

Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP
Form 424B5
May 17, 2016
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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-210976

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(to Prospectus dated May 17, 2016)

Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP
Common Units Representing Limited Partner Interests
Having an Aggregate Offering Price of up to \$657,501,907

We have entered into an equity distribution agreement with Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, BNP Paribas Securities Corp., Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc., RBC Capital Markets, LLC and Scotia Capital (USA) Inc., as our sales agents, relating to common units representing limited partner interests offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. In accordance with the terms of the equity distribution agreement, we may, through our sales agents, offer and sell from time to time our common units representing limited partner interests having an aggregate offering price of up to \$657,501,907.

Our common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the symbol TEP. The last reported sale price of our common units on May 16, 2016 was \$45.85 per common unit.

Sales of common units representing limited partner interests, if any, under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may be made in negotiated transactions or transactions that are deemed to be at the market offerings as defined in Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), including sales made directly on the NYSE or sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange. Each of the sales agents will make all sales on a best efforts basis using commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices, on mutually agreed terms between the sales agent and us.

The sales agents will receive from us a commission equal to a percentage, not to exceed 2.0%, of the gross sales price per common unit for any common units sold in agency transactions under the distribution agreement. In connection with the sale of the common units on our behalf, each of the sales agents may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act, and the compensation of the sales agents may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. Under the terms of the equity distribution agreement, we also may sell common units to one or more of the sales agents as principal for its own account at a price agreed upon at the time of the sale. If we sell common units to one or more of the sales agents as principal, we will enter into a separate agreement with the sales agent, and we will describe that agreement in a separate prospectus supplement or pricing supplement.

Investing in our common units involves risks. Limited partnerships are inherently

different from corporations. You should carefully consider each of the risk factors described under Risk Factors on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and on page 3 of the accompanying base prospectus before you make an investment in our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission, nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement and the prospectus to which it relates are truthful and complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Wells Fargo Securities

BNP PARIBAS

MUFG

RBC Capital Markets

Scotia Howard Weil

Prospectus Supplement dated May 17, 2016

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This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering of common units. The second part is the accompanying base prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering of common units. Generally, when we refer only to the prospectus, we are referring to both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus combined. If the information relating to the offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

Any statement made in this prospectus or in a document incorporated by reference into this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus supplement or in any other subsequently filed document that is also incorporated by reference into this prospectus modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus. Please read Where You Can Find More Information on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement.

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You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. We have not, and the sales agents have not, authorized anyone to provide you with additional or different information. If anyone provides you with

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additional, different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the sales agents are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where an offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus or any free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the dates on the front of these documents or that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document incorporated by reference. Our business, financial condition, results of operations or prospects may have changed since such dates.

Please read [Forward-Looking Statements](#) on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement.

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SUMMARY

This summary highlights the information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. This summary does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our common units. You should read the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus, the documents incorporated herein by reference and the other documents to which we refer for a more complete understanding of this offering. You should read **Risk Factors** on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and on page 3 of the accompanying base prospectus for more information about important risks that you should consider carefully before buying our common units. References in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus to Tallgrass, the Partnership, we, our, us or li terms refer to Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP and its direct and indirect subsidiaries. References in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus to our general partner refer to Tallgrass MLP GP, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and our general partner. References in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus to Tallgrass Development are to Tallgrass Development, LP and its subsidiaries and affiliates, other than our general partner and us.

Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP

Overview

Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP (NYSE: TEP) is a publicly traded, growth-oriented limited partnership formed in 2013 to own, operate, acquire and develop midstream energy assets in North America. TEP currently provides crude oil transportation to customers in Wyoming, Colorado, and the surrounding regions through Tallgrass Pony Express Pipeline, LLC which owns the Pony Express System, a crude oil pipeline commencing in Guernsey, Wyoming and terminating in Cushing, Oklahoma that includes a lateral in northeast Colorado that commences in Weld County, Colorado, and interconnects with the pipeline just east of Sterling, Colorado. TEP provides natural gas transportation and storage services for customers in the Rocky Mountain, Midwest and Appalachian regions of the United States through the Rockies Express Pipeline, a FERC-regulated natural gas pipeline system extending from Opal, Wyoming and Meeker, Colorado to Clarington, Ohio, the Tallgrass Interstate Gas Transmission system, a FERC-regulated natural gas transportation and storage system located in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Wyoming, and the Trailblazer Pipeline system, a FERC-regulated natural gas pipeline system extending from the Colorado and Wyoming border to Beatrice, Nebraska. TEP provides services for customers in Wyoming at the Casper and Douglas natural gas processing facilities and the West Frenchie Draw natural gas treating facility, and natural gas liquids transportation services in Northeast Colorado. TEP also performs water business services in Colorado and Texas through BNN Water Solutions, LLC. TEP's operations are strategically located in and provide services to certain key United States hydrocarbon basins, including the Denver-Julesburg, Powder River, Wind River, Permian and Hugoton-Anadarko Basins and the Niobrara, Mississippi Lime, Eagle Ford and Bakken shale formations.

Our general partner, Tallgrass MLP GP, LLC, is a Delaware limited liability company and has responsibility for conducting our business and managing our operations.

Our Principal Executive Offices

Our principal executive offices are located at 4200 W. 115th Street, Suite 350, Leawood, Kansas 66211, and our telephone number is (913) 928-6060. Our website is located at www.tallgrassenergy.com. We make available our periodic reports and other information filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) free of charge through our website, as soon as reasonably practicable after those reports and other information are electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC. Information 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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Additional Information

For additional information about us, including our partnership structure and management, please refer to the documents set forth under "Where You Can Find More Information" in this prospectus supplement, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2016, each of which is incorporated by reference herein.

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The Offering

Common units offered	Common units having an aggregate offering price of up to \$657,501,907.
Use of proceeds	<p>We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the common units covered by this prospectus supplement for general partnership purposes, which may include, among other things, the exercise of our right to repurchase all or a portion of the 6,518,000 common units issued by us to Tallgrass Development in connection with our acquisition of an additional 31.3% of Tallgrass Pony Express Pipeline, LLC in January 2016, repayment or refinancing of debt, funding for acquisitions, capital expenditures and additions to working capital.</p> <p>Affiliates of all of the sales agents are lenders under our revolving credit facility. To the extent we use proceeds from this offering to repay indebtedness under our credit facility, such affiliates may receive proceeds from this offering. Please read Use of Proceeds.</p>
Exchange listing	Our common units are traded on the NYSE under the symbol TEP.
Material tax consequences	For a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to prospective unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the United States, please read the section titled Material Federal Income Tax Consequences in the accompanying base prospectus.
Risk factors	There are risks associated with this offering, our common units and our business. You should consider carefully the risk factors on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and the other risks identified in the documents incorporated by reference herein before making a decision to purchase common units in this offering.

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RISK FACTORS

Our business is subject to uncertainties and risks. Before you invest in our common units, you should carefully consider the risk factors beginning on page 3 of the accompanying base prospectus and those included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2016, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference. If any of the events or circumstances discussed in the foregoing documents actually occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations, liquidity or ability to make distributions could suffer and you could lose all or part of your investment. Please also read Forward-Looking Statements.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the common units covered by this prospectus supplement for general partnership purposes, which may include, among other things, the exercise of our right to repurchase all or a portion of the 6,518,000 common units issued by us to Tallgrass Development in connection with our acquisition of an additional 31.3% of Tallgrass Pony Express Pipeline, LLC in January 2016, repayment or refinancing of debt, funding for acquisitions, capital expenditures and additions to working capital.

Affiliates of all of the sales agents are lenders under our revolving credit facility. To the extent we use proceeds from this offering to repay indebtedness under our credit facility, such affiliates may receive proceeds from this offering. Please read "Plan of Distribution" in this prospectus supplement for further information.

As of May 6, 2016, we had approximately \$1.4 billion of borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility, with a weighted average interest rate on outstanding borrowings of 2.19%. Substantially all of the borrowings were used to fund acquisitions, working capital and internal growth projects and for general partnership purposes.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

On May 17, 2016, we entered into an equity distribution agreement with Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, BNP Paribas Securities Corp., Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc., RBC Capital Markets, LLC and Scotia Capital (USA) Inc., as our sales agents, under which we are permitted to offer and sell common units having an aggregate offering price of up to \$657,501,907 under the equity distribution agreement from time to time. We have filed the equity distribution agreement as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. Upon its acceptance of written instructions from us, each of the sales agents will use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with their sales and trading practices to solicit offers to purchase common units representing limited partner interests in us, under the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the equity distribution agreement. We will instruct the sales agents as to the amount of common units to be sold by the sales agents. We may instruct the sales agents not to sell common units if the sales cannot be effected at or above the price designated by us in any instruction. We or any of the sales agents may suspend the offering of common units upon proper notice and subject to other conditions.

Each sales agent will provide written confirmation to us no later than the opening of the trading day on the NYSE following the trading day in which our common units are sold under the equity distribution agreement. Each confirmation will include the number of common units sold on the preceding day, the net proceeds to us and the compensation payable by us to the sales agents in connection with the sales.

The sales agents will receive from us a commission equal to a percentage, not to exceed 2.0%, of the gross sales price per common unit for any common units sold in agency transaction under the distribution agreement. We have agreed to reimburse the sales agents for certain of their expenses. We estimate that the total expenses for the commencement of the offering, excluding compensation payable to Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, BNP Paribas Securities Corp., Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc., RBC Capital Markets, LLC and Scotia Capital (USA) Inc. under the terms of the equity distribution agreement, will be approximately \$225,000.

Settlement for sales of common units will occur on the third business day following the date on which any sales are made, or on some other date that is agreed upon by us and the sales agents in connection with a particular transaction, in return for payment of the net proceeds to us. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

We will report at least quarterly the number of common units sold through the sales agents under the equity distribution agreement, the net proceeds to us and the compensation paid by us to the sales agents in connection with the sales of common units.

The sales agents and their affiliates have provided, and may in the future provide, various investment banking, commercial banking, fiduciary and advisory services for us from time to time for which they have received, and may in the future receive, customary fees and expenses. The sales agents and their affiliates may, from time to time, engage in other transactions with and perform services for us in the ordinary course of their business.

In connection with the sale of the common units on our behalf, each of the sales agents may, and will with respect to sales effected in an at the market offering, be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act, and the compensation of the sales agents may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have agreed to indemnify each of the sales agents against specified liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments that the sales agents may be required to make because of those liabilities.

The offering of common units representing limited partner interests in us pursuant to the equity distribution agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (1) the sale of all common units subject to the agreement or (2) termination of the equity distribution agreement. The equity distribution agreement may be terminated by each of the sales agents or us at any time upon 10 days notice, and by each of the sales

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agents at any time in certain circumstances, including our failure to maintain a listing of our common units on the NYSE or the occurrence of a material adverse change in our company.

Conflicts of Interest

The sales agents and/or their affiliates, have, from time to time, performed, and may in the future perform, various financial advisory and commercial and investment banking services for us and our affiliates, for which they have received and in the future will receive customary compensation and expense reimbursement. Affiliates of all of the sales agents are lenders under our revolving credit facility. To the extent we use proceeds from this offering to repay indebtedness under our revolving credit facility, such affiliate may receive proceeds from this offering.

FINRA

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA), the maximum discount or commission to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate offering price of the common units offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement. Because FINRA views the common units offered hereby as interests in a direct participation program, this offering is being made in compliance with FINRA Rule 2310.

Selling Restrictions

Hong Kong

Our common units may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of this prospectus or any other document other than to (a) professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance of Hong Kong (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) (SFO) and any rules made under the SFO or (b) in other circumstances which do not result in this prospectus being deemed to be a prospectus, as defined in the Companies Ordinance of Hong Kong (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong) (CO), or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the CO or the SFO; and no person has issued or had in possession for the purposes of issue, or will issue or has in possession for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or document relating to our common units which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to our common units which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the SFO.

This prospectus contains general information only and does not take account of the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular person. It does not contain any securities recommendations or financial product advice. Before making an investment decision, investors need to consider whether the information in this prospectus is appropriate to their needs, objectives and circumstances, and, if necessary, seek expert advice on those matters.

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LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common units will be passed upon for us by Baker Botts L.L.P., Austin, Texas. Certain legal matters in connection with the common units offered hereby will be passed upon for the sales agents by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Houston, Texas.

EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the audited historical financial statements of Rockies Express Pipeline LLC as of December 31, 2014 and 2015, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015, included as Exhibit 99.2 of Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP's Current Report on Form 8-K dated April 28, 2016, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed a registration statement with the SEC under the Securities Act that registers the securities offered by this prospectus. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits, contains additional relevant information about us. The rules and regulations of the SEC allow us to omit some information included in the registration statement from this prospectus.

In addition, we file annual, quarterly and other reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-732-0330 for further information on the operation of the SEC's public reference room. Our SEC filings are available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. We also make available free of charge on our website at www.tallgrassenergy.com all materials that we file electronically with the SEC, including our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, Section 16 reports and amendments to these reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such materials are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. Information contained on our website or any other website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we have filed with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you without actually including the specific information in this prospectus by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC. These other documents contain important information about us, our financial condition and results of operations. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and may replace information in this prospectus and information previously filed with the SEC.

We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the documents listed below and any subsequent filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (excluding information deemed to be furnished and not filed with the SEC) until all offerings under this registration statement are completed:

our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015;

our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2016;

our current reports on Form 8-K filed on January 4, 2016, April 28, 2016 and May 17, 2016, respectively (in each case to the extent filed and not furnished); and

the description of our common units in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 on May 8, 2013.

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

Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP

4200 W. 115th Street, Suite 350

Leawood, Kansas 66211

Attention: Investor Relations

Telephone: (913) 928-6060

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the information included in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference contain forward-looking statements concerning our operations, economic performance and financial condition. Forward-looking statements give our current expectations and contain projections of results of operations or of financial condition, or forecasts of future events. Words such as could, will, may, assume, forecast, position, predict, strategy, expect, intend, plan, estimate, anticipate, believe, project, and similar expressions are used to identify forward-looking statements. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus include our expectations of plans, strategies, objectives, growth and anticipated financial and operational performance, including guidance regarding our and Tallgrass Development's infrastructure programs, revenue projections, capital expenditures and tax position. Forward-looking statements can be affected by assumptions used or by known or unknown risks or uncertainties. Consequently, no forward-looking statements can be guaranteed.

A forward-looking statement may include a statement of the assumptions or bases underlying the forward-looking statement. We believe that we have chosen these assumptions or bases in good faith and that they are reasonable. However, when considering these forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements in this prospectus. Actual results may vary materially. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. You should also understand that it is not possible to predict or identify all such factors and should not consider the following list to be a complete statement of all potential risks and uncertainties. Factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the results contemplated by such forward-looking statements include:

our ability to complete and integrate acquisitions from Tallgrass Development, or from third parties, including our recent acquisition of a 25% membership interest in Rockies Express Pipeline LLC, our acquisition of water business assets in Weld County, Colorado that was completed in December 2015 and our purchase of an additional 31.3% membership interest in Tallgrass Pony Express Pipeline, LLC that was completed in January 2016;

large or multiple customer defaults on contractual obligations, including defaults resulting from actual or potential insolvencies;

changes in general economic conditions;

competitive conditions in our industry;

actions taken by third-party operators, processors and transporters;

the demand for our services, including crude oil transportation services, natural gas transportation, storage and processing services and water business services;

our ability to successfully implement our business plan;

our ability to complete internal growth projects on time and on budget;

the price and availability of debt and equity financing;

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the level of production of crude oil, natural gas and other hydrocarbons and the resultant market prices of crude oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids and other hydrocarbons;

the availability and price of natural gas and crude oil, and fuels derived from both, to the consumer compared to the price of alternative and competing fuels;

competition from the same and alternative energy sources;

energy efficiency and technology trends;

operating hazards and other risks incidental to transporting crude oil, transporting, storing and processing natural gas, and transporting, gathering and disposing of water produced in connection with hydrocarbon exploration and production activities;

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natural disasters, weather-related delays, casualty losses and other matters beyond our control;

interest rates;

labor relations;

changes in tax status;

the effects of existing and future laws and governmental regulations;

the effects of future litigation; and

certain factors discussed elsewhere in this prospectus.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made. While we may update these statements from time to time, we are not required to do so other than pursuant to the securities laws.

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PROSPECTUS

Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP

\$657,501,907 of

COMMON UNITS

PREFERRED UNITS

PARTNERSHIP SECURITIES

8,772,467 Common Units Offered by the Selling Security Holders

We or selling security holders may offer, from time to time, in one or more series, the following securities under this prospectus:

Common Units representing limited partner interests in Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP;

Preferred Units representing limited partner interests in Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP;

Partnership Securities representing limited partner interests in Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP.

The aggregate initial offering price of all securities sold by us under this prospectus will not exceed \$657,501,907.

In addition to the securities that we may offer, the selling security holders named under the heading **Selling Security Holders** may offer and sell up to an aggregate of 8,772,467 of our common units from time to time under this prospectus. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of common units by the selling security holders.

We and the selling security holders may offer and sell the securities through one or more underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. We and the selling security holders may offer the securities in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions and other factors at the time of the offer. This prospectus describes only the general terms of these securities and the general manner in which we or the selling security holders will offer the securities. The specific terms of any securities we or the selling security holders offer will be included in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will describe the specific manner in which we or selling security holders will offer the securities and also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus.

You should carefully read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement before you invest. You should also read the documents we refer to in the **Where You Can Find More Information** section of this prospectus for the information on us and our financial statements. This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of our securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **TEP**. We will provide information in the prospectus supplement for the trading market, if any, for any other securities we or selling security holders may offer.

Investing in our securities involves risks. Limited partnerships are inherently different from corporations. You should carefully consider the risk factors described under Risk Factors beginning on page 3 of this prospectus and in the applicable prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated herein and therein before you make any investment in our securities.

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

The date of this prospectus is May 17, 2016

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You should rely only on the information we have provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Neither we nor the selling security holders have authorized any person to provide you with additional or different information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the cover page of this prospectus or that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the documents incorporated by reference. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we or selling security holders may sell, in one or more offerings, up to \$657,501,907 in total aggregate offering price of securities described in this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of us and the securities offered under this prospectus.

In addition, the selling security holders named under the heading Selling Security Holders may use this prospectus to offer and sell up to an aggregate of 8,772,467 of our common units from time to time. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of our common units by the selling security holders. The selling security holders will deliver a prospectus supplement with this prospectus, to the extent appropriate, to update the information contained in this prospectus. The selling security holders may sell their common units through any means described below under the heading Plan of Distribution.

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

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by reference to the actual documents. For additional information about our business, operations and financial results, please read the documents incorporated by reference herein as described below in the section entitled Where You Can Find More Information.

As used in this prospectus, we, us and our and similar terms mean Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP and its subsidiaries, unless the context indicates otherwise.

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TALLGRASS ENERGY PARTNERS, LP

Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP (NYSE: TEP) is a publicly traded, growth-oriented limited partnership formed in 2013 to own, operate, acquire and develop midstream energy assets in North America. TEP currently provides crude oil transportation to customers in Wyoming, Colorado, and the surrounding regions through Tallgrass Pony Express Pipeline, LLC, or Pony Express, which owns a crude oil pipeline commencing in Guernsey, Wyoming and terminating in Cushing, Oklahoma that includes a lateral in Northeast Colorado that commences in Weld County, Colorado, and interconnects with the pipeline just east of Sterling, Colorado, or Pony Express System. TEP provides natural gas transportation and storage services for customers in the Rocky Mountain and Midwest regions of the United States through the Tallgrass Interstate Gas Transmission system, a FERC-regulated natural gas transportation and storage system located in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Wyoming, and a FERC-regulated natural gas pipeline system extending from the Colorado and Wyoming border to Beatrice, Nebraska, or the Trailblazer Pipeline. TEP recently acquired a membership interest in Rockies Express Pipeline LLC, a Delaware limited liability company engaged in the ownership and operation of the Rockies Express Pipeline, a FERC-regulated natural gas pipeline transportation system, traversing an area from the Rocky Mountain Region to the Appalachian Mountain Region. TEP also provides services for customers in Wyoming at the Casper and Douglas natural gas processing facilities and the West Frenchie Draw natural gas treating facility, and natural gas liquids transportation services in Northeast Colorado. TEP performs water business services in Colorado and Texas through BNN Water Solutions, LLC. TEP's operations are strategically located in and provide services to certain key United States hydrocarbon basins, including the Denver-Julesburg, Powder River, Wind River, Permian and Hugoton-Anadarko Basins and the Niobrara, Mississippi Lime, Eagle Ford and Bakken shale formations.

Our general partner, Tallgrass MLP GP, LLC, is a Delaware limited liability company and has ultimate responsibility for conducting our business and managing our operations.

Our executive offices are located at 4200 W. 115th Street, Suite 350, Leawood, Kansas 66211, and our telephone number is (913) 928-6060.

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RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the following risk factor, together with the risks described in our filings with the SEC referred to under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**, as well as the risks included and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including the risk factors incorporated by reference herein from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, as updated by annual, quarterly and other reports and documents we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and that are incorporated by reference herein. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our securities could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment. When we or any selling security holder offer and sell any securities pursuant to a prospectus supplement, we or such selling security holder may include additional risk factors relevant to such securities in the prospectus supplement.

Our pipeline integrity program may impose significant costs and liabilities on us, while increased regulatory requirements relating to the integrity of our pipeline systems may require us to make additional capital and operating expenditures to comply with such requirements.

We are subject to extensive laws and regulations related to pipeline integrity. There are, for example, federal requirements set by the United States Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA, for owners and operators of pipelines in the areas of pipeline design, construction, and testing, the qualification of personnel and the development of operations and emergency response plans. The rules require pipeline operators to develop integrity management programs to comprehensively evaluate their pipelines and take measures to protect pipeline segments located in what the rules refer to as HCAs.

Our pipeline operations are subject to pipeline safety regulations administered by PHMSA. These regulations, among other things, include requirements to monitor and maintain the integrity of our pipeline systems and determine the pressures at which our pipeline systems can operate. The Pipeline Safety Act of 2011 enacted January 3, 2012, amends the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 in a number of significant ways, including:

reauthorizing funding for federal pipeline safety programs, increasing penalties for safety violations and establishing additional safety requirements for newly constructed pipelines;

requiring PHMSA to adopt appropriate regulations within two years and requiring the use of automatic or remote-controlled shutoff valves on new or rebuilt pipeline facilities;

requiring operators of pipelines to verify maximum allowable operating pressure, or MAOP, and report exceedances within five days; and

requiring studies of certain safety issues that could result in the adoption of new regulatory requirements for new and existing pipelines, including changes to integrity management requirements for HCAs, and expansion of those requirements to areas outside of HCAs.

In August 2012, PHMSA published rules to update pipeline safety regulations to reflect provisions included in the Pipeline Safety Act of 2011, including increasing maximum civil penalties from \$0.1 million to \$0.2 million per

violation per day of violation and from \$1.0 million to \$2.0 million as a maximum amount for a related series of violations as well as changing PHMSA's enforcement process. In October 2015, PHMSA issued a notice of proposed rule-making to its hazardous liquid pipeline safety regulations. Among other things, the proposed regulations would expand the current leak-detection requirements, apply new, more conservative repair criteria and establish timelines for inspecting pipeline facilities potentially affected by an extreme weather event or natural disaster. The proposal would also increase the stringency of integrity management program requirements and set deadlines for the use of internal inspection tools on certain systems. In addition, on April 8, 2016, PHMSA published a notice of proposed rule-making (NPRM) addressing natural gas transmission and

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gathering lines. The proposed rule would include changes to existing integrity management requirements and would expand assessment and repair requirements to pipelines in areas with medium population densities (referred to as Moderate Consequence Areas or MCAs), along with other changes. We are still monitoring and evaluating the effect of these proposed requirements on our operations. Further, this NPRM would build on the requirements in an Advisory Bulletin PHMSA issued in May 2012, which advised pipeline operators of anticipated changes in annual reporting requirements and that if they are relying on design, construction, inspection, testing, or other data to determine the pressures at which their pipelines should operate, the records of that data must be traceable, verifiable and complete.

The ultimate costs of compliance with the integrity management rules are difficult to predict. Changes such as advances of in-line inspection tools, identification of additional threats to a pipeline's integrity and changes to the amount of pipe determined to be located in HCAs or expansion of integrity management requirements to areas outside of HCAs, such as the MCAs proposed by the April 2016 notice of proposed rule-making, can have a significant impact on the costs to perform integrity testing and repairs. Trailblazer Pipeline Company, LLC, or Trailblazer, recently conducted smart tool surveys and preliminary analysis on segments of its natural gas pipeline to evaluate the growth rate of corrosion downstream of compressor stations. Trailblazer currently believes that approximately 25 -35 miles of pipe will likely need to be repaired or replaced in order for the pipeline to operate at its MAOP of 1,000 pounds per square inch. Such repair or replacement will likely occur over a period of years, depending upon final assessment of corrosion growth rates and the remediation and repair plan implemented by Trailblazer. Trailblazer is currently operating at less than its current MAOP, public notice of which was first provided in June 2014. The current pressure reduction is not expected to prevent Trailblazer from fulfilling its firm service obligations at existing subscription levels and to date it has not had a material adverse financial impact on us.

During 2015, Trailblazer completed 32 excavation digs at an aggregate cost of approximately \$1.3 million based on preliminary analysis of the smart tool surveys performed in 2014. Segments of the Trailblazer Pipeline that require full replacement are currently expected to cost in the range of approximately \$2.2 million to \$2.7 million per mile. Repair costs on sections of the pipeline that do not require full replacement are expected to be less on a per mile basis. Trailblazer is continuing to develop a remediation and repair plan, which involves, among other things, finalizing cost recovery options, establishing project scope and timing and setting an overall project budget. In 2016, Trailblazer intends to replace approximately 8 miles of pipe at an estimated cost of \$21.5 million. Trailblazer is currently exploring all possible cost recovery options. It may not ultimately be able to recover any or all of such out of pocket costs unless and until Trailblazer recovers them through a general rate increase or other FERC-approved recovery mechanism, or through negotiated rate agreements with its customers.

In connection with our acquisition of the Trailblazer Pipeline, Tallgrass Development, LP agreed to contractually indemnify TEP for any out of pocket costs incurred between April 1, 2014 and April 1, 2017 related to repairing or remediating the Trailblazer Pipeline, to the extent that such actions are necessitated by external corrosion caused by the pipeline's disbanded Hi-Melt CTE coating. The contractual indemnity provided by Tallgrass Development, LP is currently capped at \$20 million and is subject to an annual \$1.5 million deductible. We will continue pipeline integrity testing programs to assess and maintain the integrity of our existing and future pipelines as required by the U.S. Department of Transportation regulations. The results of these tests could cause us to incur significant and unanticipated capital and operating expenditures for repairs or upgrades deemed necessary to ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of our pipelines, which expenditures could be material.

Additionally, we had several minor incidents in 2014 and 2015 on the Pony Express System that we reported to PHMSA during final commissioning and since the line has been placed into commercial service. In each of these cases, which released between 0.5 and 300 bbls of crude oil, the remediation activities have been completed without material cost to the Pony Express System, and the matters have been closed by the applicable agencies. In late 2015,

anomalies were detected on the portion of the Pony Express System's pipeline that was converted from gas service. These anomalies were reported to PHMSA on December 2, 2015. Pony Express is

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continuing to evaluate and remediate these issues on the converted pipeline section of the Pony Express System. Tallgrass Development, LP has agreed to contractually indemnify us for out of pocket costs incurred to repair, replace or remediate anomalies in any part of the Pony Express System's pipeline that was converted from gas service to the extent such anomalies are identified by in-line inspection tools during the period from January 1, 2015 until January 1, 2019. The contractual indemnity provided by Tallgrass Development, LP is capped at \$11 million and is subject to an annual \$1 million deductible.

The Pony Express System is a newly commissioned crude oil pipeline and these integrity issues may continue for the foreseeable future. There can be no assurance as to the amount or timing of future expenditures required to remediate or resolve these issues, and actual future expenditures may be different from the amounts we currently anticipate. These integrity issues could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and prospects.

Further, additional laws, regulations and policies that may be enacted or adopted in the future or a new interpretation of existing laws and regulations could significantly increase the amount of these expenditures. For example, PHMSA issued an Advisory Bulletin in May 2012 which advised pipeline operators that they must have records to document the MAOP for each section of their pipeline and that the records must be traceable, verifiable and complete. Locating such records and, in the absence of any such records, verifying maximum pressures through physical testing (including hydrotesting) or modifying or replacing facilities to meet the demands of verifiable pressures, could significantly increase our costs. Tallgrass Interstate Gas Transmission, LLC continues to investigate and, when necessary, report to PHMSA the miles of pipeline for which it has incomplete records for MAOP. We are currently undertaking an extensive internal record review in view of the anticipated PHMSA annual reporting requirements. Additionally, failure to locate such records or verify maximum pressures could require us to operate at reduced pressures, which would reduce available capacity on our natural gas pipeline systems. These specific requirements do not currently apply to crude oil pipelines, but forthcoming regulations implementing the Pipeline Safety Act of 2011 likely will expand the scope of regulation applicable to crude oil pipelines. There can be no assurance as to the amount or timing of future expenditures required to comply with pipeline integrity regulation, and actual future expenditures may be different from the amounts we currently anticipate. In addition, we may be subject to enforcement actions and penalties for failure to comply with pipeline regulations. Revised or additional regulations that result in increased compliance costs or additional operating restrictions could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and prospects. In addition, we may be subject to enforcement actions and penalties for failure to comply with pipeline regulations.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the information included in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference contain forward-looking statements concerning our operations, economic performance and financial condition. Forward-looking statements give our current expectations and contain projections of results of operations or of financial condition, or forecasts of future events. Words such as could, will, may, assume, forecast, position, predict, strategy, expect, intend, plan, estimate, anticipate, believe, project, budget, potential, and other similar expressions are used to identify forward-looking statements. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus include our expectations of plans, strategies, objectives, growth and anticipated financial and operational performance, including guidance regarding our and Tallgrass Development, LP's infrastructure programs, revenue projections, capital expenditures and tax position. Forward-looking statements can be affected by assumptions used or by known or unknown risks or uncertainties. Consequently, no forward-looking statements can be guaranteed.

A forward-looking statement may include a statement of the assumptions or bases underlying the forward-looking statement. We believe that we have chosen these assumptions or bases in good faith and that they are reasonable. However, when considering these forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements in this prospectus. Actual results may vary materially. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. You should also understand that it is not possible to predict or identify all such factors and should not consider the following list to be a complete statement of all potential risks and uncertainties. Factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the results contemplated by such forward-looking statements include:

our ability to complete and integrate acquisitions from Tallgrass Development, LP or from third parties, including our ability to complete and integrate our acquisition of a 25% membership interest in Rockies Express Pipeline LLC, our acquisition of water business assets in Weld County, Colorado that was completed in December 2015 and our purchase of an additional 31.3% membership interest in Pony Express that was completed in January 2016;

large or multiple customer defaults on contractual obligations, including defaults resulting from actual or potential insolvencies;

changes in general economic conditions;

competitive conditions in our industry;

actions taken by third-party operators, processors and transporters;

the demand for our services, including crude oil transportation services, natural gas transportation, storage and processing services and water business services;

our ability to successfully implement our business plan;

our ability to complete internal growth projects on time and on budget;

the price and availability of debt and equity financing;

the level of production of crude oil, natural gas and other hydrocarbons and the resultant market prices of crude oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids and other hydrocarbons;

the availability and price of natural gas and crude oil, and fuels derived from both, to the consumer compared to the price of alternative and competing fuels;

competition from the same and alternative energy sources;

energy efficiency and technology trends;

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operating hazards and other risks incidental to transporting crude oil, transporting, storing and processing natural gas, and transporting, gathering and disposing of water produced in connection with hydrocarbon exploration and production activities;

natural disasters, weather-related delays, casualty losses and other matters beyond our control;

interest rates;

labor relations;

changes in tax status;

the effects of existing and future laws and governmental regulations;

the effects of future litigation; and

certain factors discussed elsewhere in this prospectus.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made. While we may update these statements from time to time, we are not required to do so other than pursuant to the securities laws.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

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

paying or refinancing all or a portion of our indebtedness outstanding at the time; and

funding working capital, capital expenditures or acquisitions.

Unless an applicable prospectus supplement indicates otherwise, we will not receive any proceeds from the sale of securities by selling security holders.

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

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The selling security holders named below may offer to sell from time to time in the future up to an aggregate of 8,772,467 of our common units.

Tallgrass Operations, LLC, an affiliate of TEP, owns 12,873,480 of our common units, a certain number of which are being registered herein pursuant to the registration rights in our partnership agreement. On April 28, 2016, the Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corporation, Tortoise MLP Fund, Inc., Tortoise Pipeline & Energy Fund, Inc., Tortoise Energy Independence Fund, Inc., Tortoise MLP & Pipeline Fund and Tortoise VIP MLP & Pipeline Portfolio, collectively referred to herein as the Tortoise Entities, purchased an aggregate of 2,416,987 of our common units for an aggregate offering price of \$90,008,596 in a private placement transaction. The common units owned by the Tortoise Entities are being registered pursuant to a registration rights agreement entered into among the Tortoise Entities and TEP.

The following table sets forth information about the maximum number of common units that may be offered from time to time by each selling security holder under this prospectus. The selling security holders identified below may currently hold or acquire at any time common units in addition to those registered hereby. In addition, the selling security holders identified below may sell, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of some or all of their common units in private placement transactions exempt from or not subject to the registration requirements of the Securities Act. Accordingly, we cannot give an estimate as to the amount of common units that will be held by the selling security holders upon termination of the applicable offering. Information concerning the selling security holders may change from time to time and, if necessary, we will supplement this prospectus accordingly.

To our knowledge, except as noted in the footnotes to the chart below, none of the selling security holders has, or has had within the past three years, any position, office or other material relationship with us or any of our predecessors or affiliates, other than their ownership of common units. Because each selling security holder may sell all or a portion of the common units registered hereby, we cannot currently estimate the number or percentage of common units that each selling security holder will hold upon completion of the applicable offering.

Tallgrass Operations, LLC is not a broker-dealer registered under Section 15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, or an affiliate of a broker-dealer registered under Section 15 of the Exchange Act. We have been advised, as noted below in the footnotes to the table, that the Tortoise Entities are affiliates of broker-dealers. We have been advised that each of such selling security holders identified as an affiliate of a broker-dealer purchased our common units in the ordinary course of business, and that none of such selling security holders had, at the time of purchase, any agreements or understandings, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute the common units.

We have prepared the table and the related notes based on information supplied to us by the selling security holders on or prior to May 5, 2016. We have not sought to verify such information. Other information about the selling security holders may change over time.

Selling Security Holder	Common Units Beneficially Owned(1)	Maximum Number of Common Units to be Sold Pursuant to this Prospectus(2)
Tallgrass Operations, LLC(3)	12,873,480	6,355,480

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Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corporation(4)	1,436,628	1,436,628
Tortoise MLP Fund, Inc.(4)	819,012	819,012
Tortoise Pipeline & Energy Fund, Inc.(4)	20,140	20,140
Tortoise Energy Independence Fund, Inc.(4)	20,140	20,140
Tortoise MLP & Pipeline Fund(4)	120,838	120,838
Tortoise VIP MLP & Pipeline Portfolio(4)	229	229

(1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act.

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- (2) Pursuant to Rule 416 of the Securities Act, this registration statement also shall cover any additional common units that become issuable, in connection with the common units registered for resale hereby, as a result of any unit distribution, split, combination or similar transaction.
- (3) Tallgrass Operations, LLC, which we refer to as Tallgrass Operations, is an affiliate of TEP. Tallgrass Development, LP is the sole member of Tallgrass Operations and therefore controls Tallgrass Operations. Tallgrass Development, LP is controlled by its general partner, Tallgrass Energy Holdings, LLC. Tallgrass Energy Holdings, LLC, also indirectly controls the general partner of TEP. Tallgrass Energy Holdings, LLC has the sole voting and dispositive power with respect to Tallgrass Operations common units to be included in this registration statement. Tallgrass Energy Holdings, LLC is controlled by its board of directors, which currently consists of the following: David G. Dehaemers, Jr., William R. Moler, Frank J. Loverro, Stanley de J. Osborne, Jeffrey A. Ball and John T. Raymond. Each of the members of the board of directors of Tallgrass Energy Holdings, LLC may be deemed to beneficially own the common units included by Tallgrass Operations in this registration statement; however, each disclaims beneficial ownership.
- (4) Tortoise Capital Advisors, L.L.C. (TCA) serves as the investment adviser to the Tortoise Entities. TCA is under common control with Montage Securities, LLC, a broker-dealer registered with the SEC and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Each of the Tortoise Entities represents that it acquired its common units through the ordinary course of its business, and at the time of its purchase of the common units, such selling security holder had no agreements or understandings, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute these common units.

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The table below sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated. For purposes of determining the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings are defined as pretax income or loss from continuing operations before earnings from unconsolidated affiliates, plus fixed charges, plus distributed earnings from unconsolidated affiliates, less capitalized interest. Fixed charges consist of interest expensed, capitalized interest, amortization of deferred loan costs, and an estimate of the interest within rental expense.

	TEP(1)			Period from November 12, 2012 to December 31, 2012	TEP Pre-Predecessor	
	Year Ended December 31,				Period from January 1, 2012 to November 12, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011
	2015	2014	2013			
Earnings from continuing operations before fixed charges:						
Pre-tax income from continuing operations before earnings from unconsolidated affiliates	\$ 184,814	\$ 58,612	\$ 7,624	\$ (2,618)	\$ 51,775	\$ 77,803
Fixed charges	25,437	11,626	13,360	3,450	69	83
Amortization of capitalized interest	66	35				
Distributed earnings from unconsolidated affiliates		717				
less: Capitalized interest	(811)	(1,025)	(242)			
Earnings from continuing operations before fixed charges	\$ 209,506	\$ 69,965	\$ 20,742	\$ 832	\$ 51,844	\$ 77,886
Fixed charges:						
Interest expense, net of capitalized interest	14,226	7,648	11,264	3,040		
Capitalized interest	811	1,025	242			
Estimate of interest within rental expense (33.3%)	8,615	1,574	109	14	69	83
Amortization of debt costs	1,785	1,379	1,745	396		
Total fixed charges	\$ 25,437	\$ 11,626	\$ 13,360	\$ 3,450	\$ 69	\$ 83
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	8.24	6.02	1.55	(2)	751.36	938.39

(1) TEP closed the acquisition of Trailblazer on April 1, 2014 and the acquisition of a controlling 33.3% membership interest in Pony Express effective September 1, 2014. As the acquisitions of Trailblazer and the initial 33.3% of Pony Express were considered transactions between entities under common control, and changes in reporting

entity, financial information presented subsequent to November 13, 2012 and prior to the respective acquisition dates has been recast to include Trailblazer and the initial 33.3% of Pony Express. TEP closed the acquisition of an additional 33.3% membership interest in Pony Express effective March 1, 2015, which represents a transaction between entities under common control and an acquisition of noncontrolling interests. As a result, financial information for periods prior to March 1, 2015 has not been recast to reflect the additional 33.3% membership interest.

- (2) As a result of the net loss for the period from November 12, 2012 to December 31, 2012, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges was less than 1:1. TEP would have needed to generate additional earnings of \$2.6 million to achieve an earnings to fixed charges ratio of 1:1 for the period from November 12, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS

The common units represent limited partner interests in us. The holders of units are entitled to participate in partnership distributions and exercise the rights or privileges available to limited partners under our partnership agreement. For a description of the relative rights and preferences of holders of common units in and to partnership distributions, please read this section and Provisions of Our Partnership Agreement Relating to Cash Distributions. For a description of the rights and privileges of limited partners under our partnership agreement, including voting rights, please read Description of Our Partnership Agreement.

Our outstanding common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol TEP.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Duties

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC serves as registrar and transfer agent for our common units. We will pay all fees charged by the transfer agent for transfers of common units except the following that must be paid by unitholders:

surety bond premiums to replace lost or stolen certificates, taxes and other governmental charges;

special charges for services requested by a common unitholder; and

other similar fees or charges.

There will be no charge to unitholders for disbursements of our cash distributions. We will indemnify the transfer agent, its agents and each of their directors, officers and employees against all claims and losses that may arise out of acts performed for its activities in that capacity, except for any liability due to bad faith, gross negligence or willful misconduct of the indemnified person or entity.

Resignation or Removal

The transfer agent may resign by notice to us or be removed by us. The resignation or removal of the transfer agent will become effective upon our appointment of a successor transfer agent and registrar and its acceptance of the appointment. If no successor has been appointed, our general partner may act as the transfer agent and registrar until a successor is appointed.

Transfer of Common Units

By transfer of common units in accordance with our partnership agreement, each transferee of common units shall be admitted as a limited partner with respect to the common units transferred when such transfer or admission is reflected in our register and such limited partner becomes the record holder of the common units so transferred. Each transferee, whether or not such transferee executes our partnership agreement:

will become bound and will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by the terms and conditions of our partnership agreement;

represents that the transferee has the capacity, power and authority to enter into our partnership agreement;
and

makes the consents, acknowledgements and waivers contained in our partnership agreement.

We are entitled to treat the nominee holder of a common unit as the absolute owner in the event such nominee is the record holder of such common unit. In that case, the beneficial holder's rights are limited solely to those that it has against the nominee holder as a result of any agreement between the beneficial owner and the nominee holder.

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Common units are securities and are transferable according to the laws governing transfer of securities. Until a common unit has been transferred on our register, we and the transfer agent may treat the record holder of the unit as the absolute owner for all purposes, except as otherwise required by law or stock exchange regulations.

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DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED UNITS

Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of additional limited partner interests and other equity securities on the terms and conditions established by our general partner without the approval of any of our limited partners. In accordance with Delaware law and the provisions of our partnership agreement, we may issue additional partnership interests that have special voting rights to which our common units are not entitled. As of the date of this prospectus, we have no preferred units outstanding.

Should we offer preferred units under this prospectus, a prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of preferred units offered will include the specific terms of those preferred units, including, among other things, the following:

the designation, stated value, and liquidation preference of the preferred units and the number of preferred units offered;

the initial public offering price at which the preferred units will be issued;

any conversion or exchange provisions of the preferred units;

any redemption or sinking fund provisions of the preferred units;

the distribution rights of the preferred units, if any;

a discussion of any additional material federal income tax considerations regarding the preferred units; and

any additional rights, preferences, privileges, limitations, and restrictions of the preferred units.

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DESCRIPTION OF PARTNERSHIP SECURITIES

Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of additional limited partner interests and other equity securities on the terms and conditions established by our general partner without the approval of any of our limited partners. In accordance with Delaware law and the provisions of our partnership agreement, we may issue additional partnership interests that have special voting rights to which our common units are not entitled.

The following is a description of the general terms and provisions of our partnership securities. The particular terms of any series of partnership securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and the amendment to our partnership agreement, if necessary, relating to that series of partnership securities, which will be filed as an exhibit to or incorporated by reference into this prospectus at or before the time of issuance of any such series of partnership securities. If so indicated in a prospectus supplement, the terms of any such series may differ from the terms set forth below.

Our general partner is authorized to approve the issuance of one or more series of partnership securities without further authorization of the limited partners and to fix the number of securities, the designations, rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions of any such series.

The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the number of securities, particular designation, relative rights and preferences and the limitations of any series of partnership securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered. The particular terms of any such series may include the following:

the maximum number, if any, of securities to constitute the series and the designation and ranking thereof;

the distribution rate, if any, on securities of the series, whether such rate is fixed or variable or both, the dates from which distributions will begin to accrue or accumulate, whether distributions will be cumulative and whether such distributions will be paid in cash, securities or otherwise;

whether the securities of the series will be redeemable and, if so, the price and the terms and conditions on which the securities of the series may be redeemed, including the time during which securities of the series may be redeemed and any accumulated distributions thereof that the holders of the securities of the series will be entitled to receive upon the redemption thereof;

the liquidation preference, if any, applicable to securities of the series;

the terms and conditions, if any, on which the securities of the series will be convertible into, or exchangeable for, securities of any other class or classes of partnership securities, including the price or prices or the rate or rates of conversion or exchange and the method, if any, of adjusting the same; and

the voting rights, if any, of the securities of the series.

Partnership securities will be fully paid (to the extent required under our partnership agreement) and non-assessable (except as such nonassessability may be affected by Sections 17-303, 17-607 and 17-804 of the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act) when issued upon full payment of the purchase price therefor. The prospectus supplement will contain, if applicable, a description of the material federal income tax consequences relating to the purchase and ownership of the series of partnership securities offered by the prospectus supplement. The transfer agent, registrar and distributions disbursement agent for the partnership securities will be designated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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DESCRIPTION OF OUR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The following is a summary of the material provisions of our partnership agreement. Our partnership agreement is included as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus constitutes a part. We summarize certain other provisions of the partnership agreement elsewhere in this prospectus, including in Description of the Common Units, Description of Preferred Units, Description of Partnership Securities, Provisions of Our Partnership Agreement Relating to Cash Distributions and Material Federal Income Tax Consequences.

Organization and Duration

Our partnership was organized on February 6, 2013 and will have a perpetual existence unless terminated pursuant to the terms of our partnership agreement.

Purpose

Our purpose under the partnership agreement is limited to any business activity that is approved by our general partner and that lawfully may be conducted by a limited partnership organized under Delaware law; *provided* that our general partner shall not cause us to engage, directly or indirectly, in any business activity that our general partner determines would be reasonably likely to cause us to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes.

Our general partner has the ability to cause us and our subsidiaries to engage in activities other than the ownership and operation of midstream energy assets. Our general partner may engage us in such activities free of any duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including any duty to act in the best interests of us or the limited partners, other than the implied contractual covenant of good faith and fair dealing. Our general partner is authorized in general to perform all acts it determines to be necessary or appropriate to carry out our purposes and to conduct our business.

Capital Contributions

Unitholders are not obligated to make additional capital contributions, except as described below under Limited Liability.

For a discussion of our general partner's right to contribute capital to maintain or attain a 2.0% general partner interest if we issue additional units, please read Issuance of Additional Partnership Interests.

Voting Rights

The following is a summary of the unitholder vote required for the matters specified below. Matters requiring the approval of a unit majority require the approval of a majority of the outstanding common units.

In voting their common units, our general partner and its affiliates have no duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including any duty to act in the best interests of us or the limited partners, other than the implied contractual covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

Issuance of additional units	No approval right.
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Amendment of the partnership agreement Certain amendments may be made by the general partner without the approval of the unitholders. Other amendments generally require the approval of a unit majority. Please read Amendment of the Partnership Agreement.

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Merger of our partnership or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets	Unit majority in certain circumstances. Please read Merger, Consolidation, Conversion, Sale or Other Disposition of Assets.
Dissolution of our partnership	Unit majority. Please read Termination and Dissolution.
Continuation of our business upon dissolution	Unit majority. Please read Termination and Dissolution.
Withdrawal of the general partner	Under most circumstances, the approval of unitholders holding at least a majority of the outstanding common units, excluding common units held by our general partner and its affiliates, is required for the withdrawal of our general partner prior to June 30, 2023 in a manner that would cause a dissolution of our partnership. Please read Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner.
Removal of the general partner	Not less than 66 2/3% of the outstanding units, voting as a single class, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates. Please read Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner.
Transfer of the general partner interest	Our general partner may transfer all or any part of its general partner interest in us without unitholder approval or the approval of the holders of the incentive distribution rights. Please read Transfer of General Partner Units.
Transfer of incentive distribution rights	Our general partner may transfer any or all of the incentive distribution rights without a vote of our unitholders to an affiliate or another person. Please read Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights.
Reset of incentive distribution levels	No approval right.
Transfer of ownership interests in our general partner	No approval right. Please read Transfer of Ownership Interests in the General Partner.

Limited Liability

Assuming that a limited partner does not participate in the control of our business within the meaning of the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act, or the Delaware Act, and otherwise acts in conformity with the provisions of the partnership agreement, the limited partner's liability under the Delaware Act will be limited, subject to possible exceptions, to the amount of capital he is obligated to contribute to us for his common units. If it were determined, however, that the right, or exercise of the right, by the limited partners as a group:

to remove or replace the general partner;

to approve some amendments to the partnership agreement; or

to take other action under the partnership agreement;

constituted participation in the control of our business for the purposes of the Delaware Act, then the limited partners could be held personally liable for our obligations under the laws of Delaware, to the same extent as the general partner. This liability would extend to persons who transact business with us who reasonably believe that the limited

partner is a general partner. Neither the partnership agreement nor the Delaware Act specifically provides for legal recourse against the general partner if a limited partner were to lose limited liability through any fault of the general partner. While this does not mean that a limited partner could not seek legal recourse, we know of no precedent for this type of a claim in Delaware case law.

Under the Delaware Act, a limited partnership may not make a distribution to a partner if, after the distribution, all liabilities of the limited partnership, other than liabilities to partners on account of their limited

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partner interests and liabilities for which the recourse of creditors is limited to specific property of the partnership, would exceed the fair value of the assets of the limited partnership, except that the fair value of property that is subject to a liability for which the recourse of creditors is limited is included in the assets of the limited partnership only to the extent that the fair value of that property exceeds that liability. For the purpose of determining the fair value of the assets of a limited partnership, the Delaware Act provides that the fair value of property subject to liability for which recourse of creditors is limited shall be included in the assets of the limited partnership only to the extent that the fair value of that property exceeds the non-recourse liability. The Delaware Act provides that a limited partner who receives a distribution and knew at the time of the distribution that the distribution was in violation of the Delaware Act shall be liable to the limited partnership for the amount of the distribution for three years. Under the Delaware Act, a substituted limited partner of a limited partnership is liable for the obligations of his assignor to make contributions to the partnership, except that such person is not obligated for liabilities unknown to him at the time he became a limited partner and that could not be ascertained from the partnership agreement.

We conduct business in several states and we may have subsidiaries that conduct business in other states in the future. Maintenance of our limited liability as a limited partner or member of our operating subsidiaries may require compliance with legal requirements in the jurisdictions in which our operating subsidiaries conduct business, including qualifying our subsidiaries to do business there.

Limitations on the liability of limited partners or members for the obligations of a limited partnership or limited liability company have not been clearly established in many jurisdictions. If, by virtue of our ownership interest in our operating companies or otherwise, it were determined that we were conducting business in any state without compliance with the applicable limited partnership or limited liability company statute, or that the right or exercise of the right by the limited partners as a group to remove or replace the general partner, to approve some amendments to the partnership agreement, or to take other action under the partnership agreement constituted participation in the control of our business for purposes of the statutes of any relevant jurisdiction, then the limited partners could be held personally liable for our obligations under the law of that jurisdiction to the same extent as the general partner under the circumstances. We will operate in a manner that the general partner considers reasonable and necessary or appropriate to preserve the limited liability of the limited partners.

Issuance of Additional Partnership Interests

Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of additional partnership interests for the consideration and on the terms and conditions determined by our general partner without the approval of the unitholders.

It is possible that we will fund acquisitions through the issuance of additional common units or other partnership interests. Holders of any additional common units we issue will be entitled to share equally with the then-existing holders of common units in our distributions of available cash. In addition, the issuance of additional common units or other partnership interests may dilute the value of the interests of the then-existing holders of common units in our net assets and operations.

In accordance with Delaware law and the provisions of our partnership agreement, we may also issue additional partnership interests that, as determined by our general partner, may have special voting rights to which the common units are not entitled. In addition, our partnership agreement does not prohibit the issuance by us or our subsidiaries of equity interests, including equity interests that rank senior to the common units.

Our general partner has the right, which it may from time to time assign in whole or in part to any of its affiliates, to make additional capital contributions to us to the extent necessary to maintain or attain a 2.0% general partner interest

in us. The price to be paid for the additional general partner units shall be an amount per general partner unit equal to the average of the daily closing price of our common units on the national securities exchange on which our common units are listed for the 20 consecutive trading days immediately prior the day

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such capital contribution is actually made. Our general partner's interest in us will be reduced if we issue additional units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain or attain a 2.0% general partner interest. Moreover, our general partner and its affiliates have the right, which they may from time to time assign in whole or in part to any of their affiliates, to purchase common units or other partnership interests whenever, and on the same terms that, we issue those interests to persons other than our general partner and its affiliates, to the extent necessary to maintain the percentage interest of the general partner and its affiliates, including such interest represented by common units, that existed immediately prior to each issuance. The other holders of common units will not have preemptive rights to acquire additional common units or other partnership interests.

Amendment of the Partnership Agreement

General

Amendments to our partnership agreement may be proposed only by our general partner. However, our general partner has no duty or obligation to propose any amendment and may decline to do so free of any duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including any duty to act in the best interests of us or the limited partners, other than the implied contractual covenant of good faith and fair dealing. In order to adopt a proposed amendment, other than the amendments discussed below, our general partner is required to seek written approval of the holders of the number of units required to approve the amendment or call a meeting of the limited partners to consider and vote upon the proposed amendment. Except as described below, an amendment must be approved by a unit majority.

Prohibited Amendments

No amendment may be made that would:

enlarge the obligations of any limited partner without its consent, unless such is deemed to have occurred as a result of an amendment approved by at least a majority of the type or class of limited partner interests so affected; or

enlarge the obligations of, restrict in any way any action by or rights of, or reduce in any way the amounts distributable, reimbursable or otherwise payable by us to our general partner or any of its affiliates without its consent, which consent may be given or withheld at its option.

The provisions of our partnership agreement preventing the amendments having the effects described in any of the clauses above can be amended upon the approval of the holders of at least 90% of the outstanding units voting together as a single class (including units owned by our general partner and its affiliates).

No Unitholder Approval

Our general partner may generally make amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner to reflect:

a change in our name, the location of our principal office, our registered agent or our registered office;

the admission, substitution, withdrawal or removal of partners in accordance with our partnership agreement;

a change that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate to qualify or continue our qualification as a limited partnership or a partnership in which the limited partners have limited liability under the laws of any state or to ensure that neither we nor, as applicable, any of our subsidiaries will be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise taxed as an entity for federal income tax purposes;

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an amendment that is necessary, in the opinion of our counsel, to prevent us or our general partner or its directors, officers, agents or trustees from, in any manner, being subjected to the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, or plan asset regulations adopted under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or ERISA, whether or not substantially similar to plan asset regulations currently applied or proposed by the United States Department of Labor;

an amendment that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate for the authorization or issuance of additional partnership interests;

any amendment expressly permitted in our partnership agreement to be made by our general partner acting alone;

an amendment effected, necessitated or contemplated by a merger agreement or plan of conversion that has been approved under the terms of our partnership agreement;

any amendment that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate to reflect and account for the formation by us of, or our investment in, any corporation, partnership or other entity, in connection with our conduct of activities permitted by our partnership agreement;

a change in our fiscal year or taxable year and any other changes that our general partner determines to be necessary or appropriate as a result of such change;

conversions into, mergers with or conveyances to another limited liability entity that is newly formed and has no assets, liabilities or operations at the time of the conversion, merger or conveyance other than those it receives by way of the conversion, merger or conveyance; or

any other amendments substantially similar to any of the matters described in the clauses above.

In addition, our general partner may make amendments to our partnership agreement without the approval of any limited partner if our general partner determines that those amendments:

do not adversely affect in any material respect the limited partners considered as a whole or any particular class of partnership interests as compared to other classes of partnership interests;

are necessary or appropriate to satisfy any requirements, conditions or guidelines contained in any opinion, directive, order, ruling or regulation of any federal or state agency or judicial authority or contained in any federal or state statute;

are necessary or appropriate to facilitate the trading of limited partner interests or to comply with any rule, regulation, guideline or requirement of any securities exchange on which the limited partner interests are or will be listed or admitted to trading;

are necessary or appropriate for any action taken by our general partner relating to splits or combinations of units under the provisions of our partnership agreement; or

are required to effect the intent of the provisions of our partnership agreement or are otherwise contemplated by our partnership agreement.

Opinion of Counsel and Unitholder Approval

For amendments of the type not requiring unitholder approval, our general partner is not required to obtain an opinion of counsel to the effect that an amendment will not affect the limited liability of any limited partner under Delaware law. No other amendments to our partnership agreement will become effective without the approval of holders of at least 90% of the outstanding units voting as a single class unless we first obtain such an opinion.

In addition to the above restrictions, any amendment that would have a material adverse effect on the rights or preferences of any type or class of partnership interests in relation to other classes of partnership interests will

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require the approval of at least a majority of the type or class of partnership interests so affected. Any amendment that would reduce the percentage of units required to take any action, other than to remove our general partner or call a meeting of unitholders, must be approved by the affirmative vote of limited partners whose aggregate outstanding units constitute not less than the percentage sought to be reduced. Any amendment that would increase the percentage of units required to remove our general partner must be approved by the affirmative vote of limited partners whose aggregate outstanding units constitute not less than 90% of outstanding units. Any amendment that would increase the percentage of units required to call a meeting of unitholders must be approved by the affirmative vote of limited partners whose aggregate outstanding units constitute at least a majority of the outstanding units.

Merger, Consolidation, Conversion, Sale or Other Disposition of Assets

A merger, consolidation or conversion of us requires the prior consent of our general partner. However, our general partner has no duty or obligation to consent to any merger, consolidation or conversion and may decline to do so free of any duty or obligation whatsoever to us or the limited partners, including any duty to act in the best interest of us or the limited partners, other than the implied contractual covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

In addition, the partnership agreement generally prohibits our general partner, without the prior approval of the holders of a unit majority, from causing us to, among other things, sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets in a single transaction or a series of related transactions. Our general partner may, however, mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or grant a security interest in all or substantially all of our assets without that approval. Our general partner may also sell any or all of our assets under a foreclosure or other realization upon those encumbrances without that approval. Finally, our general partner may consummate any merger with another limited liability entity without the prior approval of our unitholders if we are the surviving entity in the transaction, our general partner has received an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters, the transaction would not result in an amendment to the partnership agreement requiring unitholder approval, each of our units will be an identical unit of our partnership following the transaction, and the partnership interests to be issued by us in such merger do not exceed 20% of our outstanding partnership interests immediately prior to the transaction.

If the conditions specified in the partnership agreement are satisfied, our general partner may convert us or any of our subsidiaries into a new limited liability entity or merge us or any of our subsidiaries into, or convey all of our assets to, a newly formed entity if the sole purpose of that conversion, merger or conveyance is to effect a mere change in our legal form into another limited liability entity, our general partner has received an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters, and the general partner determines that the governing instruments of the new entity provide the limited partners and the general partner with the same rights and obligations as contained in the partnership agreement. The unitholders are not entitled to dissenters' rights of appraisal under the partnership agreement or applicable Delaware law in the event of a conversion, merger or consolidation, a sale of substantially all of our assets or any other similar transaction or event.

Termination and Dissolution

We will continue as a limited partnership until dissolved and terminated under our partnership agreement. We will dissolve upon:

the election of our general partner to dissolve us, if approved by the holders of units representing a unit majority;

there being no limited partners, unless we are continued without dissolution in accordance with applicable Delaware law;

the entry of a decree of judicial dissolution of our partnership; or

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the withdrawal or removal of our general partner or any other event that results in its ceasing to be our general partner, other than by reason of a transfer of its general partner interest in accordance with our partnership agreement or withdrawal or removal followed by approval and admission of a successor.

Upon a dissolution under the last clause above, the holders of a unit majority may also elect, within specific time limitations, to continue our business on the same terms and conditions described in our partnership agreement by appointing as a successor general partner an entity approved by the holders of units representing a unit majority, subject to our receipt of an opinion of counsel to the effect that:

the action would not result in the loss of limited liability of any limited partner; and

neither our partnership nor any of our subsidiaries would be treated as an association taxable as a corporation or otherwise be taxable as an entity for federal income tax purposes as a result of the exercise of that right to continue.

Liquidation and Distribution of Proceeds

Upon our dissolution, unless we are continued as a new limited partnership, the liquidator authorized to wind up our affairs will, acting with all of the powers of our general partner that are necessary or appropriate to, liquidate our assets and apply the proceeds of the liquidation as described in Provisions of Our Partnership Agreement Relating to Cash Distributions Distributions of Cash Upon Liquidation. The liquidator may defer liquidation or distribution of our assets for a reasonable period of time or distribute assets to partners in kind if it determines that a sale would be impractical or would cause undue loss to our partners.

Withdrawal or Removal of the General Partner

Except as described below, our general partner has agreed not to withdraw voluntarily as our general partner prior to June 30, 2023 without obtaining the approval of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding common units, excluding common units held by the general partner and its affiliates, and furnishing an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters. On or after June 30, 2023, our general partner may withdraw as general partner without first obtaining approval of any unitholder by giving 90 days written notice, and that withdrawal will not constitute a violation of our partnership agreement. Notwithstanding the information above, our general partner may withdraw without unitholder approval upon 90 days notice to the limited partners if at least 50% of the outstanding units are held or controlled by one person and its affiliates other than the general partner and its affiliates. In addition, the partnership agreement permits our general partner to sell or otherwise transfer all of its general partner interest in us without the approval of the unitholders. Please read Transfer of General Partner Units and Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights.

Upon voluntary withdrawal of our general partner by giving written notice to the other partners, the holders of a unit majority may select a successor to that withdrawing general partner. If a successor is not elected, or is elected but an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters cannot be obtained, we will be dissolved, wound up and liquidated, unless within a specified period after that withdrawal, the holders of a unit majority agree to continue our business by appointing a successor general partner. Please read Termination and Dissolution.

Our general partner may not be removed unless that removal is approved by the vote of the holders of not less than 66 2/3% of the outstanding units, voting together as a single class, including units held by our general partner and its affiliates, and we receive an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters. Any removal of our general

partner is also subject to the approval of a successor general partner by the vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding common units voting as a separate class. The ownership of more than 33 1/3% of the outstanding units by our general partner and its affiliates would give them the practical ability to prevent our general partner's removal.

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In the event of removal of a general partner under circumstances where cause exists or withdrawal of a general partner where that withdrawal violates our partnership agreement, a successor general partner will have the option to purchase the general partner interest and incentive distribution rights of the departing general partner for a cash payment equal to the fair market value of those interests. Under all other circumstances where a general partner withdraws or is removed by the limited partners, the departing general partner will have the option to require the successor general partner to purchase the general partner interest of the departing general partner and its incentive distribution rights for fair market value. In each case, this fair market value will be determined by agreement between the departing general partner and the successor general partner. If no agreement is reached, an independent investment banking firm or other independent expert selected by the departing general partner and the successor general partner will determine the fair market value. Or, if the departing general partner and the successor general partner cannot agree upon an expert, then an expert chosen by agreement of the experts selected by each of them will determine the fair market value.

If the option described above is not exercised by either the departing general partner or the successor general partner, the departing general partner will become a limited partner and its general partner interest and its incentive distribution rights will automatically convert into common units pursuant to a valuation of those interests as determined by an investment banking firm or other independent expert selected in the manner described in the preceding paragraph.

In addition, we will be required to reimburse the departing general partner for all amounts due the departing general partner, including, without limitation, all employee-related liabilities, including severance liabilities, incurred for the termination of any employees employed by the departing general partner or its affiliates for our benefit.

Transfer of General Partner Units

Our general partner may at its option transfer all or any part of its general partner interest without unitholder approval or the approval of the holders of the incentive distribution rights. As a condition of this transfer, the transferee must assume, among other things, the rights and duties of our general partner, agree to be bound by the provisions of our partnership agreement, and furnish an opinion of counsel regarding limited liability and tax matters.

Transfer of Ownership Interests in the General Partner

At any time, the owner of our general partner may sell or transfer all or part of its ownership interest in our general partner, to an affiliate or third party without the approval of our unitholders.

Transfer of Incentive Distribution Rights

Our general partner and its affiliates may at any time transfer units to one or more persons, without unitholder approval.

At any time, our general partner may sell or transfer its incentive distribution rights to an affiliate or third party without the approval of our unitholders.

Change of Management Provisions

Our partnership agreement contains specific provisions that are intended to discourage a person or group from attempting to remove Tallgrass MLP GP, LLC as our general partner or otherwise change our management. If any person or group other than our general partner and its affiliates acquires beneficial ownership of 20% or more of any class of units, that person or group loses voting rights on all of its units. This loss of voting rights does not apply to

any person or group that acquires the units from our general partner or its affiliates and any

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transferees of that person or group who are notified by our general partner that they will not lose their voting rights, to any person or group who acquires the units with the prior approval of the board of directors of our general partner or to transferees of such person or group, provided such transferee is an affiliate of the transferor.

Limited Call Right

If at any time our general partner and its affiliates own more than 80% of the then-issued and outstanding limited partner interests of any class, our general partner will have the right, which it may assign in whole or in part to any of its affiliates or to us, to acquire all, but not less than all, of the limited partner interests of such class held by unaffiliated persons as of a record date to be selected by our general partner, on at least 10 but not more than 60 days notice. The purchase price in the event of this purchase is the greater of:

the highest cash price paid by either of our general partner or any of its affiliates for any limited partner interests of the class purchased within the 90 days preceding the date on which our general partner first mails notice of its election to purchase those limited partner interests; and

the current market price calculated in accordance with our partnership agreement as of the date three business days before the date the notice is mailed.

As a result of our general partner's right to purchase outstanding limited partner interests, a holder of limited partner interests may have his limited partner interests purchased at a price that may be lower than market prices at various times prior to such purchase or lower than a unitholder may anticipate the market price to be in the future. The tax consequences to a unitholder of the exercise of this call right are the same as a sale by that unitholder of his common units in the market. Please read "Material Federal Income Tax Consequences" Disposition of Common Units.

Redemption of Ineligible Holders

In order to avoid any material adverse effect on the maximum applicable rates that can be charged to customers by our subsidiaries on assets that are subject to rate regulation by the FERC or an analogous regulatory body, the general partner can request at any time that each unitholder or transferee of common units certify:

that the transferee or unitholder is an individual or an entity subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by us; or

that, if the transferee or unitholder is an entity not subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by us, all of the entity's owners are subject to United States federal income taxation on the income generated by us.

Furthermore, in order to avoid a substantial risk of cancellation or forfeiture of any property in which we have an interest as the result of any federal, state or local law or regulation concerning the nationality, citizenship or other related status of any unitholder, our general partner may at any time request unitholders to certify as to, or provide other information with respect to, their nationality, citizenship or other related status.

The certifications as to taxpayer status and nationality, citizenship or other related status can be changed in any manner our general partner determines is necessary or appropriate to implement its original purpose.

If a unitholder fails to furnish the certification or other requested information within 30 days or if our general partner determines, with the advice of counsel, upon review of such certification or other information that a unitholder does not meet the status set forth in the certification, we will have the right to redeem all of the units held by such unitholder (other than affiliates of our general partner) at the market price as of the date three days before the date the notice of redemption is mailed.

The purchase price will be paid in cash or by delivery of a promissory note, as determined by our general partner. Any such promissory note will bear interest at the rate of 5.0% annually and be payable in three equal

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annual installments of principal and accrued interest, commencing one year after the redemption date. Further, the units subject to redemption will not be entitled to any allocations of income or loss, distributions or voting rights while held by such unitholder.

Meetings; Voting

Except as described below regarding a person or group owning 20% or more of any class of units then outstanding, record holders of units on the record date will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, meetings of our limited partners and to act upon matters for which approvals may be solicited.

Our general partner does not anticipate that any meeting of unitholders will be called in the foreseeable future. Any action that is required or permitted to be taken by the unitholders may be taken either at a meeting of the unitholders or, if authorized by our general partner, without a meeting if consents in writing describing the action so taken are signed by holders of the number of units that would be necessary to authorize or take that action at a meeting where all limited partners were present and voted. Meetings of the unitholders may be called by our general partner or by unitholders owning at least 20% of the outstanding units of the class for which a meeting is proposed. Unitholders may vote either in person or by proxy at meetings. The holders of a majority of the outstanding units of the class or classes for which a meeting has been called represented in person or by proxy will constitute a quorum unless any action by the unitholders requires approval by holders of a greater percentage of the units, in which case the quorum will be the greater percentage.

Each record holder of a unit has a vote according to his percentage interest in us, although additional limited partner interests having special voting rights could be issued. Please read Issuance of Additional Partnership Interests. However, if at any time any person or group, other than our general partner and its affiliates, a direct transferee of our general partner and its affiliates, a transferee of such direct transferee who is notified by our general partner that it will not lose its voting rights, any person or group who acquires the units with the prior approval of the board of directors of our general partner, or a transferee of any of the foregoing, provided such transferee is an affiliate of the transferor, acquires, in the aggregate, beneficial ownership of 20% or more of any class of units then outstanding, that person or group will lose voting rights on all of its units and the units may not be voted on any matter and will not be considered to be outstanding when sending notices of a meeting of unitholders, calculating required votes, determining the presence of a quorum or for other similar purposes unless the units were acquired in a transaction approved by the board of directors of our general partner. Common units held in nominee or street name account will be voted by the broker or other nominee in accordance with the instruction of the beneficial owner unless the arrangement between the beneficial owner and his nominee provides otherwise.

Any notice, demand, request, report or proxy material required or permitted to be given or made to record holders of common units under our partnership agreement will be delivered to the record holder by us or by the transfer agent.

Status as Limited Partner

By transfer of common units in accordance with our partnership agreement, each transferee of common units shall be admitted as a limited partner with respect to the common units transferred when such transfer and admission is reflected in our register. Except as described under Limited Liability, the common units will be fully paid, and unitholders will not be required to make additional contributions.

Indemnification

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

our general partner;

any departing general partner;

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

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

any person who is or was serving as director, officer, managing member, manager, general partner, fiduciary or trustee of another person owing a fiduciary duty to us or any of our subsidiaries at the request of our general partner or any departing general partner or any of their affiliates; and

any person designated by our general partner.

Any indemnification under these provisions will only be out of our assets. Unless it otherwise agrees, our general partner will not be personally liable for, or have any obligation to contribute or lend funds or assets to us to enable us to effectuate, indemnification. We have purchased insurance against liabilities asserted against and expenses incurred by persons for our activities, regardless of whether we would have the power to indemnify the person against such liabilities under our partnership agreement.

Exclusive Forum

Our partnership agreement provides that the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware shall be the exclusive forum for any claims, suits, actions or proceedings (i) arising out of or relating in any way to our partnership agreement (including any claims, suits or actions to interpret, apply or enforce the provisions of our partnership agreement or the duties, obligations or liabilities among our limited partners or of our limited partners to us, or the rights or powers of, or restrictions on, our limited partners or us), (ii) brought in a derivative manner on our behalf, (iii) asserting a claim of breach of a duty (including a fiduciary duty) owed by any of our directors, officers, or other employees, our general partner or any affiliate of our general partner, or owed by our general partner, to us or our limited partners, (iv) asserting a claim arising pursuant to any provision of the Delaware Act or (v) asserting a claim governed by the internal affairs doctrine. Although we believe this provision benefits us by providing increased consistency in the application of Delaware law in the types of lawsuits to which it applies, the provision may have the effect of discouraging lawsuits against our directors and officers. The enforceability of similar choice of forum provisions in other companies' certificates of incorporation or similar governing documents have been challenged in legal proceedings, and it is possible that, in connection with any action, a court could find the choice of forum provisions contained in our partnership agreement to be inapplicable or unenforceable in such action.

Reimbursement of Expenses

Our partnership agreement requires us to reimburse our general partner for all direct and indirect expenses it incurs or payments it makes on our behalf and all other expenses allocable to us or otherwise incurred by our general partner in connection with operating our business. These expenses include salary, bonus, incentive compensation and other amounts paid to persons who perform services for us or on our behalf and expenses allocated to our general partner by its affiliates. The general partner is entitled to determine in good faith the expenses that are allocable to us.

Books and Reports

Our general partner is required to keep appropriate books of our business. The books will be maintained for financial reporting purposes on an accrual basis. For tax and fiscal reporting purposes, our fiscal year is the calendar year.

We will mail or make available by any reasonable means (including posting on or accessible through our or the SEC's website) to record holders of common units, within 105 days after the close of each fiscal year, an annual report containing audited financial statements and a report on those financial statements by our independent public accountants. Except for our fourth quarter, we will also mail or make available by any

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reasonable means (including posting on or accessible through our or the SEC's website) summary financial information within 50 days after the close of each quarter.

We will furnish each record holder of a unit with information reasonably required for tax reporting purposes within 90 days after the close of each calendar year. This information is expected to be furnished in summary form so that some complex calculations normally required of partners can be avoided. Our ability to furnish this summary information to unitholders will depend on the cooperation of unitholders in supplying us with specific information. Every unitholder will receive information to assist him in determining his federal and state tax liability and filing his federal and state income tax returns, regardless of whether he supplies us with information.

Right to Inspect Our Books and Records

Our partnership agreement provides that a limited partner can, for a purpose reasonably related to his interest as a limited partner, upon reasonable written demand stating the purpose of such demand and at his own expense, have furnished to him:

a current list of the name and last known address of each record holder;

copies of our partnership agreement and our certificate of limited partnership and all amendments thereto;

certain information regarding the status of our business and financial condition; and

such other information regarding our affairs as our general partner determines in its sole discretion is just and reasonable.

Our general partner may, and intends to, keep confidential from the limited partners, trade secrets or other information the disclosure of which our general partner determines is not in our best interests or that we are required by law or by agreements with third parties to keep confidential. Our partnership agreement limits the right to information that a limited partner would otherwise have under Delaware law.

Registration Rights

Under our partnership agreement, we have agreed to register for resale under the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws any common units or other partnership interests proposed to be sold by our general partner or any of its affiliates or their assignees if an exemption from the registration requirements is not otherwise available. These registration rights continue for two years following any withdrawal or removal of Tallgrass MLP GP, LLC as general partner. We are obligated to pay all expenses incidental to the registration, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions.

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PROVISIONS OF OUR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT RELATING TO CASH DISTRIBUTIONS

Set forth below is a summary of the significant provisions of our partnership agreement that relate to cash distributions.

Distributions of Available Cash

General

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

Definition of Available Cash

Available cash generally means, for any quarter, all cash and cash equivalents on hand at the end of that quarter:

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

provide for the proper conduct of our business (including reserves for our future capital expenditures, for anticipated future credit needs subsequent to that quarter, for legal matters and for refunds of collected rates reasonably likely to be refunded as a result of a settlement or hearing related to FERC rate proceedings);

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

provide funds for distributions to our unitholders and to our general partner for any one or more of the next four quarters (provided that our general partner may not establish cash reserves for distributions if the effect of the establishment of such reserves will prevent us from distributing the minimum quarterly distribution on all common units and any cumulative arrearages on such common units for the current quarter);

plus, if our general partner so determines, all or any portion of the cash on hand on the date of distribution of available cash for the quarter, including cash on hand resulting from working capital borrowings made subsequent to the end of such quarter.

The purpose and effect of the last bullet point above is to allow our general partner, if it so decides, to use cash received by us after the end of the quarter but on or before the date of distribution of available cash for the quarter, including cash on hand from working capital borrowings made after the end of the quarter but on or before the date of distribution of available cash for that quarter, to pay distributions to unitholders. Under our partnership agreement, working capital borrowings are generally borrowings that are made under a credit facility, commercial paper facility or similar financing arrangement, and in all cases are used solely for working capital purposes or to pay distributions to partners, and with the intent of the borrower to repay such borrowings within 12 months with funds other than from additional working capital borrowings.

Intent to Distribute the Minimum Quarterly Distribution

We intend to make a minimum quarterly distribution to the holders of our common units of \$0.2875 per unit, or \$1.15 on an annualized basis, to the extent we have sufficient cash from our operations after the establishment of cash reserves and the payment of costs and expenses, including reimbursements of expenses to our general partner and its affiliates. However, there is no guarantee that we will pay the minimum quarterly distribution on our units in any quarter. The amount of distributions paid under our policy and the decision to make any distribution is determined by our general partner, taking into consideration the terms of our partnership agreement.

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General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights

Initially, our general partner was entitled to 2.0% of all quarterly distributions from inception that we made prior to our liquidation. Our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain or attain a 2.0% general partner interest. The general partner's interest in these distributions will be reduced if we issue additional units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain or attain a 2.0% general partner interest.

Assuming our general partner maintains or attains a 2.0% general partner interest, our general partner will hold incentive distribution rights that entitle it to receive increasing percentages, up to a maximum of 50.0%, of the cash we distribute from operating surplus (as defined below) in excess of \$0.3048 per unit per quarter. The maximum distribution of 50.0% includes distributions paid to our general partner on a 2.0% general partner interest and assumes that our general partner maintains or attains a general partner interest at 2.0%.

Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus

General

All cash distributed to unitholders will be characterized as either being paid from operating surplus or capital surplus. We treat distributions of available cash from operating surplus differently than distributions of available cash from capital surplus.

Operating Surplus

We define operating surplus as:

\$40 million (as described below); plus

all of our cash receipts after the closing of our initial public offering, excluding cash from interim capital transactions (as defined below) and the termination of commodity and interest rate hedges, provided that cash receipts from the termination of a commodity hedge or interest rate hedge prior to its specified termination date shall be included in operating surplus in equal quarterly installments over the remaining scheduled life of such commodity hedge or interest rate hedge; plus

working capital borrowings made after the end of a quarter but on or before the date of distribution of available cash for that quarter; plus

cash distributions (including incremental distributions on incentive distribution rights) paid in respect of equity issued, other than equity issued in our initial public offering, to finance all or a portion of expansion capital expenditures in respect of the period from the date that we enter into a binding obligation to commence the construction, development, acquisition, replacement, improvement or expansion of a capital asset and ending on the earlier to occur of the date the capital asset commences commercial service and the date that it is abandoned or disposed of; plus

cash distributions (including incremental distributions on incentive distribution rights) paid in respect of equity issued, other than equity issued in our initial public offering, to pay construction period interest and related fees on debt incurred, or to pay construction period distributions on equity issued, to finance the expansion capital expenditures referred to in the prior bullet, in each case, in respect of the period from the date that we enter into a binding obligation to commence the construction, development, acquisition, replacement, improvement or expansion of a capital asset until the earlier to occur of the date the capital asset is placed in service and the date that it is abandoned or disposed of; less

all of our operating expenditures (as defined below) after the closing of our initial public offering; less

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

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all working capital borrowings not repaid within 12 months after having been incurred, or repaid within such 12-month period with the proceeds of additional working capital borrowings; less

any cash loss realized on disposition of an investment capital expenditure.

As described above, operating surplus does not reflect actual cash on hand that is available for distribution to our unitholders and is not limited to cash generated by operations. For example, it includes a provision that will enable us, if we choose, to distribute as operating surplus up to \$40 million of cash we receive in the future from non-operating sources such as asset sales, issuances of securities and long-term borrowings that would otherwise be distributed as capital surplus. In addition, the effect of including, as described above, certain cash distributions on equity interests in operating surplus will be to increase operating surplus by the amount of any such cash distributions. As a result, we may also distribute as operating surplus up to the amount of any such cash that we receive from non-operating sources.

The proceeds of working capital borrowings increase operating surplus and repayments of working capital borrowings are generally operating expenditures (as described below) and thus reduce operating surplus when repayments are made. However, if working capital borrowings, which increase operating surplus, are not repaid during the 12-month period following the borrowing, they will be deemed repaid at the end of such period, thus decreasing operating surplus at such time. When such working capital borrowings are in fact repaid, they will not be treated as a further reduction in operating surplus because operating surplus will have been previously reduced by the deemed repayment.

We define interim capital transactions as (i) borrowings, refinancings or refundings of indebtedness (other than working capital borrowings and items purchased on open account or for a deferred purchase price in the ordinary course of business) and sales of debt securities, (ii) sales of equity securities, (iii) sales or other dispositions of assets, other than sales or other dispositions of inventory, accounts receivable and other assets in the ordinary course of business and sales or other dispositions of assets as part of normal asset retirements or replacements and (iv) a capital contribution.

We define operating expenditures as all of our cash expenditures, including, but not limited to, taxes, reimbursements of expenses of our general partner and its affiliates, director and employee compensation, debt service payments, payments made in the ordinary course of business under interest rate hedge contracts and commodity hedge contracts (provided that payments made in connection with the termination of any interest rate hedge contract or commodity hedge contract prior to the expiration of its settlement or termination date specified therein will be included in operating expenditures in equal quarterly installments over the remaining scheduled life of such interest rate hedge contract or commodity hedge contract and amounts paid in connection with the initial purchase of a rate hedge contract or a commodity hedge contract will be amortized at the life of such rate hedge contract or commodity hedge contract), maintenance capital expenditures (as discussed in further detail below), and repayment of working capital borrowings; provided, however, that operating expenditures will not include:

repayments of working capital borrowings where such borrowings have previously been deemed to have been repaid (as described above);

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

expansion capital expenditures (including interest and fees incurred on construction debt);

investment capital expenditures;

payment of transaction expenses (including taxes) relating to interim capital transactions;

distributions to our partners; or

repurchases of partnership interests (excluding repurchases we make to satisfy obligations under employee benefit plans).

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Capital Surplus

Capital surplus is defined in our partnership agreement as any distribution of available cash in excess of our cumulative operating surplus. Accordingly, except as described above, capital surplus would generally be generated by:

borrowings other than working capital borrowings;

sales of our equity and debt securities; and

sales or other dispositions of assets, other than inventory, accounts receivable and other assets sold in the ordinary course of business or as part of ordinary course retirement or replacement of assets.

Characterization of Cash Distributions

Our partnership agreement requires that we treat all available cash distributed as coming from operating surplus until the sum of all available cash distributed since the closing of our initial public offering equals the operating surplus from the closing of our initial public offering through the end of the quarter immediately preceding that distribution. Our partnership agreement requires that we treat any amount distributed in excess of operating surplus, regardless of its source, as capital surplus. We do not anticipate that we will make any distributions from capital surplus.

Capital Expenditures

Expansion capital expenditures are cash expenditures incurred for acquisitions or capital improvements that we expect will increase our operating income or operating capacity over the long term. Examples of expansion capital expenditures include the acquisition of equipment and the construction, development or acquisition of additional pipeline, storage, treating or processing capacity to the extent such capital expenditures are expected to expand our operating capacity or our operating income. Expansion capital expenditures include interest payments (and related fees) on debt incurred to finance all or a portion of expansion capital expenditures in respect of the period from the date that we enter into a binding obligation to commence the construction, development, replacement, improvement or expansion of a capital asset and ending on the earlier to occur of the date that such capital improvement commences commercial service and the date that such capital improvement is abandoned or disposed of.

Maintenance capital expenditures are cash expenditures incurred (including expenditures for the construction or development of new capital assets) that we expect to maintain our operating capacity or operating income over the long term. Examples of maintenance capital expenditures are expenditures to repair, refurbish and replace pipelines, to connect new wells to maintain throughput, to maintain equipment reliability, integrity and safety and to address environmental laws and regulations.

Investment capital expenditures are those capital expenditures that are neither maintenance capital expenditures nor expansion capital expenditures. Investment capital expenditures largely will consist of capital expenditures made for investment purposes. Examples of investment capital expenditures include traditional capital expenditures for investment purposes, such as purchases of securities, as well as other capital expenditures that might be made in lieu of such traditional investment capital expenditures, such as the acquisition of a capital asset for investment purposes or development of facilities that are in excess of the maintenance of our existing operating capacity or operating

income, but that are not expected to expand our operating capacity or operating income over the long term.

Capital expenditures that are made in part for maintenance capital purposes, investment capital purposes and/or expansion capital purposes will be allocated as maintenance capital expenditures, investment capital expenditures or expansion capital expenditure by our general partner.

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Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus

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

operating surplus generated with respect to that period (excluding any amounts attributable to the item described in the first bullet point under the caption Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus Operating Surplus above); less

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

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

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

any net decrease made in subsequent periods to cash reserves for operating expenditures initially established with respect to that period to the extent such decrease results in a reduction in adjusted operating surplus in subsequent periods pursuant to the third bullet point above; plus

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

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

first, 98.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2.0% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and

thereafter, in the manner described in General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights below. The preceding discussion is based on the assumptions that our general partner maintains or attains a 2.0% general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights

Our partnership agreement provides that our general partner initially was entitled to 2.0% of all distributions that we made prior to our liquidation. Our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us in order to maintain or attain a 2.0% general partner interest if we issue additional units. Our general partner's interest, and the percentage of our cash distributions to which it is entitled from such interest, will be

proportionately reduced if we issue additional units in the future and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us in order to maintain or attain a 2.0% general partner interest. Our partnership agreement does not require that our general partner fund its capital contribution with cash. It may instead fund its capital contribution by the contribution to us of common units or other property.

Incentive distribution rights represent the right to receive an increasing percentage (13.0%, 23.0% and 48.0%) of quarterly distributions of available cash from operating surplus after the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels have been achieved. Our general partner currently holds the incentive distribution rights, but may transfer these rights separately from its general partner interest, subject to restrictions in our partnership agreement.

The following discussion assumes that our general partner maintains or attains a 2.0% general partner interest and that our general partner continues to own all of the incentive distribution rights.

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If for any quarter:

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

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

first, 98.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2.0% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.3048 per unit for that quarter (the first target distribution);

second, 85.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 15.0% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.3536 per unit for that quarter (the second target distribution);

third, 75.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 25.0% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.4313 per unit for that quarter (the third target distribution); and

thereafter, 50.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 50.0% to our general partner.

Percentage Allocations of Available Cash From Operating Surplus

The following table illustrates the percentage allocations of available cash from operating surplus between the unitholders and our general partner based on the specified target distribution levels. The amounts set forth under Marginal Percentage Interest in Distributions are the percentage interests of our general partner and the unitholders in any available cash from operating surplus we distribute up to and including the corresponding amount in the column Total Quarterly Distribution Per Unit Target Amount. The percentage interests shown for our unitholders and our general partner for the minimum quarterly distribution are also applicable to quarterly distribution amounts that are less than the minimum quarterly distribution. The percentage interests set forth below for our general partner include a 2.0% general partner interest and assume that our general partner has contributed any additional capital necessary to maintain or attain a 2.0% general partner interest, our general partner has not transferred its incentive distribution rights and that there are no arrearages on common units.

	Total Quarterly Distribution per Unit Target Amount	Marginal Percentage Interest in Distributions	
		Unitholders	General Partner
Minimum Quarterly Distribution	\$0.2875	98.0%	2.0%
First Target Distribution	above \$0.2875 up to \$0.3048	98.0%	2.0%

Second Target Distribution	above \$0.3048 up to \$0.3536	85.0%	15.0%
Third Target Distribution	above \$0.3536 up to \$0.4313	75.0%	25.0%
Thereafter	above \$0.4313	50.0%	50.0%

General Partner's Right to Reset Incentive Distribution Levels

Our general partner, as the initial holder of our incentive distribution rights, has the right under our partnership agreement, subject to certain conditions, to elect to relinquish the right to receive incentive distribution payments based on the initial target distribution levels and to reset, at higher levels, the minimum quarterly distribution amount and target distribution levels upon which the incentive distribution payments to our general partner would be set. If our general partner transfers all or a portion of our incentive distribution rights in the future, then the holder or holders of a majority of our incentive distribution rights will be entitled to exercise this right. The following discussion assumes that our general partner holds all of the incentive distribution rights at the time that a reset election is made. Our general partner's right to reset the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels upon which the incentive distributions payable to our general partner are based may be exercised, without approval of our unitholders or the conflicts committee, at any time when there

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are no subordinated units outstanding, we have made cash distributions to the holders of the incentive distribution rights at the highest level of incentive distribution for each of the four consecutive fiscal quarters immediately preceding such time and the amount of each such distribution did not exceed adjusted operating surplus for such quarter, respectively. If our general partner and its affiliates are not the holders of a majority of the incentive distribution rights at the time an election is made to reset the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels, then the proposed reset will be subject to the prior written concurrence of the general partner that the conditions described above have been satisfied. The reset minimum quarterly distribution amount and target distribution levels will be higher than the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels prior to the reset such that our general partner will not receive any incentive distributions under the reset target distribution levels until cash distributions per unit following this event increase as described below. We anticipate that our general partner would exercise this reset right in order to facilitate acquisitions or internal growth projects that would otherwise not be sufficiently accretive to cash distributions per common unit, taking into account the existing levels of incentive distribution payments being made to our general partner.

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

The number of common units that our general partner would be entitled to receive from us in connection with a resetting of the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels then in effect would be equal to the quotient determined by dividing (x) the average aggregate amount of cash distributions received by our general partner in respect of its incentive distribution rights during the two consecutive fiscal quarters ended immediately prior to the date of such reset election by (y) the average of the aggregate amount of cash distributed per common unit during each of these two quarters.

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

first, 98.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2.0% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount equal to 106.0% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter;

second, 85.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 15.0% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount per unit equal to 123.0% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter;

third, 75.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 25.0% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives an amount per unit equal to 150.0% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter; and

thereafter, 50.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 50.0% to our general partner.

The following table illustrates the percentage allocations of available cash from operating surplus between the unitholders and our general partner at various cash distribution levels (i) pursuant to the cash distribution provisions of our partnership agreement in effect at the completion of our initial public offering, as well as (ii) following a hypothetical reset of the minimum quarterly distribution and target distribution levels based on

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the assumption that the average quarterly cash distribution amount per common unit during the two fiscal quarters immediately preceding the reset election was \$0.6200.

	Quarterly Distribution per Unit Prior to Reset	Marginal Percentage Interest in Distribution Presumed			Quarterly Distribution per Unit following Hypothetical Reset
		Unitholders	2% General Partner	Incentive Distribution Rights	
Minimum Quarterly Distribution	\$0.2875	98.0%	2.0%		\$0.6200
First Target Distribution	above \$0.2875 up to \$0.3048	98.0%	2.0%		above \$0.6200 up to \$0.6572(1)
Second Target Distribution	above \$0.3048 up to \$0.3536	85.0%	2.0%	13%	above \$0.6572 up to \$0.7626(2)
Third Target Distribution	above \$0.3536 up to \$0.4313	75.0%	2.0%	23%	above \$0.7626 up to \$0.9300(3)
Thereafter	above \$0.4313	50.0%	2.0%	48%	above \$0.9300

(1) This amount is 106.0% of the hypothetical reset minimum quarterly distribution.

(2) This amount is 123.0% of the hypothetical reset minimum quarterly distribution.

(3) This amount is 150.0% of the hypothetical reset minimum quarterly distribution.

The following table illustrates the total amount of available cash from operating surplus that would be distributed to the unitholders and our general partner, including in respect of incentive distribution rights, based on an average of the amounts distributed for the two quarters immediately prior to the reset. The table assumes that immediately prior to the reset there would be 68,423,351 common units outstanding, our general partner's 2.0% interest has been maintained or attained, and the average distribution to each common unit would be \$0.6200 per quarter for the two consecutive non-overlapping quarters prior to the reset.

	Quarterly Distribution per Unit Prior to Reset	Common Unitholders Cash Distribution Prior to Reset	General Partner Cash Distributions Prior to Reset			Total Distributions
			2.0% General Partner Interest	Incentive Distribution Rights	Total	
Minimum Quarterly Distribution	\$0.2875	\$ 19,671,713	\$ 401,464	\$	\$ 401,464	\$ 20,073,177
First Target Distribution	above \$0.2875 up	1,183,724	24,158		24,158	\$ 1,207,882

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	to \$0.3048					
Second Target Distribution	above \$0.3048 up to \$0.3536	3,339,060	78,566	510,680	589,246	\$ 3,928,306
Third Target Distribution	above \$0.3536 up to \$0.4313	5,316,494	141,773	1,630,392	1,772,165	\$ 7,088,659
Thereafter	above \$0.4313	12,911,486	516,459	12,395,027	12,911,486	\$ 25,822,972
		\$ 42,422,477	\$ 1,162,420	\$ 14,536,099	\$ 15,698,519	\$ 58,120,996

The following table illustrates the total amount of available cash from operating surplus that would be distributed to the unitholders and the general partner, including in respect of incentive distribution rights, with respect to the quarter after the reset occurs. The table reflects that as a result of the reset there would be 91,868,671 common units outstanding, our general partner has maintained or attained a 2.0% general partner interest, and that the distribution on each common unit for such quarter is \$0.6200. The number of common units issued as a result of the reset was calculated by dividing (x) \$14,536,099 as the average of the amounts received by the general partner in respect of its incentive distribution rights for the two consecutive non-overlapping

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quarters prior to the reset as shown in the table above, by (y) the average of the cash distributions made on each common unit per quarter for the two consecutive non-overlapping quarters prior to the reset as shown in the table above, or \$0.6200.

	General Partner Cash Distributions After Reset						Total Distributions
	Quarterly Distribution per Unit Prior to Reset	Common Unitholders Cash Distribution After Reset	Common Units Issued As a Result of the Reset	2% General Partner Interest	Incentive Distribution Rights	Total	
Minimum Quarterly Distribution	\$0.6200	\$ 42,422,477	\$ 14,536,099	\$ 1,162,420	\$	\$ 15,698,519	\$ 58,120,996
First Target Distribution	above \$0.6200 up to \$0.6572						
Second Target Distribution	above \$0.6572 up to \$0.7626						
Third Target Distribution	above \$0.7626 up to \$0.9300						
Thereafter	above \$0.9300						
		\$ 42,422,477	\$ 14,536,099	\$ 1,162,420	\$	\$ 15,698,519	\$ 58,120,996

Our general partner will be entitled to cause the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels to be reset on more than one occasion, provided that it may not make a reset election except at a time when it has received incentive distributions for the immediately preceding four consecutive fiscal quarters based on the highest level of incentive distributions that it is entitled to receive under our partnership agreement.

Distributions from Capital Surplus***How Distributions from Capital Surplus Will Be Made***

We will make distributions of available cash from capital surplus, if any, in the following manner:

first, 98.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2.0% to our general partner, until the minimum quarterly distribution is reduced to zero, as described below under **Effect of a Distribution from Capital Surplus** ;

second, 98.0% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 2.0% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding common unit, an amount of available cash from capital surplus equal to any unpaid arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units; and

thereafter, as if such distributions were from operating surplus.

The preceding discussion is based on the assumptions that our general partner maintains or attains a 2.0% general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

Effect of a Distribution from Capital Surplus

Our partnership agreement treats a distribution of capital surplus as the repayment of the initial unit price from our initial public offering, which is a return of capital. The initial public offering price less any distributions of capital surplus per unit is referred to as the unrecovered initial unit price. Each time a distribution of capital surplus is made, the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels will be reduced in the same proportion as the corresponding reduction in the unrecovered initial unit price. Because distributions of capital surplus will reduce the minimum quarterly distribution after any of these distributions are made, it may be easier

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for our general partner to receive incentive distributions. However, any distribution of capital surplus before the unrecovered initial unit price is reduced to zero cannot be applied to the payment of the minimum quarterly distribution or any arrearages.

Once we distribute capital surplus on a unit issued in our initial public offering in an amount equal to the initial unit price, we will reduce the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels to zero. We will then make all future distributions from operating surplus, with 50.0% being paid to the unitholders, pro rata, and 50.0% to our general partner. The percentage interests shown for our general partner include a presumed 2.0% general partner interest and assume that our general partner has not transferred the incentive distribution rights.

Adjustment to the Minimum Quarterly Distribution and Target Distribution Levels

In addition to adjusting the minimum quarterly distribution and target distribution levels to reflect a distribution of capital surplus, if we combine our units into fewer units or subdivide our units into a greater number of units, we will proportionately adjust:

the minimum quarterly distribution;

target distribution levels;

the unrecovered initial unit price;

the number of general partner units comprising the general partner interest; and

the arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units

For example, if a two-for-one split of the common units should occur, the minimum quarterly distribution, the target distribution levels and the unrecovered initial unit price would each be reduced to 50.0% of its initial level. We will not make any adjustment by reason of the issuance of additional units for cash or property.

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

Distributions of Cash and Allocation of Gain and Loss Upon Liquidation

General

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

The allocations of gain and loss upon liquidation are intended, to the extent possible, to entitle the holders of outstanding common units to a distribution upon our liquidation, to the extent required to permit common

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unitholders to receive their unrecovered initial unit price plus the minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter during which liquidation occurs plus any unpaid arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units. However, there may not be sufficient gain upon our liquidation to enable the holders of common units to fully recover all of these amounts. Any further net gain recognized upon liquidation will be allocated in a manner that takes into account the incentive distribution rights of our general partner.

Manner of Adjustments for Gain

The manner of the adjustment for gain is set forth in our partnership agreement. Upon liquidation, we will allocate any gain to our partners in the following manner:

first, to our general partner to the extent of any negative balance in its capital account;

second, 98.0% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 2.0% to our general partner, until the capital account for each common unit is equal to the sum of: (1) the unrecovered initial unit price; and (2) the amount of the minimum quarterly distribution for the quarter during which our liquidation occurs;

third, 98.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 2.0% to our general partner, until we allocate under this paragraph an amount per unit equal to: (1) the sum of the excess of the first target distribution per unit over the minimum quarterly distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence; less (2) the cumulative amount per unit of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the minimum quarterly distribution per unit that we distributed 98.0% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 2.0% to our general partner, for each quarter of our existence;

fourth, 85.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 15.0% to our general partner, until we allocate under this paragraph an amount per unit equal to: (1) the sum of the excess of the second target distribution per unit over the first target distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence; less (2) the cumulative amount per unit of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the first target distribution per unit that we distributed 85.0% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 15.0% to our general partner for each quarter of our existence;

fifth, 75.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 25.0% to our general partner, until we allocate under this paragraph an amount per unit equal to: (1) the sum of the excess of the third target distribution per unit over the second target distribution per unit for each quarter of our existence; less (2) the cumulative amount per unit of any distributions of available cash from operating surplus in excess of the second target distribution per unit that we distributed 75.0% to the unitholders, pro rata, and 25.0% to our general partner for each quarter of our existence;

thereafter, 50.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 50.0% to our general partner.

The percentages set forth above are based on the assumption that our general partner has not transferred its incentive distribution rights, that our general partner maintained or attained a 2.0% general partner interest and that we did not

issue additional classes of equity securities since our initial public offering.

Manner of Adjustments for Losses

Upon liquidation, after making allocations of loss to the general partner and the unitholders in a manner intended to offset in reverse order the allocations of gains that have previously been allocated, we will generally allocate any loss to our general partner and unitholders in the following manner:

first, 98.0% to the holders of common units in proportion to the positive balances in their capital accounts and 2.0% to our general partner (assuming our general partner maintains or attains a 2.0% general partner interest), until the capital accounts of the common unitholders have been reduced to zero; and

thereafter, 100.0% to our general partner.

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Adjustments to Capital Accounts

Our partnership agreement requires that we make adjustments to capital accounts upon the issuance of additional units. In this regard, our partnership agreement specifies that we allocate any unrealized and, for tax purposes, unrecognized gain resulting from the adjustments to the unitholders and the general partner in the same manner as we allocate gain upon liquidation. In the event that we make positive adjustments to the capital accounts upon the issuance of additional units, our partnership agreement requires that we generally allocate any later negative adjustments to the capital accounts resulting from the issuance of additional units or upon our liquidation in a manner which results, to the extent possible, in the partners' capital account balances equaling the amount which they would have been if no earlier positive adjustments to the capital accounts had been made. In contrast to the allocations of gain, and except as provided above, we generally will allocate any unrealized and unrecognized loss resulting from the adjustments to capital accounts upon the issuance of additional units to the unitholders and our general partner based on their respective percentage ownership of us. If we make negative adjustments to the capital accounts as a result of such loss, future positive adjustments resulting from the issuance of additional units will be allocated in a manner designed to reverse the prior negative adjustments, and special allocations will be made upon liquidation in a manner that results, to the extent possible, in our unitholders' capital account balances equaling the amounts they would have been if no earlier adjustments for loss had been made.

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MATERIAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

This section is a summary of the material federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to prospective unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the U.S. and, unless otherwise noted in the following discussion, is the opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P., counsel to our general partner and us, insofar as it relates to legal conclusions with respect to matters of U.S. federal income tax law. This section is based upon current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), existing and proposed Treasury regulations promulgated under the Code (the Treasury Regulations) and current administrative rulings and court decisions, all of which are subject to change. Later changes in these authorities may cause the tax consequences to vary substantially from the consequences described below.

The following discussion does not comment on all federal income tax matters affecting us or our unitholders. Moreover, the discussion focuses on unitholders who are individual citizens or residents of the U.S. and has only limited application to corporations, estates, trusts, partnerships and entities treated like partnerships for federal income tax purposes, nonresident aliens, U.S. expatriates and former citizens or long-term residents of the United States or other unitholders subject to specialized tax treatment, such as banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions, tax-exempt institutions, foreign persons (including, without limitation, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies and non-U.S. persons eligible for the benefits of an applicable income tax treaty with the United States), IRAs, real estate investment trusts (REITs), employee benefit plans or mutual funds, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities, U.S. persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, persons holding their units as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction or other risk reduction transaction, and persons deemed to sell their units under the constructive sale provisions of the Code. In addition, the discussion only comments to a limited extent on state, local and foreign tax consequences. Accordingly, we encourage each prospective unitholder to consult, and depend on, his own tax advisor in analyzing the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences particular to him of the ownership or disposition of common units.

All statements as to matters of law and legal conclusions, but not as to factual matters, contained in this section, unless otherwise noted, are the opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P. and are based on the accuracy of the representations made by us.

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

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

making adjustments to book basis and relevant allocations with respect to small or frequent unit issuances is permitted by existing Treasury Regulations (please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction and Uniformity of Units).

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Partnership Status

In general, a partnership is not a taxable entity and incurs no federal income tax liability. Instead, each partner of a partnership is required to take into account his share of items of income, gain, loss and deduction of the partnership in computing his federal income tax liability, regardless of whether cash distributions are made to him by the partnership. However, please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Entity-Level Collections](#) and [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Entity-Level Audits and Adjustments](#) for a discussion of when we may make payments of taxes. Pursuant to Code Section 731, distributions by a partnership to a partner are generally not taxable unless the amount of cash distributed to him is in excess of the partner's adjusted basis in his partnership interest.

Section 7704 of the Code provides that publicly traded partnerships will, as a general rule, be taxed as corporations. However, an exception, referred to as the [Qualifying Income Exception](#), exists with respect to a publicly traded partnership if 90.0% or more of the publicly traded partnership's gross income for every taxable year consists of [qualifying income](#). [Qualifying income](#) includes income and gains derived from the transportation, storage, processing and marketing of crude oil, natural gas and other products thereof. Other types of qualifying income include interest (other than from a financial business), dividends, gains from the sale of real property and gains from the sale or other disposition of capital assets held for the production of income that otherwise constitutes qualifying income. We estimate that less than 5% of our current gross income is not qualifying income; however, this estimate could change from time to time. Based upon and subject to this estimate, the factual representations made by us and our general partner and a review of the applicable legal authorities, Baker Botts L.L.P. is of the opinion that at least 90.0% of our current gross income constitutes qualifying income. The portion of our income that is qualifying income may change from time to time.

No ruling has been sought from the IRS and the IRS has made no determination as to our status or the status of our operating subsidiaries for federal income tax purposes or whether our operations generate [qualifying income](#) under Section 7704 of the Code. Instead, we will rely on the opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P. on such matters. It is the opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P. that, based upon the Code, its regulations, published revenue rulings and court decisions and the representations described below that:

We will be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes; and

Each of our operating subsidiaries (other than Tallgrass Energy Finance Corp. and Tallgrass Colorado Pipeline, Inc. which have not previously generated any material income) will be disregarded as an entity separate from us or will be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

In rendering its opinion, Baker Botts L.L.P. has relied on factual representations made by us and our general partner. The representations made by us and our general partner upon which Baker Botts L.L.P. has relied include:

Neither we nor any of our operating subsidiaries (other than Tallgrass Energy Finance Corp. and Tallgrass Colorado Pipeline, Inc.) is organized as, has elected to be treated as or will elect to be treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes; and

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For every taxable year, more than 90.0% of our gross income has been and will be income of the type that Baker Botts L.L.P. has opined or will opine is qualifying income within the meaning of Section 7704(d) of the Code.

We expect that these representations will continue to be true in the future.

If we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, other than a failure that is determined by the IRS to be inadvertent and that is cured within a reasonable time after discovery (in which case the IRS may also require us to make adjustments with respect to our unitholders or pay other amounts), we will be treated as if we had transferred all of our assets, subject to liabilities, to a newly formed corporation, on the first day of the year in

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which we fail to meet the Qualifying Income Exception, in return for stock in that corporation, and then distributed that stock to the unitholders in liquidation of their interests in us. This deemed contribution and liquidation should be tax-free to unitholders and us so long as we, at that time, do not have liabilities in excess of the tax basis of our assets. Thereafter, we would be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes.

If we were taxed as a corporation for federal income tax purposes in any taxable year, either as a result of a failure to meet the Qualifying Income Exception or otherwise, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction would be reflected only on our tax return rather than being passed through to our unitholders, and our net income would be taxed to us at corporate rates. In addition, pursuant to Code Section 301, any distribution made to a unitholder would be treated as taxable dividend income, to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, or, in the absence of earnings and profits, a nontaxable return of capital, to the extent of the unitholder's tax basis in his common units (which would be deemed converted to stock for federal income tax purposes), or taxable capital gain, after the unitholder's tax basis in his common units (as deemed converted to stock) is reduced to zero. Accordingly, taxation as a corporation would result in a material reduction in a unitholder's cash flow and after-tax return and thus would likely result in a substantial reduction of the value of the units.

The discussion below is based on Baker Botts L.L.P.'s opinion that we will be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

Limited Partner Status

Unitholders will be treated as partners of Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP for federal income tax purposes. Also, unitholders whose common units are held in street name or by a nominee and who have the right to direct the nominee in the exercise of all substantive rights attendant to the ownership of their common units will be treated as partners of Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP for federal income tax purposes.

A beneficial owner of common units whose units have been transferred to a short seller to complete a short sale would appear to lose his status as a partner with respect to those units for federal income tax purposes. Please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Treatment of Short Sales.

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

Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership

Flow-Through of Taxable Income. Subject to the discussion below under Entity-Level Collections and Tax Treatment of Income Earned Through C Corporation Subsidiaries, we will not pay any federal income tax. Instead, each unitholder will be required to report on his income tax return his share of our income, gains, losses and deductions without regard to whether we make cash distributions to him. Consequently, we may allocate income to a unitholder even if he has not received a cash distribution. The income we allocate to common unitholders will generally be taxable as ordinary income. Each unitholder will be required to include in income his allocable share of our income, gains, losses and deductions for our taxable year ending with or within his taxable year. Our taxable year ends on December 31.

Tax Treatment of Income Earned Through C Corporation Subsidiaries. Even though we (as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) are not subject to U.S. federal income tax, we have two subsidiaries that are organized as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Although these subsidiaries have not

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previously generated any material income, we may elect to conduct additional activities in one or more subsidiaries treated as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes in the future that could generate material income. For example, it is unclear whether, and to what extent, our share of water business services income from Water Solutions will be treated as qualifying income. The IRS recently issued proposed regulations providing that income from water delivery services is not qualifying income unless the partnership providing those services also collects and cleans, recycles, or otherwise disposes of the water after use in accordance with applicable law. We have not requested a ruling from the IRS that income from Water Solutions, or a portion of such income, is qualifying income, but we may request such a ruling in the future. If the treatment of water services income in the proposed regulations is adopted in final regulations or if the IRS is unwilling or unable to provide a favorable ruling in a timely manner, and if it becomes necessary in order to preserve our status as a partnership, we may elect to conduct all or portions of our Water Solutions business in a taxable corporate subsidiary.

Each corporate subsidiary would be subject to federal income tax on its taxable income at the corporate tax rate, which is currently a maximum of 35%, and would likely pay state (and possibly local) income tax at varying rates, on its taxable income. Any such entity level taxes would reduce the cash available for distribution to our unitholders. Distributions from such corporate subsidiary would generally be taxed again to unitholders as dividend income to the extent of the current and accumulated earnings and profits of the subsidiary. The maximum federal income tax rate currently applicable to such dividend income which is allocable to individuals is 23.8% provided that applicable holding period requirements are satisfied. An individual unitholder's share of dividend and interest income from a corporate subsidiary would constitute portfolio income that could not be offset by the unitholder's share of our other losses or deductions, except for interest expense properly allocable to borrowed funds to the extent invested in such corporate subsidiary.

Treatment of Distributions. Pursuant to Code Section 731, distributions by us to a unitholder generally will not be taxable to the unitholder for federal income tax purposes, except to the extent the amount of any such cash distribution exceeds his tax basis in his common units immediately before the distribution. Cash distributions made by us to a unitholder in an amount in excess of a unitholder's tax basis generally will be considered to be gain from the sale or exchange of our common units, taxable in accordance with the rules described under *Disposition of Common Units* below. Any reduction in a unitholder's share of our liabilities for which no partner, including the general partner, bears the economic risk of loss, known as nonrecourse liabilities, will be treated as a distribution by us of cash to that unitholder. To the extent our distributions cause a unitholder's at-risk amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year, Section 465 of the Code requires the recapture of any losses deducted in previous years. Please read *Limitations on Deductibility of Losses*.

A decrease in a unitholder's percentage interest in us because of our issuance of additional common units will decrease his share of our nonrecourse liabilities under Section 752 of the Code, and thus will result in a corresponding deemed distribution of cash. This deemed distribution may constitute a non-pro rata distribution. A non-pro rata distribution of money or property may result in ordinary income to a unitholder, regardless of his tax basis in his common units, if the distribution reduces the unitholder's share of our unrealized receivables, including depreciation recapture, depletion recapture and/or substantially appreciated inventory items, each as defined in the Code, and collectively, Section 751 Assets. To that extent, the unitholder will be treated as having been distributed his proportionate share of the Section 751 Assets and then having exchanged those assets with us in return for the non-pro rata portion of the money or property actually distributed to him (or the money deemed distributed to him under Section 752). This latter deemed exchange will generally result in the unitholder's realization of ordinary income, which will equal the excess of (i) the non-pro rata portion of that distribution over (ii) the unitholder's tax basis (often zero) for the share of Section 751 Assets deemed relinquished in the exchange.

Basis of Common Units. A unitholder's initial tax basis for his common units will be determined under Sections 722, 742 and 752 of the Code and will generally equal the amount he paid for the common units plus his share of our nonrecourse liabilities. That basis will be increased under Section 705 of the Code by his share of our income and by any increases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities and decreased, but not below zero, by

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distributions from us, by the unitholder's share of our losses, by any decreases in his share of our nonrecourse liabilities and by his share of our expenditures that are not deductible in computing taxable income and are not required to be capitalized. A unitholder will have no share of our debt that is recourse to our general partner to the extent of the general partner's net value, as defined in Treasury Regulations under Section 752 of the Code, but will have a share, generally based on his share of profits, of our nonrecourse liabilities. Please read [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Recognition of Gain or Loss](#).

Limitations on Deductibility of Losses. Under Sections 704 and 465 of the Code, the deduction by a unitholder of his share of our losses will be limited to the tax basis in his units and, in the case of an individual unitholder, estate, trust, or corporate unitholder (if more than 50.0% of the value of the corporate unitholder's stock is owned directly or indirectly by or for five or fewer individuals or some tax-exempt organizations) to the amount for which the unitholder is considered to be at-risk with respect to our activities, if that is less than his tax basis. A common unitholder subject to these limitations must recapture losses deducted in previous years to the extent that distributions cause his at-risk amount to be less than zero at the end of any taxable year. Losses disallowed to a unitholder or recaptured as a result of these limitations will carry forward and will be allowable as a deduction to the extent that his at-risk amount is subsequently increased, provided such losses do not exceed such common unitholder's tax basis in his common units. Upon the taxable disposition of a unit, any gain recognized by a unitholder can be offset by losses that were previously suspended by the at-risk limitation but may not be offset by losses suspended by the basis limitation. Any loss previously suspended by the at-risk limitation in excess of that gain would no longer be utilizable.

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

In addition to the basis and at-risk limitations on the deductibility of losses, the passive loss limitations of Code Section 469 generally provide that individuals, estates, trusts and some closely-held corporations and personal service corporations can deduct losses from passive activities, which are generally defined as trade or business activities in which the taxpayer does not materially participate, only to the extent of the taxpayer's income from those passive activities. The passive loss limitations are applied separately with respect to each publicly traded partnership. Consequently, any passive losses we generate will only be available to offset our passive income generated in the future and will not be available to offset income from other passive activities or investments, including our investments or a unitholder's investments in other publicly traded partnerships, or salary or active business income. Passive losses that are not deductible because they exceed a unitholder's share of income we generate may be deducted in full when he disposes of his entire investment in us in a fully taxable transaction with an unrelated party. The passive loss limitations are applied after other applicable limitations on deductions, including the at-risk rules and the basis limitation.

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

Limitations on Interest Deductions. Section 163 of the Code generally limits the deductibility of a non-corporate taxpayer's investment interest expense to the amount of that taxpayer's net investment income. Investment interest expense includes:

interest on indebtedness properly allocable to property held for investment;

our interest expense attributed to portfolio income; and

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

The computation of a unitholder's investment interest expense will take into account interest on any margin account borrowing or other loan incurred to purchase or carry a unit. Net investment income includes gross income from property held for investment and amounts treated as portfolio income under the passive loss rules, less deductible expenses, other than interest, directly connected with the production of investment income, but generally does not include gains attributable to the disposition of property held for investment or (if applicable) qualified dividend income. The IRS has indicated in Notice 88-75, 1988-2 C.B. 386, that the net passive income earned by a publicly traded partnership will be treated as investment income to its unitholders. In addition, the unitholder's share of our portfolio income will be treated as investment income.

Entity-Level Collections. If we are required or elect under applicable law to pay any federal, state, local or foreign income tax on behalf of any unitholder or our general partner or any former unitholder, we are authorized to pay those taxes from our funds. That payment, if made, will be treated as a distribution of cash to the unitholder on whose behalf the payment was made. If the payment is made on behalf of a person whose identity cannot be determined, we are authorized to treat the payment as a distribution to all current unitholders. We are authorized to amend our partnership agreement in the manner necessary to maintain uniformity of intrinsic tax characteristics of units and to adjust later distributions, so that after giving effect to these distributions, the priority and characterization of distributions otherwise applicable under our partnership agreement is maintained as nearly as is practicable. Payments by us as described above could give rise to an overpayment of tax on behalf of an individual unitholder in which event the unitholder would be required to file a claim in order to obtain a credit or refund.

Entity-Level Audits and Adjustments. Pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, if the IRS makes audit adjustments to our income tax returns for tax years beginning after 2017, it (and some states) may collect any resulting taxes (including any applicable penalties and interest) directly from us. We will generally have the ability to shift any such tax liability to our general partner and our unitholders in accordance with their interests in us during the year under audit, but there can be no assurance that we will be able to do so (and will choose to do so) under all circumstances, or that we will be able to (or choose to) effect corresponding shifts in state income or similar tax liability resulting from the IRS adjustment in states in which we do business in the year under audit or in the adjustment year. If we make payments of taxes, penalties and interest resulting from audit adjustments, our cash available for distribution to our unitholders might be substantially reduced.

Pursuant to this new legislation, we will designate a person (our general partner) to act as the partnership representative who shall have the sole authority to act on behalf of the partnership with respect to dealings with the IRS under these new audit procedures.

Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction. In general, under Section 704 of the Code, if we have a net profit, our items of income, gain, loss and deduction will be allocated among our general partner and the unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us. At any time that incentive distributions are made to our general partner, gross income will be allocated to our general partner to the extent of those distributions. If we have a net loss, that loss will be allocated first to our general partner and the unitholders in accordance with their percentage interests in us to the extent of their positive capital accounts and, second, to our general partner.

Section 704(c) of the Code and related Treasury regulations require us to adjust the book basis of all assets held by us prior to an issuance of additional units to equal their fair market values at the time of unit issuance. Purchasers of units in an offering are entitled to calculate tax depreciation and amortization deductions and other relevant tax items with respect to our assets based upon that book basis, which effectively puts purchasers in that offering in the same position as if our assets had a tax basis equal to their fair market value at the time of unit issuance. This may have the effect of

decreasing the amount of our tax depreciation or amortization deductions thereafter allocated to purchasers of units in an earlier offering or of requiring

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purchasers of units in an earlier offering to thereafter recognize remedial income rather than depreciation and amortization deductions. In this context, we use the term *book* as that term is used in Treasury regulations under Section 704 of the Code. The *book* basis assigned to our assets for this purpose may not be the same as the book value of our property for financial reporting purposes.

It may not be administratively feasible to make the relevant adjustments to *book* basis and the relevant Section 704(c) allocations separately each time we issue units, particularly in the case of small or frequent unit issuances. If that is the case, we may use simplifying conventions to make those adjustments and allocations, which may include the aggregation of certain issuances of units. Our counsel, Baker Botts L.L.P., is unable to opine as to the validity of such conventions.

In addition, items of recapture income will be allocated to the extent possible to the unitholder who was allocated the deduction giving rise to the treatment of that gain as recapture income in order to minimize the recognition of ordinary income by some unitholders. Finally, although we do not expect that our operations will result in the creation of negative capital accounts, if negative capital accounts nevertheless result, items of our income and gain will be allocated in an amount and manner sufficient to eliminate the negative balance as quickly as possible.

An allocation of items of our income, gain, loss or deduction, other than an allocation required under the Section 704(c) principles described above, will generally be given effect for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction only if the allocation has substantial economic effect. In any other case, a partner's share of an item will be determined on the basis of his interest in us, which will be determined by taking into account all the facts and circumstances, including:

his relative contributions to us;

the interests of all the partners in profits and losses;

the interests of all the partners in cash flows; and

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

Baker Botts L.L.P. is of the opinion that, with the exception of the issues described above in this *Allocations of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction* and *Section 754 Election, Disposition of Common Units Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees, and Uniformity of Units*, allocations under our partnership agreement will be given effect under Section 704 of the Code for federal income tax purposes in determining a partner's share of an item of income, gain, loss or deduction.

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

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

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

all of these distributions would appear to be ordinary income.

Because there is no direct or indirect controlling authority on the issue relating to partnership interests, Baker Botts L.L.P. has not rendered an opinion regarding the tax treatment of a unitholder whose common units are loaned to a short seller to cover a short sale of common units; therefore, unitholders desiring to assure their status as partners and avoid the risk of gain recognition from a loan to a short seller are urged to modify any applicable brokerage account agreements to prohibit their brokers from borrowing and loaning their units. The

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IRS has previously announced that it is studying issues relating to the tax treatment of short sales of partnership interests. Please also read [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Recognition of Gain or Loss](#).

Alternative Minimum Tax. Each unitholder will be required to take into account his distributive share of any items of our income, gain, loss or deduction for purposes of the alternative minimum tax. The current minimum tax rate for noncorporate taxpayers is 26.0% on the first \$186,300 (\$93,150 for married individuals filing separately) of alternative minimum taxable income in excess of the exemption amount and 28.0% on any additional alternative minimum taxable income. Prospective unitholders are urged to consult with their tax advisors as to the impact of an investment in units on their liability for the alternative minimum tax.

Tax Rates. The highest marginal U.S. federal income tax rates applicable to ordinary income and long-term capital gains (generally, capital gains on certain assets held for more than twelve months) of individuals currently are 39.6% and 20.0%, respectively. These rates are subject to change by new legislation at any time.

Section 1411 of the Code imposes a 3.8% Medicare tax on certain net investment income earned by individuals, estates and trusts. For these purposes, net investment income generally includes a unitholder's allocable share of our income and gain realized by a unitholder from a sale of units. In the case of an individual, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (i) the unitholder's net investment income or (ii) the amount by which the unitholder's modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$250,000 (if the unitholder is married and filing jointly or a surviving spouse), \$125,000 (if the unitholder is married and filing separately) or \$200,000 (in any other case). In the case of an estate or trust, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (i) undistributed net investment income, or (ii) the excess adjusted gross income over the dollar amount at which the highest income tax bracket applicable to an estate or trust begins.

Section 754 Election. We have made the election permitted by Section 754 of the Code. That election is irrevocable without the consent of the IRS unless there is a constructive termination of the partnership. Please read [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Constructive Termination](#). The election will generally permit us to adjust a common unit purchaser's tax basis in our assets, or inside basis, under Section 743(b) of the Code to reflect his purchase price. This election does not apply with respect to a person who purchases common units directly from us. The Section 743(b) adjustment belongs to the purchaser and not to other unitholders. For purposes of this discussion, the inside basis in our assets with respect to a unitholder will be considered to have two components: (i) his share of our tax basis in our assets, or common basis, and (ii) his Section 743(b) adjustment to that basis.

The timing of deductions attributable to a Section 743(b) adjustment to our common basis will depend upon a number of factors, including the nature of the assets to which the adjustment is allocable, the extent to which the adjustment offsets any Section 704(c) type gain or loss with respect to an asset and certain elections we make as to the manner in which we apply Section 704(c) principles with respect to an asset with respect to which the adjustment is allocable. Please read [Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction](#). The timing of these deductions may affect the uniformity of our units. Please read [Uniformity of Units](#).

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

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

Tax Treatment of Operations

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

Tax Basis, Depreciation and Amortization. The tax basis of our assets will be used for purposes of computing depreciation and cost recovery deductions and, ultimately, gain or loss on the disposition of these assets. Under Section 704 of the Code, the federal income tax burden associated with the difference between the fair market value of our assets and their tax basis immediately prior to an offering will be borne by our general partner and all of our unitholders as of that time. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction](#).

To the extent allowable, we may elect to use the depreciation and cost recovery methods, including bonus depreciation to the extent available, that will result in the largest deductions being taken in the early years after assets subject to these allowances are placed in service. Part of or all of the goodwill, going concern value and other intangible assets we have acquired or will acquire in connection with an offering may not produce any amortization deductions because of the application of the anti-churning restrictions of Section 197 of the Code. Please read [Uniformity of Units](#). Property we subsequently acquire or construct may be depreciated using accelerated methods permitted by the Code.

If we dispose of depreciable property by sale, foreclosure or otherwise, all or a portion of any gain, determined by reference to the amount of depreciation previously deducted and the nature of the property, may be subject to the recapture rules under Section 1245 or Section 1250 of the Code and taxed as ordinary income rather than capital gain. Similarly, a unitholder who has taken cost recovery or depreciation deductions with respect to property we own will likely be required to recapture some or all of those deductions as ordinary income upon a sale of his interest in us. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction](#) and [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Recognition of Gain or Loss](#).

The costs we incur in selling our units (called syndication expenses) must be capitalized under Section 709 of the Code and cannot be deducted currently, ratably or upon our termination. There are

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uncertainties regarding the classification of costs as organization expenses, which may be amortized by us, and as syndication expenses, which may not be amortized by us. The underwriting discounts and commissions we incur will be treated as syndication expenses.

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

Disposition of Common Units

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

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

Except as noted below, gain or loss recognized by a unitholder, other than a dealer in units, on the sale or exchange of a unit will generally be taxable as capital gain or loss. Capital gain recognized by an individual on the sale of units held for more than twelve months will generally be taxed at a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 23.8%. However, a portion of this gain or loss will be separately computed and taxed as ordinary income or loss under Section 751 of the Code to the extent attributable to assets giving rise to depreciation recapture or other unrealized receivables or to inventory items we own. In most cases, the amount of gain taxed as ordinary income under Section 751 will be substantial. The term unrealized receivables includes potential recapture items, including depreciation recapture. Ordinary income attributable to unrealized receivables, inventory items and depreciation recapture may exceed net taxable gain realized upon the sale of a unit and may be recognized even if there is a net taxable loss realized on the sale of a unit. Thus, a unitholder may recognize both ordinary income and a capital loss upon a sale of units. Capital losses may offset capital gains and no more than \$3,000 of ordinary income each year, in the case of individuals, and may only be used to offset capital gains in the case of corporations.

The IRS ruled in Rev. Rul. 84-53, 1984-1 C.B. 159, that a partner who acquires interests in a partnership in separate transactions must combine those interests and maintain a single adjusted tax basis for all those interests. Upon a sale or other disposition of less than all of those interests, a portion of that tax basis must be allocated to the interests sold using an equitable apportionment method, which generally means that the tax basis allocated to the interest sold equals an amount that bears the same relation to the partner's tax basis in his entire interest in the partnership as the value of the interest sold bears to the value of the partner's entire interest in the partnership. Treasury Regulations under Section 1223 of the Code allow a selling unitholder who can identify common units transferred with an ascertainable holding period to elect to use the actual holding period of the common units transferred. Thus, according

to the ruling discussed above, a common unitholder will be unable to select high or low basis common units to sell as would be the case with corporate stock, but, according to the Treasury

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Regulations, he may designate specific common units sold for purposes of determining the holding period of units transferred. A unitholder electing to use the actual holding period of common units transferred must consistently use that identification method for all subsequent sales or exchanges of common units. A unitholder considering the purchase of additional units or a sale of common units purchased in separate transactions is urged to consult his tax advisor as to the possible consequences of this ruling and application of the Treasury Regulations.

Section 1259 of the Code can affect the taxation of some financial products and securities, including partnership interests, by treating a taxpayer as having sold an appreciated partnership interest, one in which gain would be recognized if it were sold, assigned or terminated at its fair market value, if the taxpayer or related persons enter(s) into:

a short sale;

an offsetting notional principal contract; or

a futures or forward contract;

in each case, with respect to the partnership interest or substantially identical property.

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

Allocations Between Transferors and Transferees. In general, our taxable income or loss will be determined annually, will be prorated on a monthly basis and will be subsequently apportioned among the unitholders in proportion to the number of units owned by each of them as of the opening of the applicable exchange on the first business day of the month, which we refer to in this prospectus as the Allocation Date. However, gain or loss realized on a sale or other disposition of our assets or, in the discretion of the general partner, any other extraordinary item of income, gain, loss or deduction will be allocated among the unitholders on the Allocation Date in the month in which such income, gain, loss or deduction is recognized. As a result, a unitholder transferring units may be allocated income, gain, loss and deduction realized after the date of transfer.

Simplifying conventions are contemplated by the Code and most publicly traded partnerships use similar simplifying conventions. The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently adopted final Treasury Regulations allowing a similar monthly simplifying convention for taxable years beginning on or after August 3, 2015. However, such final regulations do not specifically authorize the use of the proration method we have adopted. Accordingly, Baker Botts L.L.P. is unable to opine on the validity of this method of allocating income and deductions between transferor and transferee unitholders. If this method is not allowed under the Treasury Regulations, or only applies to transfers of less than all of the unitholder's interest, our taxable income or losses could be reallocated among our unitholders. We are authorized to revise our method of allocation between transferor and transferee unitholders, as well as among unitholders whose interests vary during a taxable year, to conform to a method permitted under the Treasury Regulations.

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

Notification Requirements. A unitholder who sells any of his units is generally required by regulations under Section 6050K of the Code to notify us in writing of that sale within 30 days after the sale (or, if earlier, January 15 of the year following the sale). A purchaser of units who purchases units from another unitholder is

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also generally required by Treasury Regulations under Section 743 of the Code to notify us in writing of that purchase within 30 days after the purchase. Upon receiving such notifications, we are required to notify the IRS of that transaction and to furnish specified information to the transferor and transferee. Failure to notify us of a sale may lead to the imposition of penalties under Section 6723 of the Code. However, these reporting requirements do not apply to a sale by an individual who is a citizen of the U.S. and who effects the sale or exchange through a broker who will satisfy such requirements.

Constructive Termination. We will be considered under Section 708 of the Code to have terminated our tax partnership for federal income tax purposes upon the sale or exchange of our interests that, in the aggregate, constitute 50.0% or more of the total interests in our capital and profits within a twelve-month period. For purposes of measuring whether the 50.0% threshold is reached, multiple sales of the same interest are counted only once. A constructive termination results in the closing of our taxable year for all unitholders. In the case of a unitholder reporting on a taxable year other than a fiscal year ending December 31, the closing of our taxable year may result in more than twelve months of our taxable income or loss being includable in his taxable income for the year of termination. A constructive termination occurring on a date other than December 31 will result in us filing two tax returns (and unitholders could receive two Schedules K-1 if the relief discussed below is not available) for one fiscal year and the cost of the preparation of these returns will be borne by all common unitholders. We would be required to make new tax elections after a termination, including a new election under Section 754 of the Code, and a termination would result in a deferral of our deductions for depreciation. A termination could also result in penalties if we were unable to determine that the termination had occurred. Moreover, a termination might either accelerate the application of, or subject us to, any tax legislation enacted before the termination. The IRS has announced in an Industry Director Communication, LMSB-04-0210-006, a relief procedure whereby if a publicly traded partnership that has technically terminated requests publicly traded partnership technical termination relief and the IRS grants such relief, among other things, the partnership will only have to provide one Schedule K-1 to unitholders for the year notwithstanding two partnership tax years.

Uniformity of Units

Because we cannot match transferors and transferees of units, we must maintain uniformity of the economic and tax characteristics of the units to a purchaser of these units. In the absence of uniformity, we may be unable to completely comply with a number of federal income tax requirements, both statutory and regulatory. Any non-uniformity could have an impact upon the value of our units. The timing of deductions attributable to Section 743(b) adjustments to the common basis of our assets with respect to persons purchasing units from another unitholder may affect the uniformity of our units. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Section 754 Election](#).

For example, some types of depreciable assets are not subject to the typical rules governing depreciation (under Section 168 of the Code) or amortization (under Section 197 of the Code). If we were to acquire any assets of that type, the timing of a unit purchaser's deductions with respect to Section 743(b) adjustments to the common basis of those assets might differ depending upon when and to whom the unit he purchased was originally issued. We do not currently expect to acquire any assets of that type. However, if we were to acquire a material amount of assets of that type, we intend to adopt tax positions as to those assets that will not result in any such lack of uniformity. Any such tax positions taken by us might result in allocations to some unitholders of smaller depreciation deductions than they would otherwise be entitled to receive. Baker Botts L.L.P. has not rendered an opinion with respect to those types of tax positions. Moreover, the IRS might challenge those tax positions. If we took such a tax position and the IRS successfully challenged the position, the uniformity of our units might be affected, and the gain from the sale of our units might be increased without the benefit of additional deductions. Please read [Disposition of Common Units](#) [Recognition of Gain or Loss](#).

In addition, as described above at Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Allocation of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction, if we aggregate multiple issuances of units for purposes of making adjustments to book basis and related tax allocations, we will treat each of our units as having the same capital account balance,

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regardless of the price actually paid by each purchaser of units in the aggregated offerings. Our counsel, Baker Botts L.L.P., is unable to opine as to validity of such an approach. We do not expect the number of affected units, or the differences between the purchase price of a unit and the initial capital account balance assigned to the unit, to be material, and we do not expect this convention to have a material effect upon the trading of our units.

Tax-Exempt Organizations and Other Investors

Ownership of units by employee benefit plans, other tax-exempt organizations, non-resident aliens, foreign corporations and other foreign persons raises issues unique to those investors and, as described below to a limited extent, may have substantially adverse tax consequences to them. If you are a tax-exempt entity or a non-U.S. person, you should consult your tax advisor before investing in our common units.

Employee benefit plans and most other organizations exempt from federal income tax, including individual retirement accounts and other retirement plans, are subject to federal income tax under Section 511 of the Code on unrelated business taxable income. Virtually all of our income allocated to a unitholder that is a tax-exempt organization will be unrelated business taxable income and will be taxable to it.

Non-resident aliens and foreign corporations, trusts or estates that own units will be considered under Section 875 of the Code to be engaged in business in the U.S. because of the ownership of units. As a consequence, they will be required to file federal tax returns to report their share of our income, gain, loss or deduction and pay federal income tax at regular rates on their share of our net income or gain. Moreover, under rules applicable to publicly traded partnerships, we generally will withhold at the highest applicable effective tax rate from cash distributions made quarterly to foreign unitholders. Each foreign unitholder must obtain a taxpayer identification number from the IRS and submit that number to our transfer agent on a Form W-8BEN, Form W-8BEN-E or applicable successor or substitute form in order to obtain credit for these withholding taxes. A change in applicable law may require us to change these procedures.

In addition, because a foreign corporation that owns units will be treated as engaged in a U.S. trade or business, that corporation may be subject to the U.S. branch profits tax under Section 884 of the Code at a rate of 30.0%, in addition to regular federal income tax, on its share of our income and gain, as adjusted for changes in the foreign corporation's U.S. net equity, which is effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business. That tax may be reduced or eliminated by an income tax treaty between the U.S. and the country in which the foreign corporate unitholder is a qualified resident. In addition, this type of unitholder is subject to special information reporting requirements under Section 6038C of the Code.

A foreign unitholder who sells or otherwise disposes of a common unit will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain realized from the sale or disposition of that unit to the extent the gain is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the foreign unitholder. Under Rev. Rul. 91-32, 1991-1 C.B. 107, interpreting the scope of effectively connected income, a foreign unitholder would be considered to be engaged in a trade or business in the U.S. by virtue of the U.S. activities of the partnership, and part or all of that unitholder's gain would be effectively connected with that unitholder's indirect U.S. trade or business. Moreover, under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act, a foreign common unitholder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax upon the sale or disposition of a common unit if (i) he owned (directly or constructively applying certain attribution rules) more than 5.0% of our common units at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of such disposition and (ii) 50.0% or more of the fair market value of all of our assets consisted of U.S. real property interests at any time during the shorter of the period during which such unitholder held the common units or the five-year period ending on the date of disposition. Currently, more than 50.0% of our assets consist of U.S. real property interests and we do not expect that to change in the foreseeable future. Therefore, foreign unitholders may be subject to federal income tax on gain from the sale or

disposition of their units.

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Administrative Matters

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

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

Partnerships generally are treated as separate entities under Section 6221 of the Code for purposes of federal tax audits, judicial review of administrative adjustments by the IRS and tax settlement proceedings. The tax treatment of partnership items of income, gain, loss and deduction are determined in a partnership proceeding rather than in separate proceedings with the partners. The Code requires that one partner be designated as the Tax Matters Partner for these purposes. Our partnership agreement names our general partner as our Tax Matters Partner.

The Tax Matters Partner has made and will make some elections on our behalf and on behalf of unitholders. In addition, the Tax Matters Partner can extend the statute of limitations for assessment of tax deficiencies against unitholders for items in our returns. The Tax Matters Partner may bind a unitholder with less than a 1.0% profits interest in us to a settlement with the IRS unless that unitholder elects, by filing a statement with the IRS, not to give that authority to the Tax Matters Partner. The Tax Matters Partner may seek judicial review, by which all the unitholders are bound, of a final partnership administrative adjustment and, if the Tax Matters Partner fails to seek judicial review, judicial review may be sought by any unitholder having at least a 1.0% interest in profits or by any group of unitholders having in the aggregate at least a 5.0% interest in profits. However, only one action for judicial review will go forward, and each unitholder with an interest in the outcome may participate.

A unitholder must file a statement with the IRS pursuant to Section 6222 of the Code identifying the treatment of any item on his federal income tax return that is not consistent with the treatment of the item on our return. Intentional or negligent disregard of this consistency requirement may subject a unitholder to substantial penalties.

Due to the recent enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, the audit procedures for large partnerships will change for partnership taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. Please read Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership Entity-Level Audits and Adjustments.

Additional Withholding Requirements. Withholding taxes may apply to certain types of payments not treated as effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business (please read Tax-Exempt Organizations and Other Investors) made to foreign financial institutions (as specially defined in the Code) and certain other non-U.S. entities. Specifically, a 30.0% withholding tax may be imposed on any such non-effectively connected interest, dividends and other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gains, profits and income from sources within the United States (FDAP Income) or such non-effectively connected gross proceeds from the sale of any property of a type which can produce interest or dividends from sources within the United States paid to (i) a foreign financial institution (for which purposes includes foreign broker-dealers, clearing organizations, investment companies, hedge funds and certain other investment

entities) unless such foreign financial institution agrees to

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verify, report and disclose its U.S. accountholders and meets certain other specified requirements or otherwise qualifies for an exemption from this withholding or (ii) a non-financial foreign entity that is a beneficial owner of the payment unless such entity certifies that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or provides the name, address and taxpayer identification number of each substantial U.S. owner and such entity meets certain other specified requirements or otherwise qualifies for an exemption from this withholding. An intergovernmental agreement between the United States and an applicable foreign country or future Treasury Regulations may modify these requirements. Under current Treasury Regulations, withholding (i) currently applies to payments of non-effectively connected FDAP Income and (ii) will apply to payments of relevant, non-effectively connected gross proceeds which are made after December 31, 2018. Non-U.S. and U.S. unitholders are encouraged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation on their investment in our common units.

Nominee Reporting. Persons who hold an interest in us as a nominee for another person are required under Section 6031 of the Code to furnish to us:

the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the beneficial owner and the nominee;

a statement regarding whether the beneficial owner is:

a person that is not a U.S. person;

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

a tax-exempt entity;

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

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

Brokers and financial institutions are required under Section 6031 of the Code to furnish additional information, including whether they are U.S. persons and specific information on units they acquire, hold or transfer for their own account. A penalty of \$250 per failure, up to a maximum of \$3 million per calendar year, is imposed by Section 6722 of the Code for failure to report that information to us. The nominee is required to supply the beneficial owner of the units with the information furnished to us.

Accuracy-Related Penalties. An additional tax equal to 20.0% of the amount of any portion of an underpayment of tax that is attributable to one or more specified causes, including negligence or disregard of rules or regulations, substantial understatements of income tax and substantial valuation misstatements, is imposed under Section 6662 of the Code. No penalty will be imposed, however, for any portion of an underpayment if it is shown that there was a reasonable cause for that portion and that the taxpayer acted in good faith regarding that portion.

For individuals, a substantial understatement of income tax in any taxable year exists if the amount of the understatement exceeds the greater of 10.0% of the tax required to be shown on the return for the taxable year or \$5,000 (\$10,000 for most corporations). The amount of any understatement subject to penalty generally is reduced if any portion is attributable to a position adopted on the return:

for which there is, or was, substantial authority ; or

as to which there is a reasonable basis and the pertinent facts of that position are disclosed on the return. If any item of income, gain, loss or deduction included in the distributive shares of unitholders might result in that kind of an understatement of income for which no substantial authority exists, we must disclose the

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pertinent facts on our return. In addition, we will make a reasonable effort to furnish sufficient information for unitholders to make adequate disclosure on their returns and to take other actions as may be appropriate to permit unitholders to avoid liability for this penalty. More stringent rules apply to tax shelters, which we do not believe includes us, or any of our investments, plans or arrangements.

A substantial valuation misstatement exists if (a) the value of any property, or the adjusted basis of any property, claimed on a tax return is 150.0% or more of the amount determined to be the correct amount of the valuation or adjusted basis, (b) the price for any property or services (or for the use of property) claimed on any such return with respect to any transaction between persons described in Section 482 of the Code is 200.0% or more (or 50.0% or less) of the amount determined under Code Section 482 to be the correct amount of such price, or (c) the net Section 482 transfer price adjustment for the taxable year exceeds the lesser of \$5 million or 10.0% of the taxpayer's gross receipts. No penalty is imposed unless the portion of the underpayment attributable to a substantial valuation misstatement exceeds \$5,000 (\$10,000 for most corporations). If the valuation claimed on a return is 200.0% or more than the correct valuation or certain other thresholds are met, the penalty imposed increases to 40.0%. We do not anticipate making any valuation misstatements.

In addition, the 20.0% accuracy-related penalty also applies to any portion of an underpayment of tax that is attributable to transactions lacking economic substance. To the extent that such transactions are not disclosed, the penalty imposed is increased to 40.0%. Additionally, there is no reasonable cause defense to the imposition of this penalty to such transactions.

Reportable Transactions. If we were to engage in a reportable transaction, we (and possibly you and others) would be required under Treasury regulations under Section 6011 of the Code and related provisions to make a detailed disclosure of the transaction to the IRS. A transaction may be a reportable transaction based upon any of several factors, including the fact that it is a type of tax avoidance transaction publicly identified by the IRS as a listed transaction or that it produces certain kinds of losses for partnerships, individuals, S corporations, and trusts in excess of \$2 million in any single year, or \$4 million in any combination of six successive tax years. Our participation in a reportable transaction could increase the likelihood that our federal income tax information return (and possibly your tax return) would be audited by the IRS. Please read Information Returns and Audit Procedures.

Moreover, if we were to participate in a reportable transaction with a significant purpose to avoid or evade tax, or in any listed transaction, you may be subject to the following provisions of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004:

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

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

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

We do not expect to engage in any reportable transactions.

Recent Legislative Developments

The present federal income tax treatment of publicly traded partnerships, including us, or an investment in our common units may be modified by administrative, legislative or judicial interpretation at any time. For example, from time to time the President and members of the U.S. Congress propose and consider substantive changes to the existing federal income tax laws that affect publicly traded partnerships. One such recent legislative proposal would have eliminated, and the President proposed in his recently issued budget proposal to eliminate, the qualifying income exception upon which we rely for our treatment as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. Additionally, on May 6, 2015, the IRS and the U.S. Department of the Treasury published

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proposed regulations that provide industry-specific guidance regarding whether income earned from certain activities will constitute qualifying income. Under such regulations, it is uncertain whether, and to what extent, our share of water business services income from Water Solutions will be treated as qualifying income. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Tax Treatment of Income Earned Through C Corporation Subsidiaries](#). We are unable to predict whether any of these changes or any other proposals will be reintroduced or will ultimately be enacted or whether judicial or administrative interpretations of applicable law will change. Any such changes could negatively impact the value of an investment in our common units. Any modification to the federal income tax laws may be applied retroactively and could make it more difficult or impossible to meet the exception for us to be treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Please read [Partnership Status](#).

Due to the recent enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, the audit procedures for large partnerships will change for partnership taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. Please read [Tax Consequences of Unit Ownership](#) [Entity-Level Audits and Adjustments](#).

State, Local, Foreign and Other Tax Considerations

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

It is the responsibility of each unitholder to investigate the legal and tax consequences, under the laws of pertinent jurisdictions, of his investment in us. Accordingly, each prospective unitholder is urged to consult, and depend upon, his tax counsel or other advisor with regard to those matters. Further, it is the responsibility of each unitholder to file all state, local and foreign, as well as U.S. federal tax returns, that may be required of him. Baker Botts L.L.P. has not rendered an opinion on the state, local or foreign tax consequences of an investment in us.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We and the selling security holders may sell the securities being offered hereby in and outside the U.S. through the methods described below or by any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law, including through a combination of methods.

The prospectus supplement, if required, will set forth any required information such as the terms of the offering, the method of distribution and the following:

the names of any underwriters or agents;

the name or names of any managing underwriter or underwriters;

the purchase price of the securities from us or the selling security holders;

the net proceeds to us or the selling security holders from the sale of the securities;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us or the selling security holders;

any underwriting discounts, commissions and other items constituting compensation to underwriters, dealers or agents;

any public offering price;

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

any commissions paid to agents; and

any securities exchange or market on which the securities offered in the prospectus supplement may be listed.

Sale Through Underwriters or Dealers

If we or the selling security holders use one or more underwriters in the sale of securities, we, and where applicable, the selling security holders will execute an underwriting agreement with the underwriter at the time of sale and will, if required, provide the name of any underwriter in the prospectus supplement that the underwriter will use to make resales of securities to the public. The underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account, and the underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may offer securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to conditions, and any underwritten offering may be on a firm commitment basis. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

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

Sales Through Agents

We or the selling security holders may designate broker-dealers as agents from time to time to solicit offers from purchasers to purchase the common units included in this prospectus, or to sell such common units in

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ordinary brokerage transactions, on our or the selling security holders' behalf. If required, the name of any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities and any commissions payable by us or the selling security holders to the agent will be included in a prospectus supplement. Unless stated otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment. Agents may be deemed to be underwriters as that term is defined in the Securities Act in such offering.

Direct Sales

We or the selling security holders may sell the securities directly. In that event, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We or selling security holders may use electronic media, including the Internet, to sell offered securities directly.

Delayed Delivery or Forward Contracts

We or the selling security holders may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers to purchase securities from us or the selling security holders at the public offering price set forth in a prospectus supplement under delayed delivery or forward contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future at prices determined as described in the prospectus supplement.

Public Auction

We or the selling security holders may sell the common units held using a public auction process in which the public offering price and the allocation of the common units will be determined through an auction conducted by an auction agent. The auction process may involve a modified Dutch auction mechanic in which the auction agent (and potentially other brokers) will receive and accept bids from bidders at either a minimum bid price or at price increments in excess of the minimum bid price. The auction agent and any such other brokers may be the underwriters of the offering or their affiliates. After the auction closes and those bids become irrevocable, the auction agent will determine the clearing price for the sale of the common units offered in the auction, and subject to agreement between us or the selling security holder, as applicable, and the underwriter or underwriters to proceed with the offering, the common units will be allocated to winning bidders by the underwriter or underwriters. If we or the selling security holders use a public auction process to sell the common units, a more detailed description of the procedures to be used in connection with any such auction will be set forth in a prospectus supplement to this prospectus.

At-the-Market Offerings

We, the selling unitholders or their respective underwriters, broker-dealers, or agents may make sales of the common units that are deemed to be an at-the-market offering as defined in Securities Act Rule 415, which includes sales of such common units made directly on or through the NYSE, the existing trading market for the common units, or in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

Remarketing

We or the selling security holders may offer and sell any of the securities in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment by their terms or otherwise by one or more remarketing firms acting as principals for their own accounts or as our or the selling security holders' agents. The name of any remarketing firm, the terms of any remarketing agreement and the compensation to be paid to the remarketing firm will be included in the prospectus supplement as required. Remarketing firms may be deemed underwriters under the Securities Act.

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Derivative Transactions

We or the selling security holders may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third parties may use securities pledged by us or the selling security holders or borrowed from us, the selling security holders or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us or the selling security holders in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third parties in these sale transactions will be underwriters and, if not identified in this prospectus, will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement or in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. In addition, we or the selling security holders may otherwise loan or pledge securities to a financial institution or other third party that in turn may sell the securities short using this prospectus. Such financial institution or other third party may transfer its economic short position to investors in our securities or in connection with a concurrent offering of other securities.

Sales by the Selling Security Holders

We are registering 8,772,467 common units described in this prospectus to permit the resale of these securities by the selling security holders listed herein from time to time after the date of this prospectus. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale by the selling security holders of the securities.

The selling security holders may act independently of us in making decisions with respect to the timing, manner and size of each of its sales. The selling security holders may make sales of the common units from time to time through one or more methods specified herein or through a combination of any of such methods or any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law. Such offers and sales may be made directly to purchasers, through underwriters, to dealers, or through agents, on the NYSE or otherwise at prices and under terms prevailing at the time of the sale, at prices related to the then-current market price, at fixed prices, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at privately negotiated prices.

We have agreed to indemnify in certain circumstances the selling security holders of the common units registered on their behalf by the registration statement, against certain liabilities to which they may become subject in connection with the sale of such securities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act. The selling security holders have agreed to indemnify us in certain circumstances against certain liabilities to which we may become subject in connection with the sale of such securities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act. We and the selling security holders may agree to indemnify underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in the distribution of securities against certain liabilities to which they may become subject in connection with the sale of such securities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

We have agreed to pay the expenses of the registration of the common units offered and sold by the selling security holders under the registration statement. The selling security holders will pay any underwriting discounts and commissions applicable to the common units sold by such selling security holders.

The selling security holders may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act in connection with the securities they resell and any profits on the sales may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement, the selling security holders will receive all the proceeds from the sale of the securities.

General Information

In connection with the sale of the securities, underwriters, dealers or agents may be deemed to have received compensation from us or the selling security holders in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and

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may also receive commissions from securities purchasers for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and the dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent. We will provide in the applicable prospectus supplement any required information regarding any underwriting discounts or other compensation that we or the selling security holders pay to underwriters or agents in connection with the securities offering, and any discounts, concessions or commissions which underwriters allow to dealers.

We, and where applicable, the selling security holders may have agreements with the agents, dealers and underwriters to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments that the agents, dealers or underwriters may be required to make because of those liabilities. Agents, dealers and underwriters, or their affiliates or associates, may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us or the selling security holders in the ordinary course of their businesses.

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

In connection with an offering, certain persons participating in the offering may make a market in the securities or engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered securities. This may include, among other transactions, over-allotments or short sales of the securities, which involves the sale by persons participating in the offering of more securities than we or the selling security holders sold to them. In these circumstances, these persons would cover such over-allotments or short positions by making purchases in the open market or by exercising their over-allotment option. As a result, the price of the securities may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market. If these activities are commenced, these transactions may be discontinued at any time.

A prospectus and accompanying prospectus supplement in electronic form may be made available on the websites maintained by the underwriters. The underwriters may agree to allocate a number of securities for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Such allocations of securities for internet distributions will be made on the same basis as other allocations. In addition, securities may be sold by the underwriters to securities dealers who resell securities to online brokerage account holders.

Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates may be customers of, may engage in transactions with and may perform services for us or our affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Because FINRA views our common units as interests in a direct participation program, any offering of common units pursuant to this registration statement will be made in compliance with FINRA Rule 2310.

To the extent required, this prospectus may be amended or supplemented from time to time to describe a specific plan of distribution. The place and time of delivery for the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered may be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement, if required.

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LEGAL MATTERS

In connection with particular offerings of the securities offered in this prospectus in the future, and if stated in the applicable prospectus supplements, the validity of the issuance of certain of the securities and certain other legal matters will be passed upon for us by Baker Botts L.L.P., Austin, Texas. Baker Botts L.L.P. will also render an opinion on the material federal income tax consequences regarding the securities. If certain legal matters in connection with an offering of the securities made by this prospectus and a related prospectus supplement are passed on by counsel for the underwriters of such offering, that counsel will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement related to that offering.

EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the audited historical financial statements of Rockies Express Pipeline LLC as of December 31, 2014 and 2015, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015, included as Exhibit 99.2 of Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP's Current Report on Form 8-K dated April 28, 2016, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed a registration statement with the SEC under the Securities Act that registers the securities offered by this prospectus. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits, contains additional relevant information about us. The rules and regulations of the SEC allow us to omit some information included in the registration statement from this prospectus.

In addition, we file annual, quarterly and other reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-732-0330 for further information on the operation of the SEC's public reference room. Our SEC filings are available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. We also make available free of charge on our website at www.tallgrassenergy.com all materials that we file electronically with the SEC, including our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, Section 16 reports and amendments to these reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such materials are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. Information contained on our website or any other website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we have filed with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you without actually including the specific information in this prospectus by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC. These other documents contain important information about us, our financial condition and results of operations. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and may replace information in this prospectus and information previously filed with the SEC.

We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the documents listed below and any subsequent filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (excluding information deemed to be furnished and not filed with the SEC) until all offerings under this registration statement are completed:

our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015;

our current reports on Form 8-K filed on January 4, 2016 and April 28, 2016 (to the extent filed and not furnished); and

the description of our common units in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 on May 8, 2013.

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

Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP

4200 W. 115th Street, Suite 350

Edgar Filing: Tallgrass Energy Partners, LP - Form 424B5

Leawood, Kansas 66211

Attention: Investor Relations

Telephone: (913) 928-6060

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