

Rice Energy Inc.
Form S-1
July 07, 2014
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 7, 2014

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form S-1
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

RICE ENERGY INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

1311

46-3785773

**(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)**

**(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)
171 Hillpointe Drive, Suite 301**

**(IRS Employer
Identification Number)**

Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317

(724) 746-6720

**(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive
offices)**

Daniel J. Rice IV

Chief Executive Officer

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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale of the securities to the public: As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box: "

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

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

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed	Proposed	Amount of Registration Fee
		Maximum Offering Price Per Share(2)	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)	
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share	23,484,433	\$29.585	\$694,786,951	\$89,489

(1) Includes shares of common stock that may be sold to cover the exercise of an option to purchase additional shares granted to the underwriters.
 (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and based on a price of \$29.585, which is the average of the high and low trading prices per share as reported by the New York Stock Exchange on July 2, 2014.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state or jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

PROSPECTUS Subject to Completion, dated July 7, 2014
20,421,246 Shares

Rice Energy Inc.

Common Stock

We are offering 7,500,000 shares and the selling stockholders identified in the prospectus are offering 12,921,246 shares of our common stock. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares held by the selling stockholders. We are an emerging growth company and are eligible for reduced reporting requirements. Please see Prospectus Summary Emerging Growth Company Status.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol RICE. The last reported sales price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on July 3, 2014 was \$29.09 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 18 of this prospectus.

	Per Share	Total
Price to the public	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions(1)	\$	\$
Proceeds to us (before expenses)	\$	\$
Proceeds to the selling stockholders	\$	\$

(1) Please read Underwriting for a description of all underwriting compensation payable in connection with this offering.

Certain of the selling stockholders identified in this prospectus have granted the underwriters the option to purchase up to 3,063,187 additional shares of common stock on the same terms and conditions set forth above within 30 days from the date of this prospectus. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling stockholders if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase 3,063,187 additional shares of common stock.

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

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares on or about _____, 2014.

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Barclays

Citigroup

Prospectus dated _____, 2014

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus and any free writing prospectus prepared by us or on behalf of us or to the information which we have referred you. Neither we, the selling stockholders nor the underwriters have authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus and any free writing prospectus. We, the selling stockholders and the underwriters take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We, the selling stockholders and the underwriters are offering to sell shares of common stock and seeking offers to buy shares of common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of the common stock. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

This prospectus contains forward-looking statements that are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control. See Risk Factors and Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.

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Commonly Used Defined Terms

As used in this prospectus, unless the context indicates or otherwise requires, the following terms have the following meanings:

Rice Energy, the Company, we, our, us or like terms refer collectively to Rice Drilling B LLC and its consolidated subsidiaries before the completion of our corporate reorganization described in Prospectus Summary Initial Public Offering, Corporate Reorganization and Related Transactions Corporate Reorganization and to Rice Energy Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, including Rice Drilling B as of and following the completion of our corporate reorganization;

Rice Drilling B refers to Rice Drilling B LLC, which was our predecessor for accounting purposes, and its consolidated subsidiaries;

Rice Partners refers to Rice Energy Family Holdings, LP (formerly known as Rice Energy Limited Partners), an entity affiliated with members of the Rice family;

Rice Holdings refers to Rice Energy Holdings LLC;

Rice Owners refers to Rice Holdings, Rice Partners and Daniel J. Rice III;

Rice Appalachia refers to Rice Energy Appalachia, LLC, the parent company of our predecessor;

Alpha Holdings refers to Foundation PA Coal Company, LLC, a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of Alpha Natural Resources, Inc.;

Marcellus joint venture refers collectively to Alpha Shale Resources, LP and its general partner, Alpha Shale Holdings, LLC;

Countrywide Energy Services refers to Countrywide Energy Services, LLC;

Natural Gas Partners refers to a family of private equity investment funds organized to make direct equity investments in the energy industry, including the funds invested in us; and

NGP Holdings refers to NGP Rice Holdings, LLC.

Industry and Market Data

The market data and certain other statistical information used throughout this prospectus are based on independent industry publications, government publications and other published independent sources. Some data is also based on our good faith estimates. Although we believe these third-party sources are reliable as of their respective dates, neither we, the selling stockholders nor the underwriters have independently verified the accuracy or completeness of this information. The industry in which we operate is subject to a high degree of uncertainty and risk due to a variety of factors, including those described in the section entitled Risk Factors. These and other factors could cause results to differ materially from those expressed in these publications.

Trademarks and Trade Names

We own or have rights to various trademarks, service marks and trade names that we use in connection with the operation of our business. This prospectus may also contain trademarks, service marks and trade names of third parties, which are the property of their respective owners. Our use or display of third parties' trademarks, service marks, trade names or products in this prospectus is not intended to, and does not imply a relationship with, or endorsement or sponsorship by us. Solely for convenience, the trademarks, service marks and trade names referred to in this prospectus may appear without the ®, TM or SM symbols, but such references are not intended to indicate, in any way, that we will not assert, to the fullest extent under applicable law, our rights or the right of the applicable licensor to these trademarks, service marks and trade names.

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Pro Forma Presentation

Unless otherwise noted, information presented in this prospectus on a pro forma basis gives effect to (i) our initial public offering and the completion of the corporate reorganization in connection with our initial public offering completed in January 2014 and the use of proceeds thereof and (ii) the consummation of our acquisition of Alpha Holdings' 50% interest in our Marcellus joint venture (the Marcellus JV Buy-In) in January 2014, each as described under Prospectus Summary Initial Public Offering, Corporate Reorganization and Related Transactions. Unless otherwise noted, information concerning the number of wells drilled and completed by us during historical periods is presented on a pro forma basis giving effect to the Marcellus JV Buy-In.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. You should read the entire prospectus carefully before making an investment decision, including the information under the headings Risk Factors, Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the historical consolidated and unaudited pro forma financial statements and the related notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this prospectus. The estimated proved reserve information for the properties of each of us and our Marcellus joint venture contained in this prospectus are based on reserve reports relating thereto prepared by the independent petroleum engineers of Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc. (NSAI). We refer to these reports collectively as our reserve reports. We have provided definitions for some of the oil and natural gas industry terms used in this prospectus in the Glossary in Appendix A to this prospectus.

Our Company

We are an independent natural gas and oil company engaged in the acquisition, exploration and development of natural gas and oil properties in the Appalachian Basin. We are focused on creating shareholder value by identifying and assembling a portfolio of low-risk assets with attractive economic profiles and leveraging our technical and managerial expertise to deliver industry-leading results. We strive to be an early entrant into the core of a shale play by identifying what we believe to be the core of the play and aggressively executing our acquisition strategy to establish a largely contiguous acreage position. We believe we were an early identifier of the core of both the Marcellus Shale in southwestern Pennsylvania and the Utica Shale in southeastern Ohio.

All of our current and planned development is located in what we believe to be the core of the Marcellus and Utica Shales. The Marcellus Shale is one of the most prolific unconventional resource plays in the United States, and we believe the Utica Shale, based on initial drilling results, is a premier North American shale play. Together, these resource plays offer what we believe to be among the highest rate of return wells in North America. As of March 31, 2014, we held approximately 43,978 net acres in the southwestern core of the Marcellus Shale, primarily in Washington County, Pennsylvania. We established our Marcellus Shale acreage position through a combination of largely contiguous acreage acquisitions in 2009 and 2010 and through numerous bolt-on acreage acquisitions. In 2012, we acquired approximately 33,499 of our 46,700 net acres in the southeastern core of the Utica Shale, primarily in Belmont County, Ohio. We believe this area to be the core of the Utica Shale based on publicly available drilling results. We operate all of our acreage in the Marcellus Shale and a majority of our acreage in the Utica Shale.

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Since completing our first horizontal well in the fourth quarter of 2010, our pro forma average net daily production has grown approximately 105 times to 209 MMcf/d for the first quarter of 2014. Substantially all of our production through the first quarter of 2014 has been dry gas attributable to our operations in the Marcellus Shale. Prior to the second quarter of 2013, we ran a two-rig drilling program focused on delineating and defining the boundaries of our Marcellus Shale acreage position. In the second quarter of 2013, we shifted our operational focus from exploration to development, commencing a four-rig drilling program consisting of two rigs specifically for drilling the tophole sections of our horizontal wells and two rigs specifically for drilling the curve and lateral sections of our horizontal wells. In the first quarter of 2014, we increased to a six-rig drilling program (consisting of three tophole rigs and three horizontal rigs), two of which are operating in the Utica Shale. We expect to continue to operate a six-rig drilling program through the remainder of 2014. The following chart shows our pro forma average net daily production for each quarter since completing our first horizontal well in the Marcellus Shale.

As of March 31, 2014, we had drilled and completed 41 horizontal Marcellus wells with lateral lengths ranging from 2,444 feet to 9,147 feet and averaging 5,764 feet. Our estimated ultimate recoveries (EUR) from our 37 producing wells at December 31, 2013, as estimated by our independent reserve engineer, NSAI, and normalized for each 1,000 feet of horizontal lateral, range from 1.2 Bcf per 1,000 feet to 3.0 Bcf per 1,000 feet, with an average of 1.9 Bcf per 1,000 feet. As of March 31, 2014, we had 349 gross (325 net) risked drilling locations in the Marcellus Shale. For a description of our risked drilling locations, please see [Business Our Operations Reserve Data Determination of Drilling Locations](#). Additionally, we have drilled and completed three Upper Devonian horizontal wells on our Marcellus Shale acreage. Based on our Upper Devonian wells and those of other operators in the vicinity of our acreage as well as other geologic data, we estimate that substantially all of our Marcellus Shale acreage in Southwestern Pennsylvania is prospective for the slightly shallower Upper Devonian Shale. As of March 31, 2014, we had 211 gross (194 net) risked drilling locations in the Upper Devonian Shale.

For the Utica Shale, we applied the same shale analysis and acquisition strategy that we developed and employed in the Marcellus Shale to acquire our acreage. In June 2014 we completed our first Utica well, the

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Bigfoot 9H, which tested at a stabilized rate of 41.7 MMcf/d. Please see Recent Developments Bigfoot 9H Test Results. Our delineation operations are being conducted with a two-rig drilling program (one tophole rig and one horizontal rig). We intend to maintain this two-rig drilling program in the Utica Shale through 2014. In 2015, we intend to transition to a primarily development-focused strategy in the Utica Shale. As of March 31, 2014, we had 753 gross (233 net) risked drilling locations in the Utica Shale.

As of December 31, 2013, our pro forma estimated proved reserves were 602 Bcf, all of which were in southwestern Pennsylvania, with 42% proved developed and 100% natural gas. In 2014, we plan to invest \$1,230.0 million in our operations (excluding acquisitions) as follows:

\$430.0 million for drilling and completion in the Marcellus Shale;

\$150.0 million for drilling and completion in the Utica Shale;

\$385.0 million for leasehold acquisitions; and

\$265.0 million for midstream infrastructure development.

This represents a 96% increase over our \$629.0 million pro forma 2013 capital expenditures. Please see Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Capital Resources and Liquidity. The following table provides a summary of our net acreage, average working interest, producing wells, risked drilling locations and projected 2014 net wells online as of March 31, 2014:

	Net Acreage	Average Working Interest	Producing Wells		Risked Drilling Locations(1)		2014 Projected Net Wells Online
			Gross	Net	Gross	Net	
Marcellus Shale(2)	43,978	95%	41	38	349	325	37
Utica Shale(3)	46,700	96%			753	233	7(4)
Upper Devonian Shale(5)			3	3	211	194	
Total(5)	90,678		44	41	1,313	752	44

(1) Based on our reserve reports as of December 31, 2013, we had 44 gross (39 net) locations in the Marcellus Shale associated with proved undeveloped reserves and 13 gross (12 net) locations in the Marcellus Shale associated with proved developed not producing reserves. Please see Business Our Operations Reserve Data Determination of Drilling Locations for more information regarding the process and criteria through which these drilling locations were identified. The drilling locations on which we actually drill will depend on the availability of capital,

regulatory approval, commodity prices, costs, actual drilling results and other factors. Please see Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Business Our gross risked drilling locations are scheduled out over many years, making them susceptible to uncertainties that could materially alter the occurrence or timing of their drilling. In addition, we may not be able to raise the substantial amount of capital that would be necessary to drill our drilling locations.

- (2) Excludes non-strategic properties consisting of 548 net acres in Fayette and Tioga Counties, Pennsylvania. Includes 1,338 net acres that were included as a leasehold payable on our balance sheet as of March 31, 2014.
- (3) Utica Shale risked drilling locations gives effect to our projected 31% working interest in the Utica Shale after applying unitization and participating interest assumptions described under Business Our Operations Reserve Data Determination of Drilling Locations.
- (4) Includes wells to be drilled by Gulfport Energy Corporation. Please see Utica Shale Development Agreement and Area of Mutual Interest Agreement.
- (5) Approximately 39,020 gross (36,932 net) acres in the Marcellus Shale is also prospective for the Upper Devonian Shale. The Upper Devonian and the Marcellus Shale are stacked formations within the same geographic footprint.

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Business Strategies

Our objective is to create shareholder value by identifying and assembling a portfolio of low-risk assets with attractive economic profiles and leveraging our technical and managerial expertise to deliver industry-leading results. We seek to achieve this objective by executing the following strategies:

Pursue High-Graded Core Shale Acreage as an Early Entrant. Our acreage acquisition strategy has been predicated on our belief that core acreage provides superior production, ultimate recoveries and returns on investment. We leverage our technical expertise and analyze third-party data to be an early entrant into the core of a shale play. We develop an internally generated geologic model and then study publicly available third-party data, including well results and drilling and completion reports, to confirm our geologic model and define the core acreage position of a play. Once we believe that we have identified the core location, we aggressively execute on our acquisition strategy to establish a largely contiguous acreage position. By virtue of this strategy, we eliminate the need for large exploration programs requiring significant time and capital, and instead pursue areas that have been substantially de-risked, or high-graded, by our competitors. We have applied the expertise and approach that we employed in the Marcellus Shale to the Utica Shale, and we believe we will be able to achieve similar results.

Target Contiguous Acreage Positions in Prolific Unconventional Resource Plays. We will seek to continue to expand on our success in targeting contiguous acreage positions within the core of the Marcellus and Utica Shales. We believe a concentrated acreage position requires fewer wells and inherently less capital to define the geologic properties across the play and allows us to optimize our wellbore economics. As of March 31, 2014, we had drilled and completed 41 horizontal Marcellus wells, several of which have tested the outer boundaries of our Marcellus acreage position. Additionally, as a result of optimizing our wellbore design with a limited number of wells, we believe our ability to transition from exploration drilling to development drilling in the Marcellus Shale was accomplished with less capital invested than our peers. We intend to replicate this strategy in the Utica Shale.

Aggressively Develop Leasehold Positions to Economically Grow Production, Cash Flow and Reserves. We intend to continue to aggressively drill and develop our portfolio of 1,313 gross (752 net) pro forma risked drilling locations as of March 31, 2014 with a goal of growing production, cash flow and reserves in an economically-efficient manner. In the first quarter of 2014, we increased to a six-rig drilling program (consisting of three top-hole rigs and three horizontal rigs), two of which are operating in the Utica Shale. We expect to continue to operate a six-rig drilling program through the remainder of 2014. In executing our development strategy, we intend to leverage our operational control and the expertise of our technical team to deliver attractive production and cash flow growth. As the operator of a substantial majority of our acreage in the Marcellus and Utica Shales, we are able to manage (i) the timing and level of our capital spending, (ii) our exploration and development drilling strategies and (iii) our operating costs. We will seek to optimize our wellbore economics through a meticulous focus on rig efficiency, wellbore accuracy and completion design and execution. We believe that the combination of our operational control and technical expertise will allow us to build on our track record of superior production, cash flow and reserve growth.

Maximize Pipeline Takeaway Capacity to Facilitate Production Growth. We maintain a strong commitment to construct, acquire and control the midstream infrastructure necessary to meet our production growth. We will also continue to enter into long-term firm transportation arrangements with third party midstream operators to ensure our access to market. We believe our commitment to midstream infrastructure allows us to commercialize our production more quickly and provides us with a competitive advantage in acquiring bolt-on acreage.

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Competitive Strengths

We possess a number of competitive strengths that we believe will allow us to successfully execute our business strategies:

Large, Contiguous Positions Concentrated in the Core of the Marcellus and Utica Shales. We own extensive and contiguous acreage positions in the core of two of the premier North American shale plays. We believe we were an early identifier of both the Marcellus Shale core in southwestern Pennsylvania and the Utica Shale core, primarily in Belmont County, Ohio, which allowed us to acquire concentrated acreage positions. Our core position and contiguous acreage in the Marcellus Shale have allowed us to delineate our position as well as produce industry-leading well results, as our wells have some of the highest initial production rates and EURs in the Marcellus Shale. Through a consolidated approach, we are able to increase rig efficiency, turning wells into sales faster, and de-risk our acreage position more efficiently. Additionally, to service our concentrated acreage positions, we construct and acquire water and midstream infrastructure, which enable us to reduce reliance on third party operators, minimize costs and increase our returns. This has been a strength in the Marcellus Shale and we believe our position in the Utica Shale will allow us to achieve similar results.

Multi-Year, Low-Risk Development Drilling Inventory. Our drilling inventory as of March 31, 2014 consisted of 1,313 gross (752 net) risked drilling locations, with 349 gross (325 net), 753 gross (233 net) and 211 gross (194 net) risked drilling locations in the Marcellus Shale, Utica Shale and Upper Devonian Shale, respectively. We believe that we and other operators in the area have substantially delineated and de-risked our contiguous acreage position in the southwestern core of the Marcellus Shale. As of March 31, 2014, we have drilled and completed 41 wells on our Marcellus Shale acreage with a 100% success rate. In June 2014 we completed our first Utica well, the Bigfoot 9H, which tested at a stabilized rate of 41.7 MMcf/d. Please see Recent Developments Bigfoot 9H Test Results.

Expertise in Unconventional Resource Plays and Technology. We have assembled a strong technical staff of shale petroleum engineers and shale geologists that have extensive experience in horizontal drilling, operating multi-rig development programs and using advanced drilling technology. We have been early adopters of new oilfield services and techniques for drilling (including rotary steerable tools) and completions (including reduced-length frac stages). In the Marcellus Shale as of March 31, 2014, we have completed 41 gross horizontal wells totaling approximately 236,000 lateral feet. We have realized improvements in our drilling efficiency over time and we are now drilling lateral sections approximately 50% longer in approximately half the time as it has taken us historically. Our average horizontal lateral drilled in 2011 was 4,733 feet and took 13.0 days to drill from kickoff to total depth. Our average horizontal lateral drilled in 2013 was 7,700 feet and took 5.8 days to drill from kickoff to total depth. Our operating proficiency has also led to increased wellbore accuracy, completion design efficiencies and has yielded top tier production results as reflected in the fact that out of approximately 550 producing horizontal Marcellus Shale wells in Washington County, Pennsylvania, we drilled and completed the top two and four of the top six wells in terms of cumulative production through June 30, 2013, as reported by Pennsylvania's oil and gas department. Further, we are able to enhance our wellbore economics through multi-well pad drilling (one to nine wells per rig move) and long laterals targeting 6,000 to 10,000 feet.

Successful Infill Leasing Program. We have increased our acreage position in the core of the Marcellus Shale through bolt-on leases in the same targeted area. This strategy has allowed us to acquire acreage that provides additional drilling locations and/or adds horizontal feet to future wells. By implementing this strategy, we have grown our Marcellus Shale acreage position in Washington County from our initial acquisition of 642 net acres in 2009 to 43,978 net acres as of March 31, 2014. We have replicated this strategy successfully in the Utica Shale in Belmont County as well, leasing an additional 13,201 net acres as of March 31, 2014 since our initial acquisition of approximately 33,499 net acres in November 2012. We intend to continue to focus our near-term leasing program on Greene and Washington Counties in

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Pennsylvania and on Belmont County in Ohio, with the strategy of using bolt-on leases to acquire acreage that immediately increases our drilling locations and/or drillable horizontal feet.

Access to Committed Takeaway Capacity. Our gas gathering pipeline system is currently designed to handle up to approximately 1.5 Bcf/d in the aggregate and, as of March 31, 2014, has an operating capacity of approximately 620 MMcf/d in the aggregate. This system connects our producing wells to multiple interstate transmission and other third-party pipelines. We plan to continue to build out our Pennsylvania gathering system congruent with our future development plans. We plan to replicate our strategy of constructing and controlling our own midstream system in Ohio and expect to have our gathering system in Belmont County substantially complete by the second quarter of 2015. We believe our commitment to constructing and controlling midstream assets allows us to efficiently bring wells online, mitigates the risk of unplanned shut-ins and creates pricing and transportation optionality by connecting to multiple interstate pipelines. To further ensure the deliverability of our Utica Shale production, we have entered into a precedent agreement for 175,000 MMBtu/d firm transportation on the Rockies Express Pipeline beginning in June 2015 for a term of 20 years, which will provide us with greater access to Gulf Coast and Midwest markets. With this capacity, our firm transportation and firm sales portfolio will cover approximately 818,000 MMBtu/d in 2015 and 921,000 MMBtu/d in 2016. By securing firm transportation and firm sales contracts, we are better able to accommodate our growing production and manage basis differentials.

Significant Liquidity and Active Hedging Program. As of March 31, 2014, we had cash on hand of approximately \$228.7 million and as of May 31, 2014, we had availability under our revolving credit facility of approximately \$313.5 million. We believe this liquidity, along with our cash flow from operations, is sufficient to execute our current capital program. Additionally, our hedging program mitigates commodity price volatility and protects our future cash flows. We review our hedge position on an ongoing basis, taking into account our current and forecasted production volumes and commodity prices. As of May 1, 2014, we had entered into hedging contracts covering approximately 57 Bcf (207 MMcf/d) of natural gas production for April 2014 through December 2014 at a weighted average index floor price of \$4.06 per MMBtu. Furthermore, as of May 1, 2014, we had entered into hedging contracts covering approximately 59.1 Bcf (162 MMcf/d) of natural gas production for 2015 at a weighted average index floor price of \$4.05 per MMBtu.

Proven and Stockholder-Aligned Management Team. Our management team possesses extensive oil and natural gas acquisition, exploration and development expertise in shale plays. For a discussion of our management's experience, please read *Management*. Our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Vice President of Exploration & Geology and Vice President of Drilling have worked for us since we drilled our first horizontal Marcellus well. Our management team includes certain members of the Rice family (the founders of Rice Partners) who, along with other members of the management team, are also highly aligned with stockholders through a 31.3% economic interest in us after giving effect to this offering. In addition, our management team has a significant indirect economic interest in us through their ownership of incentive units in the form of interests in Rice Holdings and NGP Holdings. The value of these incentive units may increase over time, without diluting public investors, if our stock price appreciates in the future. For additional information regarding our incentive units, please read *Executive Compensation Narrative Description to the Summary Compensation Table for the 2013 Fiscal Year Long-Term Incentive Compensation*. We believe that our management team's direct and indirect ownership interest in us will provide significant incentives to grow the value of our business.

Initial Public Offering, Corporate Reorganization and Related Transactions

Initial Public Offering

On January 29, 2014, we completed our initial public offering (IPO) of 50,000,000 shares of our common stock, which included 30,000,000 shares sold by us and 20,000,000 shares sold by NGP Holdings.

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The net proceeds of our IPO, based on the public offering price of \$21.00 per share, were approximately \$993.5 million, which resulted in net proceeds to us of \$593.6 million after deducting expenses and underwriting discounts and commissions of approximately \$36.4 million and net proceeds to the selling stockholders of approximately \$399.0 million after deducting underwriting discounts of approximately \$21.0 million. We did not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares by the selling stockholder. A portion of the net proceeds from our IPO were used to repay all outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility of our Marcellus joint venture, to make a \$100.0 million payment to Alpha Holdings in partial consideration for the Marcellus JV Buy-In and to repay all outstanding borrowings under our revolving credit facility. The remainder of the net proceeds from our IPO are being used to fund a portion of our capital expenditure plan.

Corporate Reorganization

A corporate reorganization occurred concurrently with the completion of our IPO on January 29, 2014. As a part of this corporate reorganization, we acquired all of the outstanding membership interests in Rice Appalachia in exchange for shares of our common stock. Our business continues to be conducted through Rice Drilling B, as a wholly owned subsidiary. As of January 29, 2014, upon (a) the completion of the IPO, (b) the issuance of (i) 43,452,550 shares of common stock to NGP Holdings, (ii) 20,300,923 shares of common stock to Rice Holdings, (iii) 2,356,844 shares of common stock to Daniel J. Rice III, (iv) 20,000,000 shares of common stock to Rice Partners, (v) 160,831 shares of common stock to the persons holding incentive units representing interests in Rice Appalachia and (vi) 1,728,852 shares of common stock to the members of Rice Drilling B (other than Rice Appalachia), each of which were issued by us in connection with the closing of the IPO, and (c) the issuance of 9,523,810 shares of common stock to Alpha Holdings in connection with the completion of the Marcellus JV Buy-In described below under **Marcellus JV Buy-In**, we had 127,523,810 shares of common stock outstanding.

Marcellus JV Buy-In

On January 29, 2014, in connection with the closing of the IPO and pursuant to the Transaction Agreement between us and Alpha Holdings dated as of December 6, 2013 (the **Transaction Agreement**), we completed our acquisition of Alpha Holdings' 50% interest in our Marcellus joint venture in exchange for total consideration of \$322 million, consisting of \$100 million of cash and our issuance to Alpha Holdings of 9,523,810 shares of our common stock.

Recent Developments

Western Greene County Acquisition

On July 7, 2014, we announced our signing of a definitive purchase and sale agreement to acquire approximately 22,000 net acres and 12 developed Marcellus wells in western Greene County, Pennsylvania from Chesapeake Appalachia, L.L.C. and its partners for approximately \$336 million (the **Greene County Acquisition**). We expect to close the transaction in August 2014, subject to customary closing conditions, with an effective date of February 1, 2014.

Upon completion of the Greene County Acquisition, the acquired properties are expected to:

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represent a 24% increase in our aggregate net acreage position and a 50% increase in our net acreage position in the core of the Marcellus Shale in southwestern Pennsylvania, each as of March 31, 2014;

add approximately 152 risked (190 unrisked) net drilling locations with an assumed 7,000 average lateral length, representing a 47% increase to our Marcellus inventory of 325 net risked locations as of March 31, 2014;

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be 100% operated (average 95% working interest) with anticipated production being 1,080-1,100 Btu gas; and

add 20 MMcf/d current net production from seven producing wells, with five additional wells in progress. The acquired acreage will be dedicated to Access Midstream Partners. While the terms of the gas gathering agreement remain subject to negotiation, we expect the service fees will remain in line with historical rates of \$0.45 per MMBtu for gathering and \$0.12 per MMBtu for compression.

This offering is not contingent on the successful completion of the Greene County Acquisition. There can be no assurance that the Greene County Acquisition will close in the anticipated time frame or at all, or that we will realize the expected benefit from the Greene County Acquisition. See Risk Factors Risks Related to the Greene County Acquisition.

Utica Update

On June 2, 2014, we announced the production test results of our first operated Utica Shale well, the Bigfoot 9H. After five days of flowback, the Bigfoot 9H stabilized at a rate of 41.7 MMcf/d of gas on a 33/64 choke with flowing casing pressures of 5,850 psi. Based upon a gas composition analysis, the heat content is 1,086 Btu and therefore will not require processing. We own an approximate 93% working interest in the well, which has an effective lateral length of 6,957 feet and was completed with 40 frac stages. First production from the Bigfoot 9H well was delivered into sales in late June 2014. In addition, in June 2014, we drilled and cased our second and third Utica Shale wells, the Blue Thunder 10H and 12H. We are in the process of completing both of these wells, each with lateral lengths of approximately 9,000 feet.

Senior Notes Offering

On April 25, 2014, we offered \$900.0 million (the Senior Notes Offering) in aggregate principal amount of 6.25% senior notes due 2022 (the Notes) in a private placement to eligible purchasers under Rule 144A and Regulation S of the Securities Act, which resulted in net proceeds of \$882.7 million after deducting estimated expenses and underwriting discounts and commissions of approximately \$17.3 million. We used \$301.8 million of the net proceeds to repay and retire our Second Lien Term Loan Facility, and the remainder of the proceeds will be used to fund a portion of our 2014 capital expenditure program.

Momentum Acquisition

On April 17, 2014, we completed an acquisition of certain gas gathering assets in eastern Washington and Greene Counties (the Momentum Acquisition) for aggregate consideration of approximately \$110.0 million. The effective date for the Momentum Acquisition is March 1, 2014. We funded the acquisition with cash on hand.

The properties acquired in the Momentum Acquisition consist of a 28-mile, 6 -16 gathering system in eastern Washington County, Pennsylvania, and permits and rights of way in Washington and Greene Counties, Pennsylvania, necessary to construct an 18-mile, 30 gathering system connecting the northern system to the Texas Eastern pipeline. The northern system is supported by long-term contracts with acreage dedications covering approximately 20,000 acres from third parties. Once fully constructed, the acquired systems are expected to have an aggregate capacity of over 1 bcf of natural gas per day.

Third Amended and Restated Senior Secured Revolving Credit Facility

On April 10, 2014, we, as borrower, and Rice Drilling B, as predecessor borrower, entered into the Third Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the *Third Amended and Restated Credit Agreement*). Among other

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things, in connection with the Third Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, Rice Drilling B assigned all of its rights and obligations under the Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement to us, and we assumed all such rights and obligations as borrower under the Third Amended and Restated Credit Agreement. Furthermore, the Third Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (i) allowed for the Senior Notes Offering (described below) and (ii) provided that we would not incur an immediate reduction in our borrowing base under the credit facility as a result of the Senior Notes Offering.

Risk Factors

Investing in our common stock involves risks that include the speculative nature of oil and natural gas exploration, competition, volatile oil and natural gas prices and other material factors. For a discussion of these risks and other considerations that could negatively affect us, including risks related to this offering and our common stock, see Risk Factors and Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.

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Organizational Structure

The chart below depicts our organization and ownership structure, after giving effect to this offering (excluding any exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares).

Corporate Governance Developments

Upon the closing of this offering, Rice Holdings, Rice Partners, NGP Holdings and Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. will no longer control a majority of the voting power of our outstanding common stock, and we will no longer qualify as a controlled company for purposes of certain exemptions from the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) listing standards. As a result, certain provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws will become effective upon the closing of this offering. See Description of Capital Stock.

Rice Drilling B was formed as a Delaware limited liability company on February 12, 2008 by members of the Rice family through Rice Partners. Natural Gas Partners, which was founded in 1988, is a family of private equity investment funds with aggregate committed capital under management since inception of \$10 billion and was organized to make direct equity investments in the energy industry. Alpha Holdings is a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of Alpha Natural Resources, Inc., one of America's premier coal suppliers operating in Northern and Central Appalachia and the Powder River Basin.

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Emerging Growth Company Status

We are an emerging growth company as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act, or the JOBS Act. For as long as we are an emerging growth company, unlike other public companies that are not emerging growth companies under the JOBS Act, we are not required to:

provide an auditor's attestation report on management's assessment of the effectiveness of our system of internal control over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002;

comply with any new requirements adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, or the PCAOB, requiring mandatory audit firm rotation or a supplement to the auditor's report in which the auditor would be required to provide additional information about the audit and the financial statements of the issuer;

provide certain disclosure regarding executive compensation required of larger public companies or hold shareholder advisory votes on executive compensation required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act); or

obtain shareholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved.

We will cease to be an emerging growth company upon the earliest of:

the last day of the fiscal year in which we have \$1.0 billion or more in annual revenues;

the date on which we become a large accelerated filer (the fiscal year-end on which the total market value of our common equity securities held by non-affiliates is \$700 million or more as of June 30);

the date on which we issue more than \$1.0 billion of non-convertible debt over a three-year period; or

the last day of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of our IPO.

In addition, Section 107 of the JOBS Act provides that an emerging growth company can take advantage of the extended transition period provided in Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, for complying with new or revised accounting standards, but we have irrevocably opted out of the extended transition period and, as a result, we will adopt new or revised accounting standards on the relevant dates in which adoption of such standards is required for other public companies.

Corporate Information

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Our principal executive offices are located at 171 Hillpointe Drive, Suite 301, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317, and our telephone number is (724) 746-6720. Our website is www.riceenergy.com. Information contained on our website or any other website is not incorporated by reference herein and does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

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The Offering

Shares of common stock offered by us	7,500,000 shares.
Shares of common stock offered by the selling stockholders	12,921,246 shares (or 15,984,433 shares, if the underwriters exercise in full their option to purchase additional shares).
Shares of common stock to be outstanding after the offering	136,154,526 shares.
Option to purchase additional shares	Certain of the selling stockholders have granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to an aggregate of 3,063,187 additional shares of our common stock.
Use of proceeds	<p>We expect to receive approximately \$ million of net proceeds from the sale of the common stock offered by us after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us.</p> <p>We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to fund a portion of the purchase price for our Greene County Acquisition, with the remainder to be funded with cash on hand. Please read Use of Proceeds.</p> <p>This offering is not contingent on the completion of the Greene County Acquisition. In the event the Greene County Acquisition is not successfully completed we will use the net proceeds of this offering for general corporate purposes, including capital expenditures.</p> <p>We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares of common stock by the selling stockholders. The selling stockholders are deemed under federal securities laws to be underwriters with respect to the common stock they may sell in connection with this offering.</p>
Dividend policy	We do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on our common stock. In addition, certain of our debt instruments place restrictions on our ability to pay cash dividends. See Dividend Policy .

Risk factors

You should carefully read and consider the information set forth under the heading **Risk Factors** and all other information set forth in this prospectus before deciding to invest in our common stock.

Listing and trading symbol

Our common stock is listed in the New York Stock Exchange (**NYSE**) under the symbol **RICE**.

Table of Contents**Index to Financial Statements****SUMMARY HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED AND UNAUDITED PRO FORMA FINANCIAL DATA**

The following table shows summary unaudited pro forma financial data for the periods and as of the dates indicated. Our historical results are not necessarily indicative of future operating results. The summary financial data presented below are qualified in their entirety by reference to, and should be read in conjunction with, Capitalization,

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated historical and pro forma financial statements and related notes included elsewhere herein.

The summary unaudited pro forma consolidated statement of operations data for the year ended December 31, 2013 and three months ended March 31, 2014 has been prepared to give pro forma effect to (i) the completion of the corporate reorganization in connection with our IPO completed in January 2014, (ii) the Marcellus JV Buy-In and (iii) our IPO and the application of the net proceeds therefrom as if each had been completed as of January 1, 2013. The summary unaudited pro forma consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2013 has been prepared to give pro forma effect to those transactions as if they had been completed as of December 31, 2013. Each of our IPO, the corporate reorganization in connection with our IPO and the Marcellus JV Buy-In was completed prior to March 31, 2014 and is thus fully reflected in our historical consolidated balance sheet as of such date. The summary unaudited pro forma consolidated statements of operations data do not give pro forma effect to this offering, the Momentum Acquisition, the Senior Notes Offering or the pending Greene County Acquisition. These data are subject and give effect to the assumptions and adjustments described in the notes accompanying the unaudited pro forma financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. The summary unaudited pro forma consolidated financial data are presented for informational purposes only and should not be considered indicative of actual results of operations that would have been achieved had the reorganization transactions and this offering been consummated on the dates indicated, and do not purport to be indicative of statements of financial position or results of operations as of any future date or for any future period.

	Rice Energy Inc. Pro Forma	
	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Three Months Ended March 31, 2014
	(unaudited)	
<i>(in thousands, except per share data)</i>		
Statement of Operations Data:		
Revenues:		
Natural gas sales	\$ 178,524	\$ 102,402
Other revenue	757	
Total revenues	179,281	102,402
Operating expenses:		
Lease operating	16,502	5,607
Gathering, compression and transportation	25,437	8,520
Production taxes and impact fees	2,887	708
Exploration	9,951	486
Restricted unit expense	32,906	73,802

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General and administrative	20,209	11,593
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	71,886	28,363
Write-down of abandoned leases	146	
Loss from sale of interest in gas properties	4,230	
Total operating expenses	184,154	129,079

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	Rice Energy Inc. Pro Forma	
	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Three Months Ended March 31, 2014
<i>(in thousands, except per share data)</i>	<i>(unaudited)</i>	
Operating loss	(4,873)	(26,677)
Interest expense	(16,422)	(7,277)
Gain on purchase of Marcellus joint venture		200,923
Other income (expense)	(1,153)	602
Gain (loss) on derivative instruments	10,238	(32,571)
Amortization of deferred financing costs	(5,394)	(504)
Loss on extinguishment of debt	(10,622)	(143)
Write-off of deferred financing costs		(836)
Equity in income of joint ventures	90	
Loss before income taxes	(28,136)	133,517
Income tax benefit	11,674	(9,375)
Net income (loss)	\$ (16,462)	\$ 124,142
Balance sheet data (at period end):		
Cash	\$ 347,011	
Total property and equipment, net	1,054,414	
Total assets	1,845,650	
Total debt	311,942	
Total members' capital	1,134,241	
Net cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities		
Investing activities		
Financing activities		
Other financial data (unaudited):		
Adjusted EBITDAX(1)	\$ 107,773	\$ 64,803
Earnings per share - basic	(0.13)	1.00
Earnings per share - diluted	(0.13)	0.99

(1) Adjusted EBITDAX is a non-GAAP financial measure. For a definition of Adjusted EBITDAX and a reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDAX to net income (loss), see [Non-GAAP Financial Measure](#) below.

Non-GAAP Financial Measure

Adjusted EBITDAX is a supplemental non-GAAP financial measure that is used by management and external users of our consolidated financial statements, such as industry analysts, investors, lenders and rating agencies.

We define Adjusted EBITDAX as net income (loss) before interest expense or interest income; income taxes; write-down of abandoned leases; depreciation, depletion and amortization; amortization of deferred financing costs; equity in (income) loss in joint ventures; derivative fair value (gain) loss, excluding net cash receipts on settled derivative instruments; non-cash compensation expense; (gain) loss from sale of interest in gas properties; (gain) loss on acquisition; (gain) loss on extinguishment of debt; write-off of deferred financing costs and exploration expenses. Adjusted EBITDAX is not a measure of net income as determined by United States generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP.

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Management believes Adjusted EBITDAX is useful because it allows them to more effectively evaluate our operating performance and compare the results of our operations from period to period and against our peers without regard to our financing methods or capital structure. We exclude the items listed above from net income in arriving at Adjusted EBITDAX because these amounts can vary substantially from company to company within our industry depending upon accounting methods and book values of assets, capital structures and the method by which the assets were acquired. Adjusted EBITDAX should not be considered as an alternative to, or more meaningful than, net income as determined in accordance with GAAP or as an indicator of our operating performance or liquidity. Certain items excluded from Adjusted EBITDAX are significant components in understanding and assessing a company's financial performance, such as a company's cost of capital and tax structure, as well as the historic costs of depreciable assets, none of which are components of Adjusted EBITDAX. Our computations of Adjusted EBITDAX may not be comparable to other similarly titled measures of other companies. We believe that Adjusted EBITDAX is a widely followed measure of operating performance and may also be used by investors to measure our ability to meet debt service requirements.

The following tables present a reconciliation of the non-GAAP financial measure of Adjusted EBITDAX to the GAAP financial measure of net income (loss).

	Rice Energy Inc. Pro Forma	
	Year Ended December 31, 2013 (unaudited)	Three Months Ended March 31, 2014
<i>(in thousands)</i>		
Adjusted EBITDAX reconciliation to net income (loss):		
Net income (loss)	\$ (16,462)	\$ 124,142
Interest expense	16,422	7,277
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	71,886	28,363
Amortization of deferred financing costs	5,394	504
Equity in (income) loss of joint ventures	(90)	
Write-down of abandoned leases	146	
Derivative fair value (gain) loss(1)	(10,238)	32,571
Net cash receipts (payments) on settled derivative instruments(1)	5,302	(11,773)
Restricted unit expense	32,906	73,802
Income tax benefit	(11,674)	9,375
Loss from sale of interest in gas properties	4,230	
Gain on acquisition(2)		(200,923)
Loss on extinguishment of debt		143
Write-off of deferred financing costs		836
Exploration expenses	9,951	486
Adjusted EBITDAX	\$ 107,773	\$ 64,803

- (1) The adjustments for the derivative fair value (gains) losses and net cash receipts on settled commodity derivative instruments have the effect of adjusting net income (loss) for changes in the fair value of derivative instruments, which are recognized at the end of each accounting period because we do not designate commodity derivative instruments as accounting hedges. This results in reflecting commodity derivative gains and losses within Adjusted EBITDAX on a cash basis during the period the derivatives settled.
- (2) Represents gain recognized in connection with Marcellus JV Buy-In.

Table of ContentsIndex to Financial Statements**SUMMARY PRO FORMA RESERVE AND OPERATING DATA****Summary Reserve Data**

The following table summarizes our pro forma estimated proved reserves as of December 31, 2013, giving effect to our Marcellus JV Buy-In described under Initial Public Offering, Corporate Reorganization and Related Transactions Marcellus JV Buy-In. The estimated proved reserves as of December 31, 2013 are based on reports prepared by our and our Marcellus joint venture's independent reserve engineers, NSAI. See Business Our Operations Reserve Data Preparation of Reserve Estimates for definitions of proved reserves and the technologies and economic data used in their estimation.

The information in the following table does not give any effect to or reflect our commodity hedges. See Business Our Operations Reserve Data for more information about our reserves.

	Rice Energy Inc. Pro Forma(1) At December 31, 2013 (Unaudited)
Estimated proved reserves Natural gas (Bcf):	
Total estimated proved reserves	602
Total proved developed reserves	250
Proved developed producing reserves	177
Proved developed non-producing reserves	73
Proved undeveloped reserves	352
Percent developed reserves	42%

- (1) Our estimated pro forma proved reserves were determined using a 12-month average price for natural gas. The prices used in our reserve reports yield weighted average wellhead prices, which are based on index prices and adjusted for energy content, transportation fees and regional price differentials. The index prices and the equivalent wellhead prices are shown in the table below.

	Index Prices Natural Gas (per MMBtu)	Weighted Average Wellhead Prices Natural Gas (per Mcf)
December 31, 2013	3.67	3.90

Table of ContentsIndex to Financial Statements**Production, Revenues and Price History**

The following table sets forth information regarding production, revenues and realized prices, and production costs on a pro forma basis for the year ended December 31, 2013 and three months ended March 31, 2014.

	Rice Energy Inc. Pro Forma	
	Year Ended December 31, 2013 (unaudited)	Three Months Ended March 31, 2014
Natural gas sales (in thousands)	\$ 178,525	\$ 102,402
Production data (MMcf) (unaudited)	45,881	18,801
Average prices before effects of hedges per Mcf	\$ 3.89	5.45
Average realized prices after effects of hedges per Mcf(1)	\$ 4.01	4.82
Average costs per Mcf(2)		
Lease operating	\$ 0.36	0.30
Gathering, compression and transportation	0.55	0.45
General and administrative	0.44	0.62
Depletion, depreciation and amortization	1.57	1.51

- (1) The effect of hedges includes realized gains and losses on commodity derivative transactions.
- (2) Does not include production taxes and impact fees. Please see Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Principal Components of our Cost Structure.

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RISK FACTORS

*Investing in our common stock involves risks. You should carefully consider the information in this prospectus, including the matters addressed under **Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**, and the following risks before making an investment decision. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment.*

Risks Related to the Greene County Acquisition

We may not be able to consummate our pending Greene County Acquisition, which could adversely affect our results of operations and cash flows.

The purchase agreement related to the pending Greene County Acquisition contains customary closing conditions. It is possible that one or more closing conditions may not be satisfied or, if not satisfied, that such condition may not be waived by the other party. If we are unable to consummate the pending Greene County Acquisition, we would not realize the expected benefits of the proposed acquisition.

There can be no assurance that the Greene County Acquisition will be completed within the anticipated time frame, or at all, or that the anticipated benefits of the Greene County Acquisition will be realized. In addition, the closing of the Greene County Acquisition is not conditioned on the closing of this offering, and this offering is not conditioned on the closing of the Greene County Acquisition.

We may be unable to make attractive acquisitions or successfully integrate acquired businesses, including the Greene County Acquisition, and any inability to do so may disrupt our business and hinder our ability to grow.

In the future we may make acquisitions of businesses that complement or expand our current business. However, we may not be able to identify attractive acquisition opportunities. Even if we do identify attractive acquisition opportunities, we may not be able to complete the acquisition or do so on commercially acceptable terms.

The success of any completed acquisition, including the Greene County Acquisition, will depend on our ability to integrate effectively the acquired business into our existing operations. The process of integrating acquired businesses may involve unforeseen difficulties and may require a disproportionate amount of our managerial and financial resources. In addition, possible future acquisitions may be larger and for purchase prices significantly higher than those paid for earlier acquisitions. No assurance can be given that we will be able to identify additional suitable acquisition opportunities, negotiate acceptable terms, obtain financing for acquisitions on acceptable terms or successfully acquire identified targets. Our failure to achieve consolidation savings, to integrate the acquired businesses and assets into our existing operations successfully or to minimize any unforeseen operational difficulties could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, our revolving credit facility and the indenture governing our Notes impose certain limitations on our ability to enter into mergers or combination transactions. Our revolving credit facility and the indenture governing our Notes also limit our ability to incur certain indebtedness, which could indirectly limit our ability to engage in acquisitions of businesses.

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We may be subject to risks in connection with acquisitions of properties, such as the Greene County Acquisition.

The successful acquisition of producing and undeveloped properties, such as those acquired in connection with the Greene County Acquisition, requires an assessment of several factors, including:

recoverable reserves;

future natural gas, NGL or oil prices and their applicable differentials;

operating costs; and

potential environmental and other liabilities.

The accuracy of these assessments is inherently uncertain. For example, the acreage to be acquired in the Greene County Acquisition will be dedicated to Access Midstream Partners, and the fees for gas gathering services with respect to such acreage are subject to renegotiation. If we are unable to negotiate service fees in line with historical rates, we may not realize all of the expected benefits of the pending acquisition. In connection with these assessments, we perform a review of the subject properties that we believe to be generally consistent with industry practices. Our review may not reveal all existing or potential problems nor will it permit us to become sufficiently familiar with the properties to fully assess their deficiencies and capabilities. Inspections may not always be performed on every well, and environmental problems, such as groundwater contamination, are not necessarily observable even when an inspection is undertaken. Even when problems are identified, the seller may be unwilling or unable to provide effective contractual protection against all or part of the problems. We often are not entitled to contractual indemnification for environmental liabilities and acquire properties on an as is basis.

Properties we acquire may not produce as projected, and we may be unable to determine reserve potential, identify liabilities associated with the properties that we acquire or obtain protection from sellers against such liabilities.

Acquiring oil and natural gas properties requires us to assess reservoir and infrastructure characteristics, including recoverable reserves, development and operating costs and potential environmental and other liabilities. Such assessments are inexact and inherently uncertain. In connection with the assessments, we perform a review of the subject properties, but such a review will not reveal all existing or potential problems. In the course of our due diligence, we may not inspect every well or pipeline. We cannot necessarily observe structural and environmental problems, such as pipe corrosion, when an inspection is made. We may not be able to obtain contractual indemnities from the seller for liabilities created prior to our purchase of the property. We may be required to assume the risk of the physical condition of the properties in addition to the risk that the properties may not perform in accordance with our expectations.

Risks Related to Our Business

Natural gas, NGL and oil prices are volatile. A substantial or extended decline in commodity prices may adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations and our ability to meet our capital expenditure

obligations and financial commitments.

The prices we receive for our natural gas production heavily influence, and to the extent we produce oil and NGLs in the future, the prices we receive for oil and NGL production will heavily influence, our revenue, operating results profitability, access to capital, future rate of growth and carrying value of our properties. Natural gas, NGLs and oil are commodities and, therefore, their prices are subject to wide fluctuations in response to relatively minor changes in supply and demand. Historically, the commodities market has been volatile. This market will likely continue to be volatile in the future. The prices we receive for our production,

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and the levels of our production, depend on numerous factors beyond our control. These factors include the following:

worldwide and regional economic conditions affecting the global supply of and demand for natural gas, NGLs and oil;

the price and quantity of imports of foreign natural gas, including liquefied natural gas;

political conditions in or affecting other producing countries, including conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, South America and Russia;

the level of global exploration and production;

the level of global inventories;

prevailing prices on local price indexes in the areas in which we operate and expectations about future commodity prices;

the proximity, capacity, cost and availability of gathering and transportation facilities, and other factors that result in differentials to benchmark prices;

localized and global supply and demand fundamentals and transportation availability;

weather conditions and natural disasters;

technological advances affecting energy consumption;

the cost of exploring for, developing, producing and transporting reserves;

speculative trading in natural gas and crude oil derivative contracts;

risks associated with operating drilling rigs;

the price and availability of competitors' supplies of natural gas and oil and alternative fuels; and

domestic, local and foreign governmental regulation and taxes.

Furthermore, the worldwide financial and credit crisis in recent years has reduced the availability of liquidity and credit to fund the continuation and expansion of industrial business operations worldwide resulting in a slowdown in economic activity and recession in parts of the world. This has reduced worldwide demand for energy and resulted in lower natural gas, NGL and oil prices.

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In addition, substantially all of our natural gas production is sold to purchasers under contracts with market-based prices. The actual prices realized from the sale of natural gas differ from the quoted NYMEX Henry Hub price as a result of location differentials. Location differentials to NYMEX Henry Hub prices, also known as basis differentials, result from variances in regional natural gas prices compared to NYMEX Henry Hub prices as a result of regional supply and demand factors. We may experience differentials to NYMEX Henry Hub prices in the future, which may be material.

Lower commodity prices and negative increases in our differentials will reduce our cash flows and borrowing ability. We may be unable to obtain needed capital or financing on satisfactory terms, which could lead to a decline in our reserves as existing reserves are depleted. Lower commodity prices may also reduce the amount of natural gas, NGLs and oil that we can produce economically.

If commodity prices further decrease or our negative differentials further increase, a significant portion of our development and exploration projects could become uneconomic. This may result in our having to make significant downward adjustments to our estimated proved reserves. As a result, a substantial or extended decline in commodity prices or an increase in our negative differentials may materially and adversely affect our future business, financial condition, results of operations, liquidity or ability to finance planned capital expenditures.

Our development and exploration projects require substantial capital expenditures. We may be unable to obtain required capital or financing on satisfactory terms, which could lead to a decline in our natural gas reserves.

The natural gas industry is capital intensive. We make and expect to continue to make substantial capital expenditures for the development and acquisition of natural gas reserves. In 2014, we plan to invest \$1,230.0 million in our operations (excluding acquisitions), including \$430.0 million for drilling and completion in the Marcellus Shale, \$150.0 million for drilling and completion in the Utica Shale, \$385.0 million for leasehold acquisitions and \$265.0 million for midstream infrastructure development. Our capital budget excludes acquisitions, other than leasehold acquisitions. We expect to fund our 2014 capital expenditures with cash generated by operations, borrowings under our revolving credit facility, a portion of the net proceeds of our IPO and the proceeds from our Senior Notes Offering. Our 2014 capital expenditure budget also assumes that the borrowing base under our revolving credit facility is increased during 2014. If our lenders do not increase our borrowing base, we may seek alternate debt financing or reduce our capital expenditures. In addition, a portion of our 2014 capital budget is projected to be financed with cash flows from operations derived from wells drilled on drilling locations not associated with proved reserves in our reserve reports. The failure to achieve projected production and cash flows from operations from such wells could result in a reduction to our 2014 capital budget. The actual amount and timing of our future capital expenditures may differ materially from our estimates as a result of, among other things, natural gas prices, actual drilling results, the availability of drilling rigs and other services and equipment, and regulatory, technological and competitive developments. A reduction in natural gas prices from current levels may result in a decrease in our actual capital expenditures, which would negatively impact our ability to grow production. We intend to finance our future capital expenditures primarily through cash flow from operations and through borrowings under our revolving credit facility; however, our financing needs may require us to alter or increase our capitalization substantially through the issuance of debt or equity securities or the sale of assets. The issuance of additional indebtedness would require that a portion of our cash flow from operations be used for the payment of interest and principal on our indebtedness, thereby reducing our ability to use cash flow from operations to fund working capital, capital expenditures and acquisitions.

Our cash flow from operations and access to capital are subject to a number of variables, including:

our proved reserves;

the level of hydrocarbons we are able to produce from existing wells;

our access to, and the cost of accessing end markets for our production;

the prices at which our production is sold;

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our ability to acquire, locate and produce new reserves;

the levels of our operating expenses; and

our ability to borrow under our revolving credit facility.

If our revenues or the borrowing base under our revolving credit facility decrease as a result of lower natural gas prices, operating difficulties, declines in reserves or for any other reason, we may have limited ability to obtain the capital necessary to sustain our operations at current levels. If additional capital is needed, we may not be able to obtain debt or equity financing on terms acceptable to us, if at all. If cash flow generated by our operations or available borrowings under our revolving credit facility are not sufficient to meet our capital requirements, the failure to obtain additional financing could result in a curtailment of our operations relating to development of our properties, which in turn could lead to a decline in our reserves and production, and could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Part of our strategy involves using some of the latest available horizontal drilling and completion techniques, which involve risks and uncertainties in their application.

Our operations involve utilizing some of the latest drilling and completion techniques as developed by us and our service providers. Risks that we face while drilling, including or as a result of the application of these techniques, include, but are not limited to, the following:

effectively controlling the level of pressure flowing from particular wells;

landing our wellbore in the desired drilling zone;

staying in the desired drilling zone while drilling horizontally through the formation;

running our casing the entire length of the wellbore; and

being able to run tools and other equipment consistently through the horizontal wellbore.

Risks that we face while completing our wells, including or as a result of the application of these techniques, include, but are not limited to, the following:

the ability to fracture stimulate the planned number of stages;

the ability to run tools the entire length of the wellbore during completion operations; and

the ability to successfully clean out the wellbore after completion of the final fracture stimulation stage.

Drilling for and producing natural gas are high-risk activities with many uncertainties that could result in a total loss of investment or otherwise adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Our future financial condition and results of operations will depend on the success of our development and acquisition activities, which are subject to numerous risks beyond our control, including the risk that drilling will not result in commercially viable natural gas production or that we will not recover all or any portion of our investment in such wells or that various characteristics of the well will cause us to plug or abandon the well prior to producing in commercially viable quantities.

Our decisions to purchase, explore or develop prospects or properties will depend in part on the evaluation of data obtained through geophysical and geological analyses, production data and engineering studies, the results of which are often inconclusive or subject to varying interpretations. For a discussion of the uncertainty involved in these processes, see Reserve estimates depend on many assumptions that may turn out to be inaccurate. Any material inaccuracies in reserve estimates or underlying assumptions will materially affect the quantities and present value of our reserves. In addition, our cost of drilling, completing and operating wells is often uncertain before drilling commences.

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Further, many factors may curtail, delay or cancel our scheduled drilling projects, including the following:

delays imposed by or resulting from compliance with regulatory requirements including limitations resulting from wastewater disposal, discharge of greenhouse gases, and limitations on hydraulic fracturing;

pressure or irregularities in geological formations;

shortages of or delays in obtaining equipment and qualified personnel or in obtaining water for hydraulic fracturing activities;

equipment failures, accidents or other unexpected operational events;

lack of available gathering facilities or delays in construction of gathering facilities;

lack of available capacity on interconnecting transmission pipelines;

adverse weather conditions, such as blizzards and ice storms;

issues related to compliance with environmental regulations;

environmental hazards, such as natural gas leaks, oil spills, pipeline and tank ruptures, encountering naturally occurring radioactive materials, and unauthorized discharges of brine, well stimulation and completion fluids, toxic gases or other pollutants into the surface and subsurface environment;

declines in natural gas prices;

limited availability of financing at acceptable terms;

title problems; and

limitations in the market for natural gas.

Any of these risks can cause substantial losses, including personal injury or loss of life, damage to or destruction of property, natural resources and equipment, pollution, environmental contamination or loss of wells and other regulatory penalties.

Our producing properties are concentrated in the Appalachian Basin, making us vulnerable to risks associated with operating in one major geographic area.

Our producing properties are geographically concentrated in the Marcellus Shale and Upper Devonian Shale formations in Washington and Greene Counties, Pennsylvania. As of December 31, 2013 and 2012, all of our total estimated proved reserves were attributable to properties located in this area. As a result of this concentration, we may be disproportionately exposed to the impact of regional supply and demand factors, delays or interruptions of production from wells in this area caused by governmental regulation, processing or transportation capacity constraints, market limitations, water shortages or other drought related conditions or interruption of the processing or transportation of oil, natural gas or NGLs and changes in regional and local political regimes and regulations. Such conditions could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, a number of areas within the Marcellus Shale and Utica Shale have historically been subject to mining operations. For example, third parties may engage in subsurface mining operations near or under our properties, which could cause subsidence or other damage to our properties, adversely impact our drilling or adversely impact our midstream activities or those on which we rely. In such

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event, our operations may be impaired or interrupted, and we may not be able to recover the costs incurred as a result of temporary shut-ins, the plugging and abandonment of any of our wells or the repair of our midstream facilities. Furthermore, the existence of mining operations near our properties could require coordination to avoid adverse impacts as a result of drilling and mining in close proximity. In connection with entering into the Marcellus JV Buy-In, we agreed to continue to acknowledge the dominance of mining by Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. within the area of mutual interest of our Marcellus joint venture. As such, in addition to coordinating with Alpha Holdings on, and in certain circumstances obtaining the prior approval of Alpha Holdings for, future drilling operations, we may also be required to take steps to assure the dominance of the mining operations of Alpha Natural Resources, Inc., including the plugging and abandonment of wells at the direction of Alpha Holdings upon two years notice. These restrictions on our operations, and any similar restrictions, can cause delays or interruptions or can prevent us from executing our business strategy, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Due to the concentrated nature of our portfolio of natural gas properties, a number of our properties could experience any of the same conditions at the same time, resulting in a relatively greater impact on our results of operations than they might have on other companies that have a more diversified portfolio of properties.

We have been an early entrant into new or emerging plays. As a result, our initial drilling results in these areas may be less certain, and the value of our undeveloped acreage will decline if drilling results are unsuccessful.

We completed our first horizontal well in the Marcellus Shale in October 2010 and completed our first horizontal well in the Utica Shale in June 2014. While our costs to acquire undeveloped acreage in new or emerging plays have generally been less than those of later entrants into a developing play, our drilling results in these areas are more uncertain than drilling results in areas that are more developed and have a longer history of established production. Since new or emerging plays have limited or no production history, we are unable to use past drilling results in those areas to help predict our future drilling results. As a result, our cost of drilling, completing and operating wells in these areas may be higher than initially expected, and the value of our undeveloped acreage will decline if drilling results are unsuccessful. Additionally, we cannot assure you that all prospects will be economically viable or that we will not abandon our investments. For example, as a result of unexpected levels of pressure, in December 2013 we plugged and abandoned the first well we spud in the Utica Shale. We have since drilled and completed our second well in the Utica Shale and obtained an initial production test from this well in the second quarter of 2014. We cannot assure you that unproved property acquired by us or undeveloped acreage leased by us will be profitably developed, that wells drilled by us in prospects that we pursue will be productive or that we will recover all or any portion of our investment in such unproved property or wells.

During the term of the Utica Development Agreements, we will rely on Gulfport for the success of our project in the Southern Contract Area in Belmont County, Ohio, and we may not be able to maximize the value of our properties in the Southern Contract Area as we deem best because we are not in full control of this project.

During the term of the Utica Development Agreements, the success of our operation in the Southern Contract Area in Belmont County, Ohio, will depend in part on the ability of Gulfport to effectively exploit the acreage it operates under the Development Agreement. Please read Business Utica Shale Development Agreement and Area of Mutual Interest Agreement. Pursuant to the Development Agreement, we have designated Gulfport as the operator of our existing and future acreage in the Southern Contract Area. A failure or inability of Gulfport to adequately exploit the acreage it operates would have a significant impact on our results of operations. In addition, other than limitations set forth in the terms of the Development Agreement, we do not control the amount of capital that Gulfport may require for development of properties in the Southern Contract Area. Accordingly, we may be required to allocate capital to development of the Southern Contract Area at times when we otherwise would allocate capital to the Northern

Contract Area, our Marcellus Shale acreage or elsewhere or otherwise be forced to terminate the Utica Development Agreements. Under any of these circumstances, our prospects for realization of the potential value of the oil, natural gas and NGL reserves

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associated with the Southern Contract Area could be adversely affected. Our lack of control may limit our ability to develop our properties in the manner we believe to be in our best interest.

Insufficient takeaway capacity in the Appalachian Basin could cause significant fluctuations in our realized natural gas prices.

The Appalachian Basin natural gas business environment has recently experienced periods in which production has surpassed local takeaway capacity, resulting in substantial discounts in the price received by producers such as us. Although additional Appalachian Basin takeaway capacity was added in 2013 and 2012, the existing and expected capacity may not be sufficient to keep pace with the increased production caused by accelerated drilling in the area. We expect that a significant portion of our production from the Utica Shale will be transported on pipelines that experience a differential to NYMEX Henry Hub prices. If we are unable to secure additional gathering and compression capacity and long-term firm takeaway capacity on major pipelines that are in existence or under construction in our core operating area to accommodate our growing production and to manage basis differentials, it could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We are required to pay fees to our service providers based on minimum volumes regardless of actual volume throughput.

We have various gas transportation service agreements in place, each with minimum volume delivery commitments. As of March 31, 2014, our average annual contractual firm transportation and firm sales obligations for 2014 (April through December), 2015 and 2016 were approximately 420,000 MMBtu/d, 820,000 MMBtu/d, and 920,000 MMBtu/d, respectively, which are in excess of our pro forma average daily gross operated production of approximately 318,000 MMBtu/d for March 2014. While we believe that our future natural gas volumes will be sufficient to satisfy the minimum requirements under our gas transportation services agreements based on our current production and our exploration and development plan, we can provide no such assurances that such volumes will be sufficient. We are obligated to pay fees on minimum volumes to our service providers regardless of actual volume throughput, which could be significant. If these fees on minimum volumes are substantial, we may not be able to generate sufficient cash to cover these obligations, which may require us to reduce or delay our planned investments and capital expenditures or seek alternative means of financing.

Restrictions in our existing and future debt agreements could limit our growth and our ability to engage in certain activities.

Our revolving credit facility and the indenture governing our Notes contain a number of significant covenants (in addition to covenants restricting the incurrence of additional indebtedness), including restrictive covenants that may limit our ability to, among other things:

sell assets;

make loans to others;

make investments;

enter into mergers;

make certain payments;

hedge future production or interest rates;

incur liens;

engage in certain other transactions without the prior consent of the lenders; and

pay dividends.

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In addition, our credit facilities and the indenture governing our Notes require us to maintain certain financial ratios or to reduce our indebtedness if we are unable to comply with such ratios. On certain occasions in the past we have not met these financial covenants. These restrictions may also limit our ability to obtain future financings to withstand a future downturn in our business or the economy in general, or to otherwise conduct necessary corporate activities. We may also be prevented from taking advantage of business opportunities that arise because of the limitations that the restrictive covenants under our credit facilities and our convertible debentures impose on us.

Any significant reduction in our borrowing base under our revolving credit facility as a result of the periodic borrowing base redeterminations or otherwise may negatively impact our ability to fund our operations.

Our revolving credit facility limits the amounts we can borrow up to a borrowing base amount, which the lenders, in their sole discretion, determine on a semi-annual basis based upon projected revenues from the natural gas properties securing our loan. The lenders can unilaterally adjust the borrowing base and the borrowings permitted to be outstanding under our revolving credit facility. Any increase in the borrowing base requires the consent of the lenders holding 100% of the commitments. If the requisite number of lenders do not agree to an increase, then the borrowing base will be the lowest borrowing base acceptable to such lenders. Outstanding borrowings in excess of the borrowing base must be repaid, or we must pledge other natural gas properties as additional collateral after applicable grace periods. We do not currently have any substantial unpledged properties, and we may not have the financial resources in the future to make mandatory principal prepayments required under our revolving credit facility. The borrowing base under our revolving credit facility as of June 30, 2014 is \$385.0 million.

A breach of any covenant in our revolving credit facility would result in a default under such facility after any applicable grace periods. A default, if not waived, could result in acceleration of the indebtedness outstanding under such facility and in a default with respect to, and an acceleration of, the indebtedness outstanding under other debt agreements that include cross default provisions. The accelerated indebtedness would become immediately due and payable. If that occurs, we may not be able to make all of the required payments or borrow sufficient funds to refinance such indebtedness. Even if new financing were available at that time, it may not be on terms that are acceptable to us.

In certain circumstances we may have to purchase commodities on the open market or make cash payments under our hedging arrangements and these payments could be significant.

If our production is less than the volume commitments under our hedging arrangements, or if natural gas or oil prices exceed the price at which we have hedged our commodities, we may be obligated to make cash payments to our hedge counterparties or purchase the volume difference at market prices, which could, in certain circumstances, be significant. As of May 1, 2014, we had entered into hedging contracts covering approximately 57 Bcf (207 MMcf/d) of natural gas production for April 2014 through December 2014 at a weighted average index floor price of \$4.06 per MMBtu. Furthermore, as of May 1, 2014, we had entered into hedging contracts covering approximately 59.1 Bcf (162 MMcf/d) of natural gas production for 2015 at a weighted average index floor price of \$4.05 per MMBtu. If we have to purchase additional commodities on the open market or post cash collateral to meet our obligations under such arrangements, our cash otherwise available for use in our operations would be reduced.

Reserve estimates depend on many assumptions that may turn out to be inaccurate. Any material inaccuracies in reserve estimates or underlying assumptions will materially affect the quantities and present value of our reserves.

The process of estimating natural gas reserves is complex. It requires interpretations of available technical data and many assumptions, including assumptions relating to current and future economic conditions and commodity prices. Any significant inaccuracies in these interpretations or assumptions could materially affect the estimated quantities and present value of our reserves.

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In order to prepare reserve estimates, we must project production rates and timing of development expenditures. We must also analyze available geological, geophysical, production and engineering data. The extent, quality and reliability of this data can vary. The process also requires economic assumptions about matters such as natural gas prices, drilling and operating expenses, capital expenditures, taxes and availability of funds.

Actual future production, natural gas prices, revenues, taxes, development expenditures, operating expenses and quantities of recoverable natural gas reserves will vary from our estimates. As a substantial portion of our reserve estimates are made without the benefit of a lengthy production history, any significant variance from the above assumption could materially affect the estimated quantities and present value of our reserves. In addition, we may adjust reserve estimates to reflect production history, results of exploration and development, existing commodity prices and other factors, many of which are beyond our control.

You should not assume that the present value of future net revenues from our reserves is the current market value of our estimated natural gas reserves. We generally base the estimated discounted future net cash flows from reserves on prices and costs on the date of the estimate. Actual future prices and costs may differ materially from those used in the present value estimate.

Reserve estimates for fields that do not have a lengthy production history are less reliable than estimates for fields with lengthy production histories. Less production history may contribute to less accurate estimates of reserves, future production rates and the timing of development expenditures. Most of our producing wells have been operational for less than two years and estimated reserves vary substantially from well to well. Furthermore, the lack of operational history for horizontal wells in the Utica Shale may also contribute to the inaccuracy of future estimates of reserves and could result in our failing to achieve expected results in the play. A material and adverse variance of actual production, revenues and expenditures from those underlying reserve estimates or, in the case of the Utica Shale, management expectations, would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Our gross drilling locations are scheduled out over many years, making them susceptible to uncertainties that could materially alter the occurrence or timing of their drilling. In addition, we may not be able to raise the substantial amount of capital that would be necessary to drill our drilling locations.

Our management team has specifically identified and scheduled certain well locations as an estimation of our future multi-year drilling activities on our existing acreage. These well locations represent a significant part of our growth strategy. Our ability to drill and develop these locations depends on a number of uncertainties, including natural gas and oil prices, the availability and cost of capital, drilling and production costs, availability of drilling services and equipment, drilling results, lease expirations, gathering system and pipeline transportation constraints, access to and availability of water sourcing and distribution systems, regulatory approvals and other factors. Because of these uncertain factors, we do not know if the numerous drilling locations we have identified will ever be drilled or if we will be able to produce natural gas or oil from these or any other drilling locations. In addition, unless production is established within the spacing units covering the undeveloped acres on which some of the potential locations are obtained, the leases for such acreage will expire. Further, certain of the horizontal wells we intend to drill in the future may require unitization with adjacent leaseholds controlled by third parties. If these third parties are unwilling to unitize such leaseholds with ours, this may limit the total locations we can drill. As such, our actual drilling activities may materially differ from those presently identified.

As of March 31, 2014, we had 1,313 gross (752 net) risked drilling locations. As a result of the limitations described above, we may be unable to drill many of our drilling locations. In addition, we will require significant additional capital over a prolonged period in order to pursue the development of these locations, and we may not be able to raise or generate the capital required to do so. Any drilling activities we are able to conduct on these potential locations may not be successful or result in our ability to add additional proved reserves to our overall proved reserves or may result in a downward revision of our estimated proved reserves, which could have a

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material adverse effect on our future business and results of operations. For more information on our drilling locations, see [Business](#) [Our Operations](#) [Reserve Data](#) [Determination of Drilling Locations](#).

Our acreage must be drilled before lease expiration, generally within three to five years, in order to hold the acreage by production. In a highly competitive market for acreage, failure to drill sufficient wells to hold acreage may result in a substantial lease renewal cost, or if renewal is not feasible, loss of our lease and prospective drilling opportunities.

Leases on our oil and natural gas properties typically have a term of three to five years, after which they expire unless, prior to expiration, production is established within the spacing units covering the undeveloped acres. As of December 31, 2013, on a pro forma basis, we had leases representing 1,054 undeveloped acres scheduled to expire in 2014, 2,365 undeveloped acres scheduled to expire in 2015, 4,132 undeveloped acres scheduled to expire in 2016, 35,639 undeveloped acres scheduled to expire in 2017 and 28,161 undeveloped acres scheduled to expire in 2018 and thereafter. The cost to renew such leases may increase significantly, and we may not be able to renew such leases on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Moreover, many of our leases require lessor consent to unitize, which may make it more difficult to hold our leases by production. Any reduction in our current drilling program, either through a reduction in capital expenditures or the unavailability of drilling rigs, could result in the loss of acreage through lease expirations. In addition, in order to hold our current leases scheduled to expire in 2014 and 2015, we will need to operate at least a one-rig program. We cannot assure you that we will have the liquidity to deploy rigs when needed, or that commodity prices will warrant operating such a drilling program. Our reserves and future production and, therefore, our future cash flow and income are highly dependent on successfully developing our undeveloped leasehold acreage and the loss of any leases could materially and adversely affect our ability to so develop such acreage.

The standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows from our proved reserves will not be the same as the current market value of our estimated oil and natural gas reserves.

You should not assume that the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows from our proved reserves is the current market value of our estimated oil and natural gas reserves. In accordance with SEC requirements in effect at December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, we based the discounted future net cash flows from our proved reserves on the 12-month first-day-of-the-month oil and natural gas average prices without giving effect to derivative transactions. Actual future net cash flows from our oil and natural gas properties will be affected by factors such as:

actual prices we receive for oil and natural gas;

actual cost of development and production expenditures;

the amount and timing of actual production; and

changes in governmental regulations or taxation.

The timing of both our production and our incurrence of expenses in connection with the development and production of oil and natural gas properties will affect the timing and amount of actual future net revenues from proved reserves, and thus their actual present value. In addition, the 10% discount factor we use when calculating standardized measure may not be the most appropriate discount factor based on interest rates in effect from time to time and risks associated with us or the oil and natural gas industry in general. As a limited liability company, our predecessor was not subject to federal taxation. Accordingly, our standardized measure does not provide for federal corporate income taxes because taxable income was passed through to its members. As a corporation, we are treated as a taxable entity for federal income tax purposes and our future income taxes will be dependent on our future taxable income. Actual future prices and costs may differ materially from those used in the present value estimates included in this prospectus which could have a material effect on the value of our reserves.

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We may incur losses as a result of title defects in the properties in which we invest.

Leases in the Appalachian Basin are particularly vulnerable to title deficiencies due to the long history of land ownership in the area, resulting in extensive and complex chains of title. In the course of acquiring the rights to develop oil and natural gas, it is standard procedure for us and the lessor to execute a lease agreement with payment subject to title verification. In most cases, we incur the expense of retaining lawyers to verify the rightful owners of the oil and gas interests prior to payment of such lease bonus to the lessor. There is no certainty, however, that a lessor has valid title to its lease's oil and gas interests. In those cases, such leases are generally voided and payment is not remitted to the lessor. As such, title failures may result in fewer net acres to us. Prior to the drilling of an oil or natural gas well, however, it is the normal practice in our industry for the person or company acting as the operator of the well to obtain a preliminary title review to ensure there are no obvious defects in title to the well. Frequently, as a result of such examinations, certain curative work must be done to correct defects in the marketability of the title, and such curative work entails expense. Our failure to cure any title defects may delay or prevent us from utilizing the associated mineral interest, which may adversely impact our ability in the future to increase production and reserves. Accordingly, undeveloped acreage has greater risk of title defects than developed acreage. If there are any title defects or defects in assignment of leasehold rights in properties in which we hold an interest, we will suffer a financial loss.

The development of our estimated proved undeveloped reserves may take longer and may require higher levels of capital expenditures than we anticipate. Therefore, our estimated proved undeveloped reserves may not be ultimately developed or produced.

As of December 31, 2013, approximately 58% of our total estimated proved reserves were classified as proved undeveloped. Our approximately 352 Bcf of pro forma estimated proved undeveloped reserves will require an estimated \$313 million of development capital over the next five years. Development of these undeveloped reserves may take longer and require higher levels of capital expenditures than we anticipate. Delays in the development of our reserves, increases in costs to drill and develop such reserves, or decreases in commodity prices will reduce the PV-10 value of our estimated proved undeveloped reserves and future net revenues estimated for such reserves and may result in some projects becoming uneconomic. In addition, delays in the development of reserves could cause us to have to reclassify our proved undeveloped reserves as unproved reserves.

If commodity prices decrease to a level such that our future undiscounted cash flows from our properties are less than their carrying value for a significant period of time, we will be required to take write-downs of the carrying values of our properties.

Accounting rules require that we periodically review the carrying value of our properties for possible impairment. Based on specific market factors and circumstances at the time of prospective impairment reviews, and the continuing evaluation of development plans, production data, economics and other factors, we may be required to write down the carrying value of our properties. A writedown constitutes a non-cash charge to earnings. We may incur impairment charges in the future, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations for the periods in which such charges are taken.

Unless we replace our reserves with new reserves and develop those reserves, our reserves and production will decline, which would adversely affect our future cash flows and results of operations.

Producing natural gas reservoirs generally are characterized by declining production rates that vary depending upon reservoir characteristics and other factors. Unless we conduct successful ongoing development and exploration

activities or continually acquire properties containing proved reserves, our proved reserves will decline as those reserves are produced. Our future natural gas reserves and production, and therefore our future cash flow and results of operations, are highly dependent on our success in efficiently developing and exploiting our current reserves and economically finding or acquiring additional recoverable reserves. We may not be able

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to develop, find or acquire sufficient additional reserves to replace our current and future production. If we are unable to replace our current and future production, the value of our reserves will decrease, and our business, financial condition and results of operations would be adversely affected.

Conservation measures and technological advances could reduce demand for oil and natural gas.

Fuel conservation measures, alternative fuel requirements, increasing consumer demand for alternatives to oil and natural gas, technological advances in fuel economy and energy generation devices could reduce demand for oil and natural gas. The impact of the changing demand for oil and gas services and products may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Our derivative activities could result in financial losses or could reduce our earnings.

To achieve more predictable cash flows and reduce our exposure to adverse fluctuations in the prices of natural gas, we enter into derivative instrument contracts for a significant portion of our natural gas production, including fixed-price swaps. As of May 1, 2014, we had entered into hedging contracts covering approximately 57 Bcf (207 MMcf/d) of natural gas production for April 2014 through December 2014 at a weighted average index floor price of \$4.06 per MMBtu. Furthermore, as of May 1, 2014, we had entered into hedging contracts covering approximately 59.1 Bcf (162 MMcf/d) of natural gas production for 2015 at a weighted average index floor price of \$4.05 per MMBtu. Accordingly, our earnings may fluctuate significantly as a result of changes in fair value of our derivative instruments.

Derivative instruments also expose us to the risk of financial loss in some circumstances, including when:

production is less than the volume covered by the derivative instruments;

the counterparty to the derivative instrument defaults on its contractual obligations;

there is an increase in the differential between the underlying price in the derivative instrument and actual prices received; or

there are issues with regard to legal enforceability of such instruments.

The use of derivatives may, in some cases, require the posting of cash collateral with counterparties. If we enter into derivative instruments that require cash collateral and commodity prices or interest rates change in a manner adverse to us, our cash otherwise available for use in our operations would be reduced which could limit our ability to make future capital expenditures and make payments on our indebtedness, and which could also limit the size of our borrowing base. Future collateral requirements will depend on arrangements with our counterparties, highly volatile oil and natural gas prices and interest rates.

Our hedging transactions expose us to risk of financial loss if a counterparty fails to perform under a derivative contract. Disruptions in the financial markets could lead to sudden decreases in a counterparty's liquidity, which could

make them unable to perform under the terms of the derivative contract and we may not be able to realize the benefit of the derivative contract. As of May 1, 2014, the estimated fair value of our commodity derivative contracts was approximately \$4.0 million. Any default by the counterparties to these derivative contracts, Wells Fargo Bank N.A. and Bank of Montreal, when they become due would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. In addition to the counterparties above at December 31, 2013, subsequent to December 31, 2013, we also executed hedging transactions with Barclays Bank PLC.

In addition, derivative arrangements could limit the benefit we would receive from increases in the prices for natural gas, which could also have an adverse effect on our financial condition.

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The inability of our significant customers to meet their obligations to us may adversely affect our financial results.

In addition to credit risk related to receivables from commodity derivative contracts, our principal exposures to credit risk are through joint interest receivables (\$15.5 million at March 31, 2014) and the sale of our natural gas production (\$46.9 million in receivables as of March 31, 2014), which we market to two natural gas marketing companies. Joint interest receivables arise from billing entities who own partial interest in the wells we operate. These entities participate in our wells primarily based on their ownership in leased properties on which we wish to drill. We can do very little to choose who participates in our wells. We are also subject to credit risk due to concentration of our natural gas receivables with two natural gas marketing companies. The largest purchaser of our natural gas during the three months ended March 31, 2014 represented approximately 92% of our total sales. We do not require our customers to post collateral. The inability or failure of our significant customers to meet their obligations to us or their insolvency or liquidation may adversely affect our financial results.

Our operations are subject to governmental laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment, which may expose us to significant costs and liabilities that could exceed current expectations.

Substantial costs, liabilities, delays and other significant issues could arise from environmental laws and regulations inherent in drilling and well completion, gathering, transportation, and storage, and we may incur substantial costs and liabilities in the performance of these types of operations. Our operations are subject to extensive federal, regional, state and local laws and regulations governing environmental protection, the discharge of materials into the environment and the security of chemical and industrial facilities. These laws include:

Clean Air Act (CAA) and analogous state law, which impose obligations related to air emissions;

Clean Water Act (CWA), and analogous state law, which regulate discharge of wastewaters and storm water from some of our facilities into state and federal waters, including wetlands;

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and analogous state law, which regulate the cleanup of hazardous substances that may have been released at properties currently or previously owned or operated by us or locations to which we have sent wastes for disposal;

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and analogous state law, which impose requirements for the handling and disposal of any solid and hazardous waste from our facilities;

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires federal agencies to study likely environmental impacts of a proposed federal action before it is approved, such as drilling on federal lands;

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), and analogous state law, which restrict the disposal, treatment or release of water produced or used during oil and gas development;

Endangered Species Act (ESA), and analogous state law, which seek to ensure that activities do not jeopardize endangered or threatened animals and plant species, nor destroy or modify the critical habitat of such species; and

Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990, which requires oil storage facilities and vessels to submit to the federal government plans detailing how they will respond to large discharges, requires updates to technology and equipment, regulates above ground storage tanks and sets forth liability for spills by responsible parties.

Various governmental authorities, including, for example, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and analogous state agencies and tribal governments, have the power to enforce compliance with these laws and regulations and the permits issued under them, oftentimes requiring difficult and costly actions. Failure to comply with these laws, regulations and permits may result in the assessment of administrative, civil and/or criminal fines and penalties and liability for non-compliance, the imposition of remedial obligations, costs of corrective action, cleanup or restoration, compensation for personal injury, property damage or other losses, the imposition of stricter conditions on or

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revocation of permits, the issuance of injunctions or declaratory relief limiting or preventing some or all of our operations, delays in granting permits and cancellation of leases.

There is inherent risk of the incurrence of environmental costs and liabilities in our business, some of which may be material, due to the handling of our products as they are gathered, transported, processed and stored, air emissions related to our operations, historical industry operations, and water and waste disposal practices. Joint and several, strict liability may be incurred, without regard to fault, under certain environmental laws and regulations, including CERCLA, RCRA and analogous state laws, for the remediation of contaminated areas and in connection with spills or releases of natural gas, oil and wastes on, under, or from our properties and facilities. Private parties may have the right to pursue legal actions to enforce compliance as well as to seek damages for non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations or for personal injury or property damage arising from our operations. Some sites at which we operate may be located near current or former third-party oil and natural gas operations or facilities, and there is a risk that contamination has migrated from those sites to ours. In addition, increasingly strict laws, regulations and enforcement policies could materially increase our compliance costs and the cost of any remediation that may become necessary. Our insurance may not cover all environmental risks and costs or may not provide sufficient coverage if an environmental claim is made against us.

The EPA's National Enforcement Initiatives for 2014 to 2016 includes Assuring Energy Extraction Sector Compliance with Environmental Laws. According to the EPA's website, some techniques for natural gas extraction pose a significant risk to public health and the environment. To address these concerns, the EPA's goal is to address incidences of noncompliance from natural gas extraction and production activities that may cause or contribute to significant harm to public health and/or the environment. This initiative could involve a large-scale investigation of our facilities and processes, and could lead to potential enforcement actions, penalties or injunctive relief against us.

We are generally responsible for all liabilities associated with the environmental condition of our facilities and assets, whether acquired or developed, regardless of when the liabilities arose and whether they are known or unknown. In connection with certain acquisitions and divestitures, we could acquire, or be required to provide indemnification against, environmental liabilities that could expose us to material losses, which may not be covered by insurance. In addition, the steps we could be required to take to bring certain facilities into compliance could be prohibitively expensive, and we might be required to shut down, divest or alter the operation of those facilities, which might cause us to incur losses.

We make assumptions and develop expectations about possible expenditures related to environmental conditions based on current laws and regulations and current interpretations of those laws and regulations. If the interpretation of laws or regulations, or the laws and regulations themselves, change, our assumptions may change, and new capital costs may be incurred to comply with such changes. In addition, new environmental laws and regulations might adversely affect our products and activities, including drilling, processing, storage and transportation, as well as waste management and air emissions. For instance, federal and state agencies could impose additional safety requirements, any of which could affect our profitability. Further, new environmental laws and regulations might adversely affect our customers, which in turn could affect our profitability.

Changes in laws or government regulations regarding hydraulic fracturing could increase our costs of doing business, limit the areas in which we can operate and reduce our oil and natural gas production, which could adversely impact our business.

Hydraulic fracturing is an important and common practice that is used to stimulate production of natural gas and/or oil from dense subsurface rock formations. Hydraulic fracturing involves the injection of water, sand or alternative proppant and chemicals under pressure into target geological formations to fracture the surrounding rock and stimulate production. We regularly use hydraulic fracturing as part of our operations. Recently, there has been increased public concern regarding alleged potential impacts to the environment due to hydraulic fracturing, and proposals have been made to enact separate federal, state and local legislation that would increase the regulatory burden imposed on hydraulic fracturing. The SDWA regulates the underground injection of

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substances through the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program and exempts hydraulic fracturing from the definition of "underground injection" . However, Congress has from time to time considered legislation that would amend the SDWA to repeal the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the definition of "underground injection" and require federal permitting and regulatory control of hydraulic fracturing, as well as require disclosure of the chemical constituents of the fluids used in the fracturing process. The U.S. Congress may consider similar SDWA legislation in the future.

In February 2014, the EPA asserted federal regulatory authority under the SDWA 's UIC program over hydraulic fracturing involving diesel additives, and requested comments in May 2014 on a proposal to require disclosure of chemical ingredients in hydraulic fracturing fluids under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Because EPA 's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking did not propose any actual regulation, it is unclear how any federal disclosure requirements that add to any applicable state disclosure requirements already in effect may affect our operations. Further, on October 21, 2011, the EPA announced its intention to propose federal CWA regulations governing wastewater discharges from hydraulic fracturing and certain other natural gas operations. In addition, the U.S. Department of the Interior published a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on May 16, 2013 that would update existing regulation of hydraulic fracturing activities on federal and Indian lands, including requirements for chemical disclosure, well bore integrity and handling of flowback water. Studies by the EPA and other federal agencies are underway that focus on the environmental aspects of hydraulic fracturing activities, with draft reports expected for public comment and peer review in late 2014. These studies could spur further regulation. Additional regulations adopted at the federal or state level could result in permitting delays and cost increases.

Presently, hydraulic fracturing is regulated primarily at the state level, typically by state oil and natural gas commissions and similar agencies. Along with several other states, Pennsylvania and Ohio (where we conduct operations) have adopted laws and proposed regulations that require oil and natural gas operators to disclose chemical ingredients and water volumes used to hydraulically fracture wells, in addition to more stringent well construction and monitoring requirements. The chemical ingredient information is generally available to the public via online databases, and this may bring more public scrutiny to hydraulic fracturing operations. In addition, local governments may also adopt ordinances within their jurisdictions regulating the time, place and manner of drilling activities in general or hydraulic fracturing activities in particular or prohibit the performance of well drilling in general or hydraulic fracturing, in particular. In Pennsylvania, although the legislature passed legislation to make regulation of drilling uniform throughout the state, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in *Robinson Township v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* struck down portions of that legislation. Following this decision, local governments in Pennsylvania may adopt ordinances regulating drilling and hydraulic fracturing activities, especially within residential areas. If new or more stringent federal, state, or local legal restrictions relating to the hydraulic fracturing process are adopted in areas where we operate, we could incur potentially significant added costs to comply with such requirements, experience delays or curtailment in the pursuit of exploration, development, or production activities, and perhaps even be precluded from drilling wells.

Restrictions on our ability to obtain, use, manage or dispose of water may have an adverse effect on our operations.

Water is an essential component of oil and natural gas production during the drilling, and in particular, hydraulic fracturing, process. Our inability to locate sufficient amounts of water, or dispose of or recycle water used in our exploration and production operations, could adversely impact our operations.

Moreover, the imposition of new environmental initiatives and regulations could include restrictions on our ability to conduct certain operations such as hydraulic fracturing or disposal of waste, including, but not limited to, produced

water, drilling fluids and other wastes associated with the exploration, development or production of natural gas. The CWA and similar state laws impose restrictions and strict controls on the discharge of produced waters and other natural gas and oil waste where such discharges could affect surface or ground waters. For example, state and federal regulations prohibit the discharge of produced water and sand, drilling fluids, drill cuttings and certain other substances related to the natural gas and oil industry into coastal waters. We must

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obtain permits for certain discharges into waters and wetlands and for construction activities that may affect regulated water resources. The EPA has also adopted regulations requiring certain natural gas and oil exploration and production facilities to obtain permits for storm water discharges. The CWA and similar state laws provide for civil, criminal and/or administrative penalties for any unauthorized discharges of pollutants, reportable quantities of oil and other hazardous substances. Moreover, sending wastewater to publicly-owned treatment works in Pennsylvania and Ohio requires certain levels of pretreatment that may effectively prohibit such disposal, and our continued ability to use injection wells as a disposal option not only will depend on federal or state regulations, but also on whether available injection wells have sufficient storage capacities. Compliance with current and future federal, state and local environmental regulations and permit requirements governing the withdrawal, storage and use of surface water or groundwater necessary for hydraulic fracturing of wells may increase our operating costs and cause delays, interruptions or termination of our operations, the extent of which cannot be accurately predicted.

We are subject to risks associated with climate change.

Climate change, the costs that may be associated with its effects and the regulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) have the potential to affect our business in many ways, including increasing the costs to provide our products and services, reducing the demand for and consumption of our products and services (due to change in both costs and weather patterns), and the economic health of the regions in which we operate, all of which can create financial risks. In addition, legislative and regulatory responses related to GHGs and climate change may increase our operating costs. The U.S. Congress has previously considered legislation related to GHG emissions. There have also been international efforts seeking legally binding reductions in emissions of GHGs. In addition, increased public awareness and concern may result in more state, regional and/or federal requirements to reduce or mitigate GHG emissions. For example, in June 2013, the Obama Administration announced its Climate Action Plan, which, among other things, directs federal agencies to develop a strategy for the reduction of methane emissions, including emissions from the oil and gas sector.

In September 2009, the EPA finalized a mandatory GHG reporting rule that requires large sources of GHG emissions to monitor, maintain records on, and annually report their GHG emissions beginning January 1, 2010. The rule applies to large facilities emitting 25,000 metric tons or more of carbon dioxide-equivalent (CO₂e) emissions per year and to most upstream suppliers of fossil fuels, as well as manufacturers of vehicles and engines. Subsequently, in November 2010, the EPA issued GHG monitoring and reporting regulations that went into effect on December 30, 2010, specifically for oil and natural gas facilities, including onshore and offshore oil and natural gas production facilities that emit 25,000 metric tons or more of CO₂e per year. The rule required reporting of GHG emissions by regulated facilities to the EPA by March 2012 for emissions during 2011 and annually thereafter. We are required to report our GHG emissions to the EPA each year in March under this rule. The EPA also issued a final rule that makes certain stationary sources and newer modification projects subject to permitting requirements for GHG emissions, beginning in 2011, under the CAA. However, in June 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *UARG v. EPA*, limited the application of the GHG permitting requirements under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V permitting programs to sources that would otherwise need permits based on the emission of conventional pollutants.

Federal and state regulatory agencies can impose administrative, civil and/or criminal penalties for non-compliance with air permits or other requirements of the CAA and associated state laws and regulations. In addition, the passage of any federal or state climate change laws or regulations in the future could result in increased costs to (i) operate and maintain our facilities, (ii) install new emission controls on our facilities and (iii) administer and manage any GHG emissions program. If we are unable to recover or pass through a significant level of our costs related to complying with climate change regulatory requirements imposed on us, it could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. To the extent financial markets view climate change and GHG emissions as a

financial risk, this could negatively impact our cost of and access to capital. Legislation or regulations that may be adopted to address climate change could also affect the markets for our products by making our products more or less desirable than competing sources of energy.

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We may incur substantial losses and be subject to substantial liability claims as a result of our operations. Additionally, we may not be insured for, or our insurance may be inadequate to protect us against, these risks.

Our natural gas exploration and production activities are subject to all of the operating risks associated with drilling for and producing natural gas, including the possibility of:

environmental hazards, such as uncontrollable releases of oil, natural gas, brine, well fluids, toxic gas or other pollution into the environment, including groundwater, air and shoreline contamination;

abnormally pressured formations;

mechanical difficulties, such as stuck oilfield drilling and service tools and casing collapse;

fires, explosions and ruptures of pipelines;

personal injuries and death;

natural disasters; and

terrorist attacks targeting natural gas and oil related facilities and infrastructure.

Any of these risks could adversely affect our ability to conduct operations or result in substantial loss to us as a result of claims for:

injury or loss of life;

damage to and destruction of property, natural resources and equipment;

pollution and other environmental damage;

regulatory investigations and penalties;

suspension of our operations; and

repair and remediation costs.

In accordance with what we believe to be customary industry practice, we maintain insurance against some, but not all, of our business risks. Our insurance may not be adequate to cover any losses or liabilities we may suffer. Also, insurance may no longer be available to us or, if it is, its availability may be at premium levels that do not justify its purchase. The occurrence of a significant uninsured claim, a claim in excess of the insurance coverage limits maintained by us or a claim at a time when we are not able to obtain liability insurance could have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct normal business operations and on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. In addition, we may not be able to secure additional insurance or bonding that might be required by new governmental regulations. This may cause us to restrict our operations, which might severely impact our financial condition. We may also be liable for environmental damage caused by previous owners of properties purchased by us, which liabilities may not be covered by insurance.

Since hydraulic fracturing activities are a large part of our operations, they are covered by our insurance against claims made for bodily injury, property damage and clean-up costs stemming from a sudden and accidental pollution event. However, we may not have coverage if we are unaware of the pollution event and unable to report the occurrence to our insurance company within the time frame required under our insurance policy. We have no coverage for gradual, long-term pollution events. In addition, these policies do not provide coverage for all liabilities, and we cannot assure you that the insurance coverage will be adequate to cover claims that may arise, or that we will be able to maintain adequate insurance at rates we consider reasonable. A loss not fully covered by insurance could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We may elect not to obtain insurance for any or all of these risks if we believe that the cost of available insurance is excessive relative to the risks presented. In addition, pollution and environmental risks generally are not fully insurable. The occurrence of an event that is not fully covered by insurance could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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Properties that we decide to drill may not yield natural gas, NGLs or oil in commercially viable quantities.

Properties that we decide to drill that do not yield natural gas, NGLs or oil in commercially viable quantities will adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. Our project areas are in various stages of development, ranging from project areas with current drilling or production activity to project areas that consist of recently acquired leasehold acreage or that have limited drilling or production history. If the wells in the process of being completed do not produce sufficient revenues to return a profit or if we drill dry holes in the future, our business may be materially affected. In addition, there is no way to predict in advance of drilling and testing whether any particular prospect will yield natural gas, NGLs or oil in sufficient quantities to recover drilling or completion costs or to be economically viable. The use of micro-seismic data and other technologies and the study of producing fields in the same area will not enable us to know conclusively prior to drilling whether natural gas, NGLs or oil will be present or, if present, whether natural gas, NGLs or oil will be present in commercial quantities. We cannot assure you that the analogies we draw from available data from other wells, more fully explored prospects or producing fields will be applicable to our drilling prospects. Further, our drilling operations may be curtailed, delayed or cancelled as a result of numerous factors, including:

unexpected drilling conditions;

title problems;

pressure or lost circulation in formations;

equipment failure or accidents;

adverse weather conditions;

compliance with environmental and other governmental or contractual requirements; and

increase in the cost of, shortages or delays in the availability of, electricity, supplies, materials, drilling or workover rigs, equipment and services.

Market conditions or operational impediments may hinder our access to natural gas, NGL or oil markets or delay our production.

Market conditions or the unavailability of satisfactory natural gas, NGL or oil transportation arrangements may hinder our access to markets or delay our production. The availability of a ready market for our production depends on a number of factors, including the demand for and supply of natural gas, NGLs or oil and the proximity of reserves to pipelines and terminal facilities. Our ability to market our production depends in substantial part on the availability and capacity of gathering systems, pipelines and processing facilities owned and operated by third parties. Our failure

to obtain such services on acceptable terms could materially harm our business. We may be required to shut in wells due to lack of a market or inadequacy or unavailability of natural gas, NGL or oil pipeline or gathering system capacity. In addition, if quality specifications for the third-party pipelines with which we connect change so as to restrict our ability to transport product, our access to markets could be impeded. If our production becomes shut in for any of these or other reasons, we would be unable to realize revenue from those wells until other arrangements were made to deliver the products to market.

We are subject to complex federal, state, local and other laws and regulations that could adversely affect the cost, manner or feasibility of conducting our operations or expose us to significant liabilities.

Our natural gas exploration, production and transportation operations are subject to complex and stringent federal, state and local laws and regulations. In order to conduct our operations in compliance with these laws and regulations, we must obtain and maintain numerous permits, approvals and certificates from various federal, state and local governmental authorities. We may incur substantial costs in order to maintain compliance with these existing laws and regulations and the permits and other approvals issued thereunder. In addition, our costs of compliance may increase or operational delays may occur if existing laws and regulations are revised or reinterpreted, or if new laws and regulations become applicable to our operations. Failure to comply with such laws and regulations, including any evolving interpretation and enforcement by governmental authorities, could

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have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Also, we might not be able to obtain or maintain all required environmental regulatory approvals for our operations. If there is a delay in obtaining any required environmental regulatory approvals, or if we fail to obtain and comply with them, the operation or construction of our facilities could be prevented or become subject to additional costs.

In addition, new or additional regulations or permitting requirements, new interpretations of requirements or changes in our operations could also trigger the need for Environmental Assessments or more detailed Environmental Impact Statements under NEPA and analogous state laws, as well as litigation over the adequacy of those reviews, which could result in increased costs or delays of, or denial of rights to conduct, our development programs. Such potential regulations could increase our operating costs, reduce our liquidity, delay or halt our operations or otherwise alter the way we conduct our business, which could in turn have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Further, the discharges of oil, natural gas, NGLs and other pollutants into the air, soil or water may give rise to significant liabilities on our part to the government and third parties. See *Business Regulation of Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Matters* for a further description of laws and regulations that affect us.

The unavailability or high cost of additional drilling rigs, equipment, supplies, personnel and oilfield services could adversely affect our ability to execute our exploration and development plans within our budget and on a timely basis.

The demand for qualified and experienced field personnel to drill wells and conduct field operations, geologists, geophysicists, engineers and other professionals in the oil and natural gas industry can fluctuate significantly, often in correlation with natural gas and oil prices, causing periodic shortages. We intend to continue our four-rig drilling program in the Marcellus Shale and two-rig drilling program in the Utica Shale; however, certain of the rigs performing work for us do so on a well-by-well basis and can refuse to provide such services at the conclusion of drilling on the current well. Historically, there have been shortages of drilling and workover rigs, pipe and other equipment as demand for rigs and equipment has increased along with the number of wells being drilled. We cannot predict whether these conditions will exist in the future and, if so, what their timing and duration will be. Such shortages could delay or cause us to incur significant expenditures that are not provided for in our capital budget, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

A change in the jurisdictional characterization of some of our assets by federal, state or local regulatory agencies or a change in policy by those agencies may result in increased regulation of our assets, which may cause our revenues to decline and operating expenses to increase.

Section 1(b) of the Natural Gas Act of 1938, (*NGA*), exempts natural gas gathering facilities from regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*FERC*), as a natural gas company under the *NGA*. We believe that the natural gas pipelines in our gathering systems meet the traditional tests *FERC* has used to establish a pipeline's status as a gatherer not subject to regulation as a natural gas company. However, the distinction between *FERC*-regulated transmission services and federally unregulated gathering services is the subject of ongoing litigation, so the classification and regulation of our gathering facilities are subject to change based on future determinations by *FERC*, the courts or Congress. If the *FERC* were to consider the status of an individual facility and determine that the facility and/or services provided by it are not exempt from *FERC* regulation, the rates for, and terms and conditions of services provided by such facility would be subject to regulation by the *FERC*. Such regulation could decrease revenues, increase operating costs, and depending upon the facility in question, could adversely affect our results of operations and cash flows. In addition, if any of our facilities were found to have provided services or otherwise

operated in violation of the NGA, this could result in the imposition of civil penalties as well as a requirement to disgorge charges collected for such service in excess of the cost-based rate established by the FERC.

State regulation of gathering facilities generally includes various safety, environmental and, in some circumstances, nondiscriminatory take requirements and complaint-based rate regulation. We cannot predict

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what new or different regulations federal and state regulatory agencies may adopt, or what effect subsequent regulation may have on our activities. Such regulations may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, result of operations and cash flows.

Should we fail to comply with all applicable FERC administered statutes, rules, regulations and orders, we could be subject to substantial penalties and fines.

Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, or EPAct 2005, FERC has civil penalty authority under the NGA to impose penalties for current violations of up to \$1 million per day for each violation and disgorgement of profits associated with any violation. While our systems have not been regulated by FERC as a natural gas company under the NGA, we are required to report aggregate volumes of natural gas purchased or sold at wholesale to the extent such transactions utilize, contribute to, or may contribute to the formation of price indices. In addition, Congress may enact legislation or FERC may adopt regulations that may subject certain of our otherwise non-FERC jurisdictional facilities to further regulation. Failure to comply with those regulations in the future could subject us to civil penalty liability.

Competition in the natural gas industry is intense, making it more difficult for us to acquire properties, market natural gas and secure trained personnel.

Our ability to acquire additional prospects and to find and develop reserves in the future will depend on our ability to evaluate and select suitable properties and to consummate transactions in a highly competitive environment for acquiring properties, marketing natural gas and securing trained personnel. Also, there is substantial competition for capital available for investment in the oil and natural gas industry. Many of our competitors possess and employ financial, technical and personnel resources substantially greater than ours. Those companies may be able to pay more for productive natural gas properties and exploratory prospects and to evaluate, bid for and purchase a greater number of properties and prospects than our financial or personnel resources permit. In addition, other companies may be able to offer better compensation packages to attract and retain qualified personnel than we are able to offer. The cost to attract and retain qualified personnel has increased over the past three years due to competition and may increase substantially in the future. We may not be able to compete successfully in the future in acquiring prospective reserves, developing reserves, marketing hydrocarbons, attracting and retaining quality personnel and raising additional capital, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

The loss of senior management or technical personnel could adversely affect operations.

We depend on the services of our senior management and technical personnel. We do not maintain, nor do we plan to obtain, any insurance against the loss of any of these individuals. The loss of the services of our senior management or technical personnel could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We are susceptible to the potential difficulties associated with rapid growth and expansion and have a limited operating history.

We have grown rapidly over the last several years and more than doubled our employee workforce during 2013. Our management believes that our future success depends on our ability to manage the rapid growth that we have experienced and the demands from increased responsibility on management personnel. The following factors could present difficulties:

increased responsibilities for our executive level personnel;

increased administrative burden;

increased capital requirements; and

increased organizational challenges common to large, expansive operations.

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Our operating results could be adversely affected if we do not successfully manage these potential difficulties. The historical financial information included herein is not necessarily indicative of the results that may be realized in the future. In addition, our operating history is limited and the results from our current producing wells are not necessarily indicative of success from our future drilling operations. We began development of our properties in 2010 with a two-rig drilling program. Recently, we expanded our development operations and are currently managing a four-rig drilling program. As a result, there is only limited historical financial and operating information available upon which to base your evaluation of our performance.

Seasonal weather conditions and regulations adversely affect our ability to conduct drilling activities in some of the areas where we operate.

Natural gas operations in our operating areas can be adversely affected by seasonal weather conditions and regulations designed to protect various wildlife. This limits our ability to operate in those areas and can intensify competition during those months for drilling rigs, oilfield equipment, services, supplies and qualified personnel, which may lead to periodic shortages. These constraints and the resulting shortages or high costs could delay our operations and materially increase our operating and capital costs.

Increases in interest rates could adversely affect our business.

Our business and operating results can be harmed by factors such as the availability, terms of and cost of capital, increases in interest rates or a reduction in credit rating. These changes could cause our cost of doing business to increase, limit our ability to pursue acquisition opportunities, reduce cash flow used for drilling and place us at a competitive disadvantage. Recent and continuing disruptions and volatility in the global financial markets may lead to a contraction in credit availability impacting our ability to finance our operations. We require continued access to capital. A significant reduction in cash flows from operations or the availability of credit could materially and adversely affect our ability to achieve our planned growth and operating results.

The enactment of derivatives legislation, and the promulgation of regulations pursuant thereto, could have an adverse effect on our ability to use derivative instruments to hedge risks associated with our business.

The Dodd-Frank Act, enacted on July 21, 2010, establishes federal oversight and regulation of the over-the-counter derivatives market and entities, such as us, that participate in that market. The Dodd-Frank Act requires the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and the SEC to promulgate rules and regulations implementing the Dodd-Frank Act. Although the CFTC has finalized some regulations, including critical rulemakings on the definition of swap, swap dealer, and major swap participant , others remain to be finalized and it is not possible at this time to predict when this will be accomplished.

The Dodd-Frank Act authorized the CFTC to establish rules and regulations setting position limits for certain futures and option contracts in the major energy markets and for swaps that are their economic equivalents. The CFTC 's initial position limits rules were vacated by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in September 2012. However, on November 5, 2013, the CFTC proposed new rules that would place limits on positions in certain core futures and equivalent swaps contracts for or linked to certain physical commodities, subject to exceptions for certain bona fide hedging transactions. As these new position limit rules are not yet final, the impact of those provisions on us is uncertain at this time.

The CFTC has designated certain interest rate swaps and credit default swaps for mandatory clearing. The CFTC has not yet proposed rules designating any other classes of swaps, including physical commodity swaps, for mandatory clearing. Although we expect to qualify for the end-user exception from the mandatory clearing and trade execution requirements for swaps entered to hedge its commercial risks, the application of the mandatory clearing and trade execution requirements to other market participants, such as swap dealers, may change the cost and availability of the swaps that we use for hedging. In addition, for uncleared swaps, the CFTC or federal banking regulators may require end-users to enter into credit support documentation and/or post initial and variation margin. Posting of collateral could impact liquidity and reduce our cash available for capital

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expenditures, therefore reducing our ability to execute hedges to reduce risk and protect cash flows. The proposed margin rules are not yet final, and therefore the impact of those provisions to us is uncertain at this time.

The Dodd-Frank Act and regulations may also require the counterparties to our derivative instruments to spin off some of their derivatives activities to separate entities, which may not be as creditworthy as the current counterparties. The Dodd-Frank Act and regulations could significantly increase the cost of derivative contracts, materially alter the terms of derivative contracts, reduce the availability of derivatives to protect against risks we encounter, and reduce our ability to monetize or restructure our existing derivative contracts. If we reduce our use of derivatives as a result of the Dodd-Frank Act and regulations, our results of operations may become more volatile and our cash flows may be less predictable, which could adversely affect our ability to plan for and fund capital expenditures.

Finally, the Dodd-Frank Act was intended, in part, to reduce the volatility of oil and natural gas prices, which some legislators attributed to speculative trading in derivatives and commodity instruments related to oil and natural gas. Our revenues could therefore be adversely affected if a consequence of the Dodd-Frank Act and regulations is lower commodity prices.

Any of these consequences could have a material and adverse effect on us, our financial condition or our results of operations.

In February 2012, the state legislature of Pennsylvania passed a new natural gas impact fee in Pennsylvania. The legislation imposes an annual fee on natural gas and oil operators for each well drilled for a period of fifteen years. The fee is on a sliding scale set by the Public Utility Commission and is based on two factors: changes in the Consumer Price Index and the average NYMEX natural gas prices from the last day of each month. There can be no assurance that the impact fee will remain as currently structured or that new or additional taxes will not be imposed.

Certain federal income tax deductions currently available with respect to natural gas and oil exploration and development may be eliminated, and additional state taxes on natural gas extraction may be imposed, as a result of future legislation.

The Fiscal Year 2015 Budget proposed by the President recommends the elimination of certain key U.S. federal income tax incentives currently available to oil and gas exploration and production companies, and legislation has been introduced in Congress that would implement many of these proposals. Such changes include, but are not limited to: (i) the repeal of the percentage depletion allowance for oil and gas properties; (ii) the elimination of current deductions for intangible drilling and development costs; (iii) the elimination of the deduction for certain U.S. production activities for oil and gas production; and (iv) an extension of the amortization period for certain geological and geophysical expenditures. It is unclear, however, whether any such changes will be enacted or how soon such changes could be effective.

The passage of this legislation or any other similar change in U.S. federal income tax law could eliminate or postpone certain tax deductions that are currently available with respect to natural gas and oil exploration and development, and any such change could negatively affect our financial condition and results of operations.

In February 2012, the state legislature of Pennsylvania passed a new natural gas impact fee in Pennsylvania. The legislation imposes an annual fee on natural gas and oil operators for each well drilled for a period of fifteen years. The fee is on a sliding scale set by the Public Utility Commission and is based on two factors: changes in the Consumer Price Index and the average NYMEX natural gas prices from the last day of each month. There can be no

assurance that the impact fee will remain as currently structured or that new or additional taxes will not be imposed. In addition, there is currently no severance tax imposed on natural gas or oil in Pennsylvania. However, it is possible that a severance tax could be proposed and implemented in the coming years, which would negatively affect our future cash flows and financial condition.

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In February 2013, the governor of the state of Ohio proposed a plan to enact new severance taxes in fiscal 2014 and 2015. However, the Ohio State Senate did not include a severance tax increase in the version of the budget bill that it passed on June 7, 2013. The possibility remains that the severance tax increase on horizontal wells will resurface during compromise talks on the budget.

Risks Related to the Offering and our Common Stock

The requirements of being a public company, including compliance with the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act and the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, may strain our resources, increase our costs and distract management.

We completed our IPO in January 2014. As a public company, we incur significant legal, accounting and other expenses that we did not incur as a private company. We also incur costs associated with our public company reporting requirements and with corporate governance requirements, including requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as well as rules implemented by the SEC and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. These rules and regulations will increase our legal and financial compliance costs and make some activities more time-consuming and costly, and we expect that these costs may increase further after we are no longer an emerging growth company. These rules and regulations make it more difficult and more expensive for us to obtain director and officer liability insurance and we may be required to accept reduced policy limits and coverage or incur substantially higher costs to obtain the same or similar coverage. As a result, it may be more difficult for us to attract and retain qualified individuals to serve on our board of directors or as executive officers.

However, for as long as we remain an emerging growth company as defined in the JOBS Act, we intend to take advantage of certain exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies, including, but not limited to, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements, and exemptions from the requirements of holding a nonbinding advisory vote on executive compensation and stockholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved.

We will remain an emerging growth company for up to five years, although if the market value of our common stock that is held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700 million as of any June 30 before that time, we would cease to be an emerging growth company as of the following December 31.

After we are no longer an emerging growth company, we expect to incur significant additional expenses and devote substantial management effort toward ensuring compliance with those requirements applicable to companies that are not emerging growth companies.

In connection with past audits and reviews of our financial statements and those of our Marcellus joint venture, our independent registered public accounting firms identified and reported adjustments to management. Certain of such adjustments were deemed to be the result of internal control deficiencies that constituted a material weakness in internal controls over financial reporting. If we fail to establish and maintain effective internal control over financial reporting, our ability to accurately report our financial results could be adversely affected.

Prior to the completion of our IPO, we were a private company with limited accounting personnel to adequately execute our accounting processes and other supervisory resources with which to address our internal control over

financial reporting. In addition, our Marcellus joint venture previously relied on our accounting personnel for its accounting processes. Historically, we and our Marcellus joint venture had not maintained effective internal control environments in that the design and execution of such controls had not consistently resulted in effective review and supervision by individuals with financial reporting oversight roles. The lack of adequate staffing levels resulted in insufficient time spent on review and approval of certain information used to prepare the financial statements of us and our Marcellus joint venture. We concluded that these control

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deficiencies constituted material weaknesses in our control environment for the year ended December 31, 2012. A material weakness is a control deficiency, or a combination of control deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of our annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. The control deficiencies described above, at varying degrees of severity, contributed to the material weaknesses in the control environment as further described in

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Material Weaknesses in Internal Control over Financial Reporting.

To address these control deficiencies, we have hired additional accounting and financial reporting staff, implemented additional analysis and reconciliation procedures and increased the levels of review and approval. Additionally, we have begun taking steps to comprehensively document and analyze our system of internal control over financial reporting in preparation for our first management report on internal control over financial reporting in connection with our annual report for the year ending December 31, 2014. Due to the recent implementation of these changes to our control environment, management continues to evaluate the design and effectiveness of these control changes in connection with its ongoing evaluation, review, formalization and testing of our internal control environment over the remainder of 2014. We will not complete our review until the second half of 2014 and we cannot predict the outcome of our review at this time. Based upon the status of our review, we and our independent auditors have concluded that the material weakness previously identified had not been remediated as of December 31, 2013. During the course of the review, we may identify additional control deficiencies, which could give rise to significant deficiencies and other material weaknesses in addition to the material weakness previously identified. Our remediation efforts may not enable us to remedy or avoid material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in the future.

For the year ended December 31, 2013, we were not required to comply with the SEC's rules implementing Section 404 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002, which require a formal assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. As a public company, we are required to comply with the SEC's rules implementing Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002, which require our management to certify financial and other information in our quarterly and annual reports and provide an annual management report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. Though we will be required to disclose material changes made to our internal controls and procedures on a quarterly basis, we will not be required to make our first annual assessment of our internal control over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404 until the year following our first annual report required to be filed with the SEC. To comply with the requirements of being a publicly traded company, we have upgraded our systems, including information technology, implemented additional financial and management controls, reporting systems and procedures and hired additional accounting and finance staff. Furthermore, while we generally must comply with Section 404 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2014, we are not required to have our independent registered public accounting firm attest to the effectiveness of our internal controls until our first annual report subsequent to our ceasing to be an emerging growth company within the meaning of Section 2(a)(19) of the Securities Act. Accordingly, we may not be required to have our independent registered public accounting firm attest to the effectiveness of our internal controls until our annual report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. We can provide no assurance that our independent registered public accounting firm will be satisfied with the level at which our controls are documented, designed, or operating at the time it issues its report.

Effective internal controls are necessary for us to provide reliable financial reports, prevent fraud and operate successfully as a public company. If we cannot provide reliable financial reports or prevent fraud, our reputation and operating results would be harmed. We cannot be certain that our efforts to develop and maintain our internal controls will be successful, that we will be able to maintain adequate controls over our financial processes and reporting in the future or that we will be able to comply with our obligations under Section 404 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002.

Any failure to develop or maintain effective internal controls, or difficulties encountered in implementing or improving our internal controls, could harm our operating results or cause us to fail to meet our reporting obligations. Ineffective internal controls could also cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which would likely have a negative effect on the trading price of our shares

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of common stock. company. If we cannot provide reliable financial reports or prevent fraud, our reputation and operating results would be harmed. We cannot be certain that our efforts to develop and maintain our internal controls will be successful, that we will be able to maintain adequate controls over our financial processes and reporting in the future or that we will be able to comply with our obligations under Section 404 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002. Any failure to develop or maintain effective internal controls, or difficulties encountered in implementing or improving our internal controls, could harm our operating results or cause us to fail to meet our reporting obligations. Ineffective internal controls could also cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which would likely have a negative effect on the trading price of our shares of common stock.

Following this offering, we will no longer be a controlled company under the meaning of the NYSE rules and, as a result, will no longer qualify for exemptions from certain corporate governance requirements. We may have difficulties complying with NYSE rules relating to the composition of our board of directors.

We are listed on the NYSE and are therefore subject to the NYSE's corporate governance rules. As a result of this offering, we will no longer be a controlled company within the meaning of the NYSE corporate governance standards. Pursuant to the requirements of the NYSE rules, within one year after the completion of this offering, our Compensation Committee and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee must be composed entirely of independent directors (as defined by the NYSE rules), and a majority of the directors on our board must be independent. Our board of directors currently consists of eight directors. During the phase-in period granted by the NYSE rules, our stockholders will not have the same protections afforded to stockholders of companies that are subject to all NYSE corporate governance rules.

We intend to comply with these NYSE rules upon ceasing to be a controlled company. However, there can be no assurance that we will be able to attract and retain the number of independent directors needed to comply with NYSE rules during the phase-in period for compliance.

Rice Holdings, Rice Partners and NGP Holdings collectively hold a substantial portion of our common stock.

Upon completion of this offering, Rice Holdings, Rice Partners and NGP Holdings will hold approximately 14.9%, 14.7% and 12.5% of our common stock, respectively. As such, Rice Holdings, Rice Partners and NGP Holdings may exert substantial influence on the election of the members of our board of directors and thereby control our management and affairs. In addition, they are able to similarly exert influence upon the outcome of all matters requiring stockholder approval, including mergers and other material transactions, and may be able to cause or prevent a change in the composition of our board of directors or a change in control of our company that could deprive our stockholders of an opportunity to receive a premium for their common stock as part of a sale of our company. The existence of significant stockholders may also have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers, delaying or preventing changes in control or changes in management, or limiting the ability of our other stockholders to approve transactions that they may deem to be in the best interests of our company.

So long as Rice Holdings, Rice Partners and NGP Holdings continue to control a significant amount of our common stock, each will continue to be able to strongly influence all matters requiring stockholder approval, regardless of whether or not other stockholders believe that a potential transaction is in their own best interests. In any of these matters, the interests of Rice Holdings, Rice Partners and NGP Holdings may differ or conflict with the interests of our other stockholders. Moreover, this concentration of stock ownership may also adversely affect the trading price of our common stock to the extent investors perceive a disadvantage in owning stock of a company with a controlling stockholder.

The stockholders agreement entered into in connection with our IPO permits our principal stockholders to designate a majority of the members of our board of directors.

In connection with our IPO, we entered into a stockholders agreement with Rice Holdings, Rice Partners, NGP Holdings and Alpha Natural Resources, Inc., pursuant to which Rice Holdings, NGP Holdings and Alpha

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Natural Resources, Inc. have certain rights relative to designated director nominees and agreed to vote their shares of common stock in accordance with the stockholders' agreement, including as it relates to the election of directors.

Conflicts of interest could arise in the future between us and one or more of our sponsors concerning among other things, potential competitive business activities or business opportunities. Any actual or perceived conflicts of interest could have an adverse impact on the trading price of our common stock.

Our sponsors include other participants in the energy industry, including Natural Gas Partners, affiliates of Daniel J. Rice III (the Lead Portfolio Manager in the energy division at GRT Capital Partners) and Alpha Natural Resources Inc. Certain of our sponsors and/or their affiliates make investments in the U.S. oil and gas industry from time to time. As a result, our sponsors and/or their affiliates may, from time to time, acquire interests in businesses that directly or indirectly compete with our business, as well as businesses that are significant existing or potential customers. In certain circumstances, they may acquire or seek to acquire assets that we seek to acquire and, as a result, those acquisition opportunities may not be available to us or may be more expensive for us to pursue. Under our certificate of incorporation, certain of our sponsors and/or one or more of their respective affiliates are permitted to engage in business activities or invest in or acquire businesses which may compete with our business or do business with any client of ours.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, as well as Delaware law, contain provisions that could discourage acquisition bids or merger proposals, which may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to issue preferred stock without stockholder approval. If our board of directors elects to issue preferred stock, it could be more difficult for a third party to acquire us. In addition, some provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of us, even if the change of control would be beneficial to our stockholders, including:

limitations on the removal of directors;

limitations on the ability of our stockholders to call special meetings;

establishing advance notice provisions for stockholder proposals and nominations for elections to the board of directors to be acted upon at meetings of stockholders;

providing that the board of directors is expressly authorized to adopt, or to alter or repeal our bylaws; and

establishing advance notice and certain information requirements for nominations for election to our board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon by stockholders at stockholder meetings.

We do not intend to pay dividends on our common stock, and our credit facilities and our indenture governing the Notes place certain restrictions on our ability to do so. Consequently, your only opportunity to achieve a return on your investment is if the price of our common stock appreciates.

We do not plan to declare dividends on shares of our common stock in the foreseeable future. Additionally, our credit facilities and our indenture governing the Notes place certain restrictions on our ability to pay cash dividends. Consequently, your only opportunity to achieve a return on your investment in us will be if you sell your common stock at a price greater than you paid for it. There is no guarantee that the price of our common stock that will prevail in the market will ever exceed the price that you pay in this offering.

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Future sales of our common stock in the public market could reduce our stock price, and any additional capital raised by us through the sale of equity or convertible securities may dilute your ownership in us.

We may sell additional shares of common stock in subsequent public offerings. We may also issue additional shares of common stock or convertible securities. After the completion of this offering, we will have 136,154,256 outstanding shares of common stock. This number includes 20,421,246 shares that we and the selling shareholders are selling in this offering and 3,063,187 additional shares that certain of the selling stockholders may sell in this offering if the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares is fully exercised, which may be resold immediately in the public market. Certain of our employees are subject to restrictions on the sale of their shares for 180 days after the date of our IPO; however, after such period, and subject to compliance with the Securities Act or exemptions therefrom, these employees may sell such shares into the public market. See **Shares Eligible for Future Sale** and **Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions** **Registration Rights**.

Subject to the satisfaction of vesting conditions, the expiration of lock-up agreements and the requirements of Rule 144, shares registered under our registration statement on Form S-8 filed on January 29, 2014 relating to our equity incentive plan are available for resale immediately in the public market without restriction.

We cannot predict the size of future issuances of our common stock or securities convertible into common stock or the effect, if any, that future issuances and sales of shares of our common stock will have on the market price of our common stock. Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock (including shares issued in connection with an acquisition), or the perception that such sales could occur, may adversely affect prevailing market prices of our common stock.

The underwriters of this offering may waive or release parties to the lock-up agreements entered into in connection with this offering, which could adversely affect the price of our common stock.

We, the Rice Owners, NGP Holdings, Alpha Holdings and all of our directors and executive officers have entered into lock-up agreements with respect to their common stock, pursuant to which they are subject to certain resale restrictions for a period of 90 days following the effectiveness date of the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. Goldman, Sachs & Co., at any time and without notice, may release all or any portion of the common stock subject to the foregoing lock-up agreements. If the restrictions under the lock-up agreements are waived, then common stock will be available for sale into the public markets, which could cause the market price of our common stock to decline and impair our ability to raise capital.

For as long as we are an emerging growth company, we will not be required to comply with certain reporting requirements, including those relating to accounting standards and disclosure about our executive compensation, that apply to other public companies.

In April 2012, President Obama signed into law the JOBS Act. We are classified as an emerging growth company under the JOBS Act. For as long as we are an emerging growth company, which may be up to five full fiscal years, unlike other public companies, we will not be required to, among other things, (1) provide an auditor's attestation report on management's assessment of the effectiveness of our system of internal control over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, (2) comply with any new requirements adopted by the PCAOB requiring mandatory audit firm rotation or a supplement to the auditor's report in which the auditor would be required to provide additional information about the audit and the financial statements of the issuer, (3) provide certain disclosure regarding executive compensation required of larger public companies or (4) hold nonbinding advisory

votes on executive compensation. We will remain an emerging growth company for up to five years, although we will lose that status sooner if we have more than \$1.0 billion of revenues in a fiscal year, have more than \$700 million in market value of our common stock held by non-affiliates, or issue more than \$1.0 billion of non-convertible debt over a three-year period.

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We may issue preferred stock whose terms could adversely affect the voting power or value of our common stock.

Our certificate of incorporation authorizes us to issue, without the approval of our stockholders, one or more classes or series of preferred stock having such designations, preferences, limitations and relative rights, including preferences over our common stock respecting dividends and distributions, as our board of directors may determine. The terms of one or more classes or series of preferred stock could adversely impact the voting power or value of our common stock. For example, we might grant holders of preferred stock the right to elect some number of our directors in all events or on the happening of specified events or the right to veto specified transactions. Similarly, the repurchase or redemption rights or liquidation preferences we might assign to holders of preferred stock could affect the residual value of the common stock.

If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or reports about our business, if they adversely change their recommendations regarding our common stock or if our operating results do not meet their expectations, our stock price could decline.

The trading market for our common stock is influenced by the research and reports that industry or securities analysts publish about us or our business. If one or more of these analysts cease coverage of our company or fail to publish reports on us regularly, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which in turn could cause our stock price or trading volume to decline. Moreover, if one or more of the analysts who cover our company downgrades our common stock or if our operating results do not meet their expectations, our stock price could decline.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation designates the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware as the sole and exclusive forum for certain types of actions and proceedings that may be initiated by our stockholders, which could limit our stockholders' ability to obtain a favorable judicial forum for disputes with us or our directors, officers, employees or agents.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware will, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, be the sole and exclusive forum for (i) any derivative action or proceeding brought on our behalf, (ii) any action asserting a claim of breach of a fiduciary duty owed by any of our directors, officers, employees or agents to us or our stockholders, (iii) any action asserting a claim arising pursuant to any provision of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL"), our amended and restated certificate of incorporation or our bylaws, or (iv) any action asserting a claim against us that is governed by the internal affairs doctrine, in each such case subject to such Court of Chancery having personal jurisdiction over the indispensable parties named as defendants therein. Any person or entity purchasing or otherwise acquiring any interest in shares of our capital stock will be deemed to have notice of, and consented to, the provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation described in the preceding sentence. This choice of forum provision may limit a stockholder's ability to bring a claim in a judicial forum that it finds favorable for disputes with us or our directors, officers, employees or agents, which may discourage such lawsuits against us and such persons. Alternatively, if a court were to find these provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation inapplicable to, or unenforceable in respect of, one or more of the specified types of actions or proceedings, we may incur additional costs associated with resolving such matters in other jurisdictions, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information in this prospectus includes forward-looking statements. All statements, other than statements of historical fact included in this prospectus, regarding our strategy, future operations, financial position, estimated revenues and income/losses, projected costs, prospects, plans and objectives of management are forward-looking statements. When used in this prospectus, the words could, believe, anticipate, intend, estimate, expect, project, similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain such identifying words. These forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations and assumptions about future events and are based on currently available information as to the outcome and timing of future events. When considering forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements described under the heading Risk Factors included in this prospectus. These forward-looking statements are based on management's current belief, based on currently available information, as to the outcome and timing of future events.

Forward-looking statements may include statements about our:

business strategy;

reserves;

financial strategy, liquidity and capital required for our development program;

realized natural gas, NGL and oil prices;

timing and amount of future production of natural gas, NGLs and oil;

hedging strategy and results;

future drilling plans;

competition and government regulations;

pending legal or environmental matters;

marketing of natural gas, NGLs and oil;

leasehold or business acquisitions;

costs of developing our properties and conducting our gathering and other midstream operations;

general economic conditions;

credit markets;

uncertainty regarding our future operating results; and

plans, objectives, expectations and intentions contained in this prospectus that are not historical.

We caution you that these forward-looking statements are subject to all of the risks and uncertainties, most of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond our control, incident to the exploration for and development, production, gathering and sale of natural gas, NGLs and oil. These risks include, but are not limited to, commodity price volatility; inflation, lack of availability of drilling and production equipment and services; environmental risks; drilling and other operating risks; regulatory changes; the uncertainty inherent in estimating natural gas reserves and in projecting future rates of production, cash flow and access to capital; the timing of development expenditures; and the other risks described under **Risk Factors** in this prospectus.

Reserve engineering is a process of estimating underground accumulations of natural gas, NGLs and oil that cannot be measured in an exact way. The accuracy of any reserve estimate depends on the quality of available data, the interpretation of such data and price and cost assumptions made by reserve engineers. In addition, the results of drilling, testing and production activities may justify revisions of estimates that were made previously.

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If significant, such revisions could change the schedule of any further production and development drilling. Accordingly, reserve estimates may differ significantly from the quantities of natural gas, and NGLs and oil that are ultimately recovered.

Should one or more of the risks or uncertainties described in this prospectus occur, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results and plans could differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements.

All forward-looking statements, expressed or implied, included in this prospectus are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement. This cautionary statement should also be considered in connection with any subsequent written or oral forward-looking statements that we or persons acting on our behalf may issue.

Except as otherwise required by applicable law, we disclaim any duty to update any forward-looking statements, all of which are expressly qualified by the statements in this section, to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this prospectus.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

We expect to receive approximately \$ million of net proceeds from the sale of the common stock offered by us after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares held by the selling stockholders.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to fund a portion of the purchase price for our Greene County Acquisition, with the remainder to be funded with cash on hand.

This offering is not contingent on the completion of the Greene County Acquisition. In the event the Greene County Acquisition is not successfully completed we will use the net proceeds of this offering for general corporate purposes, including capital expenditures.

Table of Contents**Index to Financial Statements****MARKET PRICE OF OUR COMMON STOCK**

Our common stock began trading on the NYSE under the symbol RICE on January 24, 2014. Prior to that, there was no public market for our common stock. The table below sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low sales prices per share of our common stock since January 24, 2014.

	High	Low
Third Quarter (through July 3, 2014)	\$ 30.57	\$ 28.78
Second Quarter	\$ 34.34	\$ 25.80
First Quarter(1)	\$ 28.07	\$ 20.78

(1) For the period from January 24, 2014 through March 31, 2014.

On July 3, 2014, the closing price of our common stock was \$29.09 per share. As of June 30, 2014, we had approximately 71 holders of record of our common stock. This number excludes owners for whom common stock may be held in street name.

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DIVIDEND POLICY

We do not anticipate declaring or paying any cash dividends to holders of our common stock in the foreseeable future. We currently intend to retain future earnings, if any, to finance the growth of our business. Our future dividend policy is within the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon then-existing conditions, including our results of operations, financial condition, capital requirements, investment opportunities, statutory restrictions on our ability to pay dividends and other factors our board of directors may deem relevant. In addition, certain of our debt instruments place restrictions on our ability to pay cash dividends.

Table of ContentsIndex to Financial Statements**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and capitalization as of March 31, 2014:

on an actual basis;

on an as adjusted basis to give effect to (i) the completion of the Momentum Acquisition funded with cash on hand and (ii) the completion of the Senior Notes Offering and the use of proceeds therefrom; and

on an as further adjusted basis to give effect to the issuance and sale of common units in this offering and the application of the net proceeds therefrom as set forth under Use of Proceeds. Pending such use, the net proceeds from this offering are shown as increasing cash and cash equivalents.

This table should be read in conjunction with, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, Use of Proceeds and our historical audited and unaudited consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes appearing elsewhere in this prospectus.

	As of March 31, 2014		As Further Adjusted
	Actual	As Adjusted (unaudited)	
(in thousands)			
Cash and cash equivalents(1)	\$ 228,669	\$ 705,500	
Long-term debt, including current maturities:			
Revolving credit facility(2)			
Second lien term loan(3)	293,280		
6.25% Senior Notes due 2022		900,000	
Other	10,647	10,647	
Total debt	303,927	910,647	
Shareholders' equity:			
Common stock, \$0.01 par value; 650,000,000 shares authorized, 128,211,999 shares issued and outstanding	1,282	1,282	
Additional paid-in capital	1,130,233	1,130,233	
Accumulated earnings	64,346	50,836	
Total shareholders' equity	1,195,861	1,182,351	
Total capitalization	\$ 1,499,788	\$ 2,092,998	

- (1) Does not give effect to the Greene County Acquisition, which we will fund, in part, with approximately \$ in cash. Please see Prospectus Summary Recent Developments Western Greene County Acquisition. As of May 31, 2014, we had cash on hand of approximately \$526.9 million.
- (2) As of May 31, 2014, we had no outstanding borrowings under our revolving credit facility and \$71.5 million of outstanding letters of credit.
- (3) On April 25, 2014, we used \$301.8 million in net proceeds from our Senior Notes Offering to repay and retire the facility.

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SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED AND UNAUDITED PRO FORMA FINANCIAL DATA

The following table shows selected historical consolidated financial data of Rice Drilling B, our accounting predecessor, and Rice Energy Inc. and the summary unaudited pro forma financial data for the periods and as of the dates indicated. Our historical results are not necessarily indicative of future operating results. The selected financial data presented below are qualified in their entirety by reference to, and should be read in conjunction with,

Capitalization, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere herein.

The selected historical consolidated financial data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2012 and 2013 are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Rice Drilling B included elsewhere in this prospectus. The summary historical statement of operations data for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and the historical balance sheet data as of March 31, 2014 are derived from the unaudited consolidated financial statements of Rice Energy Inc. included elsewhere in this prospectus. The selected historical statement of operations data for the three months ended March 31, 2013 are derived from the unaudited consolidated financial statements of Rice Drilling B included elsewhere in this prospectus. The selected historical unaudited historical consolidated interim financial data has been prepared on a consistent basis with the audited consolidated financial statements of Rice Drilling B. In the opinion of management, such selected unaudited historical consolidated financial interim data reflects all adjustments (consisting of normal and recurring accruals) considered necessary to present our financial position for the periods presented. The results of operations for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the full year because of the impact of fluctuations in prices received from oil and natural gas, natural production declines, the uncertainty of exploration and development drilling results and other factors.

The summary unaudited pro forma consolidated statements of operations data for the year ended December 31, 2013 and three months ended March 31, 2014 has been prepared to give pro forma effect to (i) the completion of the corporate reorganization in connection with our IPO completed in January 2014, (ii) the Marcellus JV Buy-In and (iii) our IPO and the application of the net proceeds therefrom as if each had been completed as of January 1, 2013. The summary unaudited pro forma consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2013 has been prepared to give pro forma effect to those transactions as if they had been completed as of December 31, 2013. Each of our IPO, the corporate reorganization in connection with our IPO and the Marcellus JV Buy-In was completed prior to March 31, 2014 and is thus fully reflected in our historical consolidated balance sheet as of such date. The summary unaudited pro forma consolidated statements of operations data do not give pro forma effect to the Momentum Acquisition, the Senior Notes Offering or the pending Greene County Acquisition. These data are subject and give effect to the assumptions and adjustments described in the notes accompanying the unaudited pro forma financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. The summary unaudited pro forma consolidated financial data are presented for informational purposes only and should not be considered indicative of actual results of operations that would have been achieved had the reorganization transactions and this offering been consummated on the dates indicated, and do not purport to be indicative of statements of financial position or results of operations as of any future date or for any future period.

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	Rice Drilling B			Rice Energy Inc. Three Months Ended March 31,		Rice Energy Inc. Pro Forma Year Ended December 31, March 31,	
	2011	2012	2013	2013	2014	2013	2014
<i>(in thousands, except per share data)</i>							
Statement of operations data:							
Revenues:							
Natural gas sales	\$ 13,972	\$ 26,743	\$ 87,847	\$ 13,049	\$ 90,466	\$ 178,524	\$ 102,402
Other revenue		457	757	184		757	
Total revenues	13,972	27,200	88,604	13,233	90,466	179,281	102,402
Operating expenses:							
Lease operating	1,617	3,688	8,309	1,236	5,187	16,502	5,607
Gathering, compression and transportation	540	3,754	9,774	1,528	7,130	25,437	8,520
Production taxes and impact fees		1,382	1,629	169	639	2,887	708
Exploration	660	3,275	9,951	898	486	9,951	486
Restricted unit expense	170		32,906		73,802	32,906	73,802
General and administrative	5,208	7,599	16,953	1,743	11,521	20,209	11,593
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	5,981	14,149	32,815	5,131	25,507	71,886	28,363
Write-down of abandoned leases	109	2,253				146	
Loss (Gain) from sale of interest in gas properties	(1,478)		4,230			4,230	
Total expenses	12,807	36,100	116,567	10,705	124,272	184,154	129,079
Operating loss	1,165	(8,900)	(27,963)	2,528	(33,806)	(4,873)	(26,677)
Interest expense	(531)	(3,487)	(17,915)	(1,915)	(7,042)	(16,422)	(7,277)
Gain on purchase of Marcellus joint venture					203,579		200,923
Other income (expense)	161	112	(357)	248	602	(1,153)	602
Gain (loss) on derivative instruments	574	(1,381)	6,891	(4,993)	(20,380)	10,238	(32,571)
Amortization of deferred financing costs	(2,675)	(7,220)	(5,230)	(1,865)	(489)	(5,394)	(504)
			(10,622)		(143)	(10,622)	(143)

Loss on extinguishment of debt							
Write-off of deferred financing costs					(836)		(836)
Equity in income (loss) of joint ventures	370	1,532	19,420	(778)	(2,656)	90	
Gain (loss) before income taxes	(936)	(19,344)	(35,776)	(6,775)	138,829	(28,136)	133,517
Income tax benefit					(9,375)	11,674	(9,375)
Net gain (loss)	\$ (936)	\$ (19,344)	\$ (35,776)	(6,775)	\$ 129,454	\$ (16,462)	\$ 124,142

Balance sheet data (at period end):

Cash	\$ 4,389	\$ 8,547	\$ 31,612		\$ 228,669	\$ 347,011
Total property and equipment, net	150,646	273,640	734,331		1,229,230	1,054,414
Total assets	190,240	344,971	879,810		1,888,743	1,845,650
Total debt	107,795	149,320	426,942		303,927	311,942
Total members / stockholders capital	46,821	138,191	298,647		1,195,861	1,134,241

Net cash provided by (used in):

Operating activities	\$ 5,131	\$ (3,014)	\$ 33,672	\$ 9,565	\$ 35,544
Investing activities	(79,245)	(119,973)	(458,595)	(27,623)	(251,290)
Financing activities	73,447	127,145	447,988	21,933	412,803

Other financial data (unaudited):

Adjusted EBITDAX(1)					\$ 107,773	\$ 64,803
Earnings per share basic					(0.13)	1.00
Earnings per share diluted					(0.13)	0.99

(1) Adjusted EBITDAX is a non-GAAP financial measure. For a definition of Adjusted EBITDAX and a reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDAX to net income (loss), see Prospectus Summary Non-GAAP Financial Measure.

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AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes appearing elsewhere in this prospectus. The following discussion contains forward-looking statements that reflect our future plans, estimates, beliefs and expected performance. We caution that assumptions, expectations, projections, intentions, or beliefs about future events may, and often do, vary from actual results and the differences can be material. Some of the key factors which could cause actual results to vary from our expectations include changes in natural gas prices, the timing of planned capital expenditures, availability of acquisitions, uncertainties in estimating proved reserves and forecasting production results, operational factors affecting the commencement or maintenance of producing wells, the condition of the capital markets generally, as well as our ability to access them, and uncertainties regarding environmental regulations or litigation and other legal or regulatory developments affecting our business, as well as those factors discussed below and elsewhere in this prospectus, all of which are difficult to predict. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking events discussed may not occur. See Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements. Also, see the risk factors and other cautionary statements described under the heading Risk Factors included elsewhere in this prospectus. We do not undertake any obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements except as otherwise required by applicable law.

On January 29, 2014, in connection with the closing of our IPO, we (i) completed our corporate reorganization and (ii) consummated our Marcellus JV Buy-In, each as described under Prospectus Summary Initial Public Offering, Corporate Reorganization and Related Transactions. As such, information presented in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for the period from January 1, 2014 through January 29, 2014, as contained within the three months ended March 31, 2014, for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 pertain to the historical financial statements and results of operations of Rice Drilling B, our accounting predecessor, which reflects the 50% equity investment in our Marcellus joint venture owned by Rice Drilling B prior to January 29, 2014. Unless otherwise indicated, the information presented in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations does not give pro forma effect to the completion of the corporate reorganization in connection with our IPO completed in January 2014 and the consummation of the Marcellus JV Buy-In.

Overview

We are an independent natural gas and oil company engaged in the acquisition, exploration and development of natural gas and oil properties in the Appalachian Basin. We are focused on creating shareholder value by identifying and assembling a portfolio of low-risk assets with attractive economic profiles and leveraging our technical and managerial expertise to deliver industry-leading results. We strive to be an early entrant into the core of a shale play by identifying what we believe to be the core of the play and aggressively executing our acquisition strategy to establish a largely contiguous acreage position.

As of March 31, 2014, we held approximately 43,978 net acres in the southwestern core of the Marcellus Shale, primarily in Washington County, Pennsylvania. We established our Marcellus Shale acreage position through a combination of largely contiguous acreage acquisitions in 2009 and 2010 and through numerous bolt-on acreage acquisitions. In 2012, we acquired approximately 33,499 of our 46,700 net acres in the southeastern core of the Utica Shale, primarily in Belmont County, Ohio. We believe this area to be the core of the Utica Shale based on publicly

available drilling results. We operate all of our acreage in the Marcellus Shale and a majority of our acreage in the Utica Shale.

Since completing our first horizontal well in October 2010, our pro forma average net daily production has grown approximately 105 times to 209 MMcf/d for the first quarter of 2014. We brought four net horizontal

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Marcellus wells online during the first quarter of 2014. As of March 31, 2014, we had 1,313 gross (752 net) risked drilling locations, consisting of 349 gross (325 net) in the Marcellus Shale, 753 gross (233 net) in the Utica Shale and 211 gross (194 net) in the Upper Devonian Shale.

As of December 31, 2013, our pro forma estimated proved reserves were 602 Bcf, all of which were in southwestern Pennsylvania, with 42% proved developed and 100% natural gas.

Factors That Significantly Affect Our Financial Condition and Results of Operations

We derive substantially all of our revenues from the sale of natural gas that is produced from our interests in properties located in the Marcellus Shale. In the coming years, we expect to derive an increasing amount of our revenues from the sale of natural gas and, in a more limited amount, NGLs, that are produced from our interests in properties located in the Utica Shale. Our revenues, cash flow from operations and future growth depend substantially on factors beyond our control, such as economic, political and regulatory developments and competition from other sources of energy. Natural gas prices have historically been volatile and may fluctuate widely in the future due to a variety of factors, including but not limited to, prevailing economic conditions, supply and demand of hydrocarbons in the marketplace and geopolitical events such as wars or natural disasters. In the future, we will also be subject to fluctuations in oil and NGL prices. Sustained periods of low natural gas prices could materially and adversely affect our financial condition, our results of operations, the quantities of natural gas that we can economically produce and our ability to access capital.

We use commodity derivative instruments, such as swaps, puts and collars, to manage and reduce price volatility and other market risks associated with our natural gas production. These arrangements are structured to reduce our exposure to commodity price decreases, but they can also limit the benefit we might otherwise receive from commodity price increases. Our risk management activity is accomplished through