debt securities for all purposes. Accordingly, we, the Trustee and any paying agent will have no direct responsibility or liability to pay amounts due on the global debt securities to owners of beneficial interests in the global debt securities.

It is DTC's current practice, upon receipt of any payment on the global debt securities, to credit Direct Participants' accounts on the payment date according to their respective holdings of beneficial interests in the global debt securities as shown on DTC's records. In addition, it is DTC's current practice to assign any consenting or voting rights to Direct Participants whose accounts are credited with debt securities on a record date, by using an omnibus proxy. Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global debt securities, and voting by participants, will be governed by the customary practices between the participants and owners of beneficial interests, as is the case with debt securities held for the account of customers registered in street name. However, payments will be the responsibility of the participants and not of DTC, the Trustee or us.

Debt securities represented by a global debt security will be exchangeable for certificated debt securities with the same terms in authorized denominations only if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or if DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under applicable law and in either event a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days; or

an Event of Default occurs and DTC notifies the Trustee of its decision to exchange the global debt security for certificated debt securities.

### **Governing Law**

Each Indenture and all of the debt securities will be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

### **The Trustee**

We will enter into each Indenture with a Trustee that is qualified to act under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, and with any other trustee chosen by us and appointed in a supplemental Indenture for a particular series of debt securities. Unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, the

## **Table of Contents**

initial Trustee for each series of debt securities will be Wells Fargo Bank, National Association. We may maintain a banking relationship in the ordinary course of business with our Trustee and one or more of its affiliates.

### ***Resignation or Removal of Trustee***

If the Trustee has or acquires a conflicting interest within the meaning of the Trust Indenture Act after a default has occurred and is continuing, the Trustee must either eliminate its conflicting interest within 90 days, apply to the SEC for permission to continue as trustee or resign, to the extent and in the manner provided by, and subject to the provisions of, the Trust Indenture Act and the applicable indenture. Any resignation will require the appointment of a successor trustee under the applicable indenture in accordance with the terms and conditions of such indenture.

The Trustee may resign or be removed by us with respect to one or more series of debt securities and a successor Trustee may be appointed to act with respect to any such series. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of any series may remove the Trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series.

### ***Limitations on Trustee if it is Our Creditor***

Each indenture will contain certain limitations on the right of the Trustee, in the event that it becomes a creditor of us, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize on certain property received in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise.

### ***Annual Trustee Report to Holders of Debt Securities***

The Trustee is required to submit an annual report to the holders of the debt securities regarding, among other things, the Trustee's eligibility to serve as such, the priority of the Trustee's claims regarding certain advances made by it, and any action taken by the Trustee materially affecting the debt securities.

### ***Certificates and Opinions to be Furnished to Trustee***

Each indenture will provide that, in addition to other certificates or opinions that may be specifically required by other provisions of the indenture, every application by us for action by the Trustee shall be accompanied by a certificate of certain of our officers and an opinion of counsel (who may be our counsel) stating that, in the opinion of the signers, all conditions precedent to such action have been complied with by us.

---

**Table of Contents**

**INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

This section is a summary of the material tax considerations that may be relevant to prospective unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the United States and, unless otherwise noted in the following discussion, is the opinion of Bingham McCutchen LLP, counsel to our general partner and us, insofar as it relates to legal conclusions with respect to matters of U.S. federal income tax law. This section is based upon current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Internal Revenue Code), existing and proposed Treasury regulations promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code (the Treasury Regulations) and current administrative rulings and court decisions, all of which are subject to change. Later changes in these authorities may cause the tax consequences to vary substantially from the consequences described below. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this section to us or we are references to Western Gas Partners, LP and WGR Operating, LP, our operating company.

The following discussion does not comment on all federal income tax matters affecting us or our unitholders. Moreover, the discussion focuses on unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the United States and has only limited application to corporations, estates, trusts, nonresident aliens or other unitholders subject to specialized tax treatment, such as tax-exempt institutions, foreign persons, individual retirement accounts (IRAs), real estate investment trusts (REITs), employee benefit plans or mutual funds. In addition, the discussion only comments to a limited extent on state, local, and foreign tax consequences. Accordingly, we encourage each prospective unitholder to consult, and depend on, his own tax advisor in analyzing the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences particular to him of the ownership or disposition of common units.

All statements as to matters of federal income tax law and legal conclusions with respect thereto, but not as to factual matters, contained in this section, unless otherwise noted, are the opinion of Bingham McCutchen LLP and are based on the accuracy of the representations made by us.

No ruling has been or will be requested from the IRS regarding any matter affecting us or prospective unitholders. Instead, we will rely on opinions of Bingham McCutchen LLP. Unlike a ruling, an opinion of counsel represents only that counsel's best legal judgment and does not bind the IRS or the courts. Accordingly, the opinions and statements made herein may not be sustained by a court if contested by the IRS. Any contest of this sort with the IRS may materially and adversely impact the market for the common units and the prices at which the common units trade. In addition, the costs of any contest with the IRS, principally legal, accounting and related fees, will result in a reduction in cash available for distribution to our unitholders and our general partner and thus will be borne indirectly by our unitholders and our general partner. Furthermore, the tax treatment of us, or of an investment in us, may be significantly modified by future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions. Any modifications may or may not be retroactively applied.

For the reasons described below, Bingham McCutchen LLP has not rendered an opinion with respect to the following specific federal income tax issues: (1) the treatment of a unitholder whose common units are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of common units (please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Treatment of Short Sales); (2) whether our monthly convention for allocating taxable income and losses is permitted by existing Treasury Regulations (please read Disposition of Common Units Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees); and (3) whether our method for depreciating Section 743 adjustments is sustainable in certain cases (please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Section 754 Election and Uniformity of Units).

**Partnership Status**

A partnership is not a taxable entity and incurs no federal income tax liability. Instead, each partner of a partnership is required to take into account his share of items of income, gain, loss and deduction of the partnership in computing his federal income tax liability, regardless of whether cash distributions are made to him by the partnership. Distributions by a partnership to a partner are generally not taxable to the partner unless the amount of cash distributed is in excess of the partner's adjusted basis in his partnership interest.



---

**Table of Contents**

Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code provides that publicly traded partnerships will, as a general rule, be taxed as corporations. However, an exception, referred to as the Qualifying Income Exception, exists with respect to publicly traded partnerships of which 90% or more of the gross income for every taxable year consists of qualifying income. Qualifying income includes income and gains derived from the transportation, storage, processing and marketing of crude oil, natural gas and products thereof, including certain hedging activities and the transportation of natural gas liquids. Other types of qualifying income include interest (other than from a financial business), dividends, gains from the sale of real property and gains from the sale or other disposition of capital assets held for the production of income that otherwise constitutes qualifying income.

We estimate that less than 2% of our current gross income is not qualifying income; however, this estimate could change from time to time. Based upon and subject to this estimate, the factual representations made by us and our general partner and a review of the applicable legal authorities, Bingham McCutchen LLP is of the opinion that at least 90% of our current gross income constitutes qualifying income. The portion of our income that is qualifying income may change from time to time.

A publicly traded partnership may not rely upon the Qualifying Income Exception if it is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the Investment Company Act). If we were required to register under the Investment Company Act, we would be taxed as a corporation even if we met the Qualifying Income Exception. Bingham McCutchen LLP is of the opinion that we may rely on the Qualifying Income Exception.

No ruling has been or will be sought from the IRS and the IRS has made no determination as to our status or the status of the operating company for federal income tax purposes or whether our operations generate qualifying income under Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code. Instead, we will rely on the opinion of Bingham McCutchen LLP on such matters. It is the opinion of Bingham McCutchen LLP that, based upon the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations, published revenue rulings and court decisions and the representations described below, we will be classified as a partnership and our operating company will be disregarded as an entity separate from us for federal income tax purposes.

In rendering its opinion, Bingham McCutchen LLP has relied on factual representations made by us and our general partner. The representations made by us and our general partner upon which Bingham McCutchen LLP has relied include:

- (a) Neither we nor the operating company has elected or will elect to be treated as a corporation;
- (b) For each taxable year, more than 90% of our gross income has been and will be income of the type that Bingham McCutchen LLP has opined or will opine is qualifying income within the meaning of Section 7704(d) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
- (c) Each hedging transaction that we treat as resulting in qualifying income has been and will be appropriately identified as a hedging transaction pursuant to applicable Treasury Regulations, and has been and will be associated with oil, gas, or products thereof that are held or to be held by us in activities of the type that Bingham McCutchen LLP has opined or will opine result in qualifying income.

If we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, other than a failure that is determined by the IRS to be inadvertent and that is cured within a reasonable time after discovery, in which case the IRS may also require us to make adjustments with respect to our unitholders or pay other amounts, we will be treated as if we had transferred all of our assets, subject to liabilities, to a newly formed corporation, on the first day of the year in which we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, in return for stock in that corporation, and then distributed that stock to the unitholders in liquidation of their interests in us. This deemed contribution and liquidation should be tax-free to unitholders and us so long as we, at that time, do not have liabilities in excess of the tax basis of our assets. Thereafter, we would be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes.

If we were treated as an association taxable as a corporation in any taxable year, either as a result of a failure to meet the Qualifying Income Exception or otherwise, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction would be reflected only on our tax return rather than being passed through to our unitholders, and our net income would be

## **Table of Contents**

taxed to us at corporate rates. In addition, any distribution made to a unitholder would be treated as either taxable dividend income, to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, or, in the absence of earnings and profits, a nontaxable return of capital, to the extent of the unitholder's tax basis in his common units, or taxable capital gain, after the unitholder's tax basis in his common units is reduced to zero. Accordingly, taxation as a corporation would result in a material reduction in a unitholder's cash flow and after-tax return and thus would likely result in a substantial reduction of the value of the units.

The discussion below is based on Bingham McCutchen LLP's opinion that we will be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

### **Limited Partner Status**

Unitholders who have become limited partners of Western Gas Partners, LP will be treated as partners of Western Gas Partners, LP for federal income tax purposes. Also, (1) assignees who have executed and delivered transfer applications, and are awaiting admission as limited partners, and (2) unitholders whose common units are held in street name or by a nominee and who have the right to direct the nominee in the exercise of all substantive rights attendant to the ownership of their common units, will be treated as partners of Western Gas Partners, LP for federal income tax purposes.

As there is no direct or indirect controlling authority addressing assignees of common units who are entitled to execute and deliver transfer applications and thereby become entitled to direct the exercise of attendant rights, but who fail to execute and deliver transfer applications, Bingham McCutchen LLP's opinion does not extend to these persons. Furthermore, a purchaser or other transferee of common units who does not execute and deliver a transfer application may not receive some federal income tax information or reports furnished to record holders of common units unless the common units are held in a nominee or street name account and the nominee or broker has executed and delivered a transfer application for those common units. A beneficial owner of common units whose units have been transferred to a short seller to complete a short sale would appear to lose his status as a partner with respect to those units for federal income tax purposes. Please read "Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership" Treatment of Short Sales.

Income, gain, deductions or losses are not reportable by a unitholder who is not a partner for federal income tax purposes, and any cash distributions received by a unitholder who is not a partner for federal income tax purposes would therefore appear to be fully taxable as ordinary income. These holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to their tax consequences of holding common units in Western Gas Partners, LP. References to unitholders in the discussion that follows are to persons who are treated as partners in Western Gas Partners, LP for federal income tax purposes.

### **Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership**

#### ***Flow-Through of Taxable Income***

We will not pay any federal income tax. Instead, each unitholder will be required to report on his income tax return his share of our income, gains, losses and deductions without regard to whether we make cash distributions to him. Consequently, we may allocate income to a unitholder even if he has not received a cash distribution. Each unitholder will be required to include in income his allocable share of our income, gains, losses and deductions for our taxable year ending with or within his taxable year. Our taxable year ends on December 31.

#### ***Treatment of Distributions***

Distributions by us to a unitholder generally will not be taxable to the unitholder for federal income tax purposes, except to the extent the amount of any such cash distribution exceeds his tax basis in his common units immediately before the distribution. Our cash distributions in excess of a unitholder's tax basis in his common

---

**Table of Contents**

units generally will be considered to be gain from the sale or exchange of the common units, taxable in accordance with the rules described under *Disposition of Common Units* below. Any reduction in a unitholder's share of our liabilities for which no partner, including the general partner, bears the economic risk of loss, known as nonrecourse liabilities, will be treated as a distribution of cash to that unitholder. To the extent our distributions cause a unitholder's at-risk amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year, the unitholder must recapture any losses deducted in previous years. Please read *Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership* *Limitations on Deductibility of Losses*.

A decrease in a unitholder's percentage interest in us because of our issuance of additional common units will decrease his share of our nonrecourse liabilities, and thus will result in a corresponding deemed distribution of cash, which may constitute a non-pro rata distribution. Under IRS rulings, a non-pro rata distribution of money or property may result in ordinary income to a unitholder, regardless of his tax basis in his common units, if the distribution reduces the unitholder's share of our unrealized receivables, including depreciation recapture, and/or substantially appreciated inventory items, both as defined in Section 751 of the Internal Revenue Code, and collectively, Section 751 Assets. To that extent, he will be treated as having been distributed his proportionate share of the Section 751 Assets and then having exchanged those assets with us in return for the non-pro rata portion of the actual distribution made to him. This latter deemed exchange will generally result in the unitholder's realization of ordinary income, which will equal the excess of (1) the non-pro rata portion of that distribution over (2) the unitholder's tax basis (generally zero) for the share of Section 751 Assets deemed relinquished in the exchange.

***Basis of Common Units***

A unitholder's initial tax basis for his common units will be the amount he paid for the common units plus his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. That basis will be increased by his share of our income and by any increases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. That basis generally will be decreased, but not below zero, by distributions from us, by the unitholder's share of our losses, by any decreases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities and by his share of our expenditures that are not deductible in computing taxable income and are not required to be capitalized. A unitholder will have no share of our debt that is recourse to our general partner, but will have a share, generally based on his share of profits, of our nonrecourse liabilities. Please read *Disposition of Common Units* *Recognition of Gain or Loss*.

***Limitations on Deductibility of Losses***

The deduction by a unitholder of his share of our losses will be limited to the tax basis in his units and, in the case of an individual unitholder, estate, trust, or corporate unitholder (if more than 50% of the value of the corporate unitholder's stock is owned directly or indirectly by or for five or fewer individuals or some tax-exempt organizations), to the amount for which the unitholder is considered to be at risk with respect to our activities, if that is less than his tax basis. A common unitholder subject to these limitations must recapture losses deducted in previous years to the extent that distributions cause his at-risk amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year. Losses disallowed to a unitholder or recaptured as a result of these limitations will carry forward and will be allowable as a deduction in a later year to the extent that his tax basis or at-risk amount, whichever is the limiting factor, is subsequently increased. Upon the taxable disposition of a unit, any gain recognized by a unitholder can be offset by losses that were previously suspended by the at-risk limitation but may not be offset by losses suspended by the basis limitation. Any loss previously suspended by the at-risk or basis limitations in excess of that gain would no longer be utilizable.

In general, a unitholder will be at risk to the extent of the tax basis of his units, excluding any portion of that basis attributable to his share of our nonrecourse liabilities, reduced by (i) any portion of that basis representing amounts otherwise protected against loss because of a guarantee, stop loss agreement or other similar arrangement and (ii) any amount of money he borrows to acquire or hold his units, if the lender of those borrowed funds owns an interest in us, is related to the unitholder or can look only to the units for repayment. A

---

**Table of Contents**

unitholder's at-risk amount will increase or decrease as the tax basis of the unitholder's units increases or decreases, other than tax basis increases or decreases attributable to increases or decreases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities.

In addition to the basis and at-risk limitations on the deductibility of losses, the passive loss limitations generally provide that individuals, estates, trusts and some closely-held corporations and personal service corporations are permitted to deduct losses from passive activities, which are generally trade or business activities in which the taxpayer does not materially participate, only to the extent of the taxpayer's income from those passive activities. Moreover, portfolio income such as general investment income from dividends and interest is specifically excluded from the passive loss calculations, and the passive loss limitations are applied separately with respect to each publicly traded partnership. Consequently, any passive losses we generate will only be available to offset our passive income generated in the future and will not be available to offset (i) our portfolio income, such as interest income with respect to our loan to Anadarko or other income we could earn from additional investments, (ii) a unitholder's income from other passive activities or investments, including investments in other publicly traded partnerships, or (iii) a unitholder's salary or active business income. Passive losses that are not deductible because they exceed a unitholder's share of income we generate may be deducted in full when the unitholder disposes of his entire investment in us in a fully taxable transaction with an unrelated party. The passive loss limitations are applied after other applicable limitations on deductions, including the at-risk rules and the basis limitation.

A unitholder's share of our net income may be offset by any of our suspended passive losses, but it may not be offset by any other current or carryover losses from other passive activities, including those attributable to other publicly traded partnerships.

***Limitations on Interest Deductions***

The deductibility of a non-corporate taxpayer's investment interest expense is generally limited to the amount of that taxpayer's net investment income. Investment interest expense includes:

interest on indebtedness properly allocable to property held for investment;

our interest expense attributed to portfolio income; and

the portion of interest expense incurred to purchase or carry an interest in a passive activity to the extent attributable to portfolio income.

The computation of a unitholder's investment interest expense will take into account interest on any margin account borrowing or other loan incurred to purchase or carry a unit. Net investment income includes gross income from property held for investment and amounts treated as portfolio income under the passive loss rules, less deductible expenses, other than interest, directly connected with the production of investment income, but generally does not include gains attributable to the disposition of property held for investment or, if applicable, qualified dividend income. The IRS has indicated that the net passive income earned by a publicly traded partnership will be treated as investment income to its unitholders. In addition, the unitholder's share of our portfolio income will be treated as investment income.

***Entity-Level Collections***

If we are required or elect under applicable law to pay any federal, state, local or foreign income tax on behalf of any unitholder or our general partner or any former unitholder, we are authorized to pay those taxes from our funds. That payment, if made, will be treated as a distribution of cash to the unitholder on whose behalf the payment was made. If the payment is made on behalf of a person whose identity cannot be determined, we are authorized to treat the payment as a distribution to all current unitholders. We are authorized to amend our partnership agreement in the manner necessary to maintain uniformity of intrinsic tax characteristics of units and

---

**Table of Contents**

to adjust later distributions, so that after giving effect to these distributions, the priority and characterization of distributions otherwise applicable under our partnership agreement is maintained as nearly as is practicable. Payments by us as described above could give rise to an overpayment of tax on behalf of an individual unitholder in which event the unitholder would be required to file a claim in order to obtain a credit or refund.

***Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction***

In general, if we have a net profit, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction will be allocated among our general partner and the unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us. At any time that distributions are made to the common units in excess of distributions to the subordinated units, or incentive distributions are made to our general partner, gross income will be allocated to the recipients to the extent of these distributions. If we have a net loss for the entire year, that loss will be allocated first to our general partner and the unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us to the extent of their positive capital accounts and, second, to our general partner.

Specified items of our income, gain, loss and deduction will be allocated under Section 704(c) of the Internal Revenue Code to account for the difference between the tax basis and fair market value of our assets at the time of the offering, referred to in this discussion as *Contributed Property*. The effect of these allocations, referred to as *Section 704(c) Allocations*, to a unitholder purchasing common units from us in an offering will be essentially the same as if the tax bases of our assets were equal to their fair market value at the time of such offering. In the event we issue additional common units or engage in certain other transactions in the future *Reverse Section 704(c) Allocations*, similar to the *Section 704(c) Allocations* described above, will be made to all holders of partnership interests, including purchasers of common units in an offering, to account for the difference, at the time of the future transaction, between the *book* basis for purposes of maintaining capital accounts and the fair market value of all property held by us at the time of the future transaction. In addition, items of recapture income will be allocated to the extent possible to the unitholder who was allocated the deduction giving rise to the treatment of that gain as recapture income in order to minimize the recognition of ordinary income by other unitholders. Finally, although we do not expect that our operations will result in the creation of negative capital accounts, if negative capital accounts nevertheless result, items of our income and gain will be allocated in an amount and manner to eliminate the negative balance as quickly as possible.

An allocation of items of our income, gain, loss or deduction, other than an allocation required by Section 704(c) of the Internal Revenue Code to eliminate the difference between a partner's *book* capital account, credited with the fair market value of *Contributed Property*, and *tax* capital account, credited with the tax basis of *Contributed Property*, referred to in this discussion as the *Book-Tax Disparity*, will generally be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction only if the allocation has substantial economic effect.

In any other case, a partner's share of an item will be determined on the basis of his interest in us, which will be determined by taking into account all the facts and circumstances, including:

his relative contributions to us;

the interests of all the partners in profits and losses;

the interest of all the partners in cash flow; and

the rights of all the partners to distributions of capital upon liquidation.

Bingham McCutchen LLP is of the opinion that, with the exception of the issues described in *Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership* *Section 754 Election*, *Uniformity of Units* and *Disposition of Common Units* *Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees*, allocations under our partnership agreement will be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction.

---

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Treatment of Short Sales***

A unitholder whose units are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of units may be considered as having disposed of those units. If so, he would no longer be treated for tax purposes as a partner with respect to those units during the period of the loan and may recognize gain or loss from the disposition. As a result, during this period:

any of our income, gain, loss or deduction with respect to those units would not be reportable by the unitholder;

any cash distributions received by the unitholder as to those units would be fully taxable; and

all of these distributions would appear to be ordinary income.

Bingham McCutchen LLP has not rendered an opinion regarding the tax treatment of a unitholder whose common units are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of common units; therefore, unitholders desiring to assure their status as partners and avoid the risk of gain recognition from a loan to a short seller are urged to modify any applicable brokerage account agreements to prohibit their brokers from loaning their units. The IRS has previously announced that it is studying issues relating to the tax treatment of short sales of partnership interests. Please also read [Disposition of Common Units Recognition of Gain or Loss](#).

### ***Alternative Minimum Tax***

Each unitholder will be required to take into account his distributive share of any items of our income, gain, loss or deduction for purposes of the alternative minimum tax. The current minimum tax rate for noncorporate taxpayers is 26% on the first \$175,000 of alternative minimum taxable income in excess of the exemption amount and 28% on any additional alternative minimum taxable income. Prospective unitholders are urged to consult with their tax advisors as to the impact of an investment in units on their liability for the alternative minimum tax.

### ***Tax Rates***

Under current law, the highest marginal U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to ordinary income of individuals is 35% and the highest marginal U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to long-term capital gains (generally, capital gains on certain assets held for more than 12 months) of individuals is 15%. However, absent new legislation extending the current rates, beginning January 1, 2013, the highest marginal U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to ordinary income and long-term capital gains of individuals will increase to 39.6% and 20%, respectively. Moreover, these rates are subject to change by new legislation at any time.

The recently-enacted Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, is scheduled to impose a 3.8% Medicare tax on certain net investment income earned by individuals, estates and trusts for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012. For these purposes, net investment income generally includes a unitholder's allocable share of our income and gain realized by a unitholder from a sale of common units. In the case of an individual, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (1) the unitholder's net investment income or (2) the amount by which the unitholder's modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$250,000 (if the unitholder is married and filing jointly or a surviving spouse), \$125,000 (if the unitholder is married and filing separately) or \$200,000 (in any other case). In the case of an estate or trust, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (i) undistributed net investment income or (ii) the excess adjusted gross income over the dollar amount at which the highest income tax bracket applicable to an estate or trust begins.

### ***Section 754 Election***

We have made the election permitted by Section 754 of the Internal Revenue Code. That election is irrevocable without the consent of the IRS unless there is a constructive termination of the partnership. Please read [Disposition of Common Units Constructive Termination](#). The election will generally permit us to

---

**Table of Contents**

adjust a common unit purchaser's tax basis in our assets (inside basis) under Section 743(b) of the Internal Revenue Code to reflect his purchase price. This election does not apply to a person who purchases common units directly from us. The Section 743(b) adjustment belongs to the purchaser and not to other unitholders. For purposes of this discussion, a unitholder's inside basis in our assets will be considered to have two components: (1) his share of our tax basis in our assets (common basis) and (2) his Section 743(b) adjustment to that basis.

Where the remedial allocation method is adopted (which we will generally adopt as to our properties), the Treasury Regulations under Section 743 of the Internal Revenue Code require a portion of the Section 743(b) adjustment that is attributable to recovery property under Section 168 of the Internal Revenue Code whose book basis is in excess of its tax basis to be depreciated over the remaining cost recovery period for the property's unamortized Book-Tax Disparity. Under Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6), a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to property subject to depreciation under Section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code, rather than cost recovery deductions under Section 168, is generally required to be depreciated using either the straight-line method or the 150% declining balance method. Under our partnership agreement, our general partner is authorized to take a position to preserve the uniformity of units even if that position is not consistent with these and any other Treasury Regulations. Please read [Uniformity of Units](#).

Although Bingham McCutchen LLP is unable to opine as to the validity of this approach because there is no direct or indirect controlling authority on this issue, we intend to depreciate the portion of a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to unrealized appreciation in the value of Contributed Property, to the extent of any unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, using a rate of depreciation or amortization derived from the depreciation or amortization method and useful life applied to the property's unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, or treat that portion as non-amortizable to the extent attributable to property which is not amortizable. This method is consistent with the regulations under Section 743 of the Internal Revenue Code but is arguably inconsistent with Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6), which is not expected to directly apply to a material portion of our assets. The IRS may challenge our position with respect to depreciating or amortizing the Section 743(b) adjustment we take to preserve the uniformity of the units.

A Section 754 election is advantageous if the transferee's tax basis in his units is higher than the units' share of the aggregate tax basis of our assets immediately prior to the transfer. In that case, as a result of the election, the transferee would have, among other items, a greater amount of depreciation and depletion deductions and his share of any gain or loss on a sale of our assets would be less. Conversely, a Section 754 election is disadvantageous if the transferee's tax basis in his units is lower than those units' share of the aggregate tax basis of our assets immediately prior to the transfer. Thus, the fair market value of the units may be affected either favorably or unfavorably by the election. A basis adjustment is required regardless of whether a Section 754 election is made in the case of a transfer of an interest in us if we have a substantial built-in loss immediately after the transfer, or if we distribute property and have a substantial basis reduction. Generally a built-in loss or a basis reduction is substantial if it exceeds \$250,000.

The calculations involved in the Section 754 election are complex and will be made on the basis of assumptions as to the value of our assets and other matters. For example, the allocation of the Section 743(b) adjustment among our assets must be made in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code. The IRS could seek to reallocate some or all of any Section 743(b) adjustment allocated by us to our tangible assets to goodwill instead. Goodwill, as an intangible asset, is generally either nonamortizable or amortizable over a longer period of time or under a less accelerated method than our tangible assets. We cannot assure you that the determinations we make will not be successfully challenged by the IRS and that the deductions resulting from them will not be reduced or disallowed altogether. Should the IRS require a different basis adjustment to be made, and should, in our opinion, the expense of compliance exceed the benefit of the election, we may seek permission from the IRS to revoke our Section 754 election. If permission is granted, a subsequent purchaser of units may be allocated more income than he would have been allocated had the election not been revoked.

---

**Table of Contents**

**Tax Treatment of Operations**

***Accounting Method and Taxable Year***

We use the year ending December 31 as our taxable year and the accrual method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. Each unitholder will be required to include in income his share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for our taxable year ending within or with his taxable year. In addition, a unitholder who has a taxable year ending on a date other than December 31 and who disposes of all of his units following the close of our taxable year but before the close of his taxable year must include his share of our income, gain, loss and deduction in income for his taxable year, with the result that he will be required to include in income for his taxable year his share of more than twelve months of our income, gain, loss and deduction. Please read [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees](#).

***Initial Tax Basis, Depreciation and Amortization***

The tax basis of our assets will be used for purposes of computing depreciation and cost recovery deductions and, ultimately, gain or loss on the disposition of these assets. The federal income tax burden associated with the difference between the fair market value of our assets and their tax basis immediately prior to an offering will be borne by our partners holding an interest in us prior to such offering. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction](#).

To the extent allowable, we may elect to use the depreciation and cost recovery methods, including bonus depreciation to the extent available, that will result in the largest deductions being taken in the early years after assets subject to these allowances are placed in service. Please read [Uniformity of Units](#). Property we subsequently acquire or construct may be depreciated using accelerated methods permitted by the Internal Revenue Code.

If we dispose of depreciable property by sale, foreclosure or otherwise, all or a portion of any gain, determined by reference to the amount of depreciation previously deducted and the nature of the property, may be subject to the recapture rules and taxed as ordinary income rather than capital gain. Similarly, a unitholder who has taken cost recovery or depreciation deductions with respect to property we own will likely be required to recapture some or all of those deductions as ordinary income upon a sale of his interest in us. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction](#) and [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Recognition of Gain or Loss](#).

The costs incurred in selling our units (called [syndication expenses](#) ) must be capitalized and cannot be deducted currently, ratably or upon our termination. There are uncertainties regarding the classification of costs as organization expenses, which may be amortized by us, and as syndication expenses, which may not be amortized by us. The underwriting discounts and commissions we incur will be treated as syndication expenses.

***Valuation and Tax Basis of Our Properties***

The federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of units will depend in part on our estimates of the relative fair market values, and the initial tax bases, of our assets. Although we may from time to time consult with professional appraisers regarding valuation matters, we will make many of the relative fair market value estimates ourselves. These estimates and determinations of basis are subject to challenge and will not be binding on the IRS or the courts. If the estimates of fair market value or basis are later found to be incorrect, the character and amount of items of income, gain, loss or deductions previously reported by unitholders might change, and unitholders might be required to adjust their tax liability for prior years and incur interest and penalties with respect to those adjustments.



---

**Table of Contents**

**Disposition of Common Units**

***Recognition of Gain or Loss***

Gain or loss will be recognized on a sale of units equal to the difference between the unitholder's amount realized and the unitholder's tax basis for the units sold. A unitholder's amount realized will be measured by the sum of the cash or the fair market value of other property received by him plus his share of our nonrecourse liabilities attributable to the common units sold. Because the amount realized includes a unitholder's share of our nonrecourse liabilities, the gain recognized on the sale of units could result in a tax liability in excess of any cash received from the sale.

Prior distributions from us in excess of cumulative net taxable income for a common unit that decreased a unitholder's tax basis in that common unit will, in effect, become taxable income if the common unit is sold at a price greater than the unitholder's tax basis in that common unit, even if the price received is less than his original cost.

Except as noted below, gain or loss recognized by a unitholder, other than a dealer in units, on the sale or exchange of a unit will generally be taxable as capital gain or loss. Capital gain recognized by an individual on the sale of units held for more than twelve months will generally be taxed at favorable rates, currently a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 15%. However, a portion of this gain or loss, which will likely be substantial, will be separately computed and taxed as ordinary income or loss under Section 751 of the Internal Revenue Code to the extent attributable to assets giving rise to depreciation recapture or other unrealized receivables or to inventory items we own. The term unrealized receivables includes potential recapture items, including depreciation recapture. Ordinary income attributable to unrealized receivables, inventory items and depreciation recapture may exceed net taxable gain realized upon the sale of a unit and may be recognized even if there is a net taxable loss realized on the sale of a unit. Thus, a unitholder may recognize both ordinary income and a capital loss upon a sale of units. Capital losses may offset capital gains and no more than \$3,000 of ordinary income, in the case of individuals, and may only be used to offset capital gains in the case of corporations.

The IRS has ruled that a partner who acquires interests in a partnership in separate transactions must combine those interests and maintain a single adjusted tax basis for all those interests. Upon a sale or other disposition of less than all of those interests, a portion of that tax basis must be allocated to the interests sold using an equitable apportionment method, which generally means that the tax basis allocated to the interest sold equals an amount that bears the same relation to the partner's tax basis in his entire interest in the partnership as the value of the interest sold bears to the value of the partner's entire interest in the partnership. Treasury Regulations under Section 1223 of the Internal Revenue Code allow a selling unitholder who can identify common units transferred with an ascertainable holding period to elect to use the actual holding period of the common units transferred. Thus, according to the ruling discussed above, a common unitholder will be unable to select high or low basis common units to sell as would be the case with corporate stock, but, according to the Treasury Regulations, may designate specific common units sold for purposes of determining the holding period of units transferred. A unitholder electing to use the actual holding period of common units transferred must consistently use that identification method for all subsequent sales or exchanges of common units. A unitholder considering the purchase of additional units or a sale of common units purchased in separate transactions is urged to consult his tax advisor as to the possible consequences of this ruling and application of the Treasury Regulations.

Specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code affect the taxation of some financial products and securities, including partnership interests, by treating a taxpayer as having sold an appreciated partnership interest, one in which gain would be recognized if it were sold, assigned or terminated at its fair market value, if the taxpayer or related persons enter(s) into:

a short sale;

an offsetting notional principal contract; or

a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest or substantially identical property.

## **Table of Contents**

Moreover, if a taxpayer has previously entered into a short sale, an offsetting notional principal contract or a futures or forward contract with respect to the partnership interest, the taxpayer will be treated as having sold that position if the taxpayer or a related person then acquires the partnership interest or substantially identical property. The Secretary of the Treasury is also authorized to issue regulations that treat a taxpayer that enters into transactions or positions that have substantially the same effect as the preceding transactions as having constructively sold the financial position.

### ***Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees***

In general, our taxable income or loss will be determined annually, will be prorated on a monthly basis and will be subsequently apportioned among the unitholders in proportion to the number of units owned by each of them as of the opening of the applicable exchange on the first business day of the month, which we refer to in this prospectus as the Allocation Date. However, gain or loss realized on a sale or other disposition of our assets other than in the ordinary course of business will be allocated among the unitholders on the Allocation Date in the month in which that gain or loss is recognized. As a result, a unitholder transferring units may be allocated income, gain, loss and deduction realized after the date of transfer. Recently, the Department of the Treasury and the IRS issued proposed Treasury Regulations that provide a safe harbor pursuant to which a publicly traded partnership may use a similar monthly simplifying convention to allocate tax items among transferor and transferee unitholders, although such tax items must be prorated on a daily basis. Nonetheless, the proposed regulations do not specifically authorize the use of the proration method we have adopted. Accordingly, Bingham McCutchen LLP is unable to opine on the validity of this method of allocating income and deductions between transferor and transferee unitholders. We use this method because it is not administratively feasible to make these allocations on a more frequent basis. If this method is not allowed under the Treasury Regulations, or only applies to transfers of less than all of the unitholder's interest, our taxable income or losses might be reallocated among the unitholders. We are authorized to revise our method of allocation between transferor and transferee unitholders, as well as unitholders whose interests vary during a taxable year, to conform to a method permitted under future Treasury Regulations.

A unitholder who owns units at any time during a quarter and who disposes of them prior to the record date set for a cash distribution for that quarter will be allocated items of our income, gain, loss and deductions attributable to that quarter but will not be entitled to receive that cash distribution.

### ***Notification Requirements***

A unitholder who sells any of his units is generally required to notify us in writing of that sale within 30 days after the sale (or, if earlier, January 15 of the year following the sale). A purchaser of units who purchases units from another unitholder is also generally required to notify us in writing of that purchase within 30 days after the purchase. Upon receiving such notifications, we are required to notify the IRS of any such transfer of units and to furnish specified information to the transferor and transferee. Failure to notify us of a transfer of units may, in some cases, lead to the imposition of penalties. However, these reporting requirements do not apply to a sale by an individual who is a citizen of the United States and who effects the sale or exchange through a broker who will satisfy such requirements.

### ***Constructive Termination***

We will be considered to have been terminated for tax purposes if there are sales or exchanges which, in the aggregate, constitute 50% or more of the total interests in our capital and profits within a twelve-month period. For purposes of measuring whether the 50% threshold is reached, multiple sales of the same interest are counted only once. A constructive termination results in the closing of our taxable year for all unitholders. In the case of a unitholder reporting on a taxable year other than a fiscal year ending December 31, the closing of our taxable year may result in more than twelve months of our taxable income or loss being includable in his taxable income for the year of termination. A technical termination occurring on a date other than December 31 will result in us

---

**Table of Contents**

filing two tax returns (and unitholders could receive two Schedule K-1s if the relief discussed below is not available) for one fiscal year and the cost of the preparation of these returns will be borne by all common unitholders. We would be required to make new tax elections after a constructive termination, including a new election under Section 754 of the Internal Revenue Code, and a constructive termination would result in a deferral of our deductions for depreciation. A constructive termination could also result in penalties if we were unable to determine that the termination had occurred. Moreover, a constructive termination might either accelerate the application of, or subject us to, any tax legislation enacted before the termination. The IRS has recently announced publicly traded partnership technical termination relief program whereby a publicly traded partnership that constructively terminates may be allowed to provide one Schedule K-1 to unitholders for the fiscal year notwithstanding two partnership tax years.

**Uniformity of Units**

Because we cannot match transferors and transferees of units, we must maintain uniformity of the economic and tax characteristics of the units to a purchaser of these units. In the absence of uniformity, we may be unable to completely comply with a number of federal income tax requirements, both statutory and regulatory. A lack of uniformity can result from a literal application of Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6). Any non-uniformity could have a negative impact on the value of the units. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Section 754 Election](#).

We intend to depreciate the portion of a Section 743(b) adjustment attributable to unrealized appreciation in the value of Contributed Property, to the extent of any unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, using a rate of depreciation or amortization derived from the depreciation or amortization method and useful life applied to the property's unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, or treat that portion as nonamortizable, to the extent attributable to property the common basis of which is not amortizable, consistent with the Treasury Regulations under Section 743 of the Internal Revenue Code, even though that position may be inconsistent with Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6), which is not expected to directly apply to a material portion of our assets. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Section 754 Election](#). To the extent that the Section 743(b) adjustment is attributable to appreciation in value in excess of the unamortized Book-Tax Disparity, we will apply the rules described in the Treasury Regulations and legislative history. Our counsel, Bingham McCutchen LLP, is unable to opine on the validity of our approach to the extent it is inconsistent with Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6). The IRS may challenge our approach to the extent it is inconsistent with Treasury Regulation Section 1.167(c)-1(a)(6). If such a challenge was made and sustained, the uniformity of units might be affected, and the amount of taxable income allocated to our units might be increased.

Our partnership agreement requires that we make adjustments to capital accounts upon the issuance of additional units. In this regard, our partnership agreement generally specifies that we allocate any unrealized and, for tax purposes, unrecognized gain or loss resulting from the adjustments to the unitholders and the general partner in the same manner as we allocate gain or loss upon liquidation. In the event that we make positive adjustments to the capital accounts upon the issuance of additional units, our partnership agreement requires that we allocate any later negative adjustments to the capital accounts resulting from the issuance of additional units or upon our liquidation in a manner which results, to the extent possible, in the general partner's capital account balances equaling the amount which they would have been if no earlier positive adjustments to the capital accounts had been made. On April 15, 2009, our partnership agreement was amended to provide that any net termination losses treated as arising during the subordination period as a result of an adjustment to the carrying value of our assets in connection with an issuance by us of additional units will be allocated among the holders of subordinated units and common units in proportion to their percentage interests. As a result of this amendment, if we liquidate during the subordination period it is possible there would be less net termination gain to be allocated to unitholders holding common units, resulting in those unitholders receiving less liquidation proceeds than they would have under our partnership agreement prior to this amendment. In order to mitigate the possibility of adverse consequences to our common units of this revised allocation, our partnership agreement was also amended to provide that, in the event we liquidate during the subordination period, we will allocate items of

---

**Table of Contents**

income, gain, loss and deduction that would otherwise be included in the computation of net termination gain or net termination loss and, if necessary, items included in our net income or net losses, in each case to the extent possible, so that the capital account of each common unit will equal the amount it would have been had we not amended our partnership agreement.

**Tax-Exempt Organizations and Other Investors**

Pursuant to our Partnership Agreement, ownership of units by employee benefit plans, other tax-exempt organizations, non-resident aliens, non-U.S. entities and other non-U.S. persons is subject to material limitations. For example, neither non-U.S. persons nor non-U.S. entities qualify as Eligible Holders, and after a determination by the general partner that a unitholder is not an Eligible Holder, such unitholder will be subject to redemption and may no longer receive distributions or allocations with respect to its common units. For additional discussion of Eligible Holders and the issues related thereto, please read The Limited Partnership Agreement Non-U.S. and Non-Taxpaying Assignees; Redemption.

Moreover, ownership of units by employee benefit plans, other tax-exempt organizations, non-resident aliens, non-U.S. entities and other non-U.S. persons raises issues unique to those investors and, as described below, may have substantially adverse tax consequences to them.

Employee benefit plans and most other organizations exempt from federal income tax, including individual retirement accounts and other retirement plans, are subject to federal income tax on unrelated business taxable income. Virtually all of our income, other than interest income, allocated to a unitholder that is a tax-exempt organization will be unrelated business taxable income and will be taxable to them.

Non-resident aliens and foreign corporations, or beneficiaries of trusts or estates, that own units will be considered to be engaged in business in the United States because of the ownership of units. As a consequence, they will be required to file federal tax returns to report their share of our income, gain, loss or deduction and pay federal income tax at regular rates on their share of our net income or gain. Moreover, under rules applicable to publicly traded partnerships, we will withhold tax at the highest applicable effective tax rate from cash distributions made quarterly to non-U.S. unitholders. Each non-U.S. unitholder must obtain a taxpayer identification number from the IRS and submit that number to our transfer agent on a Form W-8BEN or applicable substitute form in order to obtain credit for these withholding taxes. A change in applicable law may require us to change these procedures.

In addition, because a non-U.S. corporation that owns units will be treated as engaged in a United States trade or business, that corporation may be subject to the United States branch profits tax at a rate of 30%, in addition to regular federal income tax, on its share of our earnings and profits, as adjusted for changes in the non-U.S. corporation's U.S. net equity, which is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business. That tax may be reduced or eliminated by an income tax treaty between the United States and the country in which the non-U.S. corporate unitholder is a qualified resident. In addition, this type of unitholder is subject to special information reporting requirements under Section 6038C of the Internal Revenue Code.

A non-U.S. unitholder who sells or otherwise disposes of a unit will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain realized from the sale or disposition of that unit to the extent the gain is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. unitholder. Under a ruling published by the IRS, interpreting the scope of effectively connected income, a non-U.S. unitholder would be considered to be engaged in a trade or business in the U.S. by virtue of the U.S. activities of the partnership, and part or all of that unitholder's gain would be effectively connected with that unitholder's indirect U.S. trade or business. Moreover, under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act, a non-U.S. unitholder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax upon the sale or disposition of a unit if (1) he owned (directly or constructively applying certain attribution rules) more than 5% of our common units at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of such disposition

---

## **Table of Contents**

and (2) 50% or more of the fair market value of all of our assets consisted of U.S. real property interests at any time during the shorter of the period during which such unitholder held the units or the 5-year period ending on the date of disposition. Currently, more than 50% of our assets consist of U.S. real property interests and we do not expect that to change in the foreseeable future. Therefore, non-U.S. unitholders may be subject to federal income tax on gain from the sale or disposition of their units.

### **Administrative Matters**

#### ***Information Returns and Audit Procedures***

We intend to furnish to each unitholder, within 90 days after the close of each calendar year, specific tax information, including a Schedule K-1, which describes each unitholder's share of our income, gain, loss and deduction for our preceding taxable year. In preparing this information, which will not be reviewed by counsel, we will take various accounting and reporting positions, some of which have been mentioned earlier, to determine each unitholder's share of income, gain, loss and deduction. We cannot assure you that those positions will yield a result that conforms to the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations or administrative interpretations of the IRS. Neither we nor Bingham McCutchen LLP can assure prospective unitholders that the IRS will not successfully contend in court that those positions are impermissible. Any challenge by the IRS could negatively affect the value of the units.

The IRS may audit our federal income tax information returns. Adjustments resulting from an IRS audit may require each unitholder to adjust a prior year's tax liability, and possibly may result in an audit of his return. Any audit of a unitholder's return could result in adjustments not related to our returns as well as those related to our returns.

Partnerships generally are treated as separate entities for purposes of federal tax audits, judicial review of administrative adjustments by the IRS and tax settlement proceedings. The tax treatment of partnership items of income, gain, loss and deduction are determined in a partnership proceeding rather than in separate proceedings with the partners. The Internal Revenue Code requires that one partner be designated as the Tax Matters Partner for these purposes. Our partnership agreement names our general partner as our Tax Matters Partner.

The Tax Matters Partner will make some elections on our behalf and on behalf of unitholders. In addition, the Tax Matters Partner can extend the statute of limitations for assessment of tax deficiencies against unitholders for items in our returns. The Tax Matters Partner may bind a unitholder with less than a 1% profits interest in us to a settlement with the IRS unless that unitholder elects, by filing a statement with the IRS, not to give that authority to the Tax Matters Partner. The Tax Matters Partner may seek judicial review, by which all the unitholders are bound, of a final partnership administrative adjustment and, if the Tax Matters Partner fails to seek judicial review, judicial review may be sought by any unitholder having at least a 1% interest in profits or by any group of unitholders having in the aggregate at least a 5% interest in profits. However, only one action for judicial review will go forward, and each unitholder with an interest in the outcome may participate in that action.

A unitholder must file a statement with the IRS identifying the treatment of any item on his federal income tax return that is not consistent with the treatment of the item on our return. Intentional or negligent disregard of this consistency requirement may subject a unitholder to substantial penalties.

#### ***Nominee Reporting***

Persons who hold an interest in us as a nominee for another person are required to furnish to us:

- (a) the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the beneficial owner and the nominee;

---

**Table of Contents**

(b) a statement regarding whether the beneficial owner is:

(i) a person that is not a United States person;

(ii) a foreign government, an international organization or any wholly owned agency or instrumentality of either of the foregoing; or

(iii) a tax-exempt entity;

(c) the amount and description of units held, acquired or transferred for the beneficial owner; and

(d) specific information including the dates of acquisitions and transfers, means of acquisitions and transfers, and acquisition cost for purchases, as well as the amount of net proceeds from dispositions.

Brokers and financial institutions are required to furnish additional information, including whether they are United States persons and specific information on units they acquire, hold or transfer for their own account. A penalty of \$100 per failure, up to a maximum of \$1.5 million per calendar year, is imposed by the Internal Revenue Code for failure to report that information to us. The nominee is required to supply the beneficial owner of the units with the information furnished to us.

***Accuracy-Related Penalties***

An additional tax equal to 20% of the amount of any portion of an underpayment of tax that is attributable to one or more specified causes, including negligence or disregard of rules or regulations, substantial understatements of income tax and substantial valuation misstatements, is imposed by the Internal Revenue Code. No penalty will be imposed, however, for any portion of an underpayment if it is shown that there was a reasonable cause for that portion and that the taxpayer acted in good faith regarding that portion.

For individuals, a substantial understatement of income tax in any taxable year exists if the amount of the understatement exceeds the greater of 10% of the tax required to be shown on the return for the taxable year or \$5,000. The amount of any understatement subject to penalty generally is reduced if any portion is attributable to a position adopted on the return:

(1) for which there is, or was, substantial authority ; or

(2) as to which there is a reasonable basis and the pertinent facts of that position are adequately disclosed on the return.

If any item of income, gain, loss or deduction included in the distributive shares of unitholders might result in that kind of an understatement of income for which no substantial authority exists, we must disclose the pertinent facts on our return. In addition, we will make a reasonable effort to furnish sufficient information for unitholders to make adequate disclosure on their returns and to take other actions as may be appropriate to permit unitholders to avoid liability for this penalty. More stringent rules apply to tax shelters, which we do not believe includes us, or any of our investments, plans or arrangements.

A substantial valuation misstatement exists if (1) the value of any property, or the adjusted tax basis of any property, claimed on a tax return is 150% or more of the amount determined to be the correct amount of the valuation or adjusted tax basis, (2) the price for any property or services (or for the use of property) claimed on any such return with respect to any transaction between persons described in Internal Revenue Code Section 482 is 200% or more (or 50% or less) of the amount determined under Section 482 to be the correct amount of such price, or (3) the net Internal Revenue Code Section 482 transfer price adjustment for the taxable year exceeds the lesser of \$5 million or 10% of the taxpayer's gross receipts. No penalty is imposed unless the portion of the underpayment attributable to a substantial valuation misstatement exceeds \$5,000 (\$10,000 for most corporations). If the valuation claimed on a return is 200% or more of the correct valuation or certain other thresholds are met, the penalty imposed increases to 40%. We do not anticipate making any valuation misstatements.

---

## **Table of Contents**

In addition, the 20% accuracy-related penalty also applies to any portion of an underpayment of tax that is attributable to transactions lacking economic substance. To the extent that such transactions are not disclosed, the penalty imposed is increased to 40%. Additionally, there is no reasonable cause defense to the imposition of this penalty to such transactions.

### ***Reportable Transactions***

If we were to engage in a reportable transaction, we (and possibly you and others) would be required to make a detailed disclosure of the transaction to the IRS. A transaction may be a reportable transaction based upon any of several factors, including the fact that it is a type of tax avoidance transaction publicly identified by the IRS as a listed transaction or that it produces certain kinds of losses for partnerships, individuals, S corporations and trusts in excess of \$2 million in any single year, or \$4 million in any combination of 6 successive tax years. Our participation in a reportable transaction could increase the likelihood that our federal income tax information return (and possibly your tax return) would be audited by the IRS. Please read Administrative Matters Information Returns and Audit Procedures.

Moreover, if we were to participate in a reportable transaction with a significant purpose to avoid or evade tax, or in any listed transaction, you may be subject to the following provisions additional consequences:

accuracy-related penalties with a broader scope, significantly narrower exceptions, and potentially greater amounts than described above at Administrative Matters Accuracy-Related Penalties;

for those persons otherwise entitled to deduct interest on federal tax deficiencies, nondeductibility of interest on any resulting tax liability; and

in the case of a listed transaction, an extended statute of limitations.

We do not expect to engage in any reportable transactions.

### **State, Local, Foreign and Other Tax Considerations**

In addition to federal income taxes, you likely will be subject to other taxes, such as state, local and foreign income taxes, unincorporated business taxes, and estate, inheritance or intangible taxes that may be imposed by the various jurisdictions in which we conduct business or own property or in which you are a resident. Although an analysis of those various taxes is not presented here, each prospective unitholder should consider their potential impact on his investment in us. We currently own property or conduct business in the states of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. Each of these states, other than Texas and Wyoming, currently imposes a personal income tax, and all of these states also impose taxes on income of corporations and other entities. We may also own property or do business in other jurisdictions in the future. Although you may not be required to file a return and pay taxes in some jurisdictions because your income from that jurisdiction falls below the filing and payment requirement, you will be required to file income tax returns and to pay income taxes in many of these jurisdictions in which we conduct business or own property and may be subject to penalties for failure to comply with those requirements. In some jurisdictions, tax losses may not produce a tax benefit in the year incurred and may not be available to offset income in subsequent taxable years. Some of the jurisdictions may require us, or we may elect, to withhold a percentage of income from amounts to be distributed to a unitholder who is not a resident of the jurisdiction. Withholding, the amount of which may be greater or less than a particular unitholder's income tax liability to the jurisdiction, generally does not relieve a nonresident unitholder from the obligation to file an income tax return. Amounts withheld will be treated as if distributed to unitholders for purposes of determining the amounts distributed by us. Please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Entity-Level Collections. Based on current law and our estimate of our future operations, our general partner anticipates that any amounts required to be withheld will not be material.

It is the responsibility of each unitholder to investigate the legal and tax consequences, under the laws of pertinent jurisdictions, of his investment in us. Accordingly, each prospective unitholder is urged to consult, and

**Table of Contents**

depend upon, his tax counsel or other advisor with regard to those matters. Further, it is the responsibility of each unitholder to file all state, local and foreign, as well as U.S. federal tax returns that may be required of him. Bingham McCutchen LLP has not rendered an opinion on the state, local or foreign tax consequences of an investment in us.

**Tax Consequences of Ownership of Debt Securities**

A description of the material federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of debt securities will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the offering of debt securities.



---

**Table of Contents**

**INVESTMENT IN OUR UNITS OR DEBT SECURITIES BY EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS**

An investment in our units or debt securities by an employee benefit plan is subject to certain additional considerations because the investments of these plans are subject to the fiduciary responsibility and prohibited transaction provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ( ERISA ) and the restrictions imposed by Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code and provisions under any federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA (collectively,

Similar Laws ). As used herein, the term employee benefit plan includes, but is not limited to, qualified pension, profit-sharing and stock bonus plans, Keogh plans, simplified employee pension plans and tax deferred annuities, IRAs and other arrangements established or maintained by an employer or employee organization, and entities whose underlying assets are considered to include plan assets of such plans, accounts and arrangements.

**General Fiduciary Matters**

ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code impose certain duties on persons who are fiduciaries of an employee benefit plan that is subject to Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code (an ERISA Plan ) and prohibit certain transactions involving the assets of an ERISA Plan and its fiduciaries or other interested parties. Under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code, any person who exercises any discretionary authority or control over the administration of an ERISA Plan or the management or disposition of the assets of an ERISA Plan, or who renders investment advice for a fee or other compensation to an ERISA plan, is generally considered to be a fiduciary of the ERISA Plan. In considering an investment in our units or debt securities, among other things, consideration should be given to:

whether the investment is prudent under Section 404(a)(1)(B) of ERISA and any other applicable Similar Laws;

whether, in making the investment, the plan will satisfy the diversification requirements of Section 404(a)(1)(C) of ERISA and any other applicable Similar Laws;

whether the investment will result in recognition of unrelated business taxable income by the plan and, if so, the potential after-tax investment return. Please read Income Tax Considerations Tax-Exempt Organizations and Other Investors ; and

whether making the investment will comply with the delegation of control and prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code and any other applicable Similar Laws.

The person with investment discretion with respect to the assets of an employee benefit plan, often called a fiduciary, should determine whether an investment in our units or debt securities is authorized by the appropriate governing instrument and is a proper investment for the plan.

**Prohibited Transaction Issues**

Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code prohibit employee benefit plans, and IRAs that are not considered part of an employee benefit plan, from engaging in specified transactions involving plan assets with parties that, with respect to the plan, are parties in interest under ERISA or disqualified persons under the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, a fiduciary should consider whether a purchase of our common units is a prohibited transaction, unless an exemption is available. A party in interest or disqualified person who engages in a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to excise taxes and other penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, the fiduciary of the ERISA Plan that engaged in such a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to excise taxes, penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code.

The acquisition and/or holding of debt securities by an ERISA Plan with respect to which we or the initial purchasers are considered a party in interest or a disqualified person, may constitute or result in a direct or indirect prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA and/or Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code,

---

## **Table of Contents**

unless the debt securities are acquired and held in accordance with an applicable statutory, class or individual prohibited transaction exemption. In this regard, the U.S. Department of Labor has issued prohibited transaction class exemptions, or PTCEs, that may apply to the acquisition, holding and, if applicable, conversion of the debt securities. These class exemptions include, without limitation, PTCE 84-14 respecting transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers, PTCE 90-1 respecting insurance company pooled separate accounts, PTCE 91-38 respecting bank collective investment funds, PTCE 95-60 respecting life insurance company general accounts and PTCE 96-23 respecting transactions determined by in-house asset managers. There can be no assurance that all of the conditions of any such exemptions will be satisfied. In addition, Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Internal Revenue Code provide relief from the prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code for certain transactions, provided that (i) neither the issuer of the securities nor any of its affiliates (directly or indirectly) have or exercise any discretionary authority or control or render any investment advice with respect to the assets of any ERISA Plan involved in the transaction and (ii) the ERISA Plan pays no more than adequate consideration in connection with the transaction. Each of these PTCEs contains conditions and limitations on its application. Thus, the fiduciaries of an employee benefit plan that is considering acquiring and/or holding the notes in reliance on any of these, or any other, PTCEs should carefully review the PTCE and consult with their counsel to confirm that it is applicable. There can be no, and we do not provide any, assurance that all of the conditions of any such exemptions will be satisfied.

Because of the foregoing, our units or debt securities may not be purchased or held (or converted to equity securities, in the case of any convertible debt) by any person investing plan assets of any employee benefit plan, unless such purchase and holding (or conversion, if any) will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or the Internal Revenue Code or similar violation of any applicable Similar Laws.

### **Representation**

Accordingly, by acceptance of our units or debt securities, each purchaser and subsequent transferee of the units or debt securities will be deemed to have represented and warranted that either (i) no portion of the assets used by such purchaser or transferee to acquire and hold the units or debt securities constitutes assets of any employee benefit plan or (ii) the purchase and holding (and any conversion, if applicable) of the units or debt securities by such purchaser or transferee will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code or similar violation under any applicable Similar Laws.

### **Plan Asset Issues**

In addition to considering whether the purchase of our units or debt securities is a prohibited transaction, a fiduciary of an employee benefit plan should consider whether the plan will, by investing in our units or debt securities, be deemed to own an undivided interest in our assets, with the result that our general partner also would be a fiduciary of the plan and our operations would be subject to the regulatory restrictions of ERISA, including its prohibited transaction rules, as well as the prohibited transaction rules of the Internal Revenue Code and any other applicable Similar Laws.

The Department of Labor regulations provide guidance with respect to whether, in certain circumstances, the assets of an entity in which employee benefit plans acquire equity interests would be deemed plan assets. Under these regulations, an entity's assets would not be considered to be plan assets if, among other things:

(a) the equity interests acquired by the employee benefit plan are publicly offered securities i.e., the equity interests are widely held by 100 or more investors independent of the issuer and each other, are freely transferable and are registered pursuant to certain provisions of the federal securities laws;

(b) the entity is an operating company, i.e., it is primarily engaged in the production or sale of a product or service, other than the investment of capital, either directly or through a majority-owned subsidiary or subsidiaries; or

**Table of Contents**

(c) there is no significant investment by benefit plan investors, which is defined to mean that less than 25% of the value of each class of equity interest, disregarding certain interests held by our general partner, its affiliates, and certain other persons, is held by employee benefit plans that are subject to part 4 of Title I of ERISA (which excludes governmental plans and non-electing church plans) and/or Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code and IRAs.

With respect to an investment in our units, we believe that our assets should not be considered plan assets under these regulations because it is expected that the investment will satisfy the requirements in (a) and (b) above and may also satisfy the requirement in (c) above (although we do not monitor the level of benefit plan investors as required for compliance with (c)). With respect to an investment in our debt securities, our assets should not be considered plan assets under these regulations because such securities are not equity securities or, even if they are considered equity securities under the Department of Labor regulations, it is expected that the investment will be convertible will satisfy the requirements in (a) above and may satisfy the requirements in (b) above.

The foregoing discussion of issues arising for employee benefit plan investments under ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code and Similar Laws is general in nature and is not intended to be all inclusive, nor should it be construed as legal advice. In light of the complexity of these rules and the excise taxes, penalties and liabilities that may be imposed on persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions or other violations, plan fiduciaries contemplating a purchase of our units or debt securities should consult with their own counsel regarding the consequences under ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code and Similar Laws.

**Table of Contents**

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell the offered securities in and outside the United States (1) through underwriters or dealers, (2) directly to purchasers, (3) through agents or (4) a combination of any of these methods. The prospectus supplement will set forth the following information:

the terms of the offering;

the names of any underwriters or agents;

the name or names of any managing underwriter or underwriters;

the purchase price of the securities from us;

the net proceeds we will receive from the sale of the securities;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any underwriting discounts, commissions and other items constituting underwriters' compensation;

the initial public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any commissions paid to agents.

**Sale Through Underwriters or Dealers**

If we use underwriters in the sale of the offered securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may offer securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the offered securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may sell securities to or through dealers, and the dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent. The underwriters may change from time to time the public offering price and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

During and after an offering through underwriters, the underwriters may purchase and sell the securities in the open market. These transactions may include over-allotment and stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover syndicate short positions created in connection with the offering. The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid, which means that selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other broker-dealers for the offered securities sold for their account may be reclaimed by the syndicate if the offered securities are repurchased by the syndicate in stabilizing or covering transactions. These activities may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered securities, which may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market. If commenced, these activities may be discontinued at any time.

## Edgar Filing: Western Gas Partners LP - Form 424B3

If we and/or any selling security holder use dealers in the sale of securities, we and/or any selling security holder may sell the securities to them as principals. They may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. The dealers participating in any sale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of these securities. We will include in the prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Direct Sales and Sales Through Agents**

We may sell the securities directly. In that event, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We may also sell the securities through agents we designate from time to time. In addition, we may offer securities through at-the-market transactions. In the prospectus supplement, we will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities, and we will describe any commissions payable by us to the agent. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

We may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. We will describe the terms of any such sales in the prospectus supplement.

### **Delayed Delivery Contracts**

If we so indicate in the prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from selected types of institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

### **General Information**

We may have agreements with firms, agents, dealers and underwriters to indemnify them against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments that the firms, agents, dealers or underwriters may be required to make. Such firms, agents, dealers and underwriters may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us and/or any selling security holder in the ordinary course of their businesses.

Each series of offered securities will be a new issue, and other than our common units, which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, will have no established trading market. We may elect to list any series of offered securities on an exchange, but we are not obligated to do so. It is possible that one or more underwriters may make a market in a series of offered securities. However, they will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue market making at any time without notice. We cannot assure you that a liquid trading market for any of our offered securities will develop.

Because the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ( FINRA ) views our common units as interests in a direct participation program, any offering of common units under the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part will be made in compliance with Rule 2310 of the FINRA Conduct Rules. Any compensation to be received by underwriters in connection with an offering of securities pursuant to this prospectus will not exceed 8% of the gross proceeds of such offering.

**Table of Contents**

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the issuance of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., and the legal matters described under **Income Tax Considerations** will be passed upon by Bingham McCutchen LLP. Additional legal matters may be passed on for us, or any underwriters, dealers or agents, by counsel we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Western Gas Partners, LP and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2010, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

Each time we offer to sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplement, will include or refer you to all material information relating to each offering.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC (File No. 001-34046). Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and at our website at <http://www.westerngas.com>. You may also read and copy at prescribed rates any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the SEC's public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

Our common units are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **WES**. Our reports, proxy statements and other information may be read and copied at the New York Stock Exchange at 11 Wall Street, 5th Floor, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we have filed with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you without actually including the specific information in this prospectus by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Information that we later provide to the SEC, and which is deemed to be filed with the SEC, will automatically update information previously filed with the SEC, and may replace information in this prospectus and information previously filed with the SEC.

We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the following documents that we have previously filed with the SEC:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 filed on February 24, 2011 (as amended on May 5, 2011);

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 filed on May 5, 2011;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 18, 2011, February 28, 2011, March 2, 2011 and March 29, 2011; and

The description of our common units contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A (File No. 1-34046) filed on May 6, 2008.

**Table of Contents**

These reports contain important information about us, our financial condition and our results of operations.

All documents that we subsequently file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act (i) after the date on which the registration statement that includes this prospectus was initially filed with the SEC and before the effectiveness of such registration statement and (ii) after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of an offering, unless otherwise stated therein, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and to be part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. Nothing in this prospectus shall be deemed to incorporate information furnished to, but not filed with, the SEC pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K (or corresponding information furnished under Item 9.01 or included as an exhibit).

We make available free of charge on or through our Internet website, <http://www.westerngas.com>, our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to these reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Information contained on our Internet website is not incorporated by reference into, and does not constitute a part of, this prospectus.

You may obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus from the SEC through the SEC's website at the address provided above. You also may request a copy of any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus (excluding any exhibits to those documents, unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference in this document), at no cost, by visiting our Internet website at <http://www.westerngas.com>, or by writing or calling us at the following address:

Investor Relations

Western Gas Partners, LP

1201 Lake Robbins Drive

The Woodlands, Texas 77380-1046

Telephone: (832) 636-6000

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with any information. You should not assume that the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of each document.



**Table of Contents**

**\$**

**4.0% Senior Notes due 2022**

**PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

**October , 2012**

**Joint Book-Running Managers**

**RBS**