

Gastar Exploration Inc.  
Form 10-Q  
November 06, 2014  
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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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FORM 10-Q

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QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT  
OF 1934  
FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED September 30, 2014  
OR  
 TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT  
OF 1934  
FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM                      TO

Commission File Number: 001-35211

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GASTAR EXPLORATION INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	38-3531640 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------

1331 Lamar Street, Suite 650 Houston, Texas (Address of principal executive offices) (713) 739-1800 (Registrant's telephone number, including area code)	77010 (Zip Code)
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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes  No

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

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes  No

The total number of outstanding common shares, \$0.001 par value per share, as of November 2, 2014 was 78,861,678.

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GASTAR EXPLORATION INC.  
 QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q  
 FOR THE THREE AND NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2014  
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Unless otherwise indicated or required by the context, (i) for any date or period prior to January 31, 2014, “Gastar,” the “Company,” “we,” “us,” “our” and similar terms refer collectively to Gastar Exploration, Inc. (formerly known as Gastar Exploration Ltd.) and its subsidiaries, including Gastar Exploration Inc. (formerly known as Gastar Exploration USA, Inc.), and for any date or period after January 31, 2014, such terms refer collectively to Gastar Exploration Inc. and its subsidiaries, (ii) “Gastar USA” refers to Gastar Exploration USA, Inc., which until January 31, 2014 was a first-tier subsidiary of Gastar Exploration, Inc. and primary operating company as of December 31, 2013, (iii) “Parent” refers to Gastar Exploration, Inc., (iv) all dollar amounts appearing in this Form 10-Q are stated in United States dollars (“U.S. dollars”) unless otherwise noted and (v) all financial data included in this Form 10-Q have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”). On January 31, 2014, Gastar Exploration, Inc. merged with and into Gastar USA as part of a reorganization to eliminate the holding company corporate structure of Parent. Pursuant to the merger agreement, shares of Parent’s common stock were converted into an equal number of shares of common stock of Gastar USA and Gastar USA changed its name to “Gastar Exploration Inc.” Gastar Exploration Inc., together with its subsidiary, owns and will continue to conduct Gastar’s business in substantially the same manner as was being conducted by Parent and its subsidiaries prior to the merger.

General information about us can be found on our website at [www.gastar.com](http://www.gastar.com). The information available on or through our website, or about us on any other website, is neither incorporated into, nor part of, this report. Our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and other filings that we make with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), as well as any amendments and exhibits to those reports, will be available free of charge through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we file or furnish them to

the SEC. Information is also available on the SEC website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) for our U.S. filings.

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Glossary of Terms

AMI	Area of mutual interest, an agreed designated geographic area where joint venturers or other industry partners have a right of participation in acquisitions and operations
Bbl	Barrel of oil, condensate or NGLs
Bbl/d	Barrels of oil, condensate or NGLs per day
Bcf	One billion cubic feet of natural gas
Bcfe	One billion cubic feet of natural gas equivalent, determined using the ratio of six thousand cubic feet of natural gas to one barrel of oil, condensate or NGLs
Boe	One barrel of oil equivalent determined using the ratio of six thousand cubic feet of natural gas to one barrel of oil, condensate or NGLs
BOE/d	Barrels of oil equivalent per day
Btu	British thermal unit, typically used in measuring natural gas energy content
CRP	Central receipt point
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board
GAAP	Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
MBbl	One thousand barrels of oil, condensate or NGLs
MBbl/d	One thousand barrels of oil, condensate or NGLs per day
MBoe	One thousand barrels of oil equivalent, calculated on the assumed energy equivalent basis of six Mcf of natural gas per MBoe
MBoe/d	One thousand barrels of oil equivalent per day
Mcf	One thousand cubic feet of natural gas
Mcf/d	One thousand cubic feet of natural gas per day
Mcfe	One thousand cubic feet of natural gas equivalent, calculated on the assumed energy equivalent basis of 1/6 of a barrel of oil per Mcfe
MMBtu/d	One million British thermal units per day
MMcf	One million cubic feet of natural gas
MMcf/d	One million cubic feet of natural gas per day

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MMcfe	One million cubic feet of natural gas equivalent, calculated on the assumed energy equivalent basis of 1/6 of a barrel of oil per Mcfe
MMcfe/d	One million cubic feet of natural gas equivalent per day
NGLs	Natural gas liquids
NYMEX	New York Mercantile Exchange
PBU	Performance based unit
psi	Pounds per square inch
U.S.	United States

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## PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 1. Financial Statements

GASTAR EXPLORATION INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	September 30, 2014 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2013 (Unaudited)
	(in thousands, except share data)	
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$46,598	\$ 32,393
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$0 and \$507, respectively	21,859	21,656
Commodity derivative contracts	2,735	—
Prepaid expenses	1,842	1,145
Total current assets	73,034	55,194
<b>PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:</b>		
Oil and natural gas properties, full cost method of accounting:		
Unproved properties, excluded from amortization	119,368	96,220
Proved properties	1,048,756	935,773
Total oil and natural gas properties	1,168,124	1,031,993
Furniture and equipment	2,991	2,691
Total property, plant and equipment	1,171,115	1,034,684
Accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(550,944 )	(517,171 )
Total property, plant and equipment, net	620,171	517,513
<b>OTHER ASSETS:</b>		
Commodity derivative contracts	1,444	7,545
Deferred charges, net	2,785	2,950
Advances to operators and other assets	13,258	6,733
Total other assets	17,487	17,228
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$710,692</b>	<b>\$ 589,935</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$18,266	\$ 11,046
Revenue payable	10,456	12,514
Accrued interest	10,512	3,504
Accrued drilling and operating costs	4,166	8,756
Advances from non-operators	11,681	9,259
Commodity derivative contracts	419	3,403
Commodity derivative premium payable	1,966	145
Asset retirement obligation	81	633
Other accrued liabilities	3,092	4,844
Total current liabilities	60,639	54,104
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:</b>		
Long-term debt	314,704	312,994
Commodity derivative contracts	882	378
Commodity derivative premium payable	5,327	7,000
Asset retirement obligation	5,887	5,430

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Total long-term liabilities	326,800	325,802
Commitments and contingencies (Note 12)		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Preferred stock, 40,000,000 shares authorized		
Series A Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value; 10,000,000 shares authorized; 4,045,000 and 3,958,160 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively, with liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share	41	40
Series B Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value; 10,000,000 shares authorized; 2,140,000 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively, with 21 liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share		21
Common stock, \$0.001 par value; 275,000,000 shares authorized; 78,862,165 and 61,211,658 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively	78	61
Additional paid-in capital	568,078	464,730
Accumulated deficit	(244,965 )	(254,823 )
Total stockholders' equity	323,253	210,029
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>\$710,692</b>	<b>\$589,935</b>

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

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GASTAR EXPLORATION INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
 (Unaudited)

	For the Three Months Ended September 30,		For the Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	(in thousands, except share and per share data)			
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
Oil and condensate	\$22,793	\$9,381	\$61,913	\$22,731
Natural gas	7,151	10,099	40,129	30,113
NGLs	5,139	4,623	16,689	10,415
Total oil, condensate, natural gas and NGLs revenues	35,083	24,103	118,731	63,259
Gain (loss) on commodity derivatives contracts	6,663	(5,263)	(8,761)	(2,229)
Total revenues	41,746	18,840	109,970	61,030
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
Production taxes	1,558	1,319	5,489	3,112
Lease operating expenses	4,136	2,190	13,057	6,196
Transportation, treating and gathering	397	1,098	3,168	3,386
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	11,111	8,467	33,773	21,428
Accretion of asset retirement obligation	129	142	376	358
General and administrative expense	4,002	3,998	12,658	11,964
Litigation settlement expense	—	—	—	1,000
Total expenses	21,333	17,214	68,521	47,444
<b>INCOME FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>20,413</b>	<b>1,626</b>	<b>41,449</b>	<b>13,586</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):</b>				
Gain on acquisition of assets at fair value	—	—	—	43,712
Interest expense	(6,991)	(3,439)	(20,794)	(7,593)
Investment income and other	4	8	15	16
Foreign transaction loss	(1)	(3)	(7)	(15)
<b>INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES</b>	<b>13,425</b>	<b>(1,808)</b>	<b>20,663</b>	<b>49,706</b>
Provision for income taxes	—	—	—	—
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>13,425</b>	<b>(1,808)</b>	<b>20,663</b>	<b>49,706</b>
Dividends on preferred stock	(3,618)	(2,134)	(10,805)	(6,398)
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS</b>	<b>\$9,807</b>	<b>\$(3,942)</b>	<b>\$9,858</b>	<b>\$43,308</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS) PER SHARE OF COMMON STOCK ATTRIBUTABLE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS:</b>				
Basic	\$0.16	\$(0.07)	\$0.17	\$0.71
Diluted	\$0.15	\$(0.07)	\$0.16	\$0.68
<b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OF COMMON STOCK OUTSTANDING:</b>				
Basic	60,006,903	57,359,357	58,982,709	61,159,117
Diluted	63,399,446	57,359,357	62,306,480	63,971,038

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



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GASTAR EXPLORATION INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
 (Unaudited)

	For the Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2014	2013
	(in thousands)	
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Net income	\$20,663	\$49,706
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	33,773	21,428
Stock-based compensation	3,704	2,540
Mark to market of commodity derivatives contracts:		
Total loss on commodity derivatives contracts	8,761	2,229
Cash settlements of matured commodity derivatives contracts, net	(7,705)	) 5,929
Cash premiums paid for commodity derivatives contracts	(185)	) (102)
Amortization of deferred financing costs	2,270	1,790
Accretion of asset retirement obligation	376	358
Settlement of asset retirement obligation	(580)	) —
Gain on acquisition of assets at fair value	—	(43,712)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(4,242)	) (1,549)
Prepaid expenses	(697)	) 481
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,143	141
Net cash provided by operating activities	60,281	39,239
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Development and purchase of oil and natural gas properties	(100,818)	) (77,813)
Advances to operators	(43,337)	) (13,104)
Acquisition of oil and natural gas properties - refund (expenditure)	4,209	(78,809)
Proceeds from sale of natural gas and oil properties	3,077	70,708
Proceeds from (payments to) non-operators	2,422	(4,589)
Purchase of furniture and equipment	(300)	) (484)
Net cash used in investing activities	(134,747)	) (104,091)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Proceeds from revolving credit facility	58,000	19,000
Repayment of revolving credit facility	(58,000)	) (117,000)
Proceeds from issuance of senior secured notes, net of discount	—	194,500
Proceeds from issuance of common stock, net of issuance costs	101,513	—
Repurchase of outstanding common stock	—	(9,753)
Proceeds from issuance of preferred stock, net of issuance costs	2,064	133
Dividends on preferred stock	(10,805)	) (6,398)
Deferred financing charges	(405)	) (2,807)
Tax withholding related to restricted stock and PBU vestings	(3,709)	) (349)
Other	13	—
Net cash provided by financing activities	88,671	77,326
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>14,205</b>	<b>12,474</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD</b>	<b>32,393</b>	<b>8,901</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$46,598</b>	<b>\$21,375</b>

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

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GASTAR EXPLORATION INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO THE CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

1. Description of Business

Gastar Exploration Inc. (the “Company” or “Gastar,” and before January 31, 2014, “Gastar USA”) is an independent energy company engaged in the exploration, development and production of oil, condensate, natural gas and NGLs in the U.S. Gastar Exploration Inc.’s principal business activities include the identification, acquisition, and subsequent exploration and development of oil and natural gas properties with an emphasis on unconventional reserves, such as shale resource plays. In Oklahoma, Gastar is developing the primarily oil-bearing reservoirs of the Hunton Limestone horizontal oil play and expects to test other prospective formations on the same acreage, including the Woodford Shale and the Meramec Shale (middle Mississippi Lime), which Gastar refers to as the Mid-Continent Stack Play. In West Virginia, Gastar is developing liquids-rich natural gas in the Marcellus Shale and has drilled its first successful dry gas Utica Shale/Point Pleasant well on its acreage.

On November 14, 2013, Gastar Exploration Ltd., an Alberta, Canada corporation (“Parent”), changed its jurisdiction of incorporation to the State of Delaware and changed its name to “Gastar Exploration, Inc.” At December 31, 2013, Gastar Exploration, Inc. was a holding company and substantially all of its operations were conducted through, and substantially all of its assets were held by, its primary operating subsidiary, Gastar Exploration USA, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Subsequently, on January 31, 2014, Gastar Exploration, Inc. merged with and into Gastar Exploration USA, Inc. as part of a reorganization to eliminate the holding company corporate structure. Pursuant to the merger agreement, shares of Gastar Exploration, Inc.’s common stock were converted into an equal number of shares of common stock of Gastar USA and Gastar USA changed its name to “Gastar Exploration Inc.” Gastar Exploration Inc., together with its subsidiary, owns and will continue to conduct business in substantially the same manner as was being conducted by Gastar Exploration, Inc. and its subsidiaries prior to the merger.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies followed by the Company are set forth in the notes to the Company’s audited consolidated financial statements included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 (the “2013 Form 10-K”) filed with the SEC. Please refer to the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in the 2013 Form 10-K for additional details of the Company’s financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. No material item included in those notes has changed except as a result of normal transactions in the interim or as disclosed within this report.

All prior year balances presented are those of Gastar Exploration, Inc.

The unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements of the Company included herein are stated in U.S. dollars and were prepared from the records of the Company by management in accordance with U.S. GAAP applicable to interim financial statements and reflect all normal and recurring adjustments, which are, in the opinion of management, necessary to provide a fair presentation of the results of operations and financial position for the interim periods. Such financial statements conform to the presentation reflected in the 2013 Form 10-K. The current interim period reported herein should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and accompanying notes, including Item 8. “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data, Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies,” included in the 2013 Form 10-K.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates with regard to these financial statements include the estimate of proved oil and natural gas reserve quantities and the related present value of estimated future net cash flows.

The unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements of the Company include the consolidated accounts of all of its subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

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Certain reclassifications of prior year balances have been made to conform to the current year presentation; these reclassifications have no impact on net income (loss).

The results of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2014. In preparing these financial statements, the Company has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through the date the financial statements were issued and has disclosed certain subsequent events in these condensed consolidated financial statements, as appropriate.

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## Recent Accounting Developments

The following recently issued accounting pronouncement may impact the Company in future periods:

**Revenue Recognition.** In May 2014, the FASB issued an amendment to previously issued guidance regarding the recognition of revenue. The FASB and the International Accounting Standards Board initiated a joint project to clarify the principles for recognizing revenue and to develop a common standard that would (i) remove inconsistencies and weaknesses in revenue requirements, (ii) provide a more robust framework for addressing revenue issues, (iii) improve comparability of revenue recognition practices across entities, industries, jurisdictions and capital markets, (iv) provide more useful information to users of financial statements through improved disclosure requirements and (v) simplify the preparation of financial statements by reducing the number of requirements to which an entity must refer. The core principle of the guidance is that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. To achieve this core principle, an entity should apply the following steps (1) identify the contract(s) with the customer; (2) identify the performance obligations in the contract; (3) determine the transaction price; (4) allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract and (5) recognize revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation. This guidance supersedes prior revenue recognition requirements and most industry-specific guidance throughout the Codification. This guidance is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, including interim periods within that reporting period. The Company does not expect the adoption of this guidance to materially impact its operating results, financial position or cash flows.

**Income Taxes.** In July 2013, the FASB issued an amendment to previously issued guidance regarding the financial statement presentation of an unrecognized tax benefit when a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss or a tax credit carryforward exists. The amendment requires that an unrecognized tax benefit, or a portion of an unrecognized tax benefit, should be presented in the financial statements as a reduction to a deferred tax asset for a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss or a tax credit carryforward, except as follows. To the extent a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward is not available at the reporting date under the tax law of the applicable jurisdiction to settle any additional income taxes that would result from the disallowance of a tax position or the tax law of the applicable jurisdiction does not require the entity to use, and the entity does not intend to use, the deferred tax asset for such purpose, the unrecognized tax benefit should be presented in the financial statements as a liability and should not be combined with deferred tax assets. The assessment of whether a deferred tax asset is available is based on the unrecognized tax benefit and deferred tax asset that exist at the reporting date and should be made presuming disallowance of the tax position at the reporting date. This amendment does not require new recurring disclosures. This guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2013. The adoption of this guidance did not impact the Company's operating results, financial position or cash flows.

## 3. Property, Plant and Equipment

The amount capitalized as oil and natural gas properties was incurred for the purchase and development of various properties in the U.S., specifically the states of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Texas. The Company sold substantially all of its East Texas assets on October 2, 2013, with an effective date of January 1, 2013.

The following table summarizes the components of unproved properties excluded from amortization for the periods indicated:

	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
	(in thousands)	
Unproved properties, excluded from amortization:		
Drilling in progress costs	\$18,566	\$4,774
Acreage acquisition costs	93,528	86,097
Capitalized interest	7,274	5,349
Total unproved properties excluded from amortization	\$119,368	\$96,220

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, management's evaluation of unproved properties resulted in an impairment. Due to continued lower natural gas prices for dry gas and no current plans to drill or extend leases in Marcellus East, the Company reclassified \$2.7 million and \$3.2 million of unproved properties to proved properties for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively, related to acreage in Marcellus East. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, management's evaluation of unproved properties resulted in an impairment and \$98,000 and \$8.0 million of unproved property costs were reclassified to proved property costs, respectively, related to acreage in Marcellus East.

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The full cost method of accounting for oil and natural gas properties requires a quarterly calculation of a limitation on capitalized costs, often referred to as a full cost ceiling calculation. The ceiling is the present value of estimated future cash flow from proved oil, condensate, natural gas and NGLs reserves reduced by future operating expenses, development expenditures, abandonment costs (net of salvage) to the extent not included in oil and natural gas properties pursuant to authoritative guidance and estimated future income taxes thereon. To the extent that the Company's capitalized costs (net of accumulated depletion and deferred taxes) exceed the ceiling, the excess must be written off to expense. Once incurred, this impairment of oil and natural gas properties is not reversible at a later date even if oil and natural gas prices increase. The ceiling calculation dictates that the trailing 12-month unweighted arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month prices and costs in effect are held constant indefinitely with respect to valuing future net cash flows from proved reserves for this purpose. The 12-month unweighted arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month prices are adjusted for basis and quality differentials in determining the present value of the reserves. The table below sets forth relevant pricing assumptions utilized in the quarterly ceiling test computations for the respective periods noted before adjustment for basis and quality differentials:

2014				
	Total Impairment	September 30	June 30	March 31
Henry Hub natural gas price (per MMBtu)(1)		\$4.24	\$4.10	\$3.99
West Texas Intermediate oil price (per Bbl)(1)		\$99.08	\$100.11	\$98.30
Impairment recorded (pre-tax) (in thousands)	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2013				
	Total Impairment	September 30	June 30	March 31
Henry Hub natural gas price (per MMBtu)(1)		\$3.60	\$3.44	\$2.95
West Texas Intermediate oil price (per Bbl)(1)		\$95.04	\$91.60	\$92.63
Impairment recorded (pre-tax) (in thousands)	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—

For the respective periods, oil and natural gas prices are calculated using the trailing 12-month unweighted (1) arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month prices based on Henry Hub natural gas prices and West Texas Intermediate oil prices.

Future declines in the 12-month average of oil, condensate, natural gas and NGLs prices could result in the recognition of future ceiling impairments.

#### Chesapeake Acquisition

On June 7, 2013, Gastar USA acquired from Chesapeake Exploration, L.L.C. and Larchmont Resources, L.L.C. (together, the "Chesapeake Parties") approximately 157,000 net acres of Oklahoma oil and gas leasehold interests, including production from interests in 206 producing wells located in Oklahoma (the "Chesapeake Assets") for a final adjusted purchase price of \$69.4 million, reflecting adjustment for an acquisition effective date of October 1, 2012 (the "Chesapeake Acquisition"). The Company accounted for the Chesapeake Acquisition as a business combination and, therefore, recorded the assets acquired at their estimated acquisition date fair values. The Company incurred \$2.1 million of transaction and integration costs associated with the acquisition and expensed these costs as general and administrative expenses. The Company utilized relevant market assumptions to determine fair value and allocate the purchase price, such as future commodity prices, projections of estimated natural gas and oil reserves, expectations for future development and operating costs, projections of future rates of production, expected recovery rates and market multiples for similar transactions. Many of the assumptions used were unobservable and, as such, represented Level 3 inputs under the fair value hierarchy as described in Note 5, "Fair Value Measurements." The Company's assessment of the fair value of the Chesapeake Assets resulted in a fair market valuation of \$113.1 million. Upon completion of the preliminary asset valuation, the Company recorded a bargain purchase gain of \$43.7 million during the second quarter

of 2013. With the completion of the asset valuation during the fourth quarter of 2013, the Company recorded deferred tax attributes associated with the transaction of \$16.0 million. As a result of incorporating the final valuation information into the purchase price allocation, a net bargain purchase gain of \$27.7 million was recognized in 2013 with respect to the Chesapeake Acquisition.

Table of Contents**Hunton Joint Venture and AMI Election**

Effective July 1, 2013, Gastar USA's working interest partner in its original AMI in Oklahoma exercised its rights to acquire approximately 12,800 net acres and certain proved properties that Gastar USA acquired pursuant to the Chesapeake Purchase Agreement for a total payment of \$11.8 million, of which \$133,000 was deemed to be a reimbursement of transaction and integration costs associated with the acquisition and was recorded as a reduction of general and administrative expense.

**Hunton Divestiture**

On August 6, 2013, Gastar USA sold approximately 76,000 net acres of oil and gas leasehold interests in Kingfisher and Canadian Counties, Oklahoma to Newfield Exploration Mid-Continent Inc. ("Newfield") and Gastar USA acquired approximately 1,850 net acres of Oklahoma oil and gas leasehold interests from Newfield for a net cash purchase price of approximately \$57.0 million, adjusted for an effective date of May 1, 2013. The Company did not record a gain or loss related to the divestiture as it was not significant to the full cost pool.

**WEHLU Acquisition**

On November 15, 2013, Gastar USA acquired a 98.3% working interest (80.5% net revenue interest) in 24,000 net acres of the West Edmond Hunton Lime Unit ("WEHLU") located in Kingfisher, Logan and Oklahoma Counties, Oklahoma from Lime Rock Resources II-A, L.P. and Lime Rock Resources II-C, L.P. (the "Lime Rock Parties") for an adjusted cash purchase price of \$177.8 million, reflecting customary adjustments and adjustment for an acquisition effective date of August 1, 2013 (the "WEHLU Acquisition"). The Company accounted for the WEHLU Acquisition as a business combination and, therefore, recorded the assets acquired at their estimated acquisition date fair values. The Company incurred \$286,000 of transaction and integration costs associated with the acquisition and expensed these costs as incurred as general and administrative expenses. The Company utilized relevant market assumptions to determine fair value and allocate the purchase price, such as future commodity prices, projections of estimated natural gas and oil reserves, expectations for future development and operating costs, projections of future rates of production, expected recovery rates and market multiples for similar transactions. Many of the assumptions used were unobservable and, as such, represent Level 3 inputs under the fair value hierarchy as described in Note 5, "Fair Value Measurements." The Company's assessment of the fair value of the WEHLU assets resulted in a fair market valuation of \$176.8 million. As the fair market valuation varied less than 1% from the purchase price allocation recorded, no adjustment was made to the purchase price allocation.

**Chesapeake and WEHLU Acquisitions Pro Forma Operating Results**

The following unaudited pro forma results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 show the effect on the Company's consolidated results of operations as if the Chesapeake and WEHLU Acquisitions had occurred on January 1, 2013. Pro forma results are not presented for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, as the results of operations for the acquisitions are included in the Company's results of operations for those periods. The pro forma results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 are the result of combining the statement of operations of the Company with the statements of revenues and direct operating expenses for the properties acquired from the Chesapeake and Lime Rock Parties adjusted for (1) the financing directly attributable to the acquisitions, (2) assumption of ARO liabilities and accretion expense for the properties acquired and (3) additional depreciation, depletion and amortization expense as a result of the Company's increased ownership in the acquired properties. The statements of revenues and direct operating expenses for the Chesapeake and WEHLU assets exclude all other historical expenses of the Chesapeake and Lime Rock Parties. As a result, certain estimates and judgments were made in preparing the pro forma adjustments.

	For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2013 (in thousands, except per share data) (Unaudited)	For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013
Revenues	\$31,623	\$100,374
Net Income	\$(3,288)	\$(3,148)

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Income per share:

Basic	\$ (0.06)	)	\$ (0.05)	)
Diluted	\$ (0.06)	)	\$ (0.05)	)

The pro forma information above includes numerous assumptions, is presented for illustrative purposes only, and may not be indicative of the future results or results of operations that would have actually occurred had the Chesapeake and WEHLU Acquisitions occurred as presented. Further, the above pro forma amounts do not consider any potential synergies or

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integration costs that may result from the transaction. In addition, future results may vary significantly from the results reflected in such pro forma information.

Hilltop Area, East Texas Sale

On October 2, 2013, Gastar Exploration Texas, LP (“Gastar Texas”) and Gastar USA sold to Cubic Energy, Inc. (“Cubic Energy”) approximately 31,800 gross (16,300 net) acres of leasehold interests in the Hilltop area of East Texas in Leon and Robertson Counties, Texas, including production from interests in producing wells, for net proceeds of approximately \$42.9 million, reflecting adjustment for an effective date of January 1, 2013 and other customary adjustments. The Company did not record a gain or loss related to the divestiture as it was not significant to the full cost pool.

Atinum Joint Venture

In September 2010, Gastar USA entered into a joint venture (the “Atinum Joint Venture”) pursuant to which Gastar USA ultimately assigned to an affiliate of Atinum Partners Co., Ltd. (“Atinum”), for total consideration of \$70.0 million, a 50% working interest in certain undeveloped acreage and wells. Effective June 30, 2011, an AMI was established for additional acreage acquisitions in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, excluding the counties of Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph and Tucker, West Virginia. Within this AMI, Gastar acts as operator and is obligated to offer any future lease acquisitions within the AMI to Atinum on a 50/50 basis, and Atinum will pay Gastar on an annual basis an amount equal to 10% of lease bonuses and third party leasing costs up to \$20.0 million and 5% of such costs on activities above \$20.0 million.

The Atinum Joint Venture pursued an initial three-year development program that called for the partners to drill a minimum of 60 operated horizontal wells by year-end 2013. Due to natural gas price declines, Atinum and Gastar USA agreed to reduce the minimum wells to be drilled requirements by nine wells to 51 wells from 60 wells. At September 30, 2014, 57 gross operated horizontal Marcellus Shale wells and one gross operated horizontal Utica Shale well were capable of production under the Atinum Joint Venture.

4. Long-Term Debt

Second Amended and Restated Revolving Credit Facility

On June 7, 2013, Gastar USA entered into the Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of June 7, 2013, among Gastar USA, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Administrative Agent, Collateral Agent, Swing Line Lender and Issuing Lender and the lenders named therein (the “Revolving Credit Facility”). The Revolving Credit Facility provided an initial borrowing base of \$50.0 million, with borrowings bearing interest, at Gastar USA's election, at the reference rate or the Eurodollar rate plus an applicable margin. The reference rate is the greater of (i) the rate of interest publicly announced by the administrative agent or (ii) the federal funds rate plus 50 basis points. The applicable interest rate margin varies from 1.0% to 2.0% in the case of borrowings based on the reference rate and from 2.0% to 3.0% in the case of borrowings based on the Eurodollar rate, depending on the utilization percentage in relation to the borrowing base. An annual commitment fee of 0.5% is payable quarterly on the unutilized balance of the borrowing base. The Revolving Credit Facility has a scheduled maturity of November 14, 2017.

The Revolving Credit Facility is guaranteed by all of the Company's current domestic subsidiaries and all future domestic subsidiaries formed during the term of the Revolving Credit Facility, in each case with the exception of those subsidiaries the Company has chosen to exclude that are deemed immaterial. Borrowings and related guarantees are secured by a first priority lien on all domestic oil and natural gas properties currently owned by or later acquired by the Company and its subsidiaries, excluding de minimis value properties as determined by the lender. The Revolving Credit Facility is secured by a first priority pledge of the stock of each domestic subsidiary, a first priority interest on all accounts receivable, notes receivable, inventory, contract rights, general intangibles and material property of the issuer and 65% of the stock of each foreign subsidiary of the Company.

The Revolving Credit Facility contains various covenants, including, among others:

- Restrictions on liens, incurrence of other indebtedness without lenders' consent and common stock dividends and other restricted payments;
- Maintenance of a minimum consolidated current ratio as of the end of each quarter of not less than 1.0 to 1.0, as adjusted;

- Maintenance of a maximum ratio of net indebtedness to EBITDA of not greater than 4.0 to 1.0; and
- Maintenance of an interest coverage ratio on a rolling four quarters basis, as adjusted, of EBITDA to interest expense, as of the end of each quarter, to be less than 2.5 to 1.0.

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All outstanding amounts owed become due and payable upon the occurrence of certain usual and customary events of default, including, among others:

Failure to make payments;

Non-performance of covenants and obligations continuing beyond any applicable grace period; and

The occurrence of a change in control of the Company, as defined under the Revolving Credit Facility.

On July 31, 2013, Gastar USA, together with the parties thereto, entered into the Waiver, Agreement and Amendment No. 1 to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the “First Amendment”). The First Amendment amended the Revolving Credit Facility to clarify the current ratio covenant calculation.

On October 18, 2013, Gastar USA, together with the parties thereto, entered into the Agreement and Amendment No. 2 (“Amendment No. 2”) to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of June 7, 2013. Amendment No. 2 amended the Revolving Credit Facility to, among other things, (i) increase the aggregate principal amount of 8 5/8% Senior Secured Notes due 2018 permitted to be issued from \$200.0 million to \$325.0 million, (ii) allow for the issuance by Gastar USA of Series B Preferred Stock and (iii) increase the aggregate amount of cash dividends permitted to be paid to preferred stockholders from \$12.5 million to \$20.0 million.

On December 9, 2013, the borrowing base under the Revolving Credit Facility was increased by the lending participants to \$100.0 million.

On March 12, 2014, the Company, together with the parties thereto, entered into the Agreement, Waiver and Amendment No. 3 (“Amendment No. 3”) to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of June 7, 2013. Amendment No. 3 amended the Revolving Credit Facility to, among other things, (i) permit the Company to exclude current and future subsidiaries that are deemed to be immaterial from becoming guarantors of the Revolving Credit Facility, provided such non-guarantor subsidiaries comply with certain restrictions, (ii) exclude the non-guarantor subsidiaries from the provisions of the negative covenants of the Revolving Credit Facility with respect to mergers and acquisitions, restricted payments and investments and (iii) exclude the non-guarantor subsidiaries from being included in the calculation of the borrowing base under the Revolving Credit Facility.

On March 26, 2014, the borrowing base under the Revolving Credit Facility was increased by the lending participants to \$120.0 million.

On August 13, 2014, the Company, together with the parties thereto, entered into a Master Assignment, Agreement, and Amendment No. 4 (“Amendment No. 4”) to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of June 7, 2013. Amendment No. 4 amended the Revolving Credit Facility to, among other things, increase the borrowing base from \$120.0 million to \$145.0 million.

Borrowing base redeterminations are scheduled semi-annually in May and November of each calendar year. The Company and its lenders may request one additional unscheduled redetermination during any six-month period between scheduled redeterminations. At September 30, 2014, the Revolving Credit Facility had a borrowing base of \$145.0 million, with \$0 borrowings outstanding and availability of \$145.0 million. The next regularly scheduled redetermination is set for May 2015. Future increases in the borrowing base in excess of the original \$50.0 million are limited to 17.5% of the increase in adjusted consolidated net tangible assets as defined in the Notes agreement (as discussed below in “Senior Secured Notes”).

At September 30, 2014, the Company was in compliance with all financial covenants under the Revolving Credit Facility.

Amended and Restated Revolving Credit Facility

For the period October 28, 2009 through June 6, 2013, Gastar USA, together with the other parties thereto, was subject to an amended and restated credit facility (the “Prior Amended Revolving Credit Facility”). The Prior Amended Revolving Credit Facility provided for various borrowing base amounts based on an initial borrowing base of \$47.5 million and a final borrowing base of \$160.0 million effective March 31, 2013. Borrowings bore interest, at Gastar USA’s election, at the prime rate or LIBO rate plus an applicable margin. The applicable interest rate margin varied from 1.0% to 2.0% in the case of borrowings based on the prime rate and from 2.5% to 3.5% in the case of borrowings based on LIBO rate, depending on the utilization percentage in relation to the borrowing base. An annual commitment fee of 0.5% was payable quarterly based on the unutilized balance of the borrowing base. The Prior Amended Revolving Credit Facility had a final scheduled maturity date of September 30, 2015. The Prior Amended Revolving

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Credit Facility was amended and restated on June 7, 2013.

Senior Secured Notes

On May 15, 2013, Gastar USA issued \$200.0 million aggregate principal amount of its 8 5/8% Senior Secured Notes due May 15, 2018 under an indenture (the "Indenture") by and among Gastar USA, the Guarantors named therein (the "Guarantors"), Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee (in such capacity, the "Trustee") and Collateral Agent (in

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such capacity, the “Collateral Agent”). On November 15, 2013, Gastar USA issued an additional \$125.0 million aggregate principal amount of additional notes under the Indenture. The 8 5/8% Senior Secured Notes due 2018 are collectively referred to as the “Notes.” The Notes bear interest at a rate of 8.625% per year, payable semiannually in arrears on May 15 and November 15 of each year, beginning on November 15, 2013. The Notes will mature on May 15, 2018. Gastar USA received net proceeds of approximately \$312.3 million, net of debt issuance costs and any original issue discounts.

In the event of a change of control, as defined in the Indenture, each holder of the Notes will have the right to require the Company to repurchase all or any part of their notes at an offer price in cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of purchase.

The Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed, jointly and severally, on a senior secured basis by each of the Company's material subsidiaries and certain future domestic subsidiaries (the “Guarantees”). The Notes and Guarantees rank senior in right of payment to all of the Company's and the Guarantors' future subordinated indebtedness and equal in right of payment to all of the Company's and the Guarantors' existing and future senior indebtedness. The Notes and Guarantees also are effectively senior to the Company's unsecured indebtedness and effectively subordinated to the Company's and Guarantors' under the Revolving Credit Facility, any other indebtedness secured by a first-priority lien on the same collateral and any other indebtedness secured by assets other than the collateral, in each case to the extent of the value of the assets securing such obligation.

The Indenture contains covenants that, among other things, limit the Company's ability and the ability of its subsidiaries to:

- Transfer or sell assets or use asset sale proceeds;
- Pay dividends or make distributions, redeem subordinated debt or make other restricted payments;
- Make certain investments; incur or guarantee additional debt or issue preferred equity securities;
- Create or incur certain liens on the Company's assets;
- Incur dividend or other payment restrictions affecting future restricted subsidiaries;
- Merge, consolidate or transfer all or substantially all of the Company's assets;
- Enter into certain transactions with affiliates; and
- Enter into certain sale and leaseback transactions.

These and other covenants that are contained in the Indenture are subject to important limitations and qualifications that are described in the Indenture.

In May 2014, holders of the 8 5/8% Senior Secured Notes due 2018 exchanged their notes for registered notes with the same terms.

At September 30, 2014, the Notes reflected a balance of \$314.7 million, net of unamortized discounts of \$10.3 million, on the condensed consolidated balance sheets.

## 5. Fair Value Measurements

The Company's financial assets and liabilities are measured at fair value on a recurring basis. The Company discloses its recognized non-financial assets and liabilities, such as asset retirement obligations, unproved properties and other property and equipment, at fair value on a non-recurring basis. For non-financial assets and liabilities, the Company is required to disclose information that enables users of its financial statements to assess the inputs used to develop these measurements. The Company assesses its unproved properties for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate the carrying value of those properties may not be recoverable. The fair value of the unproved properties is measured using an income approach based upon internal estimates of future production levels, current and future prices, drilling and operating costs, discount rates, current drilling plans and favorable and unfavorable drilling activity on the properties being evaluated and/or adjacent properties or estimated market data based on area transactions, which are Level 3 inputs. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, management's evaluation of unproved properties resulted in an impairment. Due to continued lower natural gas prices for dry gas and no current plans to drill or extend leases in Marcellus East, the Company reclassified \$2.7 million and \$3.2 million of unproved properties to proved properties for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively, related to acreage in Marcellus East. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, management's

evaluation of unproved properties resulted in an impairment of \$98,000 and \$8.0 million, respectively, related to Marcellus East. As no other fair value measurements are required to be recognized on a non-recurring basis at September 30, 2014, no additional disclosures are provided at September 30, 2014.

As defined in the guidance, fair value is the amount that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (an exit price). To estimate fair value, the Company

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utilizes market data or assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk and the risks inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. These inputs can be readily observable, market corroborated or generally unobservable. The guidance establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (“Level 1”) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (“Level 3”). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. The Company’s cash equivalents consist of short-term, highly liquid investments, which have maturities of 90 days or less, including sweep investments and money market funds.

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

Level 3 inputs are measured based on prices or valuation models that require inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and less observable from objective sources. These inputs may be used with internally developed methodologies or third party broker quotes that result in management’s best estimate of fair value. The Company’s valuation models consider various inputs including (a) quoted forward prices for commodities, (b) time value, (c) volatility factors and (d) current market and contractual prices for the underlying instruments. Significant increases or decreases in any of these inputs in isolation would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value measurement. Level 3 instruments are commodity costless collars, index swaps, basis and fixed price swaps and put and call options to hedge natural gas, oil and NGLs price risk. At each balance sheet date, the Company performs an analysis of all applicable instruments and includes in Level 3 all of those whose fair value is based on significant unobservable inputs. The fair values derived from counterparties and third-party brokers are verified by the Company using publicly available values for relevant NYMEX futures contracts and exchange traded contracts for each derivative settlement location. Although such counterparty and third-party broker quotes are used to assess the fair value of its commodity derivative instruments, the Company does not have access to the specific assumptions used in its counterparties valuation models. Consequently, additional disclosures regarding significant Level 3 unobservable inputs were not provided and the Company does not currently have sufficient corroborating market evidence to support classifying these contracts as Level 2 instruments.

As required, financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Company’s assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment and may affect the valuation of fair value assets and liabilities and their placement within the fair value hierarchy levels. The determination of the fair values below incorporates various factors, including the impact of the counterparty’s non-performance risk with respect to the Company’s financial assets and the Company’s non-performance risk with respect to the Company’s financial liabilities. The Company has not elected to offset the fair value amounts recognized for multiple derivative instruments executed with the same counterparty, but reports them gross on its consolidated balance sheets.

Transfers between levels are recognized at the end of the reporting period. There were no transfers between levels during the 2014 and 2013 periods.

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The following tables set forth by level within the fair value hierarchy the Company's financial assets and liabilities that were accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013:

	Fair value as of September 30, 2014			
	Level 1 (in thousands)	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$46,598	\$—	\$—	\$46,598
Commodity derivative contracts	—	—	4,179	4,179
Liabilities:				
Commodity derivative contracts	—	—	(1,301)	(1,301)
Total	\$46,598	\$—	\$2,878	\$49,476

	Fair value as of December 31, 2013			
	Level 1 (in thousands)	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$32,393	\$—	\$—	\$32,393
Commodity derivative contracts	—	—	7,545	7,545
Liabilities:				
Commodity derivative contracts	—	—	(3,781)	(3,781)
Total	\$32,393	\$—	\$3,764	\$36,157

The table below presents a reconciliation of the assets and liabilities classified as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013. Level 3 instruments presented in the table consist of net derivatives that, in management's opinion, reflect the assumptions a marketplace participant would have used at September 30, 2014 and 2013.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	(in thousands)			
Balance at beginning of period	\$(4,628)	\$4,335	\$3,764	\$6,465
Total gains (losses) included in earnings	6,663	(5,263)	(8,761)	(2,229)
Purchases	30	9,545	369	9,572
Issuances	—	—	—	—
Settlements (1)	813	247	7,506	(4,944)
Transfers in and (out) of Level 3	—	—	—	—
Balance at end of period	\$2,878	\$8,864	\$2,878	\$8,864
The amount of total gains (losses) for the period included in earnings attributable to the change in mark to market of commodity derivatives contracts still held at September 30, 2014 and 2013	\$7,623	\$5,004	\$(950)	\$(7,156)

(1) Included in gain (loss) on commodity derivatives contracts on the condensed consolidated statements of operations. At September 30, 2014, the estimated fair value of accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, accounts and revenue payables and accrued liabilities approximates their carrying value due to their short-term nature. The estimated fair value of the Company's long-term debt at September 30, 2014 was \$337.2 million based on quoted market prices of

the Notes (Level 1).

The Company has consistently applied the valuation techniques discussed above in all periods presented.

The fair value guidance, as amended, establishes that every derivative instrument is to be recorded on the balance sheet as either an asset or liability measured at fair value. See Note 6, "Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activity."

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## 6. Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activity

The Company maintains a commodity price risk management strategy that uses derivative instruments to minimize significant, unanticipated earnings fluctuations that may arise from volatility in commodity prices. The Company uses costless collars, index, basis and fixed price swaps and put and call options to hedge oil, condensate, natural gas and NGLs price risk.

All derivative contracts are carried at their fair value on the balance sheet and all changes in value are recorded in the condensed consolidated statements of operations in (loss) gain on commodity derivatives contracts. For the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, the Company reported a gain of \$6.7 million and a loss of \$5.3 million, respectively, in the condensed consolidated statements of operations related to the change in the fair value of its commodity derivative contracts. For the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, the Company reported losses of \$8.8 million and \$2.2 million, respectively, in the condensed consolidated statements of operations related to the change in the fair value of its commodity derivative contracts.

As of September 30, 2014, the following natural gas derivative transactions were outstanding with the associated notional volumes and weighted average underlying hedge prices:

Settlement Period	Derivative Instrument	Average Daily Volume (in MMBtus)	Total of Notional Volume	Base Fixed Price	Floor (Long)	Short Put	Call (Long)	Ceiling (Short)
2014	Fixed price swap	8,663	797,000	\$4.06	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2014	Fixed price swap	2,000	184,000	\$3.72	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2014	Fixed price swap	2,000	184,000	\$3.98	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2014	Fixed price swap	2,000	184,000	\$4.07	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2014	Fixed price swap	1,871	172,100	\$4.32	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2014	Short calls	2,000	184,000	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$4.59
2014	Costless collar	3,000	276,000	\$—	\$4.00	\$—	\$—	\$4.36
2014	Costless collar	5,000	460,000	\$—	\$4.00	\$—	\$—	\$4.55
2014	Costless collar	2,500	230,000	\$—	\$4.00	\$—	\$—	\$5.00
2014	Put spread	2,000	184,000	\$—	\$4.00	\$3.72	\$—	\$—
2014	Basis swap (1)	2,500	230,000	\$(1.39)	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2014	Basis swap (1)	2,500	230,000	\$(1.32)	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2015 (2)	Protective spread	10,000	900,000	\$4.46	\$—	\$3.70	\$—	\$—
2015 (2)	Call spread	10,000	900,000	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$4.46	\$5.00
2015	Fixed price swap	400	146,000	\$4.00	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2015	Fixed price swap	2,500	912,500	\$4.06	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2015	Protective spread	2,600	949,000	\$4.00	\$—	\$3.25	\$—	\$—
2015 (2)	Producer three-way collar	3,750	337,500	\$—	\$4.60	\$3.50	\$—	\$5.34
2015	Producer three-way collar	2,000	760,000	\$—	\$4.00	\$3.25	\$—	\$4.58
2015	Basis swap (1)	2,500	912,500	\$(1.12)	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2015	Basis swap (1)	2,500	912,500	\$(1.11)	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
2015 (3)	Producer three-way collar	5,000	1,375,000	\$—	\$4.00	\$3.25	\$—	\$5.00
2016	Protective spread	2,000	732,000	\$4.11	\$—	\$3.25	\$—	\$—
2016	Producer three-way collar	2,000	732,000	\$—	\$4.00	\$3.25	\$—	\$4.58

(1) Represents basis swaps at the sales point of Dominion South

(2) For the period January to March 2015.

(3) For the period April to December 2015.



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As of September 30, 2014, the following crude derivative transactions were outstanding with the associated notional volumes and weighted average underlying hedge prices:

Settlement Period	Derivative Instrument	Average Daily Volume (1) (in Bbls)	Total of Notional Volume	Base Fixed Price	Floor (Long)	Short Put	Ceiling (Short)
2014	Fixed price swap	750	69,000	\$90.35	\$—	\$—	\$—
2014	Fixed price swap	200	18,400	\$93.00	\$—	\$—	\$—
2014	Fixed price swap	350	32,200	\$91.55	\$—	\$—	\$—
2014	Fixed price swap	500	46,000	\$91.10	\$—	\$—	\$—
2014	Fixed price swap	250	23,000	\$90.77	\$—	\$—	\$—
2014	Costless collar	200	18,400	\$—	\$98.00	\$—	\$98.00
2014	Put spread	200	18,400	\$—	\$93.00	\$73.00	\$—
2015 (2)	Costless collar	400	72,400	\$—	\$85.00	\$—	\$96.50
2015 (2)	Costless collar	366	66,300	\$—	\$85.00	\$—	\$97.80
2015 (2)	Costless collar	150	27,150	\$—	\$85.00	\$—	\$96.25
2015 (3)	Costless three-way collar	400	73,600	\$—	\$85.00	\$70.00	\$96.50
2015 (3)	Costless three-way collar	325	59,800	\$—	\$85.00	\$65.00	\$97.80
2015 (3)	Costless three-way collar	50	9,200	\$—	\$85.00	\$65.00	\$96.25
2015 (2)	Put spread	700	126,700	\$—	\$90.00	\$70.00	\$—
2015	Put spread	250	91,250	\$—	\$89.00	\$69.00	\$—
2015 (3)	Put spread	600	110,400	\$—	\$87.00	\$67.00	\$—
2016	Costless three-way collar	275	100,600	\$—	\$85.00	\$65.00	\$95.10
2016	Costless three-way collar	330	120,780	\$—	\$80.00	\$65.00	\$97.35
2016	Put spread	550	201,300	\$—	\$85.00	\$65.00	\$—
2016	Put spread	300	109,800	\$—	\$85.50	\$65.50	\$—
2017	Costless three-way collar	280	102,200	\$—	\$80.00	\$65.00	\$97.25
2017	Costless three-way collar	242	88,150	\$—	\$80.00	\$60.00	\$98.70
2017	Put spread	500	182,500	\$—	\$82.00	\$62.00	\$—
2018 (4)	Put spread	425	103,275	\$—	\$80.00	\$60.00	\$—

(1) Crude volumes hedged include oil, condensate and certain components of our NGLs production.

(2) For the period January to June 2015.

(3) For the period July to December 2015.

(4) For the period January to August 2018.

As of September 30, 2014, the following NGLs derivative transactions were outstanding with the associated notional volumes and weighted average underlying hedge prices:

Settlement Period	Derivative Instrument	Average Daily Volume (in Bbls)	Total of Notional Volume	Base Fixed Price
2014	Fixed price swap	250	23,000	\$46.10
2014	Fixed price swap	250	23,000	\$48.11
2015 (1)	Fixed price swap	250	68,750	\$45.61

(1) For the period April to December 2015.

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As of September 30, 2014, all of the Company's economic derivative hedge positions were with a multinational energy company or large financial institutions, which are not known to the Company to be in default on their derivative positions. The Company is exposed to credit risk to the extent of non-performance by the counterparties in the derivative contracts discussed above; however, the Company does not anticipate non-performance by such counterparties. None of the Company's derivative instruments contain credit-risk related contingent features. In conjunction with certain derivative hedging activity, the Company deferred the payment of certain put premiums for the production month period December 2013 through August 2018. The put premium liabilities become payable monthly as the hedge production month becomes the prompt production month. The Company began amortizing the deferred put premium liabilities in December 2013. The following table provides information regarding the deferred put premium liabilities for the periods indicated:

	September 30, 2014 (in thousands)	December 31, 2013
Current commodity derivative premium put payable	\$1,966	\$145
Long-term commodity derivative premium payable	5,327	7,000
Total unamortized put premium liabilities	\$7,293	\$7,145

The following table provides information regarding the amortization of the deferred put premium liabilities by year as of September 30, 2014:

	Amortization (in thousands)
October to December 2014	\$109
January to December 2015	2,482
January to December 2016	2,408
January to December 2017	1,460
January to August 2018	834
Total unamortized put premium liabilities	\$7,293

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## Additional Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

The tables below provide information on the location and amounts of derivative fair values in the condensed consolidated statement of financial position and derivative gains and losses in the condensed consolidated statement of operations for derivative instruments that are not designated as hedging instruments:

	Fair Values of Derivative Instruments	
	Derivative Assets (Liabilities)	
	Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value September 30, 2014 December 31, 2013 (in thousands)
Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments		
Commodity derivative contracts	Current assets	\$2,735      \$—
Commodity derivative contracts	Other assets	1,444      7,545
Commodity derivative contracts	Current liabilities	(419      ) (3,403      )
Commodity derivative contracts	Long-term liabilities	(882      ) (378      )
Total derivatives not designated as hedging instruments		\$2,878      \$3,764

	Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivatives	
	Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivatives For the Three Months Ended September 30,	
	Location of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivatives	2014      2013 (in thousands)
Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments		
Commodity derivative contracts	Gain (loss) on commodity derivatives contracts	\$6,663      \$(5,263      )
Total		\$6,663      \$(5,263      )

	Amount of Loss Recognized in Income on Derivatives	
	Amount of Loss Recognized in Income on Derivatives For the Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	Location of Loss Recognized in Income on Derivatives	2014      2013 (in thousands)
Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments		
Commodity derivative contracts	Loss on commodity derivatives contracts	\$(8,761      ) \$(2,229      )
Total		\$(8,761      ) \$(2,229      )



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## 7. Capital Stock

## Common Stock

On November 14, 2013, Parent changed its jurisdiction of incorporation to the State of Delaware and entered into new articles of incorporation pursuant to which 275,000,000 shares of Parent's common stock, \$0.001 par value per share, were authorized for issuance. Prior to November 14, 2013, Parent's articles of incorporation allowed Parent to issue an unlimited number of common shares without par value.

On January 31, 2014, Parent entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the "Merger Agreement") pursuant to which Parent merged with and into Gastar USA, a direct subsidiary of Parent, as part of a reorganization to eliminate Parent's holding company corporate structure. Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, shares of Parent's common stock were converted into the right to receive an equal number of shares of common stock of Gastar USA, which together with its subsidiaries, owns and continues to conduct business in substantially the same manner as it was being conducted by Parent and its subsidiaries immediately prior to the merger.

Prior to its conversion, as described below, Gastar USA's articles of incorporation allowed Gastar USA to issue 1,000 shares of common stock, without par value. There were 750 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2013, all of which were held by Parent.

On May 24, 2011, Gastar USA converted from a Michigan corporation to a Delaware corporation (the "Conversion"). Following the Conversion, Gastar USA's new Delaware certificate of incorporation allows Gastar USA to issue 1,000 shares of common stock, without par value. In connection with the Conversion, the Parent's 750 shares of common stock in the Michigan corporation were converted to 750 shares of common stock in the new Gastar USA Delaware corporation.

On October 25, 2013, Gastar USA filed an Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (the "A&R Certificate") with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. Under the A&R Certificate, the capital stock authorized for issuance was increased from 1,000 shares of common stock, without par value, to 275,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share.

On September 24, 2014, the Company sold 17,000,000 shares of its common stock in an underwritten public offering pursuant to the Company's effective Registration Statement on Form S-3 at a price of \$6.25 per share, or \$106.3 million before offering costs and expenses. The Company received approximately \$101.3 million of proceeds from the offering, net of estimated offering costs and expenses of approximately \$5.0 million.

## Other Share Issuances

The following table provides information regarding the issuances and forfeitures of common stock pursuant to the Company's long-term incentive plan for the periods indicated:

	For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2014	For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014
Other share issuances:		
Restricted common shares granted	67,633	601,473
Restricted common shares vested	22,737	1,215,533
Common shares surrendered upon vesting (1)	7,967	407,733
Common shares issued upon vesting of PBUs, net of shares surrendered for taxes	—	472,189
Stock options exercised	7,500	7,500
Common shares issued upon exercise of stock options, net of shares surrendered for taxes	6,717	6,717
Common shares forfeited	241	22,139

(1) Represents common shares forfeited in connection with the payment of estimated withholding taxes on restricted common shares that vested during the period.

On June 12, 2014, the Company's stockholders approved an amendment and restatement to the Gastar Exploration Inc. Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "LTIP"), effective April 24, 2014, to, among other things, increase the number of shares reserved for issuance under the LTIP by 3,000,000 shares. There were 4,332,153