

CONTANGO OIL & GAS CO
Form 10-Q
May 12, 2014

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

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 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 001-16317

CONTANGO OIL & GAS COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

95-4079863
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

717 TEXAS, SUITE 2900
HOUSTON, TEXAS
(Address of principal executive offices)

77002
(Zip Code)

(713) 236-7400

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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 website, 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. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

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 shares of common stock, par value \$0.04 per share, outstanding as of May 8, 2014 was 19,365,413.

CONTANGO OIL & GAS COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES
 QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q
 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2014
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All references in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q to the “Company”, “Contango”, “we”, “us” or “our” are to Contango Oil Gas Company and its subsidiaries.

Item 1. Consolidated Financial Statements
CONTANGO OIL & GAS COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(in thousands, except shares)

	March 31, 2014 (unaudited)	December 31, 2013
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$—	\$—
Accounts receivable, net	41,260	60,613
Prepaid expenses and other	4,553	2,031
Inventory	2,147	2,147
Current deferred tax assets	779	1,326
Total current assets	48,739	66,117
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:		
Natural gas and oil properties, successful efforts method of accounting:		
Proved properties	1,038,022	1,001,361
Unproved properties	32,005	49,443
Other property and equipment	924	900
Accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(294,677	) (260,681
Total property, plant and equipment, net	776,274	791,023
OTHER NON-CURRENT ASSETS:		
Investments in affiliates	53,596	50,901
Other	2,115	2,263
Total other non-current assets	55,711	53,164
TOTAL ASSETS	\$880,724	\$910,304
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$112,590	\$96,833
Current derivative liability	1,403	1,131
Current asset retirement obligation	1,165	1,315
Total current liabilities	115,158	99,279
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Long-term debt	63,829	90,000
Deferred tax liability	95,476	105,956
Asset retirement obligations	22,318	22,019
Total non-current liabilities	181,623	217,975
Total liabilities	296,781	317,254
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Common stock, \$0.04 par value, 50 million shares authorized, 24,357,938 shares issued and 19,365,413 shares outstanding at March 31, 2014, 24,356,236 shares issued and 19,363,711 shares outstanding at December 31, 2013	962	962
Additional paid-in capital	229,730	228,644
Treasury shares at cost (4,992,525 shares at March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013)	(119,180	) (119,180
Retained earnings	472,431	482,624
Total shareholders' equity	583,943	593,050
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$880,724	\$910,304

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

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CONTANGO OIL & GAS COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2013
	(unaudited)	
REVENUES:		
Oil and condensate sales	\$35,100	\$10,174
Natural gas sales	34,627	16,013
Natural gas liquids sales	10,530	5,600
Total revenues	80,257	31,787
EXPENSES:		
Operating expenses	11,053	9,785
Exploration expenses	26,931	129
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	34,402	10,494
Impairment and abandonment of oil and gas properties	15,195	—
General and administrative expenses	10,457	3,208
Total expenses	98,038	23,616
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):		
Gain (loss) from investment in affiliates (net of income taxes)	1,622	(1,147)
Interest income (expense)	(668	) 7
Loss on derivatives, net	(1,959) —
Other income	—	134
Total other income (expense)	(1,005	) (1,006)
NET INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES	(18,786	) 7,165
Income tax benefit (provision)	8,593	(3,296)
NET INCOME (LOSS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO COMMON STOCK	\$(10,193	) \$3,869
NET INCOME (LOSS) PER SHARE:		
Basic	\$(0.53	) \$0.25
Diluted	\$(0.53	) \$0.25
WEIGHTED AVERAGE COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING:		
Basic	19,071	15,195
Diluted	19,071	15,195

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

CONTANGO OIL & GAS COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(in thousands)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2013
	(unaudited)	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income (loss)	\$ (10,193	) \$ 3,869
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	34,402	10,494
Impairment of natural gas and oil properties	15,093	—
Exploration expenses	26,666	66
Deferred income taxes	(9,933	) 103
Loss (gain) from investment in affiliates	(2,496	) 1,765
Stock-based compensation	1,086	—
Unrealized loss on derivative instruments	257	—
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Decrease in accounts receivable and other	16,410	1,073
Increase in prepaids and other receivables	(2,527	) (2,687
Increase in accounts payable and advances from joint owners	2,148	3,195
Increase (decrease) in other accrued liabilities	(3,744	) 1,981
Decrease (increase) in income taxes receivable, net	(386	) 1,976
Other	(183	) (21
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 66,600	\$ 21,814
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Natural gas and oil exploration and development expenditures	\$ (45,794	) \$ (4,626
Investment in affiliates	—	(14,069
Distributions from affiliates	5,365	—
Net cash used in investing activities	\$ (40,429	) \$ (18,695
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Borrowings under credit facility	\$ 66,521	\$ —
Repayments under credit facility	(92,692) —
Net cash used in financing activities	\$ (26,171) \$ —
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ —	\$ 3,119
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	—	79,487
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD	\$ —	\$ 82,606
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements		

CONTANGO OIL & GAS COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY
(in thousands, except number of shares)

	Common Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Treasury Stock	Retained Earnings	Total Shareholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount				
	(unaudited)					
Balance at December 31, 2013	19,364	\$962	\$228,644	\$(119,180)	\$482,624	\$593,050
Restricted shares activity	2	—	—	—	—	—
Stock-based compensation	—	—	1,086	—	—	1,086
Net income	—	—	—	—	(10,193)	(10,193)
Balance at March 31, 2014	19,365	\$962	\$229,730	\$(119,180)	\$472,431	\$583,943

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this consolidated financial statement

CONTANGO OIL & GAS COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

1. Organization and Business

Contango Oil & Gas Company (collectively with its subsidiaries, "Contango" or the "Company") is a Houston, Texas based, independent natural gas and oil company. The Company's business is to explore, develop, produce and acquire natural gas and oil properties in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico ("GOM") and in the Gulf Coast and Rocky Mountain regions of the United States.

On October 1, 2013, the Company completed a merger with Crimson Exploration Inc. ("Crimson"), in an all-stock transaction (the "Merger") pursuant to which Crimson became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Contango.

The Company's operations are focused offshore in the Gulf of Mexico in water-depths of less than 300 feet as well as in the long life resource plays in Southeast Texas (the Woodbine oil and liquids rich play), South Texas (the Eagle Ford Shale and Buda oil and liquids rich plays), and East Texas (the James Lime liquids rich play and, under an improved natural gas price environment, the Haynesville/Mid-Bossier gas play). The Company believes these plays, and other formations in the same areas, provide significant long-term growth potential.

Additionally, the Company has (i) a 37% equity investment in Exaro Energy III LLC ("Exaro"), which participates in a joint venture with Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. ("Encana") that is primarily focused on the development of proved natural gas reserves in the Jonah Field in Wyoming; (ii) an approximate 29,000 net acre leasehold position, and non-operated producing properties, in Louisiana and Mississippi targeting the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale ("TMS"); (iii) operated properties producing from various conventional formations in various counties along the Texas Gulf Coast; (iv) operated producing properties in the Denver Julesburg Basin ("DJ Basin") in Weld and Adams counties in Colorado, which we believe are prospective in the Niobrara Shale oil play, and (v) seven exploratory prospects in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The Company intends to grow reserves and production by developing its existing producing property base, by exploiting its unproved oil and liquids resource potential, by drilling its prospects in the GOM and by pursuing opportunistic acquisitions in areas where the Company has current operations and specific operating expertise, and in new areas the Company identifies as having significant exploration or operational upside. The Company has developed a significant inventory of drilling opportunities on its existing property base that should provide multi-year reserve growth, and until improvement is seen in natural gas prices, the Company expects to concentrate drilling activity on further developing the oil and liquids-rich onshore assets in Southeast Texas and South Texas, supplemented with selected offshore exploratory drilling. In 2014, the Company will focus on its crude oil and liquids-rich projects with a continuous drilling rig program targeting each of the Woodbine play in Madison and Grimes counties, Texas, and the Buda play in Dimmit County, Texas. The Company's planned 2014 program also includes a number of other wells testing new formations in existing and new areas.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") for interim financial information, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), including instructions to Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete annual financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments considered necessary for a fair statement of the unaudited consolidated financial statements have been included. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. The consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 and Transition Report on Form 10-K for the transition period from July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. The consolidated results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2014.

The Company's consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Contango Oil & Gas Company and its subsidiaries, after elimination of all material intercompany balances and transactions. All wholly-owned subsidiaries

are consolidated. Oil and gas exploration and development affiliates which are not controlled by the Company, such as Republic Exploration LLC ("REX"), are proportionately consolidated. Financial statements as of March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, and for the three months ended March 31, 2014 contained herein, include consolidated results of operations of both Contango and Crimson. Financial statements for the three months ended March 31, 2013 include only consolidated results of operations of Contango.

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Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with 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 periods. The most significant estimates include oil and gas revenues, income taxes, stock-based compensation, reserve estimates, impairment of natural gas and oil properties, valuation of derivatives, and accrued liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash Equivalents

Cash equivalents are considered to be highly liquid investment grade investments having an original maturity of 90 days or less. As of March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the Company had no cash or cash equivalents. Under the Company's cash management system, checks issued but not presented to banks frequently result in book overdraft balances for accounting purposes and are classified in accounts payable in the consolidated balance sheets. At March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, accounts payable included \$17.0 million and \$5.9 million, respectively representing outstanding checks that had not been presented for payment net of cash balance in the bank.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

When circumstances indicate that proved properties may be impaired, the Company compares expected undiscounted future net cash flows on a field by field basis to the unamortized capitalized cost of the asset. If the future undiscounted net cash flows based on the Company's estimate of future natural gas and oil prices and operating costs and anticipated production from proved and probable reserves, are lower than the unamortized capitalized cost, then the capitalized cost is reduced to fair market value. No impairment of proved properties was recognized for the three months ended March 31, 2014 or 2013.

Unproved properties are reviewed quarterly to determine if there has been impairment of the carrying value, with any such impairment charged to expense in the period. No impairment of unproved properties was recognized during the three months ended March 31, 2013.

On April 29, 2014, we reached the total depth on our Ship Shoal 255 well, and no commercial hydrocarbons were found. As a result, for the quarter ended March 31, 2014, we recognized \$26.7 million exploration expenses for the cost of drilling the well and \$15.1 million in impairment expenses, including \$3.5 million related to leasehold costs and \$11.6 million related to the platform located at Block Ship Shoal 263 which was expected to be used by the Ship Shoal 255 well, had it been successful. Additional exploration costs of approximately \$7 to \$9 million will be recognized in the quarter ended June 30, 2014 for the drilling costs incurred after March 31, 2014 through finalization of the well.

Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the amounts included in the consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2013 and for the three months ended March 31, 2013, in order to conform to the presentation as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2014. These reclassifications were not material.

Subsidiary Guarantees

Contango Oil & Gas Company, as the parent company (the "Parent Company"), filed a registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC to register, among other securities, debt securities that the Parent Company may issue from time to time. Crimson Exploration Inc., Crimson Exploration Operating, Inc., Contango Energy Company, Contango Operators, Inc., Contango Mining Company, Conterra Company, Contaro Company, Contango Alta Investments, Inc., Contango Venture Capital Corporation and any other of our future subsidiaries specified in the prospectus supplement (each a "Subsidiary Guarantor") are Co-Registrants with the Parent Company under the registration statement, and the registration statement also registered guarantees of debt securities by the Subsidiary Guarantors. The Subsidiary Guarantors are wholly-owned by the Parent Company, either directly or indirectly, and any guarantee by the Subsidiary Guarantors will be full and unconditional. The Parent Company has no assets or operations independent of the Subsidiary Guarantors, and there are no significant restrictions upon the ability of the Subsidiary Guarantors to distribute funds to the Parent Company. The Parent Company has one wholly-owned subsidiary that is inactive and not a subsidiary guarantor. Finally, the Parent Company's wholly-owned subsidiaries do not have restricted assets that exceed 25% of net assets as of the most recent fiscal year end that may not be transferred to the Parent Company in

the form of loans, advances or cash dividends by such subsidiary without the consent of a third party.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In April 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-08: Presentation of Financial Statements (Topic 205) and Property, Plant, and Equipment (Topic 360): Reporting Discontinued

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Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of Components of an Entity (ASU 2014-08). ASU 2014-08 changes the criteria for reporting discontinued operations while enhancing disclosures in this area and is effective for annual and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2014. We are currently evaluating the provisions of ASU 2014-08 and assessing the impact, if any, it may have on our financial position and results of operations.

In May 2013, the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO"), revised its criteria related to internal controls over financial reporting from the originally established 1992 Internal Control - Integrated Framework with 2013 Internal Control - Integrated Framework. The modified framework provides enhanced guidance that ties control objectives to the related risk, enhancement of governance concepts, increased emphasis on globalization of markets and operations, increased recognition of use and reliance on information technology, increased discussion of fraud as it relates to internal control, changes of control deficiency descriptions, and that internal reporting is included in both financial and nonfinancial objectives. The revised framework is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2013. We plan to implement any changes required by the new COSO framework during the year ended December 31, 2014. Currently, we are evaluating the provisions of the revised framework and continue to assess the impact, if any, it may have on our internal control structure.

In February 2013, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2013-04 Liabilities (Topic 405): Obligations Resulting from Joint and Several Liability Arrangements for Which the Total Amount of the Obligation is Fixed at the Reporting Date (ASU 2013-04). ASU 2013-04 provides guidance for the recognition, measurement, and disclosure of obligations resulting from joint and several liability arrangements for which the total amount of the obligation within the scope of this guidance is fixed at the reporting date, except for obligations addressed within existing guidance in U.S. GAAP. Examples of obligations within the scope of this update include debt arrangements, other contractual obligations, and settled litigation and judicial rulings. U.S. GAAP does not include specific guidance on accounting for such obligations with joint and several liability, which has resulted in diversity in practice. The accounting update is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2013. The provisions of this accounting update did not have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Further, management is closely monitoring the joint standard-setting efforts of the FASB and the International Accounting Standards Board. There are a large number of pending accounting standards that are being targeted for completion in 2014 and beyond, including, but not limited to, standards relating to revenue recognition, accounting for leases, fair value measurements, accounting for financial instruments, disclosure of loss contingencies and financial statement presentation. Because these pending standards have not yet been finalized, at this time management is not able to determine the potential future impact that these standards will have, if any, on the Company's financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

3. Merger with Crimson Exploration Inc.

On October 1, 2013, the Company completed the Merger with Crimson. The Merger was effected pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of April 29, 2013, by and among Contango, Crimson and certain subsidiaries (the "Merger Agreement").

As a result of the Merger, each share of Crimson common stock was converted into 0.08288 shares of common stock of Contango, and the Company issued approximately 3.9 million shares of common stock in exchange for all of Crimson's outstanding capital stock, resulting in Crimson stockholders owning 20.3% of the post-merger Contango. The Merger was accounted for as a business combination in accordance with ASC 805 which, among other things, requires assets acquired and liabilities assumed to be measured at their acquisition date fair values. Crimson's results of operations are reflected in the Company's consolidated statement of operations, beginning October 1, 2013. Estimates of the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed are preliminary and based on information currently available. The fair value estimate of certain of Crimson's assets and liabilities, including asset retirement obligations and current and deferred tax balances, cannot be currently finalized due to information not being available to the Company. The Company expects to be able to obtain the necessary information to finalize the valuation of assets acquired and liabilities assumed by the end of the second quarter of 2014.

Crimson contributed revenues of \$37.1 million and a pre-tax income of \$6.0 million to the Company for the quarter ended March 31, 2014. The following unaudited pro forma summary presents consolidated information of the Company as if the Merger had occurred on January 1, 2013 (in thousands):

	Pro forma Three Months Ended March 31, 2013 (Unaudited)
Revenue	\$55,882
Net income	\$977

The unaudited pro forma amounts have been calculated after applying the Company's accounting policies and adjusting the results of Crimson to reflect the additional depletion that would have been charged assuming the fair value adjustment to oil and gas properties had been applied from January 1, 2013, together with the consequential tax effects. The pro forma depletion for the period presented was calculated based on the value of the oil and gas properties acquired giving effect to the fair value adjustments as a result of acquisition accounting and estimated depletion rate for each period. This depletion rate was calculated by dividing production for the period by the beginning of the period proved reserves. The combined historical depreciation, depletion and amortization expenses for the quarter ended March 31, 2013 were increased by \$2.3 million.

The pro forma interest expense for each period presented was adjusted to reflect the results of the repayment of the \$175 million of Crimson's debt using cash available at the Merger date and total borrowings of \$110.0 million under the new RBC Credit Facility, as if such repayment had occurred on January 1, 2013, which reduced total combined interest expenses for the quarter ended March 31, 2013 by \$5.0 million. The expense related to the amortization of the original issue discount on Crimson's debt was also eliminated for each period.

The pro forma net income was not adjusted for combined historical impairment charges of \$0.8 million, incurred by Crimson in the quarter ended March 31, 2013.

Historical financial statements of Contango for the quarter ended March 31, 2013 include approximately \$0.7 million of Merger related costs. These expenses are included in general and administrative expense in the Company's consolidated statements of income for the respective periods.

Pro forma net income for the quarter ended March 31, 2013 does not include \$5.7 million of stock-based compensation expenses related to vesting of Crimson stock options on October 1, 2013 as a result of the Merger, amortization of debt issuance cost of \$0.8 million, amortization of the remaining balance of debt discount of \$3.7 million for Crimson debt as of the date of the Merger, and other Merger related costs, including \$2.8 million bankers success fees, which were recognized in Crimson's results of operations for the period October 1, 2013, which is not included in consolidated financial statements of the Company. Pro forma net income also does not include the benefit related to the release of a \$10.2 million deferred tax asset valuation allowance in relation to the Merger recognized in purchase accounting. Although such expenses relate to the Merger, they do not represent recurring expenses and, therefore, are not included in the pro forma results of operations.

4. Fair Value Measurements

Pursuant to ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (ASC 820), the Company's determination of fair value incorporates not only the credit standing of the counterparties involved in transactions with the Company resulting in receivables on the Company's consolidated balance sheets, but also the impact of the Company's nonperformance risk on its own liabilities. ASC 820 defines fair value as the price 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 (exit price). ASC 820 establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy assigns the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). Level 2 measurements are inputs that are observable for assets or liabilities, either directly or indirectly, other than quoted prices included within Level 1. The Company 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 Company classifies fair value balances based

on the observability of those inputs.

The following table sets forth by level within the fair value hierarchy the Company's financial assets and liabilities that were accounted for at fair value as of March 31, 2014. As required by ASC 820, a financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is 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

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and liabilities and their placement within the fair value hierarchy levels. There have been no transfers between Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3.

Fair value information for financial assets and (liabilities) was as follows as of March 31, 2014 (in thousands):

	Total Carrying Value	Fair Value Measurements Using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Derivatives				
Commodity price contracts - assets	\$ 19	\$—	\$ 19	\$—
Commodity price contracts - liabilities	\$(1,407)	\$—	\$(1,407)	\$—

Derivatives listed above include swaps and collars that are carried at fair value. The Company records the net change in the fair value of these positions in "Loss on derivatives, net" in the Company's consolidated statements of operations. The Company is able to value the assets and liabilities based on observable market data for similar instruments, which resulted in the Company reporting its derivatives as Level 2. This observable data includes the forward curves for commodity prices based on quoted markets prices and implied volatility factors related to changes in the forward curves. See Note 5 - "Derivative Instruments" for additional discussion of derivatives.

As of March 31, 2014, the Company's derivative contracts were with major financial institutions with investment grade credit ratings which are believed to have a minimal credit risk. As such, the Company is exposed to credit risk to the extent of nonperformance by the counterparties in the derivative contracts discussed above; however, the Company does not anticipate such nonperformance.

Estimates of the fair value of financial instruments are made in accordance with the requirements of ASC 825, Financial Instruments. The estimated fair value amounts have been determined at discrete points in time based on relevant market information. These estimates involve uncertainties and cannot be determined with precision. The estimated fair value of cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximates their carrying value due to their short-term nature. The estimated fair value of the Company's RBC Credit Facility approximates carrying value because the facilities interest rate approximates current market rates and are re-set at least every three months. See Note 9 - "Long-Term Debt" for further information.

5. Derivative Instruments

The Company is exposed to certain risks relating to its ongoing business operations, such as commodity price risk. Derivative contracts are utilized to hedge the Company's exposure to price fluctuations and reduce the variability in the Company's cash flows associated with anticipated sales of future oil and natural gas production. The Company generally hedges a substantial, but varying, portion of anticipated oil and natural gas production for future periods. We believe that these derivative arrangements, although not free of risk, allow us to achieve a more predictable cash flow and to reduce exposure to commodity price fluctuations. However, derivative arrangements limit the benefit of increases in the prices of crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids sales. Moreover, because our derivative arrangements apply only to a portion of our production, this provides only partial protection against declines in commodity prices. Such arrangements may expose us to risk of financial loss in certain circumstances. We continuously reevaluate our hedging programs in light of changes in production, market conditions and commodity price forecasts.

As of March 31, 2014, the Company's crude oil and natural gas derivative positions consisted of swaps and costless put/call "collars". Swaps are designed so that the Company receives or makes payments based on a differential between fixed and variable prices for crude oil and natural gas. A costless collar consists of a sold call, which establishes a maximum price the Company will receive for the volumes under contract and a purchased put that establishes a minimum price.

It is the Company's policy to enter into derivative contracts only with counterparties that are creditworthy financial institutions deemed by management as competent and competitive market makers. The counterparties to the Company's current derivative contracts are lenders or affiliates of lenders in the RBC Credit Facility. The Company did not post collateral under any of these contracts as they are secured under the RBC Credit Facility.

The Company has elected not to designate any of its derivative contracts for hedge accounting. Accordingly, derivatives are carried at fair value on the consolidated balance sheets as assets or liabilities, with the changes in the

fair value included in the consolidated statements of operations for the period in which the change occurs. The Company records the net change in the mark-to-market valuation of these derivative contracts, as well as all payments and receipts on settled derivative contracts, in "Loss on derivatives, net" on the consolidated statements of operations.

The following derivative contracts were in place at March 31, 2014, (fair value in thousands):

Commodity	Period	Derivative	Volume/Month ⁽¹⁾	Price/Unit ⁽²⁾	Fair Value
Crude Oil	Apr 2014-Dec 2014	Swap	7,500 Bbls	\$102.10 (4)	\$(270)
Crude Oil	Apr 2014-Jun 2014	Swap	2,000 Bbls	\$108.07 (4)	4)
Crude Oil	Apr 2014-Dec 2014	Swap	6,000 Bbls	\$106.40 (4)	15)
Crude Oil	Apr 2014-May 2014	Swap	32,000 Bbls	\$95.17 (3)	(369)
Crude Oil	Jun 2014-Jun 2014	Swap	13,000 Bbls	\$95.17 (3)	(58)
Crude Oil	Jul 2014-Sep 2014	Swap	13,000 Bbls	\$92.57 (3)	(200)
Crude Oil	Oct 2014-Dec 2014	Swap	11,000 Bbls	\$90.61 (3)	(146)
Natural Gas	Apr 2014-May 2014	Collar	1,000,000 MMBtu	\$4.00 - \$4.425 (5)	(89)
Natural Gas	Jun 2014-Dec 2014	Collar	120,000 MMBtu	\$4.00 - \$4.415 (5)	(179)
Natural Gas	Apr 2014-Dec 2014	Collar	42,500 MMBtu	\$3.75 - \$4.60 (5)	(60)
Natural Gas	Apr 2014-Dec 2014	Collar	42,500 MMBtu	\$3.50 - \$5.00 (5)	(36)
Total net fair value of derivative instruments					\$(1,388)

(1) Average volume per month for the remaining contract term

(2) Average price per unit for the remaining contract term

(3) Commodity derivative based on NYMEX West Texas Intermediate crude oil prices

(4) Commodity derivative based on Brent crude oil prices

(5) Commodity derivative based on Henry Hub NYMEX natural gas prices

There was no activity or outstanding derivative contracts during the three months ended March 31, 2013.

The following summarizes the fair value of commodity derivatives outstanding on a gross and net basis as of March 31, 2014 (in thousands):

	Gross	Netting ⁽¹⁾	Total
Assets	\$19	\$ (4)	\$ 15
Liabilities	\$(1,407)	\$ 4	\$(1,403)

(1) Represents counterparty netting under agreements governing such derivatives

The following table summarizes the effect of derivative contracts on the Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014 (in thousands):

	Three months ended March 31, 2014
Crude oil contracts	\$(362)
Natural gas contracts	(1,340)
Realized loss	\$(1,702)
Crude oil contracts	\$ 159
Natural gas contracts	(416)
Unrealized loss	\$(257)
Loss on derivatives, net	\$(1,959)

There were no gains or losses related to derivative instruments for the three months ended March 31, 2013.

6. Stock-Based Compensation

As of March 31, 2014, the Company had in place a stock-based compensation program which allows for stock options and/or restricted stock to be awarded to officers, directors, consultants and employees as a performance-based award or granted

upon initial employment as part of their overall compensation package. This program includes (i) the Company's original 2009 Equity Compensation Plan (the "2009 Plan"); and (ii) the Crimson 2005 Stock Incentive Plan (the "2005 Plan" or "Crimson Plan") adopted in conjunction with the Merger. In April 2014 the board of directors approved an Amended and Restated 2009 Incentive Compensation Plan, which amends and restates the 2009 Plan and includes both cash and equity parts of incentive compensation. This plan is on the ballot to be approved by the Company's shareholders at the Annual Shareholders Meeting in May 2014.

Stock Options

Under the fair value method of accounting for stock options, cash flows from the exercise of stock options resulting from tax benefits in excess of recognized cumulative compensation cost (excess tax benefits) are classified as financing cash flows. For the quarters ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, there were no excess tax benefits recognized. Compensation expense related to employee stock option grants are recognized over the stock option's vesting period based on the fair value at the date the options are granted. The fair value of each option is estimated as of the date of grant using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model.

No stock options were granted during the quarters ended March 31, 2014 or 2013.

Restricted Stock

During the quarter ended March 31, 2014, the Company granted 3,700 shares of restricted common stock under the 2009 Plan to newly hired and promoted employees as part of their compensation package, which vest over a four-year period. The weighted average fair value of the restricted shares granted during the quarter, was \$45.96 with a total fair value of approximately \$170 thousand after adjustment for an estimated weighted average forfeiture rate of 5.6%. Approximately 1.2 million shares remain available for grant under the 2009 Plan and the Crimson Plan as of March 31, 2014.

During the quarter ended March 31, 2014, 1,998 restricted shares were forfeited by a terminated employee. The aggregate intrinsic value of restricted shares forfeited during the quarter ended March 31, 2014 was approximately \$95 thousand.

During the quarter ended March 31, 2014, the Company recognized approximately \$1.1 million in stock compensation expense for restricted shares previously granted to its officers, employees and directors. An additional \$10.2 million of compensation expense will be recognized over the remaining vesting period.

7. Other Financial Information

The following table provides additional detail for accounts receivable, prepaids and other, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities which are presented on the consolidated balance sheets (in thousands):

	March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Accounts Receivable:		
Trade receivable	\$27,121	\$42,196
Receivable for Alta Resources distribution	1,993	7,358
Joint interest billing	7,551	5,172
Income taxes receivable	4,444	4,293
Other receivables	748	2,172
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(597	) (578
Total Accounts Receivable	\$41,260	\$60,613
Prepaid Expenses and Other:		
Prepaid insurance	\$4,084	\$1,113
Other	469	918
Total Prepaid Expenses and Other	\$4,553	\$2,031
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities:		
Royalties and revenue payable	\$42,397	\$44,933
Accrued exploration and development	33,011	17,803
Trade payable	18,713	11,589
Advances from partners	7,427	6,538
Accrued general and administrative expenses	7,676	10,872
Other accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,366	5,098
Total Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$112,590	\$96,833

Included in the table below is supplemental information about cash and non-cash transactions during the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2013
Cash payments:		
Interest payments	577	12
Income tax payments	2,600	595
Non-cash items excluded from investing activities in the consolidated statements of cash flows:		
Increase (decrease) in accrued capital expenditures	15,208	(633

Total capital expenditures incurred by the Company for the quarter ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 were approximately \$61.0 million and \$6.3 million, respectively.

8. Investment in Exaro Energy III LLC

In April 2012, the Company entered into a Limited Liability Company Agreement (the "LLC Agreement") in connection with the formation of Exaro. Pursuant to the LLC Agreement, as amended, the Company committed to invest up to \$67.5 million

in Exaro for an ownership interest of approximately 37%. The aggregate commitment of all the Exaro partners is approximately \$183 million. As of December 31, 2013, the Company had invested approximately \$46.9 million. No additional contributions were made during the three months ended March 31, 2014.

The following table presents condensed balance sheet data for Exaro as of March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013. The balance sheet data was derived from the Exaro balance sheet as of March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 and was not adjusted to represent our percentage of ownership interest in Exaro. Our share in the equity of Exaro at March 31, 2014 was approximately \$53.0 million.

	March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Current assets	\$29,120	\$30,284
Non-current assets:		
Net property and equipment	204,819	182,226
Restricted cash escrow account	5,279	8,732
Other non-current assets	1,086	1,103
Total non-current assets	211,184	192,061
Total assets	\$240,304	\$222,345
Current liabilities	\$10,059	\$13,717
Non-current liabilities:		
Long-term debt	85,000	70,000
Other non-current liabilities	954	923
Total non-current liabilities	85,954	70,923
Members' equity	144,291	137,705
Total liabilities & members' equity	\$240,304	\$222,345

The following table presents the condensed results of operations for Exaro for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013. The results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 were derived from Exaro's financial statements for the respective periods. The income statement data below was not adjusted to represent our ownership interest but rather reflects the results of Exaro as a company. The Company's share in Exaro's results of operations recognized for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 was a gain of \$1.6 million, net of tax expense of \$(0.9) million, and a loss of \$(1.1) million, net of tax benefit of \$0.6 million, respectively.

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2013
Oil and natural gas sales	\$22,339	\$7,779
Other loss	(1,975)	(3,483)
Less:		
Lease operating expenses	6,232	2,214
Depreciation, depletion, amortization & accretion	5,669	2,296
General & administrative expense	859	810
Income (loss) from continuing operations	7,604	(1,024)
Net interest income (expense)	(918)	(258)
Net income (loss)	\$6,686	\$(1,282)

Included in Other losses are realized and unrealized losses attributable to derivatives, whose value is likely to change based on future oil and gas prices. Exaro's results of operations do not include income taxes, because Exaro is treated as a partnership for tax purposes.

9. Long-Term Debt

RBC Credit Facility

As of March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the Company had \$63.8 million and \$90.0 million, respectively outstanding under the RBC Credit Facility and \$1.9 million and \$1.9 million, respectively in outstanding letters of credit. As of March 31, 2014, borrowing availability under the RBC Credit Facility was \$209.3 million.

The RBC Credit Facility is collateralized by a lien on substantially all the assets of the Company and its subsidiaries, including a security interest in the stock of Contango's subsidiaries and a security interest in the Company's oil and gas properties .

Borrowings under the RBC Credit Facility bear interest at a rate that is dependent upon LIBOR, the U.S. prime rate, or the federal funds rate, plus a margin dependent upon the amount outstanding. Additionally, the Company must pay a commitment fee on the amount of the facility that remains unused, which varies from .375% to .5%, depending on the amount of the credit facility that is unused. Total interest expense under the RBC Credit Facility, including commitment fees, for the three months ended March 31, 2014 was approximately \$0.7 million.

The RBC Credit Facility contains restrictive covenants which, among other things, restrict the declaration or payment of dividends by Contango and require the maintenance of a minimum current ratio and a maximum leverage ratio. As of March 31, 2014, we were in compliance with all covenants under the RBC Credit Facility. The RBC Credit Facility also contains events of default that may accelerate repayment of any borrowings and/or termination of the facility. Events of default include, but are not limited to, payment defaults, breach of certain covenants, bankruptcy, insolvency or change of control events.

Amegy Bank Credit Facility

The RBC Credit Facility replaced the Company's \$40 million credit facility with Amegy Bank. Interest expense under the Amegy Credit Agreement for the three months ended March 31, 2013 was approximately \$12 thousand.

As of March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the Company had the following debt balances (in thousands):

	March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
RBC Credit Facility	63,829	90,000
Total long-term debt	\$63,829	\$90,000

Weighted average interest rate in effect at March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 were 2.3112% and 2.1875%, respectively. The RBC credit facility matures on October 1, 2017, at which time any outstanding balances will be due.

10. Income Taxes

The Company's income tax provision for continuing operations consists of the following (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March	
	31,	
	2014	2013
Current tax provision (benefit):		
Federal	\$(524	) \$2,036
State	591	540
Total	\$67	\$2,576
Deferred tax provision (benefit):		
Federal	\$(7,804	) \$319
State	18	(216
Total	\$(7,786	) \$103
Total tax provision (benefit):		
Federal	\$(8,328	) \$2,355
State	609	324
Total	\$(7,719	) \$2,679
Included in gain (loss) from investment in affiliates	\$874	\$(617
Total income tax provision (benefit)	\$(8,593	) \$3,296

11. Related Party Transactions

Juneau Exploration L.P.

Effective January 1, 2013, the Company and Juneau Exploration L.P. ("JEX") entered into a First Right of Refusal Agreement (the "First Right Agreement"). Under the First Right Agreement, JEX granted a first right of refusal to Contango to purchase any exploration prospects generated and recommended by JEX. Prospects were presented along with terms and conditions for purchasing each prospect and Contango had the first right of refusal to purchase the prospect from JEX, subject to mutually acceptable terms. Pursuant to the First Right Agreement, JEX was to be paid an annual fee of \$0.5 million, which approximates the costs incurred by JEX for its support to the Company in the areas of operations, engineering and land functions. JEX and its employees continued to be eligible to receive overriding royalty interests, carried interests and certain back-in rights. The First Right Agreement was terminated effective as of March 31, 2013.

On January 1, 2013, the Company, entered into an advisory agreement with JEX (the "Contaro Advisory Agreement"). Under the Contaro Advisory Agreement, JEX provided advisory services to Contaro in connection with Contaro's investment in Exaro, and Mr. Juneau served on the Board of Managers of Exaro and performed such duties as described in the limited liability company operating agreement of Exaro. Pursuant to the Contaro Advisory Agreement, JEX was paid a monthly fee of \$10,000 and was entitled to receive a 1% fee of the cash profit earned by Contaro.

On March 19, 2014, Mr. Juneau resigned from the board of directors and no longer provides services under the Contaro Advisory Agreement.

Olympic Energy Partners

In December 2012, Mr. Joseph J. Romano was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, and in April 2013 was named Chairman of the Company. Upon the Merger with Crimson on October 1, 2013, Mr. Romano resigned as President and Chief Executive Officer, but remains Chairman. Mr. Romano is also the President and Chief Executive Officer of Olympic Energy Partners LLC ("Olympic").

JEX, affiliates of JEX, and Olympic have historically participated with the Company in the drilling and development of certain prospects through participation agreements and joint operating agreements, which specify each participant's working interest ("WI"), net revenue interest ("NRI"), and describe when such interests are earned, as well as allocate an overriding royalty interest ("ORRI") of up to 3.33% to benefit the employees of JEX, excluding Mr. Juneau, except where otherwise noted. Olympic last participated with the Company in the drilling of wells in March 2010, and its ownership in Company-operated wells is limited to our Dutch and Mary Rose wells.

Republic Exploration LLC

In his capacity as sole manager of the general partner of JEX, Mr. Juneau also controls the activities of Republic Exploration LLC ("REX"), an entity owned 34.4% by JEX, 32.3% by Contango and 33.3% by a third party which contributed other assets to REX. REX generates and evaluates offshore exploration prospects and has historically participated with the Company in the drilling and development of certain prospects through participation agreements and joint operating agreements, which specify each participant's working interest, net revenue interest and describe when such interests are earned, as well as allocate an overriding royalty interest of up to 3.33% to benefit the employees of JEX. The Company proportionately consolidates the results of REX in its consolidated financial statements.

As of March 31, 2014, Contango, Olympic, JEX, REX and JEX employees owned the following interests in the Company's offshore wells.

	Contango		Olympic		JEX		REX		JEX Employees
	WI	NRI	WI	NRI	WI	NRI	WI	NRI	ORRI
Dutch #1 - #5	54.89	%44.65	% 3.53	%2.84	% 1.88	%1.51	% —	%—	% 2.02%
Mary Rose #1	53.21	%40.44	% 3.61	%2.70	% 2.01	%1.51	% —	%—	% 2.79%
Mary Rose #2 - #3	53.21	%38.67	% 3.61	%2.58	% 2.01	%1.44	% —	%—	% 2.79%
Mary Rose #4	34.58	%25.49	% 2.34	%1.70	% 1.31	%0.95	% —	%—	% 1.82%
Mary Rose #5	37.80	%27.88	% 2.56	%1.87	% 1.43	%1.04	% —	%—	% 1.54%
Ship Shoal 263	100.00	%80.00	% —	%—	% —	%—	% —	%—	% 3.33%
Vermilion 170	83.20	%64.83	% —	%—	% 4.30	%3.35	% 12.50	%9.74	% 3.33%

Prior to exercising a preferential right in December 2013, Contango, Olympic and JEX had the following lower WI and NRI in Dutch #1-#5 wells:

	Contango		Olympic		JEX	
	WI	NRI	WI	NRI	WI	NRI
Dutch #1 - #5	47.05%	38.12%	3.02%	2.42%	1.61%	1.29%

During the quarter ended March 31, 2014, Mr. Romano and Mr. Juneau earned \$26 thousand and \$12 thousand, respectively, for their service as directors of the Company. During the quarter ended March 31, 2013, Mr. Juneau earned \$28 thousand for his service as a director of the Company.

During the quarter ended December 31, 2013, Mr. Romano and Mr. Juneau each received 1,622 shares of restricted stock, which vest 100% on the one-year anniversary of the date of grant, as part of their board of director compensation. In April 2014, the board of directors resolved to fully vest Mr. Juneau's 1,622 shares which would have otherwise been forfeited upon his resignation in March 2014. The Company recognized compensation expense of approximately \$71 thousand and \$18 thousand related to the shares granted to Mr. Juneau and Mr. Romano for the three months ended March 31, 2014.

Mr. Romano will be entitled to receive a bonus of \$4.0 million as a result the merger with Crimson assuming he continues his service to the Company until June 30, 2014. Approximately \$1.3 million related to this bonus is included in general and administrative expenses for the quarter ended March 31, 2014.

Effective January 1, 2014, the Company subleased to JEX a portion of its previous office space at 3700 Buffalo Speedway, Houston, Texas for approximately \$0.1 million per year, which approximates our rental liability for that space.

Below is a summary of payments received from (paid to) Olympic, JEX and REX in the ordinary course of business in our capacity as operator of the wells and platforms for the periods indicated. The Company made and received similar types of payments with other well owners (in thousands):

	Three months ended March 31, 2014			2013		
	Olympic	JEX	REX	Olympic	JEX	REX
Revenue payments as well owners	\$(1,947	)\$(1,311	)\$(674	) \$(1,650	)\$(1,195	) \$(850
Joint interest billing receipts	70	25	45	285	197	115

Below is a summary of payments received from (paid to) Olympic, JEX and REX as a result of specific transactions between the Company, Olympic, JEX and REX. While these payments are in the ordinary course of business, the Company did not have similar transactions with other well owners (in thousands):

	Three months ended March 31,					
	2014			2013		
	Olympic	JEX	REX	Olympic	JEX	REX
Reimbursement of certain costs	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$(171)	\$(4)
Rent received for sublease	—	23	—	—	—	—

As of March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, the Company's consolidated balance sheets reflected the following balances (in thousands):

	March 31, 2014			December 31, 2013		
	Olympic	JEX	REX	Olympic	JEX	REX
Accounts receivable:						
Joint interest billing	\$16	\$117	\$99	\$34	\$87	\$116
Accounts payable:						
Royalties and revenue payable	(1,783)	(1,176)	(524)	(1,293)	(877)	(466)
Other	—	(30)	—	—	—	—

Oaktree Capital Management L.P.

As of March 31, 2014, Oaktree Capital Management L.P. ("Oaktree"), through various funds, owns approximately 6.7% of the Company's stock. On October 1, 2013, following the closing of the Merger, Mr. James Ford, a Managing Director and Portfolio Manager within Oaktree, was elected to the Company's board of directors. Mr. Ford was previously a member of Crimson's board of directors from February 2005 until the closing of the Merger.

As part of Mr. Ford's director compensation, all cash and equity awards payable to Mr. Ford, are instead granted to an affiliate of Oaktree. During the quarter ended March 31, 2014, the affiliate of Oaktree earned \$19 thousand in cash as a result of Mr. Ford's board participation, and the Company recognized compensation expense of approximately \$18 thousand related to the 1,622 shares of restricted stock granted to an affiliate of Oaktree in December 2013. These shares vest 100% on the one-year anniversary of the date of the grant.

12. Commitments and Contingencies

Office Rent

In April 2014, the Company signed a five year lease agreement for additional office space for an additional commitment of \$0.8 million a year.

Legal Proceedings

From time to time, we are involved in legal proceedings relating to claims associated with our properties, operations or business or arising from disputes with vendors in the normal course of business, including the material matters discussed below.

Mineral interest owners in South Louisiana filed suit against a subsidiary of the Company and several co-defendants in June 2009 in the 31st Judicial District Court situated in Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana alleging failure to act as a reasonably prudent operator, failure to explore, waste, breach of contract, etc. in connection with two wells located in Jefferson Davis Parish. Many of the alleged improprieties occurred prior to our ownership of an interest in the wells at issue, although we may have assumed liability otherwise attributable to our predecessors-in-interest through the acquisition documents relating to the acquisition of our interest in these wells. The damages most recently alleged by the plaintiffs are approximately \$13.4 million. We and our co-defendants are vigorously defending this lawsuit and believe that we have meritorious defenses. We and our co-defendants obtained a favorable judgment from the trial court following a trial, but the judgment is being appealed by the plaintiffs. A companion case involving the same claims, wells, etc. was filed in the same court on April 19, 2013 on behalf of additional mineral interest owners.

In November 2010, a subsidiary of the Company, several predecessor operators and several product purchasers were named in a lawsuit filed in the District Court for Lavaca County in Texas by an entity alleging that it owns a working interest in two wells that has not been recognized by us or by predecessor operators to which we have granted indemnification rights. In dispute is whether ownership rights were transferred through a number of decade-old poorly documented transactions. The trial court has granted plaintiff's motion for partial summary judgment as to liability (but not damages). While preserving our right to appeal as to liability, we recently entered into a partial judgment with the plaintiff which establishes the amount of damages recoverable by the plaintiff if it ultimately prevails in this case at approximately \$5.3 million, exclusive of interest. We are vigorously defending this lawsuit, believe that we have meritorious defenses and intend to appeal the aforementioned decision.

In September 2012, a subsidiary of the Company was named as defendant in a lawsuit filed in district court for Harris County in Texas involving a title dispute over a 1/16th mineral interest in the producing intervals of certain wells operated by us in the Catherine Henderson "A" Unit in Liberty County in Texas. This case was subsequently transferred to district court for Liberty County, Texas and combined with a suit filed by other parties against the plaintiff claiming ownership of the disputed interest. The plaintiff has alleged that, based on its interpretation of a series of 1972 deeds, it owns an additional 1/16th unleased mineral interest in the producing intervals of these wells on which it has not been paid (this claimed interest is in addition to a 1/16th unleased mineral interest on which it has been paid). We have made royalty payments with respect to the disputed interest in reliance, in part, upon leases obtained from successors to the grantors under the aforementioned deeds, who claim to have retained the disputed mineral interests thereunder. In their initial pleading the plaintiff alleges damages in excess of \$6.0 million, which is generally in line with amounts received on its undisputed 1/16th mineral interest as of the date the suit was filed. As of January 2014, the Plaintiff had received approximately \$8.5 million in royalties in respect of its undisputed interest. We are vigorously defending this lawsuit and believe that we have meritorious defenses. We believe if this matter were to be determined adversely, amounts owed to the plaintiff could be partially offset by recoupment rights we may have against other working interest and/or royalty interest owners in the unit.

In connection with our Merger, several class action lawsuits have been brought by Crimson stockholders in Delaware Chancery Court seeking damages and injunctive relief including, among other things, compensatory damages and costs and disbursements relating to the lawsuits. Various combinations of the Company, certain subsidiaries of the Company, members of Crimson's pre-merger board of directors, members of Crimson's pre-merger management team and Oaktree Capital Management L.P. have been named as defendants in these lawsuits. The Delaware lawsuits have been consolidated into a single action referred to as *In Re: Crimson Exploration Inc. Stockholder Litigation; C.A. 8541-VCP*. Additionally, on July 13, 2013, a separate and similar complaint was filed in the District Court of Harris County Texas, in the matter of *Fisichella Family Trust v. Crimson Exploration Inc.* It is possible that additional similar lawsuits may be filed.

The merger-related lawsuits allege, among other things, that Crimson's board of directors failed to take steps to obtain a fair price, failed to properly value Crimson, failed to protect against alleged conflicts of interest, failed to conduct a reasonably informed evaluation of whether the transaction was in the best interests of stockholders, failed to fully disclose all material information to stockholders, acted in bad faith and for improper motives, engaged in self-dealing, discouraged other strategic alternatives, took steps to avoid competitive bidding, and agreed to allegedly unreasonable deal protection mechanisms, including the no-shop, fiduciary-out provisions and termination fee. The lawsuits also allege that Contango and certain other defendants aided and abetted the other defendants in violating duties to the Crimson stockholders. The known plaintiffs in these lawsuits collectively owned a very small percentage of the total outstanding shares of Crimson common stock at the time of the Merger, which was approved by Contango's pre-merger shareholders (89% of outstanding shares and 99% of voted shares were voted in favor of the Merger) and Crimson's pre-merger shareholders (69% of outstanding shares and 88% of voted shares were voted in favor of the Merger). The Company believes that these merger-related lawsuits are without merit and is contesting them vigorously.

In February 2011, a subsidiary of the Company and certain of our working interest partners and insurance carriers brought suit against a marine construction, dredging and tunneling company and an instrumentality of the United States of America in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas - Houston Division seeking monetary

damages for damage to an offshore pipeline which was struck by a dredge. Following a bench trial in December 2013, we and our co-defendants obtained a favorable judgment from the trial court, but the judgment is being appealed by the defendants.

While many of these matters involve inherent uncertainty and we are unable at the date of this filing to estimate an amount of possible loss with respect to certain of these matters, we believe that the amount of the liability, if any, ultimately incurred with respect to these proceedings or claims will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position as a whole or on our liquidity, capital resources or future annual results of operations. The Company has maintained an officers and directors liability insurance policy for Crimson former directors and officers and has made a claim under the policy for coverage of these merger related lawsuits.

Available Information

General information about us can be found on our website at www.contango.com. Our Annual Reports on Form 10-K/A and Transition Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, as well as any amendments and exhibits to those reports, are available free of charge through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we file or furnish them to the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). We are not including the information on our website as a part of, or incorporating it by reference into, this Report.

Cautionary Statement about Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements contained in this report may contain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The words and phrases “should be”, “will be”, “believe”, “expect”, “anticipate”, “estimate”, “forecast”, “goal” and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements and express our expectations about future events. Although we believe the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, such expectations may not occur. These forward-looking statements are made subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated. Risks and uncertainties that could cause or contribute to such differences include, without limitation, those discussed in the section entitled “Risk Factors” included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A and Transition Report on Form 10-K and those factors summarized below:

- our financial position;
- our business strategy, including outsourcing;
- meeting our forecasts and budgets;
- expectations regarding natural gas and oil markets in the United States;
- natural gas and oil price volatility;
- operational constraints, start-up delays and production shut-ins at both operated and non-operated production platforms, pipelines and natural gas processing facilities;
- the risks associated with acting as the operator in drilling deep high pressure and temperature wells, including well blowouts and explosions;
- the risks associated with exploration, including cost overruns and the drilling of non-economic wells or dry holes, especially in prospects in which we have made a large capital commitment relative to the size of our capitalization structure;
- the timing and successful drilling and completion of natural gas and oil wells;
- availability of capital and the ability to repay indebtedness when due;
- availability and cost of rigs and other materials and operating equipment;
- timely and full receipt of sale proceeds from the sale of our production;
- the ability to find, acquire, market, develop and produce new natural gas and oil properties;
- interest rate volatility;
- uncertainties in the estimation of proved reserves and in the projection of future rates of production and timing of development expenditures;
- operating hazards attendant to the natural gas and oil business including weather, environmental risks, accidental spills, blowouts and pipeline ruptures, and other risks;
- downhole drilling and completion risks that are generally not recoverable from third parties or insurance;
- potential mechanical failure or under-performance of significant wells, production facilities, processing plants or pipeline mishaps;
- actions or inactions of third-party operators of our properties;
- actions or inactions of third-party operators of pipelines or processing facilities;
- the ability to find and retain skilled personnel;
- strength and financial resources of competitors;
- federal and state legislative and regulatory developments and approvals;
- worldwide economic conditions;
- the ability to construct and operate infrastructure, including pipeline and production facilities;

- the continued compliance by us with various pipeline and gas processing plant specifications for the gas and condensate produced by us;
- operating costs, production rates and ultimate reserve recoveries of our natural gas and oil discoveries;
- expanded rigorous monitoring and testing requirements; and
- ability to obtain insurance coverage on commercially reasonable terms.

Any of these factors and other factors contained in this report could cause our actual results to differ materially from the results implied by these or any other forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf. Although we believe our estimates and assumptions to be reasonable, they are inherently uncertain and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that are beyond our control. Our assumptions about future events may prove to be inaccurate. We caution you that the forward looking statements contained in this report are not guarantees of future performance, and we cannot assure you that those statements will be realized or the forward-looking events and circumstances will occur. All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this report.

We do not intend to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law. These cautionary statements qualify all forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf.

You should not unduly rely on these forward-looking statements in this report, as they speak only as of the date of this report. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to publicly release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this report or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes and other information included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 and Transition Report on Form 10-K for the transition period from July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013, previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

Overview

Contango is a Houston, Texas based independent energy company engaged in the acquisition, exploration, development, exploitation and production of crude oil and natural gas offshore in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico and in the onshore Gulf Coast and Rocky Mountain regions of the United States.

On October 1, 2013, we completed a merger with Crimson Exploration Inc. ("Crimson"), in an all-stock transaction (the "Merger") pursuant to which Crimson became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Contango. As a result of the Merger, each share of Crimson common stock was converted into 0.08288 shares of common stock of Contango. As a result, we issued approximately 3.9 million shares of common stock in exchange for all of Crimson's outstanding capital stock, resulting in Crimson stockholders owning approximately 20.3% of post-Merger Contango. We also assumed \$235.4 million in debt, including accrued interest and repayment premium, and issued 135,898 options in exchange for the outstanding options held by Crimson employees.

The Merger qualified as a tax-free reorganization for U.S. federal income tax purposes, so that none of Contango, Crimson, or any of their respective stockholders recognized any gain or loss in the Merger, except that Crimson's stockholders may have recognized a gain or loss with respect to cash received in lieu of fractional shares of Company common stock.

On October 1, 2013 the Company's board of directors approved a change in fiscal year end from June 30 to December 31. On March 3, 2014, we filed a Form 10-K which covered the transition period of July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, which included six months of Contango activity (July - December) and three months of post-merger Crimson activity (October - December). We also filed the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A to present the the financial statements of the Company on a calendar year basis for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2013. This Form 10-Q presents our information for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 based on a new year-end date of December 31. Unless otherwise noted, all references to "years" in this report refer to the twelve-month periods ended December 31 of each year.

We have historically focused our operations in the Gulf of Mexico ("GOM"), but our recent merger with Crimson has given us access to lower risk, long life resource plays in Southeast Texas (the Woodbine oil and liquids-rich play), in South Texas (the Eagle Ford Shale and Buda oil and liquids-rich plays) and in East Texas (the James Lime liquids-rich play, and under an improved natural gas price environment, the Haynesville/Mid-Bossier gas play). We believe these plays, and other formations in the same areas, provide long-term growth potential.

On April 29, 2014, we reached the total depth on our Ship Shoal 255 well, and no commercial hydrocarbons were found. As a result, for the quarter ended March 31, 2014, we recognized \$26.7 million exploration expenses for the cost of drilling the well and \$15.1 million in impairment expenses, including \$3.5 million related to leasehold costs and \$11.6 million related to the platform located at Block Ship Shoal 263 which was expected to be used by the Ship Shoal 255 well, had it been successful. Additional exploration costs of approximately \$7 to \$9 million will be recognized in the quarter ended June 30, 2014 for the drilling costs incurred after March 31, 2014 through finalization of the well.

Additionally, we have (i) a 37% equity investment in Exaro Energy III LLC (“Exaro”), which participates in a joint venture with Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. (“Encana”) that is primarily focused on the development of proved natural gas reserves in the Jonah Field in Wyoming; (ii) an approximate 29,000 net acre position, and non-operated producing properties, in Louisiana and Mississippi targeting the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (“TMS”); (iii) operated properties producing from various conventional formations in various counties along the Texas Gulf Coast; (iv) operated producing properties in the Denver Julesburg Basin (“DJ Basin”) in Weld and Adams counties in Colorado, which we believe are prospective in the Niobrara Shale oil play, and (v) seven exploratory prospects in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

We intend to grow reserves and production by developing our existing producing property base, by exploiting our unproved oil/liquids resource potential, by drilling our prospects in the GOM and by pursuing opportunistic acquisitions in areas where we have current operations and specific operating expertise, as well as new areas we identify that we feel have significant exploration and operational upside. We have developed a significant inventory of quality drilling opportunities on our existing property base that we believe should position us for multiyear reserve growth. Until we see improvement in natural gas prices, we will concentrate our drilling activity predominantly on further developing our oil and liquids-rich onshore assets in Southeast Texas and South Texas, complemented by selected offshore exploratory drilling. In 2014, we will focus on our inventory of crude oil and liquids-rich projects with rig program targeting the Woodbine play in Madison and Grimes Counties, Texas, the Buda play in Dimmit County, Texas and the James Lime play in San Augustine County, Texas. We also currently plan to drill a number of other wells testing new formations in existing areas and potentially one to two exploratory wells in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

We will continue to monitor expanding industry activity in the oil-weighted TMS and in the Niobrara Shale to determine the future potential and strategy for optimizing value in each play prior to committing significant drilling capital.

Summary Production Information

Our production for the three months ended March 31, 2014 was approximately 65% offshore and 35% onshore, and 65% natural gas and 35% oil and natural gas liquids. Our production for the three months ended March 31, 2013 was 100% offshore, and approximately 75% natural gas and 25% oil and natural gas liquids.

The table below sets forth our average net daily production data in Mmcfd from our fields for each of the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended				
	March 31, 2013	June 30, 2013	September 30, 2013	December 31, 2013	March 31, 2014
Offshore Gulf of Mexico					
Dutch and Mary Rose	59.5	57.2	61.7	59.1	66.7
Vermilion 170	3.6	4.0	9.6	9.6	9.0
Other offshore ⁽¹⁾	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.4
Southeast Texas ⁽²⁾	—	—	—	24.3	26.4
South Texas ⁽²⁾	—	—	—	14.7	12.6
Other ^{(2) (3)}	—	—	—	1.7	2.4
	64.6	62.2	72.0	110.2	117.5