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

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**FORM 10-K**

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**ANNUAL REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
Commission File Number 001-35700

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**Diamondback Energy, Inc.**  
(Exact Name of Registrant As Specified in Its Charter)

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**Delaware**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

**500 West Texas, Suite 1200  
Midland, Texas**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**45-4502447**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification Number)

**79701**  
(Zip Code)

(Registrant Telephone Number, Including Area Code): **(432) 221-7400**

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated Filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Accelerated Filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller Reporting Company	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging Growth Company	<input type="checkbox"/>

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

Aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of registrant as of June 30, 2017 was approximately \$7,801,460,276.

As of February 7, 2018, 98,167,289 shares of the registrant's common stock were outstanding.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of Diamondback Energy, Inc.'s Proxy Statement for the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference in Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of Part III of this Form 10-K

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**FORM 10-K**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**  
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## GLOSSARY OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS TERMS

The following is a glossary of certain oil and natural gas industry terms used in this report:

3-D seismic	Geophysical data that depict the subsurface strata in three dimensions. 3-D seismic typically provides a more detailed and accurate interpretation of the subsurface strata than 2-D, or two-dimensional, seismic.
Basin	A large depression on the earth's surface in which sediments accumulate.
Bbl	Stock tank barrel, or 42 U.S. gallons liquid volume, used in this report in reference to crude oil or other liquid hydrocarbons.
Bbls/d	Barrels per day.
BOE	Barrels of oil equivalent, with six thousand cubic feet of natural gas being equivalent to one barrel of oil.
BOE/d	Barrels of oil equivalent per day.
Brent	Brent sweet light crude oil.
British Thermal Unit or BTU	The quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit.
Completion	The process of treating a drilled well followed by the installation of permanent equipment for the production of natural gas or oil, or in the case of a dry hole, the reporting of abandonment to the appropriate agency.
Condensate	Liquid hydrocarbons associated with the production that is primarily natural gas.
Crude oil	Liquid hydrocarbons retrieved from geological structures underground to be refined into fuel sources.
Developed acreage	Acreage assignable to productive wells.
Development costs	Capital costs incurred in the acquisition, exploitation and exploration of proved oil and natural gas reserves.
Differential	An adjustment to the price of oil or natural gas from an established spot market price to reflect differences in the quality and/or location of oil or natural gas.
Dry hole or dry well	A well found to be incapable of producing hydrocarbons in sufficient quantities such that proceeds from the sale of such production exceed production expenses and taxes.
Estimated Ultimate Recovery or EUR	Estimated ultimate recovery is the sum of reserves remaining as of a given date and cumulative production as of that date.
Exploitation	A development or other project which may target proven or unproven reserves (such as probable or possible reserves), but which generally has a lower risk than that associated with exploration projects.
Field	An area consisting of either a single reservoir or multiple reservoirs, all grouped on or related to the same individual geological structural feature and/or stratigraphic condition.
Finding and development costs	Capital costs incurred in the acquisition, exploitation and exploration of proved oil and natural gas reserves divided by proved reserve additions and revisions to proved reserves.
Fracturing	The process of creating and preserving a fracture or system of fractures in a reservoir rock typically by injecting a fluid under pressure through a wellbore and into the targeted formation.
Gross acres or gross wells	The total acres or wells, as the case may be, in which a working interest is owned.
Horizontal drilling	A drilling technique used in certain formations where a well is drilled vertically to a certain depth and then drilled at a right angle with a specified interval.
Horizontal wells	Wells drilled directionally horizontal to allow for development of structures not reachable through traditional vertical drilling mechanisms.
MBbls	Thousand barrels of crude oil or other liquid hydrocarbons.
MBOE	One thousand barrels of crude oil equivalent, determined using a ratio of six Mcf of natural gas to one Bbl of crude oil, condensate or natural gas liquids.
Mcf	Thousand cubic feet of natural gas.
Mcf/d	Thousand cubic feet of natural gas per day.
Mineral interests	The interests in ownership of the resource and mineral rights, giving an owner the right to profit from the extracted resources.
MMBtu	Million British Thermal Units.
MMcf	Million cubic feet of natural gas.

Net acres or net wells	The sum of the fractional working interest owned in gross acres.
Net revenue interest	An owner's interest in the revenues of a well after deducting proceeds allocated to royalty and overriding interests.
Net royalty acres	Gross acreage multiplied by the average royalty interest.
Oil and natural gas properties	Tracts of land consisting of properties to be developed for oil and natural gas resource extraction.
Operator	The individual or company responsible for the exploration and/or production of an oil or natural gas well or lease.
Play	A set of discovered or prospective oil and/or natural gas accumulations sharing similar geologic, geographic and temporal properties, such as source rock, reservoir structure, timing, trapping mechanism and hydrocarbon type.
Plugging and abandonment	Refers to the sealing off of fluids in the strata penetrated by a well so that the fluids from one stratum will not escape into another or to the surface. Regulations of all states require plugging of abandoned wells.
PUD	Proved undeveloped.
Productive well	A well that is found to be capable of producing hydrocarbons in sufficient quantities such that proceeds from the sale of the production exceed production expenses and taxes.
Prospect	A specific geographic area which, based on supporting geological, geophysical or other data and also preliminary economic analysis using reasonably anticipated prices and costs, is deemed to have potential for the discovery of commercial hydrocarbons.
Proved developed reserves	Reserves that can be expected to be recovered through existing wells with existing equipment and operating methods.
Proved reserves	The estimated quantities of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids which geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be commercially recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions.
Proved undeveloped reserves	Proved reserves that are expected to be recovered from new wells on undrilled acreage or from existing wells where a relatively major expenditure is required for recompletion.
Recompletion	The process of re-entering an existing wellbore that is either producing or not producing and completing new reservoirs in an attempt to establish or increase existing production.
Reserves	Reserves are estimated remaining quantities of oil and natural gas and related substances anticipated to be economically producible, as of a given date, by application of development projects to known accumulations. In addition, there must exist, or there must be a reasonable expectation that there will exist, the legal right to produce or a revenue interest in the production, installed means of delivering oil and natural gas or related substances to the market and all permits and financing required to implement the project. Reserves should not be assigned to adjacent reservoirs isolated by major, potentially sealing, faults until those reservoirs are penetrated and evaluated as economically producible. Reserves should not be assigned to areas that are clearly separated from a known accumulation by a non-productive reservoir (i.e., absence of reservoir, structurally low reservoir or negative test results). Such areas may contain prospective resources (i.e., potentially recoverable resources from undiscovered accumulations).
Reservoir	A porous and permeable underground formation containing a natural accumulation of producible natural gas and/or oil that is confined by impermeable rock or water barriers and is separate from other reservoirs.
Resource play	A set of discovered or prospective oil and/or natural gas accumulations sharing similar geologic, geographic and temporal properties, such as source rock, reservoir structure, timing, trapping mechanism and hydrocarbon type.
Royalty interest	An interest that gives an owner the right to receive a portion of the resources or revenues without having to carry any costs of development or operations.
Spacing	The distance between wells producing from the same reservoir. Spacing is often expressed in terms of acres (e.g., 40-acre spacing) and is often established by regulatory agencies.
Stratigraphic play	An oil or natural gas formation contained within an area created by permeability and porosity changes characteristic of the alternating rock layer that result from the sedimentation process.
Structural play	An oil or natural gas formation contained within an area created by earth movements that deform or rupture (such as folding or faulting) rock strata.
Tight formation	A formation with low permeability that produces natural gas with very low flow rates for long periods of time.

Undeveloped acreage	Lease acreage on which wells have not been drilled or completed to a point that would permit the production of economic quantities of oil and natural gas regardless of whether such acreage contains proved reserves.
Working interest	An operating interest that gives the owner the right to drill, produce and conduct operating activities on the property and receive a share of production and requires the owner to pay a share of the costs of drilling and production operations.
WTI	West Texas Intermediate.

## GLOSSARY OF CERTAIN OTHER TERMS

The following is a glossary of certain other terms that are used in this report.

2012 Plan	The Company's 2012 Equity Incentive Plan.
Bison	Bison Drilling and Field Services, LLC.
Company	Diamondback Energy, Inc., a Delaware corporation, together with its subsidiaries.
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
Exchange Act	The Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
GAAP	Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.
General Partner	Viper Energy Partners GP LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and the General Partner of the Partnership.
2024 Indenture	The indenture relating to the 2024 Senior Notes, dated as of October 28, 2016, among the Company, the subsidiary guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo, as the trustee, as supplemented.
2025 Indenture	The indenture relating to the 2025 Senior Notes, dated as of December 20, 2016, among the Company, the subsidiary guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo, as the trustee, as supplemented.
NYMEX	New York Mercantile Exchange.
OSHA	Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act.
Partnership	Viper Energy Partners LP, a Delaware limited partnership.
Partnership agreement	The first amended and restated agreement of limited partnership, dated as of June 23, 2014, entered into by the General Partner and Diamondback in connection with the closing of the Viper Offering.
Ryder Scott	Ryder Scott Company, L.P.
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission.
Securities Act	The Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
2024 Senior Notes	The Company's 4.750% senior unsecured notes due 2024 in the aggregate principal amount of \$500 million.
2025 Senior Notes	The Company's 5.375% senior unsecured notes due 2025 in the aggregate principal amount of \$500 million.
Senior Notes	The 2024 Senior Notes and the 2025 Senior Notes.
Viper	Viper Energy Partners L.P.
Viper LTIP	Viper Energy Partners L.P. Long Term Incentive Plan.
Viper Offering	The Partnerships' initial public offering.
Wells Fargo	Wells Fargo Bank, National Association.

## CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Various statements contained in this report that express a belief, expectation, or intention, or that are not statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, regarding our strategy, future operations, financial position, estimated revenues and losses, projected costs, prospects, plans and objectives of management are forward-looking statements. When used in this report, the words “could,” “believe,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “estimate,” “expect,” “may,” “continue,” “predict,” “potential,” “project” and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain such identifying words. In particular, the factors discussed in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, including under *Part I, Item 1A*. “Risk Factors” in this report, could affect our actual results and cause our actual results to differ materially from expectations, estimates or assumptions expressed, forecasted or implied in such forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements may include statements about our:

- business strategy;
- exploration and development drilling prospects, inventories, projects and programs;
- oil and natural gas reserves;
- acquisitions
- identified drilling locations;
- ability to obtain permits and governmental approvals;
- technology;
- financial strategy;
- realized oil and natural gas prices;
- production;
- lease operating expenses, general and administrative costs and finding and development costs;
- future operating results; and
- plans, objectives, expectations and intentions.

All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this report or, if earlier, as of the date they were made. We do not intend to, and disclaim any obligation to, update or revise any forward-looking statements unless required by securities laws. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Moreover, we operate in a very competitive and rapidly changing environment. New risks emerge from time to time. It is not possible for our management to predict all risks, nor can we assess the impact of all factors on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements we may make. Although we believe that our plans, intentions and expectations reflected in or suggested by the forward-looking statements we make in this report are reasonable, we can give no assurance that these plans, intentions or expectations will be achieved or occur, and actual results could differ materially and adversely from those anticipated or implied in the forward-looking statements.

## PART I

*Except as noted, in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, we refer to Diamondback, together with its consolidated subsidiaries, as “we,” “us,” “our,” or “the Company”. This report includes certain terms commonly used in the oil and gas industry, which are defined above in the “Glossary of Oil and Natural Gas Terms.”*

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS AND PROPERTIES

#### Overview

We are an independent oil and natural gas company focused on the acquisition, development, exploration and exploitation of unconventional, onshore oil and natural gas reserves in the Permian Basin in West Texas. This basin, which is one of the major producing basins in the United States, is characterized by an extensive production history, a favorable operating environment, mature infrastructure, long reserve life, multiple producing horizons, enhanced recovery potential and a large number of operators.

We began operations in December 2007 with our acquisition of 4,174 net acres in the Permian Basin. At December 31, 2017, our total acreage position in the Permian Basin was approximately 246,012 gross (206,660 net) acres. In addition, we, through our subsidiary Viper Energy Partners LP, or Viper, own mineral interests underlying approximately 247,602 gross acres, 43,843 net acres and 9,570 net royalty acres primarily in Midland County, Texas in the Permian Basin. Approximately 36% of these net royalty acres are operated by us. We own Viper Energy Partners GP LLC, the general partner of Viper, which we refer to as the general partner, and we own approximately 64% of the limited partner interest in Viper.

Our activities are primarily focused on horizontal development of the Spraberry and Wolfcamp formations of the Midland Basin and the Wolfcamp and Bone Spring formations of the Delaware Basin, both of which are part of the larger Permian Basin in West Texas and New Mexico. The Permian Basin is characterized by high oil and liquids rich natural gas, multiple vertical and horizontal target horizons, extensive production history, long-lived reserves and high drilling success rates.

As of December 31, 2017, our estimated proved oil and natural gas reserves were 335,352 MBOE (which includes estimated reserves of 38,246 MBOE attributable to the mineral interests owned by Viper), based on reserve reports prepared by Ryder Scott Company, L.P., or Ryder Scott, our independent reserve engineers. Of these reserves, approximately 62.2% are classified as proved developed producing. Proved undeveloped, or PUD, reserves included in this estimate are from 168 gross (142 net) horizontal well locations in which we have a working interest, and nine horizontal wells in which we own only a mineral interest through our subsidiary, Viper. As of December 31, 2017, our estimated proved reserves were approximately 70% oil, 14% natural gas liquids and 16% natural gas.

Based on our evaluation of applicable geologic and engineering data, we currently have approximately 3,800 gross (2,750 net) identified economic potential horizontal drilling locations in multiple horizons on our acreage at an assumed price of approximately \$60.00 per Bbl WTI. We intend to continue to develop our reserves and increase production through development drilling and exploitation and exploration activities on this multi-year project inventory of identified potential drilling locations and through additional acquisitions that meet our strategic and financial objectives, targeting oil-weighted reserves.

The challenging commodity price environment that we experienced in 2016 continued in 2017. Commodity prices improved during 2017, but continued to be volatile. Nevertheless, we believe we remain well-positioned in this environment. During 2017, we again demonstrated our operational focus on achieving best-in-class execution, low-cost operations and a conservative balance sheet as we continued to reduce drilling days, well costs and operating expenses while maintaining what we believe to be a peer leading leverage ratio. We intend to continue our operational focus in 2018, emphasizing full cycle economics and financial discipline. We are operating ten rigs now and currently intend to operate between ten and twelve rigs in 2018, depending on market conditions. We will continue monitoring the ongoing commodity price environment and expect to retain the financial flexibility to adjust our drilling and completion plans in response to market conditions. We are prepared to decelerate our drilling program if commodity prices deteriorate and continue to accelerate our drilling program should commodity prices remain constant or further improve. We have the option to release up to eight of our current ten rigs in 2018 should commodity prices deteriorate. See Item 7. “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations-Liquidity and Capital Resources.”



## Our Business Strategy

Our business strategy is to continue to profitably grow our business through the following:

- **Grow production and reserves by developing our oil-rich resource base.** We intend to drill and develop our acreage base in an effort to maximize its value and resource potential. Through the conversion of our undeveloped reserves to developed reserves, we will seek to increase our production, reserves and cash flow while generating favorable returns on invested capital.
- **Focus on increasing hydrocarbon recovery through horizontal drilling and increased well density.** We have targeted various intervals in the Midland Basin through horizontal drilling and believe that there are opportunities to target additional intervals throughout the stratigraphic column. Our initial horizontal focus had been on the Wolfcamp B interval, but our recent focus has included the Lower Spraberry, Middle Spraberry and Wolfcamp A intervals. Our first two horizontal wells were completed in 2012 and had lateral lengths of less than 4,000 feet. As of December 31, 2017, we had drilled 412 horizontal wells as operator and had participated in 61 additional horizontal wells as a non-operator, including two in which we own only a minor wellbore interest. We also acquired interest in 76 horizontal wells on properties we purchased. Of these 549 total horizontal wells, 466 had been completed and were on production. Of the 466 horizontal wells on production, 152 are in the Wolfcamp B interval, 122 are in the Wolfcamp A interval, 163 are in the Lower Spraberry interval, nine are in the Middle Spraberry interval, three are in the Cline interval, three are in the Clearfork interval, seven are in the Bone Spring interval and seven are in various other intervals. These wells have lateral lengths ranging from approximately 2,100 feet to 13,000 feet. In 2018, we expect that our average lateral length will be about 9,300 feet, although the actual length will vary depending on the layout of our acreage and other factors. As technology continues to improve, we expect that our average lateral length will increase, resulting in higher per well recoveries and lower development costs per BOE. During the year ended December 31, 2017, we were able to drill our horizontal wells in the Midland Basin with approximately 7,500 foot lateral lengths to total depth, or TD, in an average of 12.2 days and we drilled approximately 10,000 foot lateral wells in 14.5 days. Further advances in drilling and completion technology may result in economic development of zones that are not currently viable.
- **Leverage our experience operating in the Permian Basin.** Our executive team, which has an average of over 25 years of industry experience per person and significant experience in the Permian Basin, intends to continue to seek ways to maximize hydrocarbon recovery by refining and enhancing our drilling and completion techniques. Our focus on efficient drilling and completion techniques is an important part of the continuous drilling program we have planned for our significant inventory of identified potential drilling locations. We believe that the experience of our executive team in deviated and horizontal drilling and completions has helped reduce the execution risk normally associated with these complex well paths. In addition, our completion techniques are continually evolving as we evaluate and implement hydraulic fracturing practices that have and are expected to continue to increase recovery and reduce completion costs. Our executive team regularly evaluates our operating results against those of other operators in the area in an effort to benchmark our performance against the best performing operators and evaluate and adopt best practices.
- **Enhance returns through our low cost development strategy of resource conversion, capital allocation and continued improvements in operational and cost efficiencies.** Our acreage position in the Wolfberry play is generally in contiguous blocks which allows us to develop this acreage efficiently with a “manufacturing” strategy that takes advantage of economies of scale and uses centralized production and fluid handling facilities. We are the operator of approximately 84% of our acreage. This operational control allows us to manage more efficiently the pace of development activities and the gathering and marketing of our production and control operating costs and technical applications, including horizontal development. Our average 84% working interest in our acreage allows us to realize the majority of the benefits of these activities and cost efficiencies.
- **Pursue strategic acquisitions with substantial resource potential.** We have a proven history of acquiring leasehold positions in the Permian Basin that have substantial oil-weighted resource potential. Our executive team, with its extensive experience in the Permian Basin, has what we believe is a competitive advantage in identifying acquisition targets and a proven ability to evaluate resource potential. We regularly review acquisition opportunities and intend to pursue acquisitions that meet our strategic and financial targets. During the year ended December 31, 2017, we acquired approximately 99,830 gross (84,468 net) leasehold acres primarily in Pecos and Reeves counties in the Southern Delaware Basin.

- **Maintain financial flexibility.** We seek to maintain a conservative financial position. In connection with our fall 2017 borrowing base redetermination, the agent lender under our revolving credit agreement recommended a borrowing base of \$1.8 billion. We elected a commitment amount of \$1.0 billion, of which \$603.0 million was available for borrowing as of December 31, 2017. As of December 31, 2017, Viper had \$93.5 million in outstanding borrowings, and \$306.5 million available for borrowing, under its revolving credit facility.

## Our Strengths

We believe that the following strengths will help us achieve our business goals:

- **Oil rich resource base in one of North America's leading resource plays.** All of our leasehold acreage is located in one of the most prolific oil plays in North America, the Permian Basin in West Texas. The majority of our current properties are well positioned in the core of the Permian Basin. Our production for the year ended December 31, 2017 was approximately 74% oil, 14% natural gas liquids and 12% natural gas. As of December 31, 2017, our estimated net proved reserves were comprised of approximately 70% oil, 14% natural gas liquids and 16% natural gas.
- **Multi-year drilling inventory in one of North America's leading oil resource plays.** We have identified a multi-year inventory of potential drilling locations for our oil-weighted reserves that we believe provides attractive growth and return opportunities. At an assumed price of approximately \$60.00 per Bbl WTI, we currently have approximately 3,800 gross (2,750 net) identified economic potential horizontal drilling locations on our acreage based on our evaluation of applicable geologic and engineering data. These gross identified economic potential horizontal locations have an average lateral length of approximately 8,400 feet, with the actual length depending on lease geometry and other considerations. These locations exist across most of our acreage blocks and in multiple horizons. Of these 3,800 locations, 2,100 are in the Midland Basin and 1,700 are in the Delaware Basin. In the Midland Basin, 860 are in the Lower Spraberry or Wolfcamp B horizons where we have drilled a large number of wells, 825 are in the Wolfcamp A or Middle Spraberry horizons where we have drilled a limited number of wells and 415 are in the Clearfork or Cline horizons where we have drilled very few wells. Our current location count for the Lower Spraberry horizon is based on 660 foot spacing in f Midland, southwest Martin, northeast Andrews, Howard and Glasscock counties, and 880 foot spacing in all other counties. For the Wolfcamp B horizon, the horizontal location count is based on 660 foot spacing between wells in Midland, Martin, northeast Andrews, Howard, and Glasscock counties, and 880 foot spacing in all other counties. In the Wolfcamp A horizon, the horizontal location count is based on 660 foot spacing in Midland, Howard and Glasscock counties, 880 foot spacing in southwest Martin county and 1,320 foot spacing in other counties. The horizontal location count for the Middle Spraberry is based on 880 foot spacing in Midland, Martin and northeast Andrews counties and 1,320 foot spacing in other counties. In the Cline and Clearfork horizons, the horizontal location count is based on 1,320 foot spacing except for the Clearfork in central Andrews County which is based on 660 foot spacing. In the Delaware Basin, 1,240 locations are in the Wolfcamp A or Wolfcamp B horizons, and 460 locations are in the 2nd Bone Spring or 3rd Bone Spring horizon. The horizontal location counts are based on 880 foot spacing in the Wolfcamp A and Wolfcamp B horizons, and 1,320 foot spacing in the Bone Spring horizons. The ultimate inter-well spacing may vary from these distances due to different factors, which would result in a higher or lower location count. The two-stream gross estimated ultimate recoveries, or EURs, from our future PUD horizontal wells, as estimated by Ryder Scott as of December 31, 2017, range from 528 MBOE per well, consisting of 413 MBbls of oil and 687 MMcf of natural gas, to 1,665 MBOE per well, consisting of 1,307 MBbls of oil and 2,150 MMcf of natural gas, for wells ranging in lateral length from approximately 5,000 feet to approximately 12,500 feet, in intervals including the Middle Spraberry, Lower Spraberry, Wolfcamp A, and Wolfcamp B. Ryder Scott has estimated gross EURs of 910 MBOE for our Lower Spraberry wells in Midland County and 1,071 MBOE for our Wolfcamp A wells in Pecos County, which constitute 36% of our remaining PUD horizontal wells, in each case based on 7,500 foot lateral lengths. In addition, we have approximately 1,837 square miles of proprietary 3-D seismic data covering our acreage. This data facilitates the evaluation of our existing drilling inventory and provides insight into future development activity, including additional horizontal drilling opportunities and strategic leasehold acquisitions.
- **Experienced, incentivized and proven management team.** Our executive team has an average of over 25 years of industry experience per person, most of which is focused on resource play development. This team has a proven track record of executing on multi-rig development drilling programs and extensive experience in the Permian Basin. In addition, our executive team has significant experience with both drilling and completing horizontal wells in addition to horizontal well reservoir and geologic expertise, which is of strategic importance as we expand our horizontal drilling activity. Prior to joining us, our Chief Executive Officer held management positions at Apache Corporation, Laredo Petroleum Holdings, Inc. and Burlington Resources.

- **Favorable operating environment.** We have focused our drilling and development operations in the Permian Basin, one of the longest operating hydrocarbon basins in the United States, with a long and well-established production history and developed infrastructure. We believe that the geological and regulatory environment of the Permian Basin is more stable and predictable, and that we are faced with less operational risks in the Permian Basin as compared to emerging hydrocarbon basins.
- **High degree of operational control.** We are the operator of approximately 84% of our Permian Basin acreage. This operating control allows us to better execute on our strategies of enhancing returns through operational and cost efficiencies and increasing ultimate hydrocarbon recovery by seeking to continually improve our drilling techniques, completion methodologies and reservoir evaluation processes. Additionally, as the operator of substantially all of our acreage, we retain the ability to increase or decrease our capital expenditure program based on commodity price outlooks. This operating control also enables us to obtain data needed for efficient exploration of horizontal prospects.

## **Our Properties**

### ***Location and Land***

Our total acreage position in the Permian Basin was approximately 246,012 gross (206,660 net) acres at December 31, 2017. We are the operator of approximately 84% of this Permian Basin acreage. In addition, we, through our subsidiary Viper, own mineral interests underlying approximately 247,602 gross acres, 43,843 net acres and 9,570 net royalty acres primarily in the Permian Basin. Approximately 36% of these net royalty acres are operated by us. Since our initial acquisition in the Permian Basin through December 31, 2017, we drilled or participated in the drilling of 753 gross (608 net) wells on our leasehold acreage in this area, primarily targeting the Wolfberry play. The Permian Basin area covers a significant portion of western Texas and eastern New Mexico and is considered one of the major producing basins in the United States.

### ***Area History***

Our proved reserves are located in the Permian Basin of West Texas, in particular in the Clearfork, Spraberry, Bone Spring, Wolfcamp, Cline, Strawn and Atoka formations. The Spraberry play was initiated with production from several new field discoveries in the late 1940s and early 1950s. It was eventually recognized that a regional productive trend was present, as fields were extended and coalesced over a broad area in the central Midland Basin. Development in the Spraberry play was sporadic over the next several decades due to typically low productive rate wells, with economics being dependent on oil prices and drilling costs.

The Wolfcamp formation is a long-established reservoir in West Texas, first found in the 1950s as wells aiming for deeper targets occasionally intersected slump blocks or debris flows with good reservoir properties. Exploration using 2-D seismic data located additional fields, but it was not until the use of 3-D seismic data in the 1990s that the greater extent of the Wolfcamp formation was revealed. The additional potential of the shales within this formation as reservoir rather than just source rocks was not recognized until very recently.

During the late 1990s, Atlantic Richfield Company, or Arco, began a drilling program targeting the base of the Spraberry formation at 10,000 feet, with an additional 200 to 300 feet drilled to produce from the upper portion of the Wolfcamp formation. Henry Petroleum, a private firm, owned interests in the Pegasus field in Midland and Upton counties. While drilling in the same area as the Arco project, Henry Petroleum decided to drill completely through the Wolfcamp section. Henry Petroleum mapped the trend and began acquiring acreage and drilling wells using multiple slick-water fracturing treatments across the entire Wolfcamp interval. In 2005, former members of Henry Petroleum's Wolfcamp team formed their own private company, ExL Petroleum, and began replicating Henry Petroleum's program. After ExL had drilled 32 productive Wolfcamp/Spraberry wells through late 2007, they monetized a portion of their acreage position, which led to the acquisition that enabled us to begin our participation in this play. Recent advancements in enhanced recovery techniques and horizontal drilling continue to make this play attractive to the oil and gas industry. By mid-2010, approximately half of the rigs active in the Permian Basin were drilling wells in the Wolfberry play. As of December 31, 2017, we held working interests in 1,166 gross (937 net) producing wells and royalty interests in 64 additional wells.

### ***Geology***

The Permian Basin formed as an area of rapid Pennsylvanian-Permian subsidence in response to dynamic structural influence. It is one of the largest sedimentary basins in the U.S., with established oil and gas production from several reservoirs from Permian through Ordovician in age. The term "Wolfberry" was coined initially to indicate commingled production from

the Permian Spraberry, Dean and Wolfcamp formations. Time equivalent in the Delaware Basin, the “Wolfbone” play describes vertically commingled production from the Permian Bone Spring and Wolfcamp formations.

The Spraberry/Bone Spring was deposited as siliciclastic turbidites in a deep water submarine fan environment, while the Wolfcamp reservoirs consist of debris-flow and grain-flow sediments, which were also deposited in a submarine fan setting. The best carbonate reservoirs within the Wolfcamp are generally found in proximity to the Central Basin Platform, while the shale reservoirs within the Wolfcamp thicken basinward away from the Central Basin Platform. Both the Spraberry/Bone Spring and Wolfcamp contain organic-rich mudstones and shales which, when buried to sufficient depth for maturation, became the source of the hydrocarbons found both within the shales themselves and in the more conventional clastic and carbonate reservoirs between the shales. The Wolfberry and Wolfbone are unconventional “basin-centered oil” resource plays, in the sense that there is no regional downdip oil/water contact.

We have successfully developed several shale intervals within the Clearfork, Spraberry/Bone Spring and Wolfcamp formations since we began horizontal drilling in 2012. The shales exhibit low permeabilities which necessitate the need for hydraulic fracture stimulation to unlock the vast storage of hydrocarbons in these targets.

We possess, or are in the process of acquiring, 3-D seismic data over substantially all of our major asset areas. Our extensive geophysical database currently includes approximately 1,837 square miles of 3-D data. This data will continue to be utilized in the development of our horizontal drilling program and identification of additional resource to be exploited.

### ***Production Status***

During the year ended December 31, 2017, net production from our Permian Basin acreage was 28,917 MBOE, or an average of 79,224 BOE/d, of which approximately 74% was oil, 14% was natural gas liquids and 12% was natural gas.

### ***Facilities***

Our oil and natural gas processing facilities are typical of those found in the Permian Basin. Our facilities located at well locations include storage tank batteries, oil/natural gas/water separation equipment and pumping units.

### ***Recent and Future Activity***

During 2018, we expect to complete an estimated 170 to 190 gross (146 to 163 net) horizontal wells on our acreage. We currently estimate that our capital expenditures in 2018 for drilling and infrastructure will be between \$1.3 billion and \$1.5 billion, consisting of \$1.175 billion to \$1.325 billion for horizontal drilling and completions including non-operated activity and \$125.0 million to \$175.0 million for infrastructure and other expenditures, but excluding the cost of any leasehold and mineral rights acquisitions. During the year ended December 31, 2017, we drilled 150 gross (130 net) and completed 123 gross (105 net) horizontal wells, including five drilled but uncompleted wells we acquired. We participated in the drilling of 16 gross (two net) non-operated horizontal wells in the Permian Basin. During the year ended December 31, 2017, our capital expenditures for drilling, completing and equipping wells were \$719.3 million. In addition, we spent \$124.0 million for oil and gas infrastructure, \$17.4 million for non-operated properties and \$2.4 billion for leasehold and mineral rights acquisitions.

We are operating ten rigs now and currently intend to operate between ten and twelve rigs in 2018, depending on market conditions. We will continue monitoring the ongoing commodity price environment and expect to retain the financial flexibility to adjust our drilling and completion plans in response to market conditions. We are prepared to decelerate our drilling program if commodity prices deteriorate and continue to accelerate our drilling program should commodity prices remain constant or further improve. We have the option to release up to eight of our current ten rigs in 2018 should commodity prices deteriorate.

### ***Oil and Natural Gas Data***

#### ***Proved Reserves***

##### *Evaluation and Review of Reserves*

Our historical reserve estimates as of December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 were prepared by Ryder Scott with respect to our assets and those of Viper. Ryder Scott is an independent petroleum engineering firm. The technical persons responsible for preparing our proved reserve estimates meet the requirements with regards to qualifications, independence, objectivity and confidentiality set forth in the Standards Pertaining to the Estimating and Auditing of Oil and Gas Reserves Information promulgated by the Society of Petroleum Engineers. Ryder Scott is a third-party engineering firm and does not own an interest in any of our properties and is not employed by us on a contingent basis.

Under SEC rules, proved reserves are those quantities of oil and natural gas that, by analysis of geoscience and engineering data, can be estimated with reasonable certainty to be economically producible from a given date forward, from known reservoirs and under existing economic conditions, operating methods and government regulations prior to the time at which contracts providing the right to operate expire, unless evidence indicates that renewal is reasonably certain, regardless of whether deterministic or probabilistic methods are used for the estimation. If deterministic methods are used, the SEC has defined reasonable certainty for proved reserves as a “high degree of confidence that the quantities will be recovered.” All of our proved reserves as of December 31, 2017 were estimated using a deterministic method. The estimation of reserves involves two distinct determinations. The first determination results in the estimation of the quantities of recoverable oil and gas and the second determination results in the estimation of the uncertainty associated with those estimated quantities in accordance with the definitions established under SEC rules. The process of estimating the quantities of recoverable oil and gas reserves relies on the use of certain generally accepted analytical procedures. These analytical procedures fall into three broad categories or methods: (1) performance-based methods, (2) volumetric-based methods and (3) analogy. These methods may be used singularly or in combination by the reserve evaluator in the process of estimating the quantities of reserves. The proved reserves for our properties were estimated by performance methods, analogy or a combination of both methods. Approximately 83% of the proved producing reserves attributable to producing wells were estimated by performance methods. These performance methods include, but may not be limited to, decline curve analysis, which utilized extrapolations of available historical production and pressure data. The remaining 17% of the proved producing reserves were estimated by analogy, or a combination of performance and analogy methods. The analogy method was used where there were inadequate historical performance data to establish a definitive trend and where the use of production performance data as a basis for the reserve estimates was considered to be inappropriate. All proved developed non-producing and undeveloped reserves were estimated by the analogy method.

To estimate economically recoverable proved reserves and related future net cash flows, Ryder Scott considered many factors and assumptions, including the use of reservoir parameters derived from geological, geophysical and engineering data which cannot be measured directly, economic criteria based on current costs and the SEC pricing requirements and forecasts of future production rates. To establish reasonable certainty with respect to our estimated proved reserves, the technologies and economic data used in the estimation of our proved reserves included production and well test data, downhole completion information, geologic data, electrical logs, radioactivity logs, core analyses, available seismic data and historical well cost and operating expense data.

We maintain an internal staff of petroleum engineers and geoscience professionals who worked closely with our independent reserve engineers to ensure the integrity, accuracy and timeliness of the data used to calculate our proved reserves relating to our assets in the Permian Basin. Our internal technical team members met with our independent reserve engineers periodically during the period covered by the reserve reports to discuss the assumptions and methods used in the proved reserve estimation process. We provide historical information to the independent reserve engineers for our properties such as ownership interest, oil and gas production, well test data, commodity prices and operating and development costs. Our Executive Vice President–Reservoir Engineering is primarily responsible for overseeing the preparation of all of our reserve estimates. Our Executive Vice President–Reservoir Engineering is a petroleum engineer with over 30 years of reservoir and operations experience and our geoscience staff has an average of approximately 24 years of industry experience per person. Our technical staff uses historical information for our properties such as ownership interest, oil and gas production, well test data, commodity prices and operating and development costs.

The preparation of our proved reserve estimates are completed in accordance with our internal control procedures. These procedures, which are intended to ensure reliability of reserve estimations, include the following:

- review and verification of historical production data, which data is based on actual production as reported by us;
- preparation of reserve estimates by our Executive Vice President–Reservoir Engineering or under his direct supervision;
- review by our Executive Vice President–Reservoir Engineering of all of our reported proved reserves at the close of each quarter, including the review of all significant reserve changes and all new proved undeveloped reserves additions;
- direct reporting responsibilities by our Executive Vice President–Reservoir Engineering to our Chief Executive Officer;
- verification of property ownership by our land department; and
- no employee’s compensation is tied to the amount of reserves booked.

The following table presents our estimated net proved oil and natural gas reserves as of December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 (including those attributable to Viper), based on the reserve reports prepared by Ryder Scott. Each reserve report has been prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. All of our proved reserves included in the reserve reports are located in the continental United States.

	<b>December 31,</b>		
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Estimated proved developed reserves:</b>			
Oil (MBbls)	141,246	79,457	60,569
Natural gas (MMcf)	190,740	105,399	96,871
Natural gas liquids (MBbls)	35,412	22,080	15,418
Total (MBOE)	208,447	119,104	92,132
<b>Estimated proved undeveloped reserves:</b>			
Oil (MBbls)	91,935	59,717	45,409
Natural gas (MMcf)	94,629	69,497	52,632
Natural gas liquids (MBbls)	19,198	15,054	10,586
Total (MBOE)	126,905	86,354	64,767
<b>Estimated Net Proved Reserves:</b>			
Oil (MBbls)	233,181	139,174	105,979
Natural gas (MMcf)	285,369	174,896	149,503
Natural gas liquids (MBbls)	54,610	37,134	26,004
Total (MBOE) <sup>(1)</sup>	335,352	205,458	156,899
Percent proved developed	62.2%	58.0%	58.7%

(1) Estimates of reserves as of December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 were prepared using an average price equal to the unweighted arithmetic average of hydrocarbon prices received on a field-by-field basis on the first day of each month within the 12-month periods ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively, in accordance with SEC guidelines applicable to reserves estimates as of the end of such periods. Reserve estimates do not include any value for probable or possible reserves that may exist, nor do they include any value for undeveloped acreage. The reserve estimates represent our net revenue interest in our properties. Although we believe these estimates are reasonable, actual future production, cash flows, taxes, development expenditures, operating expenses and quantities of recoverable oil and natural gas reserves may vary substantially from these estimates.

The foregoing reserves are all located within the continental United States. Reserve engineering is a subjective process of estimating volumes of economically recoverable oil and natural gas that cannot be measured in an exact manner. The accuracy of any reserve estimate is a function of the quality of available data and of engineering and geological interpretation. As a result, the estimates of different engineers often vary. In addition, the results of drilling, testing and production may justify revisions of such estimates. Accordingly, reserve estimates often differ from the quantities of oil and natural gas that are ultimately recovered. Estimates of economically recoverable oil and natural gas and of future net revenues are based on a number of variables and assumptions, all of which may vary from actual results, including geologic interpretation, prices and future production rates and costs. See Item 1A. "Risk Factors." We have not filed any estimates of total, proved net oil or natural gas reserves with any federal authority or agency other than the SEC.

#### ***Proved Undeveloped Reserves (PUDs)***

As of December 31, 2017, our proved undeveloped reserves totaled 91,935 MBbls of oil, 94,629 MMcf of natural gas and 19,198 MBbls of natural gas liquids, for a total of 126,905 MBOE. PUDs will be converted from undeveloped to developed as the applicable wells begin production.

The following table includes the changes in PUD reserves for 2017:

	(MBOE)
Beginning proved undeveloped reserves at December 31, 2016	86,354
Undeveloped reserves transferred to developed	(31,666)
Revisions	(4,710)
Net purchases	6,246
Extensions and discoveries	70,680
Ending proved undeveloped reserves at December 31, 2017	126,904

The increase in proved undeveloped reserves was primarily attributable to extensions of 67,676 MBOE from 87 gross (75 net) wells in which we have a working interest and 3,004 MBOE from 40 gross wells in which Viper owns royalty interests. Of the 87 gross wells, 26 were in the Delaware Basin. Transfers of 31,666 MBOE were the result of drilling or participating in 44 gross (37 net) horizontal wells in which we have a working interest and 27 gross wells in which we have a royalty interest or mineral interest through Viper. We own a working interest in 23 of the 27 gross Viper wells. Net purchases of 6,246 MBOE were primarily from our purchase in Pecos and Reeves counties. Downward revisions of 4,710 MBOE resulted from reclassification of seven locations and technical revisions.

Costs incurred relating to the development of PUDs were approximately \$145.4 million during 2017. Estimated future development costs relating to the development of PUDs are projected to be approximately \$595.4 million in 2018, \$205.6 million in 2019, \$171.2 million in 2020 and \$58.3 million in 2021. Since our current executive team assumed management control in 2011, our average drilling costs and drilling times have been reduced. As we continue to develop our properties and have more well production and completion data, we believe we will continue to realize cost savings and experience lower relative drilling and completion costs as we convert PUDs into proved developed reserves in upcoming years.

As of December 31, 2017, all of our proved undeveloped reserves are scheduled to be developed within five years from the date they were initially recorded.

As of December 31, 2017, none of our total proved reserves were classified as proved developed non-producing.

## Oil and Natural Gas Production Prices and Production Costs

### Production and Price History

The following table sets forth information regarding our net production of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids, all of which is from the Permian Basin in West Texas, and certain price and cost information for each of the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
<b>Production Data:</b>			
Oil (MBbls)	21,418	11,562	9,081
Natural gas (MMcf)	20,660	10,728	7,931
Natural gas liquids (MBbls)	4,056	2,399	1,678
Combined volumes (MBOE)	28,917	15,749	12,081
Daily combined volumes (BOE/d)	79,224	43,031	33,098
<b>Average Prices:</b>			
Oil (per Bbl)	\$ 48.75	\$ 40.70	\$ 44.68
Natural gas (per Mcf)	2.53	2.10	2.47
Natural gas liquids (per Bbl)	22.20	14.20	12.77
Combined (per BOE)	41.02	33.47	36.98
Oil, hedged (\$ per Bbl) <sup>(1)</sup>	48.94	40.80	60.63
Natural gas, hedged (\$ per MMBtu) <sup>(1)</sup>	2.65	2.06	2.47
Average price, hedged (\$ per BOE) <sup>(1)</sup>	41.26	33.54	48.97
<b>Average Costs per BOE:</b>			
Lease operating expense	\$ 4.38	\$ 5.23	\$ 6.84
Production and ad valorem taxes	2.54	2.19	2.73
Gathering and transportation expense	0.44	0.74	0.50
General and administrative - cash component	0.80	1.03	1.11
Total operating expense - cash	8.16	9.19	11.18
General and administrative - non-cash component	0.88	1.68	1.54
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	11.30	11.30	18.02
Interest expense	1.40	2.58	3.44
Total expenses	\$ 13.58	\$ 15.56	\$ 23.00

(1) Hedged prices reflect the effect of our commodity derivative transactions on our average sales prices. Our calculation of such effects include realized gains and losses on cash settlements for commodity derivatives, which we do not designate for hedge accounting.

### Productive Wells

As of December 31, 2017, we owned an average unweighted 80% working interest in 1,166 gross (937 net) productive wells and an average 2.7% royalty interest in 64 additional wells. Through our subsidiary Viper, we own an average unweighted 9.2% royalty or mineral interest in 1,287 productive wells. Productive wells consist of producing wells and wells capable of production, including natural gas wells awaiting pipeline connections to commence deliveries and oil wells awaiting connection to production facilities. Gross wells are the total number of producing wells in which we have an interest, and net wells are the sum of our fractional working interests owned in gross wells.



## Acreage

The following table sets forth information as of December 31, 2017 relating to our leasehold acreage:

Basin	Developed Acreage <sup>(1)</sup>		Undeveloped Acreage <sup>(2)</sup>		Total Acreage <sup>(3)</sup>	
	Gross <sup>(4)</sup>	Net <sup>(5)</sup>	Gross <sup>(4)</sup>	Net <sup>(5)</sup>	Gross <sup>(4)</sup>	Net <sup>(5)</sup>
Delaware	58,444	49,919	69,982	54,800	128,426	104,719
Midland	84,325	69,641	33,261	32,300	117,586	101,941
Total	142,769	119,560	103,243	87,100	246,012	206,660

- (1) Developed acres are acres spaced or assigned to productive wells and do not include undrilled acreage held by production under the terms of the lease. Large portions of the acreage that are considered developed under SEC guidelines are developed with vertical wells or horizontal wells that are in a single horizon. We believe much of this acreage has significant remaining development potential in one or more intervals with horizontal wells.
- (2) Undeveloped acres are acres on which wells have not been drilled or completed to a point that would permit the production of commercial quantities of oil or natural gas, regardless of whether such acreage contains proved reserves.
- (3) Does not include Viper's mineral interests but does include leasehold acres that we own underlying our mineral interests.
- (4) A gross acre is an acre in which a working interest is owned. The number of gross acres is the total number of acres in which a working interest is owned.
- (5) A net acre is deemed to exist when the sum of the fractional ownership working interests in gross acres equals one. The number of net acres is the sum of the fractional working interests owned in gross acres expressed as whole numbers and fractions thereof.

### Undeveloped acreage expirations

Many of the leases comprising the undeveloped acreage set forth in the table above will expire at the end of their respective primary terms unless production from the leasehold acreage has been established prior to such date, in which event the lease will remain in effect until the cessation of production. The following table sets forth the gross and net undeveloped acreage, as of December 31, 2017, that will expire over the next five years unless production is established within the spacing units covering the acreage or the lease is renewed or extended under continuous drilling provisions prior to the primary term expiration dates.

Basin	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Delaware	28,572	22,198	31,091	19,415	13,097	1,286	3,639	719	—	—
Midland	897	715	908	255	19,678	18,933	—	—	—	—
Total	29,469	22,913	31,999	19,670	32,775	20,219	3,639	719	—	—

### ***Drilling Results***

The following table sets forth information with respect to the number of wells completed during the periods indicated. Each of these wells was drilled in the Permian Basin of West Texas. The information should not be considered indicative of future performance, nor should it be assumed that there is necessarily any correlation between the number of productive wells drilled, quantities of reserves found or economic value. Productive wells are those that produce commercial quantities of hydrocarbons, whether or not they produce a reasonable rate of return.

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2017		2016		2015	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Development:						
Productive	27	23	6	3	8	6
Dry	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exploratory:						
Productive	112	84	82	62	71	57
Dry	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total:						
Productive	139	107	88	65	79	63
Dry	—	—	—	—	—	—

As of December 31, 2017, we had 83 gross (66 net) wells in the process of drilling, completing or dewatering or shut in awaiting infrastructure that are not reflected in the above table.

### ***Title to Properties***

As is customary in the oil and natural gas industry, we initially conduct only a cursory review of the title to our properties. At such time as we determine to conduct drilling operations on those properties, we conduct a thorough title examination and perform curative work with respect to significant defects prior to commencement of drilling operations. To the extent title opinions or other investigations reflect title defects on those properties, we are typically responsible for curing any title defects at our expense. We generally will not commence drilling operations on a property until we have cured any material title defects on such property. We have obtained title opinions on substantially all of our producing properties and believe that we have satisfactory title to our producing properties in accordance with standards generally accepted in the oil and natural gas industry. Prior to completing an acquisition of producing oil and natural gas leases, we perform title reviews on the most significant leases and, depending on the materiality of properties, we may obtain a title opinion, obtain an updated title review or opinion or review previously obtained title opinions. Our oil and natural gas properties are subject to customary royalty and other interests, liens for current taxes and other burdens which we believe do not materially interfere with the use of or affect our carrying value of the properties.

### ***Marketing and Customers***

We typically sell production to a relatively small number of customers, as is customary in the exploration, development and production business. For the year ended December 31, 2017, three purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (31%); Koch Supply & Trading LP (19%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (11%). For the year ended December 31, 2016, three purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (45%); Koch Supply & Trading LP (15%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (13%). For the year ended December 31, 2015, two purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (59%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (15%). No other customer accounted for more than 10% of our revenue during these periods. If a major customer decided to stop purchasing oil and natural gas from us, revenue could decline and our operating results and financial condition could be harmed.

We have entered into an oil purchase agreement with Shell Trading (US) Company in which we agreed to sell specified quantities of oil to Shell Trading (US) Company. Our agreement with Shell Trading (US) Company has an initial term of five years ending September 30, 2018. The agreement may also be terminated by Shell Trading (US) Company by written notice to us in the event that Shell Trading (US) Company's contract for transportation on the pipeline is terminated. Our maximum delivery obligation under this agreement is 8,000 gross barrels per day. We have a one-time right to elect to decrease the contract quantity by not more than 20% of the then-current quantity. This decreased contract quantity, if elected, would be effective for

the remainder of the term of the agreement. Shell Trading (US) Company has agreed to pay to us the price per barrel of oil based on the arithmetic average of the daily settlement price for "Light Sweet Crude Oil" Prompt Month future contracts reported by the NYMEX over the one-month period, as adjusted based on adjustment formulas specified in the agreement. If we fail to deliver the required quantities of oil under the agreement during any three-month period following the service commencement date, we have agreed to pay Shell Trading (US) Company a deficiency payment, which is calculated by multiplying (i) the volume of oil that we failed to deliver as required under the agreement during such period by (ii) Magellan's Longhorn Spot tariff rate in effect for transportation from Crane, Texas to the Houston Ship Channel for the period of time for which such deficiency volume is calculated.

### Competition

The oil and natural gas industry is intensely competitive, and we compete with other companies that have greater resources. Many of these companies not only explore for and produce oil and natural gas, but also carry on midstream and refining operations and market petroleum and other products on a regional, national or worldwide basis. These companies may be able to pay more for productive oil and natural gas properties and exploratory prospects or to define, evaluate, bid for and purchase a greater number of properties and prospects than our financial or human resources permit. In addition, these companies may have a greater ability to continue exploration activities during periods of low oil and natural gas market prices. Our larger or more integrated competitors may be able to absorb the burden of existing, and any changes to, federal, state and local laws and regulations more easily than we can, which would adversely affect our competitive position. Our ability to acquire additional properties and to discover reserves in the future will be dependent upon our ability to evaluate and select suitable properties and to consummate transactions in a highly competitive environment. In addition, because we have fewer financial and human resources than many companies in our industry, we may be at a disadvantage in bidding for exploratory prospects and producing oil and natural gas properties. Further, oil and natural gas compete with other forms of energy available to customers, primarily based on price. These alternate forms of energy include electricity, coal and fuel oils. Changes in the availability or price of oil and natural gas or other forms of energy, as well as business conditions, conservation, legislation, regulations and the ability to convert to alternate fuels and other forms of energy may affect the demand for oil and natural gas.

### Transportation

During the initial development of our fields we evaluate all gathering and delivery infrastructure in the areas of our production. Currently, a majority of our production in the Midland Basin is transported to purchasers by pipeline. We anticipate that our production in the Delaware Basin transported to purchasers by pipeline will increase to 80% by the end of 2018. During 2018, several oil and saltwater disposal gathering systems were installed. We believe that these gathering systems will help us reduce our lease operating expense and improve our margins on sales in future periods.

The following table presents the average percentage of produced oil sold by pipeline and the average percentage of produced water connected to saltwater disposals by pipeline:

	Midland Basin	Delaware Basin	Total
% of produced oil sold by pipeline	93%	22%	80%
% of produced water connected to pipeline	93%	87%	91%

The following table presents the average cost per Bbl to transport produced oil and water by truck and by pipeline as well as the average savings of transporting produced oil and water by pipeline versus truck:

	Midland Basin		Delaware Basin	
Oil transportation costs per Bbl:				
Trucked	\$	1.84	\$	2.28
Pipeline	\$	1.09	\$	1.31
Average savings	\$	0.75	\$	0.97
Water transportation costs per Bbl:				
Trucked	\$	2.08	\$	1.86
Pipeline	\$	0.23	\$	0.39
Average savings	\$	1.85	\$	1.47

## **Oil and Natural Gas Leases**

The typical oil and natural gas lease agreement covering our properties provides for the payment of royalties to the mineral owner for all oil and natural gas produced from any wells drilled on the leased premises. The lessor royalties and other leasehold burdens on our properties generally range from 12.50% to 25.00%, resulting in a net revenue interest to us generally ranging from 75.00% to 87.50%.

## **Seasonal Nature of Business**

Generally, demand for oil increases during the summer months and decreases during the winter months while natural gas decreases during the summer months and increases during the winter months. Certain natural gas users utilize natural gas storage facilities and purchase some of their anticipated winter requirements during the summer, which can lessen seasonal demand fluctuations. Seasonal weather conditions and lease stipulations can limit our drilling and producing activities and other oil and natural gas operations in a portion of our operating areas. These seasonal anomalies can pose challenges for meeting our well drilling objectives and can increase competition for equipment, supplies and personnel during the spring and summer months, which could lead to shortages and increase costs or delay operations.

## **Regulation**

Oil and natural gas operations such as ours are subject to various types of legislation, regulation and other legal requirements enacted by governmental authorities. This legislation and regulation affecting the oil and natural gas industry is under constant review for amendment or expansion. Some of these requirements carry substantial penalties for failure to comply. The regulatory burden on the oil and natural gas industry increases our cost of doing business and, consequently, affects our profitability.

## ***Environmental Matters and Regulation***

Our oil and natural gas exploration, development and production operations are subject to stringent laws and regulations governing the discharge of materials into the environment or otherwise relating to environmental protection. Numerous federal, state and local governmental agencies, such as the EPA, issue regulations that often require difficult and costly compliance measures that carry substantial administrative, civil and criminal penalties and may result in injunctive obligations for non-compliance. These laws and regulations may require the acquisition of a permit before drilling commences, restrict the types, quantities and concentrations of various substances that can be released into the environment in connection with drilling and production activities, limit or prohibit construction or drilling activities on certain lands lying within wilderness, wetlands, ecologically or seismically sensitive areas, and other protected areas, require action to prevent or remediate pollution from current or former operations, such as plugging abandoned wells or closing pits, result in the suspension or revocation of necessary permits, licenses and authorizations, require that additional pollution controls be installed and impose substantial liabilities for pollution resulting from our operations or related to our owned or operated facilities. Liability under such laws and regulations is often strict (i.e., no showing of “fault” is required) and can be joint and several. Moreover, it is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury and property damage allegedly caused by the release of hazardous substances, hydrocarbons or other waste products into the environment. Changes in environmental laws and regulations occur frequently, and any changes that result in more stringent and costly pollution control or waste handling, storage, transport, disposal or cleanup requirements could materially adversely affect our operations and financial position, as well as the oil and natural gas industry in general. Our management believes that we are in substantial compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations and we have not experienced any material adverse effect from compliance with these environmental requirements. This trend, however, may not continue in the future.

***Waste Handling.*** The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended, and comparable state statutes and regulations promulgated thereunder, affect oil and natural gas exploration, development and production activities by imposing requirements regarding the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, disposal and cleanup of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. With federal approval, the individual states administer some or all of the provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, sometimes in conjunction with their own, more stringent requirements. Although most wastes associated with the exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas are exempt from regulation as hazardous wastes under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, such wastes may constitute “solid wastes” that are subject to the less stringent non-hazardous waste requirements. Moreover, the EPA or state or local governments may adopt more stringent requirements for the handling of non-hazardous wastes or categorize some non-hazardous wastes as hazardous for future regulation. Indeed, legislation has been proposed from time to time in Congress to re-categorize certain oil and natural gas exploration, development and production wastes as “hazardous wastes.” Also, in December 2016, the EPA agreed in a consent decree to review its regulation of oil and gas waste. It has until March 2019 to determine whether any revisions are necessary. Any such changes in the laws and regulations could have a material adverse effect on our capital expenditures and operating expenses.

Administrative, civil and criminal penalties can be imposed for failure to comply with waste handling requirements. We believe that we are in substantial compliance with applicable requirements related to waste handling, and that we hold all necessary and up-to-date permits, registrations and other authorizations to the extent that our operations require them under such laws and regulations. Although we do not believe the current costs of managing our wastes, as presently classified, to be significant, any legislative or regulatory reclassification of oil and natural gas exploration and production wastes could increase our costs to manage and dispose of such wastes.

**Remediation of Hazardous Substances.** The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, as amended, which we refer to as CERCLA or the “Superfund” law, and analogous state laws, generally impose liability, without regard to fault or legality of the original conduct, on classes of persons who are considered to be responsible for the release of a “hazardous substance” into the environment. These persons include the current owner or operator of a contaminated facility, a former owner or operator of the facility at the time of contamination, and those persons that disposed or arranged for the disposal of the hazardous substance at the facility. Under CERCLA and comparable state statutes, persons deemed “responsible parties” are subject to strict liability that, in some circumstances, may be joint and several for the costs of removing or remediating previously disposed wastes (including wastes disposed of or released by prior owners or operators) or property contamination (including groundwater contamination), for damages to natural resources and for the costs of certain health studies. In addition, it is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury and property damage allegedly caused by the hazardous substances released into the environment. In the course of our operations, we use materials that, if released, would be subject to CERCLA and comparable state statutes. Therefore, governmental agencies or third parties may seek to hold us responsible under CERCLA and comparable state statutes for all or part of the costs to clean up sites at which such “hazardous substances” have been released.

**Water Discharges.** The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, as amended, also known as the “Clean Water Act,” the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Oil Pollution Act and analogous state laws and regulations promulgated thereunder impose restrictions and strict controls regarding the unauthorized discharge of pollutants, including produced waters and other gas and oil wastes, into navigable waters of the United States, as well as state waters. The discharge of pollutants into regulated waters is prohibited, except in accordance with the terms of a permit issued by the EPA or the state. Spill prevention, control and countermeasure plan requirements under federal law require appropriate containment berms and similar structures to help prevent the contamination of navigable waters in the event of a petroleum hydrocarbon tank spill, rupture or leak. The Clean Water Act and regulations implemented thereunder also prohibit the discharge of dredge and fill material into regulated waters, including jurisdictional wetlands, unless authorized by an appropriately issued permit. On June 29, 2015, the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or the USACE, jointly promulgated final rules redefining the scope of waters protected under the Clean Water Act. To the extent the rule expands the range of properties subject to the Clean Water Act’s jurisdiction, we could face increased costs and delays with respect to obtaining permits for dredge and fill activities in wetland areas. Following its promulgation, numerous states and industry groups challenged the rule and, on October 9, 2015, a federal court stayed the rule’s implementation nationwide, pending further action in court. In response to this decision, the EPA and the USACE have resumed nationwide use of the agencies’ prior regulations defining the term “waters of the United States.” Further, on February 28, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order directing the relevant executive agencies to review the rules and to initiate rulemaking to rescind or revise them, as appropriate under the stated policies of protecting navigable waters from pollution while promoting economic growth, reducing uncertainty, and showing due regard for Congress and the states. On July 27, 2017, the EPA and the USACE published a proposed rule to rescind the 2015 rules, and, on November 22, 2017, the agencies published a proposed rule to maintain the status quo pending the agencies review of the 2015 rules.

The EPA has also adopted regulations requiring certain oil and natural gas exploration and production facilities to obtain individual permits or coverage under general permits for storm water discharges. In addition, on June 28, 2016, the EPA published a final rule prohibiting the discharge of wastewater from onshore unconventional oil and gas extraction facilities to publicly owned wastewater treatment plants, which regulations are discussed in more detail below under the caption “–Regulation of Hydraulic Fracturing.” Costs may be associated with the treatment of wastewater or developing and implementing storm water pollution prevention plans, as well as for monitoring and sampling the storm water runoff from certain of our facilities. Some states also maintain groundwater protection programs that require permits for discharges or operations that may impact groundwater conditions.

The Oil Pollution Act is the primary federal law for oil spill liability. The Oil Pollution Act contains numerous requirements relating to the prevention of and response to petroleum releases into waters of the United States, including the requirement that operators of offshore facilities and certain onshore facilities near or crossing waterways must develop and maintain facility response contingency plans and maintain certain significant levels of financial assurance to cover potential environmental cleanup and restoration costs. The Oil Pollution Act subjects owners of facilities to strict liability that, in some circumstances, may be joint and several for all containment and cleanup costs and certain other damages arising from a release, including, but not limited to, the costs of responding to a release of oil to surface waters.

Non-compliance with the Clean Water Act or the Oil Pollution Act may result in substantial administrative, civil and criminal penalties, as well as injunctive obligations. We believe we are in material compliance with the requirements of each of these laws.

**Air Emissions.** The federal Clean Air Act, as amended, and comparable state laws and regulations, regulate emissions of various air pollutants through the issuance of permits and the imposition of other requirements. The EPA has developed, and continues to develop, stringent regulations governing emissions of air pollutants at specified sources. New facilities may be required to obtain permits before work can begin, and existing facilities may be required to obtain additional permits and incur capital costs in order to remain in compliance. For example, on August 16, 2012, the EPA published final regulations under the federal Clean Air Act that establish new emission controls for oil and natural gas production and processing operations, which regulations are discussed in more detail below in “–Regulation of Hydraulic Fracturing.” Also, on May 12, 2016, the EPA issued a final rule regarding the criteria for aggregating multiple small surface sites into a single source for air-quality permitting purposes applicable to the oil and gas industry. This rule could cause small facilities, on an aggregate basis, to be deemed a major source, thereby triggering more stringent air permitting processes and requirements. These laws and regulations may increase the costs of compliance for some facilities we own or operate, and federal and state regulatory agencies can impose administrative, civil and criminal penalties for non-compliance with air permits or other requirements of the federal Clean Air Act and associated state laws and regulations. We believe that we are in substantial compliance with all applicable air emissions regulations and that we hold all necessary and valid construction and operating permits for our operations. Obtaining or renewing permits has the potential to delay the development of oil and natural gas projects.

**Climate Change.** In December 2009, the EPA issued an Endangerment Finding that determined that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases present an endangerment to public health and the environment because, according to the EPA, emissions of such gases contribute to warming of the earth’s atmosphere and other climatic changes. In May 2010, the EPA adopted regulations establishing new greenhouse gas emissions thresholds that determine when stationary sources must obtain permits under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration, or PSD, and Title V programs of the Clean Air Act. On June 23, 2014, in *Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA*, the Supreme Court held that stationary sources could not become subject to PSD or Title V permitting solely by reason of their greenhouse gas emissions. The Court ruled, however, that the EPA may require installation of best available control technology for greenhouse gas emissions at sources otherwise subject to the PSD and Title V programs. On August 26, 2016, the EPA proposed changes needed to bring the EPA’s air permitting regulations in line with the Supreme Court’s decision on greenhouse gas permitting. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on October 3, 2016 and the public comment period closed on December 2, 2016.

Additionally, in September 2009, the EPA issued a final rule requiring the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from specified large greenhouse gas emission sources in the U.S., including natural gas liquids fractionators and local natural gas distribution companies, beginning in 2011 for emissions occurring in 2010. In November 2010, the EPA expanded the greenhouse gas reporting rule to include onshore and offshore oil and natural gas production and onshore processing, transmission, storage and distribution facilities, which may include certain of our facilities, beginning in 2012 for emissions occurring in 2011. In October 2015, the EPA amended the greenhouse gas reporting rule to add the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from gathering and boosting systems, completions and workovers of oil wells using hydraulic fracturing, and blowdowns of natural gas transmission pipelines.

In addition, the U.S. Congress has from time to time considered adopting legislation to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and almost one-half of the states have already taken legal measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases primarily through the planned development of greenhouse gas emission inventories and/or regional greenhouse gas cap and trade programs. Although the U.S. Congress has not adopted such legislation at this time, it may do so in the future and many states continue to pursue regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Most of these cap and trade programs work by requiring major sources of emissions, such as electric power plants, or major producers of fuels, such as refineries and gas processing plants, to acquire and surrender emission allowances corresponding with their annual emissions of greenhouse gases. The number of allowances available for purchase is reduced each year until the overall greenhouse gas emission reduction goal is achieved. As the number of greenhouse gas emission allowances declines each year, the cost or value of allowances is expected to escalate significantly.

At the international level, in December 2015, the United States participated in the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, France. The resulting Paris Agreement calls for the parties to undertake “ambitious efforts” to limit the average global temperature, and to conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases. The Agreement went into effect on November 4, 2016. The Agreement establishes a framework for the parties to cooperate and report actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, on June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris Agreement, and begin negotiations to either re-enter or negotiate an entirely new agreement with more favorable terms for the United States. The Paris Agreement sets forth a specific exit process, whereby a party may not provide notice of its withdrawal until three years from the effective date, with such withdrawal taking effect

one year from such notice. It is not clear what steps the Trump Administration plans to take to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, whether a new agreement can be negotiated, or what terms would be included in such an agreement. Furthermore, in response to the announcement, many state and local leaders have stated their intent to intensify efforts to uphold the commitments set forth in the international accord.

Restrictions on emissions of methane or carbon dioxide that may be imposed could adversely impact the demand for, price of, and value of our products and reserves. As our operations also emit greenhouse gases directly, current and future laws or regulations limiting such emissions could increase our own costs. At this time, it is not possible to accurately estimate how potential future laws or regulations addressing greenhouse gas emissions would impact our business.

In addition, there have also been efforts in recent years to influence the investment community, including investment advisors and certain sovereign wealth, pension and endowment funds promoting divestment of fossil fuel equities and pressuring lenders to limit funding to companies engaged in the extraction of fossil fuel reserves. Such environmental activism and initiatives aimed at limiting climate change and reducing air pollution could interfere with our business activities, operations and ability to access capital. Furthermore, claims have been made against certain energy companies alleging that greenhouse gas emissions from oil and natural gas operations constitute a public nuisance under federal and/or state common law. As a result, private individuals or public entities may seek to enforce environmental laws and regulations against us and could allege personal injury, property damages or other liabilities. While our business is not a party to any such litigation, we could be named in actions making similar allegations. An unfavorable ruling in any such case could significantly impact our operations and could have an adverse impact on our financial condition.

Moreover, there has been public discussion that climate change may be associated with extreme weather conditions such as more intense hurricanes, thunderstorms, tornadoes and snow or ice storms, as well as rising sea levels. Another possible consequence of climate change is increased volatility in seasonal temperatures. Some studies indicate that climate change could cause some areas to experience temperatures substantially hotter or colder than their historical averages. Extreme weather conditions can interfere with our production and increase our costs and damage resulting from extreme weather may not be fully insured. However, at this time, we are unable to determine the extent to which climate change may lead to increased storm or weather hazards affecting our operations.

### ***Regulation of Hydraulic Fracturing***

Hydraulic fracturing is an important common practice that is used to stimulate production of hydrocarbons, particularly natural gas, from tight formations, including shales. The process, which involves the injection of water, sand and chemicals under pressure into formations to fracture the surrounding rock and stimulate production, is typically regulated by state oil and natural gas commissions. However, legislation has been proposed in recent sessions of Congress to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the definition of “underground injection,” to require federal permitting and regulatory control of hydraulic fracturing, and to require disclosure of the chemical constituents of the fluids used in the fracturing process. Furthermore, several federal agencies have asserted regulatory authority over certain aspects of the process. For example, the EPA has taken the position that hydraulic fracturing with fluids containing diesel fuel is subject to regulation under the Underground Injection Control program, specifically as “Class II” Underground Injection Control wells under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In addition, the EPA previously announced its plans to develop a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by June 2018, which would describe a proposed mechanism - regulatory, voluntary, or a combination of both - to collect data on hydraulic fracturing chemical substances and mixtures. Also, on June 28, 2016, the EPA published a final rule prohibiting the discharge of wastewater from onshore unconventional oil and natural gas extraction facilities to publicly owned wastewater treatment plants. The EPA is also conducting a study of private wastewater treatment facilities (also known as centralized waste treatment, or CWT, facilities) accepting oil and natural gas extraction wastewater. The EPA is collecting data and information related to the extent to which CWT facilities accept such wastewater, available treatment technologies (and their associated costs), discharge characteristics, financial characteristics of CWT facilities, and the environmental impacts of discharges from CWT facilities.

On August 16, 2012, the EPA published final regulations under the federal Clean Air Act that establish new air emission controls for oil and natural gas production and natural gas processing operations. Specifically, the EPA’s rule package includes New Source Performance standards to address emissions of sulfur dioxide and volatile organic compounds and a separate set of emission standards to address hazardous air pollutants frequently associated with oil and natural gas production and processing activities. The final rules seek to achieve a 95% reduction in volatile organic compounds emitted by requiring the use of reduced emission completions or “green completions” on all hydraulically-fractured wells constructed or refractured after January 1, 2015. The rules also establish specific new requirements regarding emissions from compressors, controllers, dehydrators, storage tanks and other production equipment. The EPA received numerous requests for reconsideration of these rules from both industry and the environmental community, and court challenges to the rules were also filed. In response, the EPA has issued, and will

likely continue to issue, revised rules responsive to some of the requests for reconsideration. In particular, on May 12, 2016, the EPA amended its regulations to impose new standards for methane and volatile organic compounds emissions for certain new, modified, and reconstructed equipment, processes, and activities across the oil and natural gas sector. However, in a March 28, 2017 executive order, President Trump directed the EPA to review the 2016 regulations and, if appropriate, to initiate a rulemaking to rescind or revise them consistent with the stated policy of promoting clean and safe development of the nation's energy resources, while at the same time avoiding regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production. On June 16, 2017, the EPA published a proposed rule to stay for two years certain requirements of the 2016 regulations, including fugitive emission requirements. These standards, as well as any future laws and their implementing regulations, may require us to obtain pre-approval for the expansion or modification of existing facilities or the construction of new facilities expected to produce air emissions, impose stringent air permit requirements, or mandate the use of specific equipment or technologies to control emissions.

Furthermore, there are certain governmental reviews either underway or being proposed that focus on environmental aspects of hydraulic fracturing practices. On December 13, 2016, the EPA released a study examining the potential for hydraulic fracturing activities to impact drinking water resources, finding that, under some circumstances, the use of water in hydraulic fracturing activities can impact drinking water resources. Also, on February 6, 2015, the EPA released a report with findings and recommendations related to public concern about induced seismic activity from disposal wells. The report recommends strategies for managing and minimizing the potential for significant injection-induced seismic events. Other governmental agencies, including the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office, have evaluated or are evaluating various other aspects of hydraulic fracturing. These ongoing or proposed studies could spur initiatives to further regulate hydraulic fracturing, and could ultimately make it more difficult or costly for us to perform fracturing and increase our costs of compliance and doing business.

Several states, including Texas, and local jurisdictions, have adopted, or are considering adopting, regulations that could restrict or prohibit hydraulic fracturing in certain circumstances, impose more stringent operating standards and/or require the disclosure of the composition of hydraulic fracturing fluids. The Texas Legislature adopted legislation, effective September 1, 2011, requiring oil and gas operators to publicly disclose the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process. The Texas Railroad Commission adopted rules and regulations implementing this legislation that apply to all wells for which the Texas Railroad Commission issues an initial drilling permit after February 1, 2012. The law requires that the well operator disclose the list of chemical ingredients subject to the requirements of OSHA for disclosure on an internet website and also file the list of chemicals with the Texas Railroad Commission with the well completion report. The total volume of water used to hydraulically fracture a well must also be disclosed to the public and filed with the Texas Railroad Commission. Also, in May 2013, the Texas Railroad Commission adopted rules governing well casing, cementing and other standards for ensuring that hydraulic fracturing operations do not contaminate nearby water resources. The rules took effect in January 2014. Additionally, on October 28, 2014, the Texas Railroad Commission adopted disposal well rule amendments designed, among other things, to require applicants for new disposal wells that will receive non-hazardous produced water and hydraulic fracturing flowback fluid to conduct seismic activity searches utilizing the U.S. Geological Survey. The searches are intended to determine the potential for earthquakes within a circular area of 100 square miles around a proposed new disposal well. The disposal well rule amendments, which became effective on November 17, 2014, also clarify the Texas Railroad Commission's authority to modify, suspend or terminate a disposal well permit if scientific data indicates a disposal well is likely to contribute to seismic activity. The Texas Railroad Commission has used this authority to deny permits for waste disposal wells.

There has been increasing public controversy regarding hydraulic fracturing with regard to the use of fracturing fluids, induced seismic activity, impacts on drinking water supplies, use of water and the potential for impacts to surface water, groundwater and the environment generally. A number of lawsuits and enforcement actions have been initiated across the country implicating hydraulic fracturing practices. If new laws or regulations that significantly restrict hydraulic fracturing are adopted, such laws could make it more difficult or costly for us to perform fracturing to stimulate production from tight formations as well as make it easier for third parties opposing the hydraulic fracturing process to initiate legal proceedings based on allegations that specific chemicals used in the fracturing process could adversely affect groundwater. In addition, if hydraulic fracturing is further regulated at the federal, state or local level, our fracturing activities could become subject to additional permitting and financial assurance requirements, more stringent construction specifications, increased monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping obligations, plugging and abandonment requirements and also to attendant permitting delays and potential increases in costs. Such changes could cause us to incur substantial compliance costs, and compliance or the consequences of any failure to comply by us could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. At this time, it is not possible to estimate the impact on our business of newly enacted or potential federal, state or local laws governing hydraulic fracturing.

#### ***Other Regulation of the Oil and Natural Gas Industry***

The oil and natural gas industry is extensively regulated by numerous federal, state and local authorities. Legislation affecting the oil and natural gas industry is under constant review for amendment or expansion, frequently increasing the



regulatory burden. Also, numerous departments and agencies, both federal and state, are authorized by statute to issue rules and regulations that are binding on the oil and natural gas industry and its individual members, some of which carry substantial penalties for failure to comply. Although the regulatory burden on the oil and natural gas industry increases our cost of doing business and, consequently, affects our profitability, these burdens generally do not affect us any differently or to any greater or lesser extent than they affect other companies in the industry with similar types, quantities and locations of production.

The availability, terms and cost of transportation significantly affect sales of oil and natural gas. The interstate transportation and sale for resale of oil and natural gas is subject to federal regulation, including regulation of the terms, conditions and rates for interstate transportation, storage and various other matters, primarily by FERC. Federal and state regulations govern the price and terms for access to oil and natural gas pipeline transportation. FERC's regulations for interstate oil and natural gas transmission in some circumstances may also affect the intrastate transportation of oil and natural gas.

Although oil and natural gas prices are currently unregulated, Congress historically has been active in the area of oil and natural gas regulation. We cannot predict whether new legislation to regulate oil and natural gas might be proposed, what proposals, if any, might actually be enacted by Congress or the various state legislatures, and what effect, if any, the proposals might have on our operations. Sales of condensate and oil and natural gas liquids are not currently regulated and are made at market prices.

**Drilling and Production.** Our operations are subject to various types of regulation at the federal, state and local level. These types of regulation include requiring permits for the drilling of wells, drilling bonds and reports concerning operations. The state, and some counties and municipalities, in which we operate also regulate one or more of the following:

- the location of wells;
- the method of drilling and casing wells;
- the timing of construction or drilling activities, including seasonal wildlife closures;
- the rates of production or "allowables";
- the surface use and restoration of properties upon which wells are drilled;
- the plugging and abandoning of wells; and
- notice to, and consultation with, surface owners and other third parties.

State laws regulate the size and shape of drilling and spacing units or proration units governing the pooling of oil and natural gas properties. Some states allow forced pooling or integration of tracts to facilitate exploration while other states rely on voluntary pooling of lands and leases. In some instances, forced pooling or unitization may be implemented by third parties and may reduce our interest in the unitized properties. In addition, state conservation laws establish maximum rates of production from oil and natural gas wells, generally prohibit the venting or flaring of natural gas and impose requirements regarding the ratable production. These laws and regulations may limit the amount of oil and natural gas we can produce from our wells or limit the number of wells or the locations at which we can drill. Moreover, each state generally imposes a production or severance tax with respect to the production and sale of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids within its jurisdiction. States do not regulate wellhead prices or engage in other similar direct regulation, but we cannot assure you that they will not do so in the future. The effect of such future regulations may be to limit the amounts of oil and natural gas that may be produced from our wells, negatively affect the economics of production from these wells or to limit the number of locations we can drill.

Federal, state and local regulations provide detailed requirements for the plugging and abandonment of wells, closure or decommissioning of production facilities and pipelines and for site restoration in areas where we operate. Although the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not require bonds or other financial assurances, some state agencies and municipalities do have such requirements.

**Natural Gas Sales and Transportation.** Historically, federal legislation and regulatory controls have affected the price of the natural gas we produce and the manner in which we market our production. FERC has jurisdiction over the transportation and sale for resale of natural gas in interstate commerce by natural gas companies under the Natural Gas Act of 1938 and the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978. Since 1978, various federal laws have been enacted which have resulted in the complete removal of all price and non-price controls for sales of domestic natural gas sold in "first sales," which include all of our sales of our own production. Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, FERC has substantial enforcement authority to prohibit the manipulation of natural gas markets and enforce its rules and orders, including the ability to assess substantial civil penalties.

FERC also regulates interstate natural gas transportation rates and service conditions and establishes the terms under which we may use interstate natural gas pipeline capacity, which affects the marketing of natural gas that we produce, as well as the revenues we receive for sales of our natural gas and release of our natural gas pipeline capacity. Commencing in 1985, FERC promulgated a series of orders, regulations and rule makings that significantly fostered competition in the business of transporting and marketing gas. Today, interstate pipeline companies are required to provide nondiscriminatory transportation services to producers, marketers and other shippers, regardless of whether such shippers are affiliated with an interstate pipeline company. FERC's initiatives have led to the development of a competitive, open access market for natural gas purchases and sales that permits all purchasers of natural gas to buy gas directly from third-party sellers other than pipelines. However, the natural gas industry historically has been very heavily regulated; therefore, we cannot guarantee that the less stringent regulatory approach currently pursued by FERC and Congress will continue indefinitely into the future nor can we determine what effect, if any, future regulatory changes might have on our natural gas related activities.

Under FERC's current regulatory regime, transmission services are provided on an open-access, non-discriminatory basis at cost-based rates or negotiated rates. Gathering service, which occurs upstream of jurisdictional transmission services, is regulated by the states onshore and in state waters. Although its policy is still in flux, FERC has in the past reclassified certain jurisdictional transmission facilities as non-jurisdictional gathering facilities, which has the tendency to increase our costs of transporting gas to point-of-sale locations.

**Oil Sales and Transportation.** Sales of crude oil, condensate and natural gas liquids are not currently regulated and are made at negotiated prices. Nevertheless, Congress could reenact price controls in the future.

Our crude oil sales are affected by the availability, terms and cost of transportation. The transportation of oil in common carrier pipelines is also subject to rate regulation. FERC regulates interstate oil pipeline transportation rates under the Interstate Commerce Act and intrastate oil pipeline transportation rates are subject to regulation by state regulatory commissions. The basis for intrastate oil pipeline regulation, and the degree of regulatory oversight and scrutiny given to intrastate oil pipeline rates, varies from state to state. Insofar as effective interstate and intrastate rates are equally applicable to all comparable shippers, we believe that the regulation of oil transportation rates will not affect our operations in any materially different way than such regulation will affect the operations of our competitors.

Further, interstate and intrastate common carrier oil pipelines must provide service on a non-discriminatory basis. Under this open access standard, common carriers must offer service to all shippers requesting service on the same terms and under the same rates. When oil pipelines operate at full capacity, access is governed by prorationing provisions set forth in the pipelines' published tariffs. Accordingly, we believe that access to oil pipeline transportation services generally will be available to us to the same extent as to our competitors.

**State Regulation.** Texas regulates the drilling for, and the production, gathering and sale of, oil and natural gas, including imposing severance taxes and requirements for obtaining drilling permits. Texas currently imposes a 4.6% severance tax on oil production and a 7.5% severance tax on natural gas production. States also regulate the method of developing new fields, the spacing and operation of wells and the prevention of waste of oil and natural gas resources. States may regulate rates of production and may establish maximum daily production allowables from oil and natural gas wells based on market demand or resource conservation, or both. States do not regulate wellhead prices or engage in other similar direct economic regulation, but we cannot assure you that they will not do so in the future. The effect of these regulations may be to limit the amount of oil and natural gas that may be produced from our wells and to limit the number of wells or locations we can drill.

The petroleum industry is also subject to compliance with various other federal, state and local regulations and laws. Some of those laws relate to resource conservation and equal employment opportunity. We do not believe that compliance with these laws will have a material adverse effect on us.

### **Operational Hazards and Insurance**

The oil and natural gas industry involves a variety of operating risks, including the risk of fire, explosions, blow outs, pipe failures and, in some cases, abnormally high pressure formations which could lead to environmental hazards such as oil spills, natural gas leaks and the discharge of toxic gases. If any of these should occur, we could incur legal defense costs and could be required to pay amounts due to injury, loss of life, damage or destruction to property, natural resources and equipment, pollution or environmental damage, regulatory investigation and penalties and suspension of operations.

In accordance with what we believe to be industry practice, we maintain insurance against some, but not all, of the operating risks to which our business is exposed. We currently have insurance policies for onshore property (oil lease property/production equipment) for selected locations, rig physical damage protection, control of well protection for selected wells,

comprehensive general liability, commercial automobile, workers compensation, pollution liability (claims made coverage with a policy retroactive date), excess umbrella liability and other coverage.

Our insurance is subject to exclusion and limitations, and there is no assurance that such coverage will fully or adequately protect us against liability from all potential consequences, damages and losses. Any of these operational hazards could cause a significant disruption to our business. A loss not fully covered by insurance could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. See Item 1A. “Risk Factors—Risks Related to the Oil and Natural Gas Industry and Our Business—Operating hazards and uninsured risks may result in substantial losses and could prevent us from realizing profits.”

We reevaluate the purchase of insurance, policy terms and limits annually. Future insurance coverage for our industry could increase in cost and may include higher deductibles or retentions. In addition, some forms of insurance may become unavailable in the future or unavailable on terms that we believe are economically acceptable. No assurance can be given that we will be able to maintain insurance in the future at rates that we consider reasonable and we may elect to maintain minimal or no insurance coverage. We may not be able to secure additional insurance or bonding that might be required by new governmental regulations. This may cause us to restrict our operations, which might severely impact our financial position. The occurrence of a significant event, not fully insured against, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Generally, we also require our third party vendors to sign master service agreements in which they agree to indemnify us for injuries and deaths of the service provider’s employees as well as contractors and subcontractors hired by the service provider.

### **Employees**

As of December 31, 2017, we had approximately 251 full time employees. None of our employees are represented by labor unions or covered by any collective bargaining agreements. We also hire independent contractors and consultants involved in land, technical, regulatory and other disciplines to assist our full time employees.

### **Facilities**

Our corporate headquarters is located in Midland, Texas. We also lease additional office space in Midland and in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We believe that our facilities are adequate for our current operations.

### **Availability of Company Reports**

Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and all amendments to those reports are available free of charge on the Investor Relations page of our website at [www.diamondbackenergy.com](http://www.diamondbackenergy.com) as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. Information contained on, or connected to, our website is not incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K and should not be considered part of this or any other report that we file with or furnish to the SEC.

## ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

*The nature of our business activities subjects us to certain hazards and risks. The following is a summary of some of the material risks relating to our business activities. Other risks are described in Item 1. "Business and Properties" and Item 7A. "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk." These risks are not the only risks we face. We could also face additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to the Company or that we currently deem to be immaterial. If any of these risks actually occurs, it could materially harm our business, financial condition or results of operations and the trading price of our shares could decline.*

### **Risks Related to the Oil and Natural Gas Industry and Our Business**

*Market conditions for oil and natural gas, and particularly volatility in prices for oil and natural gas, have in the past adversely affected, and may in the future adversely affect, our revenue, cash flows, profitability, growth, production and the present value of our estimated reserves.*

Our revenues, operating results, profitability, future rate of growth and the carrying value of our oil and natural gas properties depend significantly upon the prevailing prices for oil and natural gas. Historically, oil and natural gas prices have been volatile and are subject to fluctuations in response to changes in supply and demand, market uncertainty and a variety of additional factors that are beyond our control, including:

- the domestic and foreign supply of oil and natural gas;
- the level of prices and expectations about future prices of oil and natural gas;
- the level of global oil and natural gas exploration and production;
- the cost of exploring for, developing, producing and delivering oil and natural gas;
- the price and quantity of foreign imports;
- political and economic conditions in oil producing countries, including the Middle East, Africa, South America and Russia;
- the ability of members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to agree to and maintain oil price and production controls;
- speculative trading in crude oil and natural gas derivative contracts;
- the level of consumer product demand;
- weather conditions and other natural disasters;
- risks associated with operating drilling rigs;
- technological advances affecting energy consumption;
- the price and availability of alternative fuels;
- domestic and foreign governmental regulations and taxes;
- the continued threat of terrorism and the impact of military and other action, including U.S. military operations in the Middle East;
- the proximity, cost, availability and capacity of oil and natural gas pipelines and other transportation facilities; and
- overall domestic and global economic conditions.

These factors and the volatility of the energy markets make it extremely difficult to predict future oil and natural gas price movements with any certainty. During the past five years, the posted price for West Texas intermediate light sweet crude oil, which we refer to as West Texas Intermediate or WTI, has ranged from a low of \$26.19 per barrel, or Bbl, in February 2016

to a high of \$110.62 per Bbl in September 2013. The Henry Hub spot market price of natural gas has ranged from a low of \$1.49 per MMBtu in March 2016 to a high of \$8.15 per MMBtu in February 2014. During 2017, WTI prices ranged from \$42.48 to \$60.46 per Bbl and the Henry Hub spot market price of natural gas ranged from \$2.44 to \$3.71 per MMBtu. On January 29, 2018, the WTI posted price for crude oil was \$65.71 per Bbl and the Henry Hub spot market price of natural gas was \$3.60 per MMBtu, representing increases of 9% and 3%, respectively, from the high of \$60.46 per Bbl of oil and \$3.71 per MMBtu for natural gas during 2017. If the prices of oil and natural gas decline, our operations, financial condition and level of expenditures for the development of our oil and natural gas reserves may be materially and adversely affected.

In addition, lower oil and natural gas prices may reduce the amount of oil and natural gas that we can produce economically. This may result in our having to make substantial downward adjustments to our estimated proved reserves. If this occurs or if our production estimates change or our exploration or development activities are curtailed, full cost accounting rules may require us to write down, as a non-cash charge to earnings, the carrying value of our oil and natural gas properties. Reductions in our reserves could also negatively impact the borrowing base under our revolving credit facility, which could further limit our liquidity and ability to conduct additional exploration and development activities.

***Concerns over general economic, business or industry conditions may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, liquidity and financial condition.***

Concerns over global economic conditions, energy costs, geopolitical issues, inflation, the availability and cost of credit, the European, Asian and the United States financial markets have in the past contributed, and may in the future contribute, to economic uncertainty and diminished expectations for the global economy. In addition, continued hostilities in the Middle East and the occurrence or threat of terrorist attacks in the United States or other countries could adversely affect the global economy. These factors, combined with volatility in commodity prices, business and consumer confidence and unemployment rates, may precipitate an economic slowdown. Concerns about global economic growth may have an adverse impact on global financial markets and commodity prices. If the economic climate in the United States or abroad deteriorates, worldwide demand for petroleum products could diminish, which could impact the price at which we can sell our production, affect the ability of our vendors, suppliers and customers to continue operations and ultimately adversely impact our results of operations, liquidity and financial condition.

***A significant portion of our net leasehold acreage is undeveloped, and that acreage may not ultimately be developed or become commercially productive, which could cause us to lose rights under our leases as well as have a material adverse effect on our oil and natural gas reserves and future production and, therefore, our future cash flow and income.***

A significant portion of our net leasehold acreage is undeveloped, or acreage on which wells have not been drilled or completed to a point that would permit the production of commercial quantities of oil and natural gas regardless of whether such acreage contains proved reserves. In addition, many of our oil and natural gas leases require us to drill wells that are commercially productive, and if we are unsuccessful in drilling such wells, we could lose our rights under such leases. Our future oil and natural gas reserves and production and, therefore, our future cash flow and income are highly dependent on successfully developing our undeveloped leasehold acreage.

***Our development and exploration operations and our ability to complete acquisitions require substantial capital and we may be unable to obtain needed capital or financing on satisfactory terms or at all, which could lead to a loss of properties and a decline in our oil and natural gas reserves.***

The oil and natural gas industry is capital intensive. We make and expect to continue to make substantial capital expenditures in our business and operations for the exploration for and development, production and acquisition of oil and natural gas reserves. In 2017, our total capital expenditures, including expenditures for leasehold acquisitions, drilling and infrastructure, were approximately \$3.2 billion. Our 2018 capital budget for drilling, completion and infrastructure, including investments in water disposal infrastructure and gathering line projects, is currently estimated to be approximately \$1.3 billion to \$1.5 billion, representing an increase of 60% over our 2017 capital budget. Since completing our initial public offering in October 2012, we have financed capital expenditures primarily with borrowings under our revolving credit facility, cash generated by operations and the net proceeds from public offerings of our common stock and the senior notes.

We intend to finance our future capital expenditures with cash flow from operations, proceeds from offerings of our debt and equity securities and borrowings under our revolving credit facility. Our cash flow from operations and access to capital are subject to a number of variables, including:

- our proved reserves;
- the volume of oil and natural gas we are able to produce from existing wells;

- the prices at which our oil and natural gas are sold;
- our ability to acquire, locate and produce economically new reserves; and
- our ability to borrow under our credit facility.

We cannot assure you that our operations and other capital resources will provide cash in sufficient amounts to maintain planned or future levels of capital expenditures. Further, our actual capital expenditures in 2018 could exceed our capital expenditure budget. In the event our capital expenditure requirements at any time are greater than the amount of capital we have available, we could be required to seek additional sources of capital, which may include traditional reserve base borrowings, debt financing, joint venture partnerships, production payment financings, sales of assets, offerings of debt or equity securities or other means. We cannot assure you that we will be able to obtain debt or equity financing on terms favorable to us, or at all.

If we are unable to fund our capital requirements, we may be required to curtail our operations relating to the exploration and development of our prospects, which in turn could lead to a possible loss of properties and a decline in our oil and natural gas reserves, or we may be otherwise unable to implement our development plan, complete acquisitions or take advantage of business opportunities or respond to competitive pressures, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our production, revenues and results of operations. In addition, a delay in or the failure to complete proposed or future infrastructure projects could delay or eliminate potential efficiencies and related cost savings.

***Our success depends on finding, developing or acquiring additional reserves.***

Our future success depends upon our ability to find, develop or acquire additional oil and natural gas reserves that are economically recoverable. Our proved reserves will generally decline as reserves are depleted, except to the extent that we conduct successful exploration or development activities or acquire properties containing proved reserves, or both. To increase reserves and production, we undertake development, exploration and other replacement activities or use third parties to accomplish these activities. We have made, and expect to make in the future, substantial capital expenditures in our business and operations for the development, production, exploration and acquisition of oil and natural gas reserves. We may not have sufficient resources to acquire additional reserves or to undertake exploration, development, production or other replacement activities, such activities may not result in significant additional reserves and we may not have success drilling productive wells at low finding and development costs. If we are unable to replace our current production, the value of our reserves will decrease, and our business, financial condition and results of operations would be adversely affected. Furthermore, although our revenues may increase if prevailing oil and natural gas prices increase significantly, our finding costs for additional reserves could also increase.

***Our failure to successfully identify, complete and integrate pending and future acquisitions of properties or businesses could reduce our earnings and slow our growth.***

There is intense competition for acquisition opportunities in our industry. The successful acquisition of producing properties requires an assessment of several factors, including:

- recoverable reserves;
- future oil and natural gas prices and their applicable differentials;
- operating costs; and
- potential environmental and other liabilities.

The accuracy of these assessments is inherently uncertain and we may not be able to identify attractive acquisition opportunities. In connection with these assessments, we perform a review of the subject properties that we believe to be generally consistent with industry practices. Our review will not reveal all existing or potential problems nor will it permit us to become sufficiently familiar with the properties to assess fully their deficiencies and capabilities. Inspections may not always be performed on every well, and environmental problems, such as groundwater contamination, are not necessarily observable even when an inspection is undertaken. Even when problems are identified, the seller may be unwilling or unable to provide effective contractual protection against all or part of the problems. Even if we do identify attractive acquisition opportunities, we may not be able to complete the acquisition or do so on commercially acceptable terms.

Competition for acquisitions may increase the cost of, or cause us to refrain from, completing acquisitions. Our ability to complete acquisitions is dependent upon, among other things, our ability to obtain debt and equity financing and, in some cases, regulatory approvals. Further, these acquisitions may be in geographic regions in which we do not currently operate, which could result in unforeseen operating difficulties and difficulties in coordinating geographically dispersed operations, personnel and facilities. In addition, if we enter into new geographic markets, we may be subject to additional and unfamiliar legal and regulatory requirements. Compliance with regulatory requirements may impose substantial additional obligations on us and our management, cause us to expend additional time and resources in compliance activities and increase our exposure to penalties or fines for non-compliance with such additional legal requirements. Further, the success of any completed acquisition will depend on our ability to integrate effectively the acquired business into our existing operations. The process of integrating acquired businesses may involve unforeseen difficulties and may require a disproportionate amount of our managerial and financial resources. In addition, possible future acquisitions may be larger and for purchase prices significantly higher than those paid for earlier acquisitions.

No assurance can be given that we will be able to identify additional suitable acquisition opportunities, negotiate acceptable terms, obtain financing for acquisitions on acceptable terms or successfully acquire identified targets. Our failure to achieve consolidation savings, to integrate the acquired businesses and assets into our existing operations successfully or to minimize any unforeseen operational difficulties could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. The inability to effectively manage the integration of acquisitions, including our recently completed and pending acquisitions, could reduce our focus on subsequent acquisitions and current operations, which, in turn, could negatively impact our earnings and growth. Our financial position and results of operations may fluctuate significantly from period to period, based on whether or not significant acquisitions are completed in particular periods.

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

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

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

It is our practice in acquiring oil and natural gas leases or interests not to incur the expense of retaining lawyers to examine the title to the mineral interest. Rather, we rely upon the judgment of oil and gas lease brokers or landmen who perform the fieldwork in examining records in the appropriate governmental office before attempting to acquire a lease in a specific mineral interest. The existence of a material title deficiency can render a lease worthless and can adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Prior to the drilling of an oil or natural gas well, however, it is the normal practice in our industry for the person or company acting as the operator of the well to obtain a preliminary title review to ensure there are no obvious defects in title to the well. Frequently, as a result of such examinations, certain curative work must be done to correct defects in the marketability of the title, and such curative work entails expense. Our failure to cure any title defects may delay or prevent us from utilizing the associated mineral interest, which may adversely impact our ability in the future to increase production and reserves. Additionally, undeveloped acreage has greater risk of title defects than developed acreage. If there are any title defects or defects in the assignment of leasehold rights in properties in which we hold an interest, we will suffer a financial loss.

***Our project areas, which are in various stages of development, may not yield oil or natural gas in commercially viable quantities.***

Our project areas are in various stages of development, ranging from project areas with current drilling or production activity to project areas that consist of recently acquired leasehold acreage or that have limited drilling or production history. From inception through December 31, 2017, we drilled a total of 412 gross horizontal wells and 262 gross vertical wells and participated in an additional 61 gross horizontal wells and 18 gross vertical non-operated wells, of which 670 wells were completed as producing wells and 83 wells were in various stages of completion. If future wells or the wells in the process of being completed do not produce sufficient revenues to return a profit or if we drill dry holes in the future, our business may be materially affected.

***Our identified potential drilling locations, which are part of our anticipated future drilling plans, are susceptible to uncertainties that could materially alter the occurrence or timing of their drilling.***

At an assumed price of approximately \$60.00 per Bbl WTI, we currently have approximately 3,800 gross (2,750 net) identified economic potential horizontal drilling locations in multiple horizons on our acreage. As of December 31, 2017, only 168 of our gross identified potential horizontal drilling locations were attributed to proved reserves. These drilling locations, including those without proved undeveloped reserves, represent a significant part of our growth strategy. Our ability to drill and develop these locations depends on a number of uncertainties, including the availability of capital, construction of infrastructure, inclement weather, regulatory changes and approvals, oil and natural gas prices, costs, drilling results and the availability of water. Further, our identified potential drilling locations are in various stages of evaluation, ranging from locations that are ready to drill to locations that will require substantial additional interpretation. In addition, we have identified approximately 873 horizontal drilling locations in intervals in which we have drilled very few or no wells, which are necessarily more speculative and based on results from other operators whose acreage may not be consistent with ours. We cannot predict in advance of drilling and testing whether any particular drilling location will yield oil or natural gas in sufficient quantities to recover drilling or completion costs or to be economically viable. The use of technologies and the study of producing fields in the same area will not enable us to know conclusively prior to drilling whether oil or natural gas will be present or, if present, whether oil or natural gas will be present in sufficient quantities to be economically viable. Even if sufficient amounts of oil or natural gas exist, we may damage the potentially productive hydrocarbon bearing formation or experience mechanical difficulties while drilling or completing the well, possibly resulting in a reduction in production from the well or abandonment of the well. If we drill additional wells that we identify as dry holes in our current and future drilling locations, our drilling success rate may decline and materially harm our business. Through December 31, 2017, we are the operator of or have participated in a total of 466 horizontal wells completed on our acreage, we cannot assure you that the analogies we draw from available data from these or other wells, more fully explored locations or producing fields will be applicable to our drilling locations. Further, initial production rates reported by us or other operators in the Permian Basin may not be indicative of future or long-term production rates. Because of these uncertainties, we do not know if the potential drilling locations we have identified will ever be drilled or if we will be able to produce oil or natural gas from these or any other potential drilling locations. As such, our actual drilling activities may materially differ from those presently identified, which could adversely affect our business.

***Multi-well pad drilling may result in volatility in our operating results.***

We utilize multi-well pad drilling where practical. Because wells drilled on a pad are not brought into production until all wells on the pad are drilled and completed and the drilling rig is moved from the location, multi-well pad drilling delays the commencement of production, which may cause volatility in our quarterly operating results.

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

Leases on oil and natural gas properties typically have a term of three to five years, after which they expire unless, prior to expiration, production is established within the spacing units covering the undeveloped acres. As of December 31, 2017, we had leases representing 22,913 net acres expiring in 2018, 19,670 net acres expiring in 2019, 20,219 net acres expiring in 2020, 719 net acres expiring in 2021 and no net acres expiring in 2022. The cost to renew such leases may increase significantly, and we may not be able to renew such leases on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Any reduction in our current drilling program, either through a reduction in capital expenditures or the unavailability of drilling rigs, could result in the loss of acreage through lease expirations. In addition, in order to hold our current leases expiring in 2018, we will need to operate at least a one-rig program. We cannot assure you that we will have the liquidity to deploy these rigs in this time frame, or that commodity prices will warrant operating such a drilling program. Any such losses of leases could materially and adversely affect the growth of our asset basis, cash flows and results of operations.

***We have entered into fixed price swap contracts, fixed price basis swap contracts and costless collars with corresponding put and call options and may in the future enter into forward sale contracts or additional fixed price swap, fixed price basis swap derivatives or costless collars for a portion of our production. Although we have hedged a portion of our estimated 2018 and 2019 production, we may still be adversely affected by continuing and prolonged declines in the price of oil.***

We use fixed price swap contracts, fixed price basis swap contracts and costless collars with corresponding put and call options to reduce price volatility associated with certain of our oil and natural gas sales. Under these swap contracts, we receive a fixed price per barrel of oil and pay a floating market price per barrel of oil to the counterparty based on NYMEX WTI pricing. The fixed-price payment and the floating-price payment are offset, resulting in a net amount due to or from the counterparty. Under the Company's costless collar contracts, we are required to make a payment to the counterparty if the settlement price for any settlement period is greater than the call option price. The counterparty is required to make a payment



to us if the settlement price for any settlement period is less than the put option price. These contracts and any future economic hedging arrangements may expose us to risk of financial loss in certain circumstances, including instances where production is less than expected or oil prices increase.

As of December 31, 2017, we had the following commodity contracts in place covering NYMEX WTI crude oil, Brent crude oil and NYMEX Henry Hub natural gas for the production period of January 2018 through December 2018:

- crude oil swap contracts priced at a weighted average price of \$51.10 WTI for 9,761,000 aggregate Bbls;
- crude oil swap contracts priced at a weighted average price of \$54.89 Brent for 1,830,000 aggregate Bbls;
- crude oil basis swap contracts priced at a weighted average price of \$0.88 for 5,475,000 aggregate Bbls for the spread between the WTI Midland price and the WTI Cushing price;
- natural gas swap contracts priced at a weighted average price of \$3.14 for 7,750,000 aggregate MMBtu; and
- crude oil costless collars contracts with a floor price of \$47.00 for 540,000 aggregate Bbls and a ceiling price of \$56.34 for 270,000 aggregate Bbls.

We have crude oil swap contracts priced at a weighted average price of \$49.82 WTI for 1,095,000 aggregate Bbls with a production period of January 2019 through December 2019. To the extent that the prices of oil and natural gas remain at current levels or decline further, we will not be able to economically hedge future production at the same level as our current hedges, and our results of operations and financial condition would be negatively impacted.

***Our derivative transactions expose us to counterparty credit risk.***

Our derivative transactions expose us to risk of financial loss if a counterparty fails to perform under a derivative contract. Disruptions in the financial markets could lead to sudden decreases in a counterparty's liquidity, which could make them unable to perform under the terms of the derivative contract and we may not be able to realize the benefit of the derivative contract.

***If production from our Permian Basin acreage decreases due to decreased developmental activities, production related difficulties or otherwise, we may fail to meet our obligations to deliver specified quantities of oil under our oil purchase contract, which will result in deficiency payments to the counterparty and may have an adverse effect on our operations.***

We are a party to an agreement with Shell Trading (US) Company under which we are obligated to deliver specified quantities of oil to Shell Trading (US) Company. Our maximum delivery obligation under this agreement is 8,000 gross barrels per day. We have a one-time right to decrease the contract quantity by not more than 20% of the then-current quantity. This decreased quantity, if elected, would be effective for the remainder of the term of the agreement. If production from our Permian Basin acreage decreases due to decreased developmental activities, as a result of the low commodity price environment, production related difficulties or otherwise, we may be unable to meet our obligations under the oil purchase agreement, which may result in deficiency payments to the counterparty and may have an adverse effect on our operations.

***The inability of one or more of our customers to meet their obligations may adversely affect our financial results.***

In addition to credit risk related to receivables from commodity derivative contracts, our principal exposure to credit risk is through receivables from joint interest owners on properties we operate (approximately \$73.0 million at December 31, 2017) and receivables from purchasers of our oil and natural gas production (approximately \$158.6 million at December 31, 2017). Joint interest receivables arise from billing entities that own partial interests in the wells we operate. These entities participate in our wells primarily based on their ownership in leases on which we wish to drill. We are generally unable to control which co-owners participate in our wells.

We are also subject to credit risk due to the concentration of our oil and natural gas receivables with several significant customers. For the year ended December 31, 2017, three purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (31%); Koch Supply & Trading LP (19%) and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (11%). For the year ended December 31, 2016, three purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (45%); Koch Supply & Trading LP (15%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (13%). For the year ended December 31, 2015, two purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (59%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (15%). No other customer accounted for more than 10% of our revenue during these periods. This concentration of customers may impact our overall credit risk in that these entities may be similarly affected by changes in economic and other conditions.

Current economic circumstances may further increase these risks. We do not require our customers to post collateral. The inability or failure of our significant customers or joint working interest owners to meet their obligations to us or their insolvency or liquidation may materially adversely affect our financial results.

***Our method of accounting for investments in oil and natural gas properties may result in impairment of asset value.***

We account for our oil and natural gas producing activities using the full cost method of accounting. Accordingly, all costs incurred in the acquisition, exploration and development of proved oil and natural gas properties, including the costs of abandoned properties, dry holes, geophysical costs and annual lease rentals are capitalized. We also capitalize direct operating costs for services performed with internally owned drilling and well servicing equipment. All general and administrative corporate costs unrelated to drilling activities are expensed as incurred. Sales or other dispositions of oil and natural gas properties are accounted for as adjustments to capitalized costs, with no gain or loss recorded unless the ratio of cost to proved reserves would significantly change. Income from services provided to working interest owners of properties in which we also own an interest, to the extent they exceed related costs incurred, are accounted for as reductions of capitalized costs of oil and natural gas properties. Depletion of evaluated oil and natural gas properties is computed on the units of production method, whereby capitalized costs plus estimated future development costs are amortized over total proved reserves. The average depletion rate per barrel equivalent unit of production was \$11.11, \$11.23 and \$17.84 for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense for oil and natural gas properties for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 was \$321.9 million, \$176.4 million and \$216.1 million, respectively.

The net capitalized costs of proved oil and natural gas properties are subject to a full cost ceiling limitation in which the costs are not allowed to exceed their related estimated future net revenues discounted at 10%. To the extent capitalized costs of evaluated oil and natural gas properties, net of accumulated depreciation, depletion, amortization and impairment, exceed the discounted future net revenues of proved oil and natural gas reserves, the excess capitalized costs are charged to expense. Beginning December 31, 2009, we have used the unweighted arithmetic average first day of the month price for oil and natural gas for the 12-month period preceding the calculation date in estimating discounted future net revenues.

Impairments on proved oil and natural gas properties of \$245.5 million and \$814.8 million were recorded for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. No impairment on proved oil and natural gas properties was recorded for the year ended December 31, 2017. See Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates—Method of accounting for oil and natural gas properties" for a more detailed description of our method of accounting.

***Our estimated reserves and EURs are based on many assumptions that may turn out to be inaccurate. Any material inaccuracies in these reserve estimates or underlying assumptions will materially affect the quantities and present value of our reserves.***

Oil and natural gas reserve engineering is not an exact science and requires subjective estimates of underground accumulations of oil and natural gas and assumptions concerning future oil and natural gas prices, production levels, ultimate recoveries and operating and development costs. As a result, estimated quantities of proved reserves, projections of future production rates and the timing of development expenditures may be incorrect. Our historical estimates of proved reserves as of December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 (which include those attributable to Viper) are based on reports prepared by Ryder Scott, which conducted a well-by-well review of all our properties for the periods covered by its reserve reports using information provided by us. The EURs for our horizontal wells are based on management's internal estimates. Over time, we may make material changes to reserve estimates taking into account the results of actual drilling, testing and production. Also, certain assumptions regarding future oil and natural gas prices, production levels and operating and development costs may prove incorrect. Any significant variance from these assumptions to actual figures could greatly affect our estimates of reserves, the economically recoverable quantities of oil and natural gas attributable to any particular group of properties, the classifications of reserves based on risk of recovery and estimates of future net cash flows. A substantial portion of our reserve estimates are made without the benefit of a lengthy production history, which are less reliable than estimates based on a lengthy production history. Numerous changes over time to the assumptions on which our reserve estimates are based, as described above, often result in the actual quantities of oil and natural gas that we ultimately recover being different from our reserve estimates. Reserve estimates do not include any value for probable or possible reserves that may exist, nor do they include any value for unproved undeveloped acreage. The reserve estimates represent our net revenue interest in our properties.

The estimates of reserves as of December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 included in this report were prepared using an average price equal to the unweighted arithmetic average of hydrocarbon prices received on a field-by-field basis on the first day of each month within the 12-month periods December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively, in accordance with the SEC guidelines applicable to reserve estimates for such periods.

The timing of both our production and our incurrence of costs in connection with the development and production of oil and natural gas properties will affect the timing of actual future net cash flows from proved reserves.

***The standardized measure of our estimated proved reserves and our PV-10 are not necessarily the same as the current market value of our estimated proved oil reserves.***

The present value of future net cash flow from our proved reserves, or standardized measure, and our related PV-10 calculation, may not represent the current market value of our estimated proved oil reserves. In accordance with SEC requirements, we base the estimated discounted future net cash flow from our estimated proved reserves on the 12-month average oil index prices, calculated as the unweighted arithmetic average for the first-day-of-the-month price for each month and costs in effect as of the date of the estimate, holding the prices and costs constant throughout the life of the properties.

Actual future prices and costs may differ materially from those used in the net present value estimate, and future net present value estimates using then current prices and costs may be significantly less than current estimates. In addition, the 10% discount factor we use when calculating discounted future net cash flow for reporting requirements in compliance with the Financial Accounting Standard Board Codification 932, "Extractive Activities—Oil and Gas," may not be the most appropriate discount factor based on interest rates in effect from time to time and risks associated with us or the oil and natural gas industry in general.

***SEC rules could limit our ability to book additional proved undeveloped reserves in the future.***

SEC rules require that, subject to limited exceptions, proved undeveloped reserves may only be booked if they relate to wells scheduled to be drilled within five years after the date of booking. This requirement has limited and may continue to limit our ability to book additional proved undeveloped reserves as we pursue our drilling program. Moreover, we may be required to write down our proved undeveloped reserves if we do not drill those wells within the required five-year timeframe because they have become uneconomic or otherwise.

***The development of our proved undeveloped reserves may take longer and may require higher levels of capital expenditures than we currently anticipate.***

Approximately 37.8% of our total estimated proved reserves as of December 31, 2017, were proved undeveloped reserves and may not be ultimately developed or produced. Recovery of proved undeveloped reserves requires significant capital expenditures and successful drilling operations. The reserve data included in the reserve reports of our independent petroleum engineers assume that substantial capital expenditures are required to develop such reserves. We cannot be certain that the estimated costs of the development of these reserves are accurate, that development will occur as scheduled or that the results of such development will be as estimated. Delays in the development of our reserves, increases in costs to drill and develop such reserves, or further decreases in commodity prices will reduce the future net revenues of our estimated proved undeveloped reserves and may result in some projects becoming uneconomical. In addition, delays in the development of reserves could force us to reclassify certain of our proved reserves as unproved reserves.

***Our producing properties are located in the Permian Basin of West Texas, making us vulnerable to risks associated with operating in a single geographic area. In addition, we have a large amount of proved reserves attributable to a small number of producing horizons within this area.***

All of our producing properties are currently geographically concentrated in the Permian Basin of West Texas. As a result of this concentration, we may be disproportionately exposed to the impact of regional supply and demand factors, delays or interruptions of production from wells in this area caused by governmental regulation, processing or transportation capacity constraints, availability of equipment, facilities, personnel or services market limitations or interruption of the processing or transportation of crude oil, natural gas or natural gas liquids. In addition, the effect of fluctuations on supply and demand may become more pronounced within specific geographic oil and natural gas producing areas such as the Permian Basin, which may cause these conditions to occur with greater frequency or magnify the effects of these conditions. Due to the concentrated nature of our portfolio of properties, a number of our properties could experience any of the same conditions at the same time, resulting in a relatively greater impact on our results of operations than they might have on other companies that have a more diversified portfolio of properties. Such delays or interruptions could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

In addition to the geographic concentration of our producing properties described above, as of December 31, 2017, all of our proved reserves were attributable to the Wolfberry play in the Midland Basin. This concentration of assets within a small number of producing horizons exposes us to additional risks, such as changes in field-wide rules and regulations that could cause us to permanently or temporarily shut-in all of our wells within a field.

***We depend upon several significant purchasers for the sale of most of our oil and natural gas production. The loss of one or more of these purchasers could, among other factors, limit our access to suitable markets for the oil and natural gas we produce.***

The availability of a ready market for any oil and/or natural gas we produce depends on numerous factors beyond the control of our management, including but not limited to the extent of domestic production and imports of oil, the proximity and capacity of natural gas pipelines, the availability of skilled labor, materials and equipment, the effect of state and federal regulation of oil and natural gas production and federal regulation of natural gas sold in interstate commerce. In addition, we depend upon several significant purchasers for the sale of most of our oil and natural gas production. For the year ended December 31, 2017, three purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (31%); Koch Supply & Trading LP (19%) and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (11%). For the year ended December 31, 2016, three purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (45%); Koch Supply & Trading LP (15%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (13%). For the year ended December 31, 2015, two purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (59%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (15%). No other customer accounted for more than 10% of our revenue during these periods. We cannot assure you that we will continue to have ready access to suitable markets for our future oil and natural gas production. The loss of one or more of these customers, and our inability to sell our production to other customers on terms we consider acceptable, could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flow.

***The unavailability, high cost or shortages of rigs, equipment, raw materials, supplies, oilfield services or personnel may restrict our operations.***

The oil and natural gas industry is cyclical, which can result in shortages of drilling rigs, equipment, raw materials (particularly sand and other proppants), supplies and personnel. When shortages occur, the costs and delivery times of rigs, equipment and supplies increase and demand for, and wage rates of, qualified drilling rig crews also rise with increases in demand. We cannot predict whether these conditions will exist in the future and, if so, what their timing and duration will be. In accordance with customary industry practice, we rely on independent third party service providers to provide most of the services necessary to drill new wells. If we are unable to secure a sufficient number of drilling rigs at reasonable costs, our financial condition and results of operations could suffer, and we may not be able to drill all of our acreage before our leases expire. In addition, we do not have long-term contracts securing the use of our existing rigs, and the operator of those rigs may choose to cease providing services to us. Shortages of drilling rigs, equipment, raw materials (particularly sand and other proppants), supplies, personnel, trucking services, tubulars, fracking and completion services and production equipment could delay or restrict our exploration and development operations, which in turn could impair our financial condition and results of operations.

***Our operations are substantially dependent on the availability of water. Restrictions on our ability to obtain water may have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

Water is an essential component of deep shale oil and natural gas production during both the drilling and hydraulic fracturing processes. Historically, we have been able to purchase water from local land owners for use in our operations. Over the past several years, Texas has experienced extreme drought conditions. As a result of this severe drought, some local water districts have begun restricting the use of water subject to their jurisdiction for hydraulic fracturing to protect local water supply. If we are unable to obtain water to use in our operations from local sources, or we are unable to effectively utilize flowback water, we may be unable to economically drill for or produce oil and natural gas, which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

***We may have difficulty managing growth in our business, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.***

Our business operations have grown substantially since our initial public offering in October 2012 and we expect our business operations to continue to grow in the future. As we expand our activities and increase the number of projects we are evaluating or in which we participate, there will be additional demands on our financial, technical, operational and management resources. The failure to continue to upgrade our technical, administrative, operating and financial control systems or the occurrences of unexpected expansion difficulties, including the failure to recruit and retain experienced managers, geologists, engineers and other professionals in the oil and natural gas industry, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations and our ability to timely execute our business plan.

***We have incurred losses from operations during certain periods since our inception and may do so in the future.***

Our development of and participation in an increasingly larger number of drilling locations has required and will continue to require substantial capital expenditures. The uncertainty and risks described in this report may impede our ability to economically find, develop and acquire oil and natural gas reserves. As a result, we may not be able to achieve or sustain profitability or positive cash flows from our operating activities in the future.

***Part of our strategy involves drilling in existing or emerging shale plays using the latest available horizontal drilling and completion techniques; therefore, the results of our planned exploratory drilling in these plays are subject to risks associated with drilling and completion techniques and drilling results may not meet our expectations for reserves or production.***

Our operations involve utilizing the latest drilling and completion techniques as developed by us and our service providers. Risks that we face while drilling include, but are not limited to, landing our well bore in the desired drilling zone, staying in the desired drilling zone while drilling horizontally through the formation, running our casing the entire length of the well bore and being able to run tools and other equipment consistently through the horizontal well bore. Risks that we face while completing our wells include, but are not limited to, being able to fracture stimulate the planned number of stages, being able to run tools the entire length of the well bore during completion operations and successfully cleaning out the well bore after completion of the final fracture stimulation stage. In addition, to the extent we engage in horizontal drilling, those activities may adversely affect our ability to successfully drill in one or more of our identified vertical drilling locations. Furthermore, certain of the new techniques we are adopting, such as infill drilling and multi-well pad drilling, may cause irregularities or interruptions in production due to, in the case of infill drilling, offset wells being shut in and, in the case of multi-well pad drilling, the time required to drill and complete multiple wells before any such wells begin producing. The results of our drilling in new or emerging formations are more uncertain initially than drilling results in areas that are more developed and have a longer history of established production. Newer or emerging formations and areas often have limited or no production history and consequently we are less able to predict future drilling results in these areas.

Ultimately, the success of these drilling and completion techniques can only be evaluated over time as more wells are drilled and production profiles are established over a sufficiently long time period. If our drilling results are less than anticipated or we are unable to execute our drilling program because of capital constraints, lease expirations, access to gathering systems, and/or declines in natural gas and oil prices, the return on our investment in these areas may not be as attractive as we anticipate. Further, as a result of any of these developments we could incur material write-downs of our oil and natural gas properties and the value of our undeveloped acreage could decline in the future.

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

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

***The marketability of our production is dependent upon transportation and other facilities, certain of which we do not control. If these facilities are unavailable, our operations could be interrupted and our revenues reduced.***

The marketability of our oil and natural gas production depends in part upon the availability, proximity and capacity of transportation facilities owned by third parties. Our oil production is transported from the wellhead to our tank batteries by our gathering system. Our purchasers then transport the oil by truck to a pipeline for transportation. Our natural gas production is generally transported by our gathering lines from the wellhead to an interconnection point with the purchaser. We do not control these trucks and other third party transportation facilities and our access to them may be limited or denied. Insufficient production from our wells to support the construction of pipeline facilities by our purchasers or a significant disruption in the availability of our or third party transportation facilities or other production facilities could adversely impact our ability to deliver to market or produce our oil and natural gas and thereby cause a significant interruption in our operations. For example, on certain occasions we have experienced high line pressure at our tank batteries with occasional flaring due to the inability of the gas gathering systems in the areas in which we operate to support the increased production of natural gas in the Permian Basin. If, in the future, we are unable, for any sustained period, to implement acceptable delivery or transportation arrangements or encounter production related difficulties, we may be required to shut in or curtail production. In addition, the amount of oil and natural gas that can be produced and sold may be subject to curtailment in certain other circumstances outside of our control, such as pipeline interruptions due to maintenance, excessive pressure, ability of downstream processing facilities to accept unprocessed gas, physical damage to the gathering or transportation system or lack of contracted capacity on such systems. The curtailments arising from these and similar circumstances may last from a few days to several months, and in many cases, we are provided with limited, if any, notice as to when these circumstances will arise and their duration. Any such shut in or curtailment, or an inability to obtain favorable terms for delivery of the oil and natural gas produced from our fields, would adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

***Our operations are subject to various governmental laws and regulations which require compliance that can be burdensome and expensive.***

Our oil and natural gas operations are subject to various federal, state and local governmental regulations that may be changed from time to time in response to economic and political conditions. Matters subject to regulation include discharge permits for drilling operations, drilling bonds, reports concerning operations, the spacing of wells, unitization and pooling of properties and taxation. From time to time, regulatory agencies have imposed price controls and limitations on production by restricting the rate of flow of oil and natural gas wells below actual production capacity to conserve supplies of oil and gas. In addition, the production, handling, storage, transportation, remediation, emission and disposal of oil and natural gas, by-products thereof and other substances and materials produced or used in connection with oil and natural gas operations are subject to regulation under federal, state and local laws and regulations primarily relating to protection of human health and the environment. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may result in the assessment of sanctions, including administrative, civil or criminal penalties, permit revocations, requirements for additional pollution controls and injunctions limiting or prohibiting some or all of our operations. Moreover, these laws and regulations imposed strict requirements for water and air pollution control and solid waste management. Significant expenditures may be required to comply with governmental laws and regulations applicable to us. Even if federal regulatory burdens temporarily ease, the historic trend of more expansive and stricter environmental legislation and regulations may continue in the long-term, and at the state and local levels. See Item 1. “Business–Regulation” for a description of certain laws and regulations that affect us.

***Federal and state legislative and regulatory initiatives relating to hydraulic fracturing could result in increased costs and additional operating restrictions or delays.***

Hydraulic fracturing is an important common practice that is used to stimulate production of hydrocarbons, particularly natural gas, from tight formations, including shales. The process, which involves the injection of water, sand and chemicals under pressure into formations to fracture the surrounding rock and stimulate production, is typically regulated by state oil and natural gas commissions. However, legislation has been proposed in recent sessions of Congress to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the definition of “underground injection,” to require federal permitting and regulatory control of hydraulic fracturing, and to require disclosure of the chemical constituents of the fluids used in the fracturing process. Furthermore, several federal agencies have asserted regulatory authority over certain aspects of the process. For example, the EPA has taken the position that hydraulic fracturing with fluids containing diesel fuel is subject to regulation under the Underground Injection Control program, specifically as “Class II” Underground Injection Control wells under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In addition, the EPA previously announced its plans to develop a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by June 2018, which would describe a proposed mechanism - regulatory, voluntary, or a combination of both - to collect data on hydraulic fracturing chemical substances and mixtures. Also, on June 28, 2016, the EPA published a final rule prohibiting the discharge of wastewater from onshore unconventional oil and natural gas extraction facilities to publicly owned wastewater treatment plants. The EPA is also conducting a study of private wastewater treatment facilities (also known as centralized waste treatment, or CWT, facilities) accepting oil and natural gas extraction wastewater. The EPA is collecting data and information related to the extent to which CWT facilities accept such wastewater, available treatment technologies (and their associated costs), discharge characteristics, financial characteristics of CWT facilities, and the environmental impacts of discharges from CWT facilities.

On August 16, 2012, the EPA published final regulations under the federal Clean Air Act that establish new air emission controls for oil and natural gas production and natural gas processing operations. Specifically, the EPA’s rule package includes New Source Performance standards to address emissions of sulfur dioxide and volatile organic compounds and a separate set of emission standards to address hazardous air pollutants frequently associated with oil and natural gas production and processing activities. The final rules seek to achieve a 95% reduction in volatile organic compounds emitted by requiring the use of reduced emission completions or “green completions” on all hydraulically-fractured wells constructed or refractured after January 1, 2015. The EPA received numerous requests for reconsideration of these rules from both industry and the environmental community, and court challenges to the rules were also filed. In response, the EPA has issued, and will likely continue to issue, revised rules responsive to some of the requests for reconsideration.

Furthermore, there are certain governmental reviews either underway or being proposed that focus on environmental aspects of hydraulic fracturing practices. On December 13, 2016, the EPA released a study examining the potential for hydraulic fracturing activities to impact drinking water resources, finding that, under some circumstances, the use of water in hydraulic fracturing activities can impact drinking water resources. Also, on February 6, 2015, the EPA released a report with findings and recommendations related to public concern about induced seismic activity from disposal wells. The report recommends strategies for managing and minimizing the potential for significant injection-induced seismic events. Other governmental agencies, including the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office,

have evaluated or are evaluating various other aspects of hydraulic fracturing. These ongoing or proposed studies could spur initiatives to further regulate hydraulic fracturing, and could ultimately make it more difficult or costly for us to perform fracturing and increase our costs of compliance and doing business.

Several states, including Texas, and local jurisdictions, have adopted, or are considering adopting, regulations that could restrict or prohibit hydraulic fracturing in certain circumstances, impose more stringent operating standards and/or require the disclosure of the composition of hydraulic fracturing fluids. For a more detailed discussion of state and local laws and initiatives concerning hydraulic fracturing, see “Items 1 and 2. Business and Properties—Regulation—Regulation of Hydraulic Fracturing.” We use hydraulic fracturing extensively in connection with the development and production of certain of our oil and natural gas properties and any increased federal, state, local, foreign or international regulation of hydraulic fracturing could reduce the volumes of oil and natural gas that we can economically recover, which could materially and adversely affect our revenues and results of operations.

There has been increasing public controversy regarding hydraulic fracturing with regard to the use of fracturing fluids, induced seismic activity, impacts on drinking water supplies, use of water and the potential for impacts to surface water, groundwater and the environment generally. A number of lawsuits and enforcement actions have been initiated across the country implicating hydraulic fracturing practices. If new laws or regulations that significantly restrict hydraulic fracturing are adopted, such laws could make it more difficult or costly for us to perform fracturing to stimulate production from tight formations as well as make it easier for third parties opposing the hydraulic fracturing process to initiate legal proceedings based on allegations that specific chemicals used in the fracturing process could adversely affect groundwater. In addition, if hydraulic fracturing is further regulated at the federal, state or local level, our fracturing activities could become subject to additional permitting and financial assurance requirements, more stringent construction specifications, increased monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping obligations, plugging and abandonment requirements and also to attendant permitting delays and potential increases in costs. Such changes could cause us to incur substantial compliance costs, and compliance or the consequences of any failure to comply by us could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. At this time, it is not possible to estimate the impact on our business of newly enacted or potential federal, state or local laws governing hydraulic fracturing.

***Our operations may be exposed to significant delays, costs and liabilities as a result of environmental, health and safety requirements applicable to our business activities.***

We may incur significant delays, costs and liabilities as a result of federal, state and local environmental, health and safety requirements applicable to our exploration, development and production activities. These laws and regulations may, among other things: (i) require us to obtain a variety of permits or other authorizations governing our air emissions, water discharges, waste disposal or other environmental impacts associated with drilling, producing and other operations; (ii) regulate the sourcing and disposal of water used in the drilling, fracturing and completion processes; (iii) limit or prohibit drilling activities in certain areas and on certain lands lying within wilderness, wetlands, frontier and other protected areas; (iv) require remedial action to prevent or mitigate pollution from former operations such as plugging abandoned wells or closing earthen pits; and/or (v) impose substantial liabilities for spills, pollution or failure to comply with regulatory filings. In addition, these laws and regulations may restrict the rate of oil or natural gas production. These laws and regulations are complex, change frequently and have tended to become increasingly stringent over time. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may result in the assessment of administrative, civil and criminal penalties, imposition of cleanup and site restoration costs and liens, the suspension or revocation of necessary permits, licenses and authorizations, the requirement that additional pollution controls be installed and, in some instances, issuance of orders or injunctions limiting or requiring discontinuation of certain operations. Under certain environmental laws that impose strict as well as joint and several liability, we may be required to remediate contaminated properties currently or formerly operated by us or facilities of third parties that received waste generated by our operations regardless of whether such contamination resulted from the conduct of others or from consequences of our own actions that were in compliance with all applicable laws at the time those actions were taken. In addition, claims for damages to persons or property, including natural resources, may result from the environmental, health and safety impacts of our operations. In addition, the risk of accidental and/or unpermitted spills or releases from our operations could expose us to significant liabilities, penalties and other sanctions under applicable laws. To the extent laws are enacted or other governmental action is taken that restricts drilling or imposes more stringent and costly operating, waste handling, disposal and cleanup requirements, our business, prospects, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

***Restrictions on drilling activities intended to protect certain species of wildlife may adversely affect our ability to conduct drilling activities in some of the areas where we operate.***

Oil and natural gas operations in our operating areas can be adversely affected by seasonal or permanent restrictions on drilling activities designed to protect various wildlife. Seasonal restrictions may limit our ability to operate in protected areas and can intensify competition for drilling rigs, oilfield equipment, services, supplies and qualified personnel, which may lead to periodic shortages when drilling is allowed. These constraints and the resulting shortages or high costs could delay our

operations and materially increase our operating and capital costs. Permanent restrictions imposed to protect endangered species could prohibit drilling in certain areas or require the implementation of expensive mitigation measures. The designation of previously unprotected species in areas where we operate as threatened or endangered could cause us to incur increased costs arising from species protection measures or could result in limitations on our exploration and production activities that could have an adverse impact on our ability to develop and produce our reserves.

***The adoption of derivatives legislation by the U.S. Congress could have an adverse effect on our ability to use derivative instruments to reduce the effect of commodity price, interest rate and other risks associated with our business.***

The adoption of derivatives legislation by the U.S. Congress could have an adverse effect on our ability to use derivative instruments to reduce the effect of commodity price, interest rate and other risks associated with our business. The U.S. Congress adopted the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, or Dodd-Frank Act, which, among other provisions, establishes federal oversight and regulation of the over-the-counter derivatives market and entities that participate in that market. The legislation was signed into law by the President on July 21, 2010. In its rulemaking under the legislation, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission has issued a final rule on position limits for certain futures and option contracts in the major energy markets and for swaps that are their economic equivalents (with exemptions for certain bona fide hedging transactions). The Commodities Futures Trading Commission's final rule was set aside by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on September 28, 2012 and remanded to the Commodities Futures Trading Commission to resolve ambiguity as to whether statutory requirements for such limits to be determined necessary and appropriate were satisfied. As a result, the rule has not yet taken effect, although the Commodities Futures Trading Commission has indicated that it intends to appeal the court's decision and that it believes the Dodd-Frank Act requires it to impose position limits. The impact of such regulations upon our business is not yet clear. Certain of our hedging and trading activities and those of our counterparties may be subject to the position limits, which may reduce our ability to enter into hedging transactions.

In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act does not explicitly exempt end users (such as us) from the requirement to use cleared exchanges, rather than hedging over-the-counter, and the requirements to post margin in connection with hedging activities. While it is not possible at this time to predict when the Commodities Futures Trading Commission will finalize certain other related rules and regulations, the Dodd-Frank Act and related regulations may require us to comply with margin requirements and with certain clearing and trade-execution requirements in connection with our derivative activities, although whether these requirements will apply to our business is uncertain at this time. If the regulations ultimately adopted require that we post margin for our hedging activities or require our counterparties to hold margin or maintain capital levels, the cost of which could be passed through to us, or impose other requirements that are more burdensome than current regulations, our hedging would become more expensive and we may decide to alter our hedging strategy. The financial reform legislation may also require us to comply with margin requirements and with certain clearing and trade-execution requirements in connection with our existing or future derivative activities, although the application of those provisions to us is uncertain at this time. The financial reform legislation may also require the counterparties to our derivative instruments to spin off some of their derivatives activities to separate entities, which may not be as creditworthy as the current counterparties. The new legislation and any new regulations could significantly increase the cost of derivative contracts (including through requirements to post collateral which could adversely affect our available liquidity), materially alter the terms of derivative contracts, reduce the availability of derivatives to protect against risks we encounter, reduce our ability to monetize or restructure our derivative contracts in existence at that time, and increase our exposure to less creditworthy counterparties. If we reduce or change the way we use derivative instruments as a result of the legislation and regulations, our results of operations may become more volatile and our cash flows may be less predictable, which could adversely affect our ability to plan for and fund capital expenditures. Finally, the legislation was intended, in part, to reduce the volatility of oil and natural gas prices, which some legislators attributed to speculative trading in derivatives and commodity instruments related to oil and natural gas. Our revenues could therefore be adversely affected if a consequence of the legislation and regulations is to lower commodity prices. Any of these consequences could have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

***Recently enacted U.S. tax legislation as well as future U.S. tax legislations may adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flow.***

On December 22, 2017, the President signed into law Public Law No. 115-97, a comprehensive tax reform bill commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which we refer to as the Tax Act, that significantly reforms the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to as the Code. Among other changes, the Tax Act (i) reduces the maximum U.S. corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21%, (ii) preserves long-standing upstream oil and gas tax provisions such as immediate deduction of intangible drilling, (iii) allows for immediate expensing of capital expenditures for tangible personal property for a period of time, (iv) modifies the provisions related to the limitations on deductions for executive compensation of publicly traded corporations and (v) enacts new limitations regarding the deductibility of interest expense. The Tax Act is complex and far-reaching, and we cannot predict with certainty the resulting impact its enactment will have on us. The ultimate impact of the Tax Act may differ from our estimates due to changes in interpretations and assumptions made by us as well as additional



regulatory guidance that may be issued, and any such changes in our interpretations and assumptions could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flow.

In addition, from time to time, legislation has been proposed that, if enacted into law, would make significant changes to U.S. federal and state income tax laws affecting the oil and gas industry, including (i) eliminating the immediate deduction for intangible drilling and development costs, (ii) the repeal of the percentage depletion allowance for oil and natural gas properties; and (iii) an extension of the amortization period for certain geological and geophysical expenditures. While these specific changes are not included in the Tax Act, no accurate prediction can be made as to whether any such legislative changes will be proposed or enacted in the future or, if enacted, what the specific provisions or the effective date of any such legislation would be. These proposed changes in the U.S. tax law, if adopted, or other similar changes that would impose additional tax on our activities or reduce or eliminate deductions currently available with respect to natural gas and oil exploration, development or similar activities, could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

***Regulation of greenhouse gas emissions could result in increased operating costs and reduced demand for the oil and natural gas we produce.***

In recent years, federal, state and local governments have taken steps to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The EPA has finalized a series of greenhouse gas monitoring, reporting and emissions control rules for the oil and natural gas industry, and the U.S. Congress has, from time to time, considered adopting legislation to reduce emissions. Almost one-half of the states have already taken measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases primarily through the development of greenhouse gas emission inventories and/or regional greenhouse gas cap-and-trade programs. While we are subject to certain federal greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting requirements, our operations currently are not adversely impacted by existing federal, state and local climate change initiatives. For a description of existing and proposed greenhouse gas rules and regulations, see “Items 1 and 2. Business and Properties—Regulation—Environmental Regulation—Climate Change.”

At the international level, in December 2015, the United States participated in the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, France. The resulting Paris Agreement calls for the parties to undertake “ambitious efforts” to limit the average global temperature, and to conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases. The Agreement went into effect on November 4, 2016. The Agreement establishes a framework for the parties to cooperate and report actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, on June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris Agreement, and begin negotiations to either re-enter or negotiate an entirely new agreement with more favorable terms for the United States. The Paris Agreement sets forth a specific exit process, whereby a party may not provide notice of its withdrawal until three years from the effective date, with such withdrawal taking effect one year from such notice. It is not clear what steps the Trump Administration plans to take to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, whether a new agreement can be negotiated, or what terms would be included in such an agreement. Furthermore, in response to the announcement, many state and local leaders have stated their intent to intensify efforts to uphold the commitments set forth in the international accord.

Restrictions on emissions of methane or carbon dioxide that may be imposed could adversely impact the demand for, price of, and value of our products and reserves. As our operations also emit greenhouse gases directly, current and future laws or regulations limiting such emissions could increase our own costs. At this time, it is not possible to accurately estimate how potential future laws or regulations addressing greenhouse gas emissions would impact our business.

In addition, there have also been efforts in recent years to influence the investment community, including investment advisors and certain sovereign wealth, pension and endowment funds promoting divestment of fossil fuel equities and pressuring lenders to limit funding to companies engaged in the extraction of fossil fuel reserves. Such environmental activism and initiatives aimed at limiting climate change and reducing air pollution could interfere with our business activities, operations and ability to access capital. Furthermore, claims have been made against certain energy companies alleging that greenhouse gas emissions from oil and natural gas operations constitute a public nuisance under federal and/or state common law. As a result, private individuals or public entities may seek to enforce environmental laws and regulations against us and could allege personal injury, property damages or other liabilities. While our business is not a party to any such litigation, we could be named in actions making similar allegations. An unfavorable ruling in any such case could significantly impact our operations and could have an adverse impact on our financial condition.

Moreover, there has been public discussion that climate change may be associated with extreme weather conditions such as more intense hurricanes, thunderstorms, tornadoes and snow or ice storms, as well as rising sea levels. Another possible consequence of climate change is increased volatility in seasonal temperatures. Some studies indicate that climate change could cause some areas to experience temperatures substantially hotter or colder than their historical averages. Extreme weather conditions can interfere with our production and increase our costs and damage resulting from extreme weather may not be fully

insured. However, at this time, we are unable to determine the extent to which climate change may lead to increased storm or weather hazards affecting our operations.

***Legislation or regulatory initiatives intended to address seismic activity could restrict our drilling and production activities, as well as our ability to dispose of produced water gathered from such activities, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.***

State and federal regulatory agencies have recently focused on a possible connection between hydraulic fracturing related activities, particularly the underground injection of wastewater into disposal wells, and the increased occurrence of seismic activity, and regulatory agencies at all levels are continuing to study the possible linkage between oil and gas activity and induced seismicity. In addition, a number of lawsuits have been filed in some states, most recently in Oklahoma, alleging that disposal well operations have caused damage to neighboring properties or otherwise violated state and federal rules regulating waste disposal. In response to these concerns, regulators in some states are seeking to impose additional requirements, including requirements regarding the permitting of produced water disposal wells or otherwise to assess the relationship between seismicity and the use of such wells. For example, on October 28, 2014, the Texas Railroad Commission adopted disposal well rule amendments designed, among other things, to require applicants for new disposal wells that will receive non-hazardous produced water or other oil and gas waste to conduct seismic activity searches utilizing the U.S. Geological Survey. The searches are intended to determine the potential for earthquakes within a circular area of 100 square miles around a proposed new disposal well. If the permittee or an applicant of a disposal well permit fails to demonstrate that the produced water or other fluids are confined to the disposal zone or if scientific data indicates such a disposal well is likely to be or determined to be contributing to seismic activity, then the agency may deny, modify, suspend or terminate the permit application or existing operating permit for that well. The Commission has used this authority to deny permits for waste disposal wells.

We dispose of large volumes of produced water gathered from our drilling and production operations by injecting it into wells pursuant to permits issued to us by governmental authorities overseeing such disposal activities. While these permits are issued pursuant to existing laws and regulations, these legal requirements are subject to change, which could result in the imposition of more stringent operating constraints or new monitoring and reporting requirements, owing to, among other things, concerns of the public or governmental authorities regarding such gathering or disposal activities. The adoption and implementation of any new laws or regulations that restrict our ability to use hydraulic fracturing or dispose of produced water gathered from our drilling and production activities by owned disposal wells, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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

Section 1(b) of the Natural Gas Act of 1938 exempts natural gas gathering facilities from regulation by the FERC. We believe that the natural gas pipelines in our gathering systems meet the traditional tests FERC has used to establish whether a pipeline performs a gathering function and therefore are exempt from FERC's jurisdiction under the Natural Gas Act of 1938. However, the distinction between FERC-regulated transmission services and federally unregulated gathering services is a fact-based determination. The classification of facilities as unregulated gathering is the subject of ongoing litigation, so the classification and regulation of our gathering facilities are subject to change based on future determinations by FERC, the courts or Congress, which could cause our revenues to decline and operating expenses to increase and may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations. Additional rules and legislation pertaining to those and other matters may be considered or adopted by FERC from time to time. Failure to comply with those regulations in the future could subject us to civil penalty liability, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

***We operate in areas of high industry activity, which may affect our ability to hire, train or retain qualified personnel needed to manage and operate our assets.***

Our operations and drilling activity are concentrated in the Permian Basin in West Texas, an area in which industry activity has increased rapidly. As a result, demand for qualified personnel in this area, and the cost to attract and retain such personnel, has increased over the past few years due to competition and may increase substantially in the future. Moreover, our competitors may be able to offer better compensation packages to attract and retain qualified personnel than we are able to offer.

Any delay or inability to secure the personnel necessary for us to continue or complete our current and planned development activities could lead to a reduction in production volumes. Any such negative effect on production volumes, or significant increases in costs, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***We rely on a few key employees whose absence or loss could adversely affect our business.***

Many key responsibilities within our business have been assigned to a small number of employees. The loss of their services could adversely affect our business. In particular, the loss of the services of one or more members of our executive team, including our Chief Executive Officer, Travis D. Stice, could disrupt our operations. We have employment agreements with these executives which contain restrictions on competition with us in the event they cease to be employed by us. However, as a practical matter, such employment agreements may not assure the retention of our employees. Further, we do not maintain “key person” life insurance policies on any of our employees. As a result, we are not insured against any losses resulting from the death of our key employees.

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

Our drilling activities are subject to many risks. For example, we cannot assure you that new wells drilled by us will be productive or that we will recover all or any portion of our investment in such wells. Drilling for oil and natural gas often involves unprofitable efforts, not only from dry wells but also from wells that are productive but do not produce sufficient oil or natural gas to return a profit at then realized prices after deducting drilling, operating and other costs. The seismic data and other technologies we use do not allow us to know conclusively prior to drilling a well that oil or natural gas is present or that it can be produced economically. The costs of exploration, exploitation and development activities are subject to numerous uncertainties beyond our control, and increases in those costs can adversely affect the economics of a project. Further, our drilling and producing operations may be curtailed, delayed, canceled or otherwise negatively impacted as a result of other factors, including:

- unusual or unexpected geological formations;
- loss of drilling fluid circulation;
- title problems;
- facility or equipment malfunctions;
- unexpected operational events;
- shortages or delivery delays of equipment and services;
- compliance with environmental and other governmental requirements; and
- adverse weather conditions.

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

***Our development and exploratory drilling efforts and our well operations may not be profitable or achieve our targeted returns.***

Historically, we have acquired significant amounts of unproved property in order to further our development efforts and expect to continue to undertake acquisitions in the future. Development and exploratory drilling and production activities are subject to many risks, including the risk that no commercially productive reservoirs will be discovered. We acquire unproved properties and lease undeveloped acreage that we believe will enhance our growth potential and increase our earnings over time. However, we cannot assure you that all prospects will be economically viable or that we will not abandon our investments. Additionally, we cannot assure you that unproved property acquired by us or undeveloped acreage leased by us will be profitably developed, that new wells drilled by us in prospects that we pursue will be productive or that we will recover all or any portion of our investment in such unproved property or wells.

Drilling for oil and natural gas may involve unprofitable efforts, not only from dry wells but also from wells that are productive but do not produce sufficient commercial quantities to cover the drilling, operating and other costs. The cost of drilling, completing and operating a well is often uncertain, and many factors can adversely affect the economics of a well or property. Drilling operations may be curtailed, delayed or canceled as a result of unexpected drilling conditions, equipment failures or accidents, shortages of equipment or personnel, environmental issues and for other reasons. In addition, wells that are profitable may not meet our internal return targets, which are dependent upon the current and expected future market prices

for oil and natural gas, expected costs associated with producing oil and natural gas and our ability to add reserves at an acceptable cost.

***Operating hazards and uninsured risks may result in substantial losses and could prevent us from realizing profits.***

Our operations are subject to all of the hazards and operating risks associated with drilling for and production of oil and natural gas, including the risk of fire, explosions, blowouts, surface cratering, uncontrollable flows of natural gas, oil and formation water, pipe or pipeline failures, abnormally pressured formations, casing collapses and environmental hazards such as oil spills, gas leaks and ruptures or discharges of toxic gases. In addition, our operations are subject to risks associated with hydraulic fracturing, including any mishandling, surface spillage or potential underground migration of fracturing fluids, including chemical additives. The occurrence of any of these events could result in substantial losses to us due to injury or loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property, natural resources and equipment, pollution or other environmental damage, clean-up responsibilities, regulatory investigations and penalties, suspension of operations and repairs required to resume operations.

We endeavor to contractually allocate potential liabilities and risks between us and the parties that provide us with services and goods, which include pressure pumping and hydraulic fracturing, drilling and cementing services and tubular goods for surface, intermediate and production casing. Under our agreements with our vendors, to the extent responsibility for environmental liability is allocated between the parties, (i) our vendors generally assume all responsibility for control and removal of pollution or contamination which originates above the surface of the land and is directly associated with such vendors' equipment while in their control and (ii) we generally assume the responsibility for control and removal of all other pollution or contamination which may occur during our operations, including pre-existing pollution and pollution which may result from fire, blowout, cratering, seepage or any other uncontrolled flow of oil, gas or other substances, as well as the use or disposition of all drilling fluids. In addition, we generally agree to indemnify our vendors for loss or destruction of vendor-owned property that occurs in the well hole (except for damage that occurs when a vendor is performing work on a footage, rather than day work, basis) or as a result of the use of equipment, certain corrosive fluids, additives, chemicals or proppants. However, despite this general allocation of risk, we might not succeed in enforcing such contractual allocation, might incur an unforeseen liability falling outside the scope of such allocation or may be required to enter into contractual arrangements with terms that vary from the above allocations of risk. As a result, we may incur substantial losses which could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

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

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

***Competition in the oil and natural gas industry is intense, which may adversely affect our ability to succeed.***

The oil and natural gas industry is intensely competitive, and we compete with other companies that have greater resources than us. Many of these companies not only explore for and produce oil and natural gas, but also carry on midstream and refining operations and market petroleum and other products on a regional, national or worldwide basis. These companies may be able to pay more for productive oil and natural gas properties and exploratory prospects or define, evaluate, bid for and purchase a greater number of properties and prospects than our financial or human resources permit. In addition, these companies may have a greater ability to continue exploration activities during periods of low oil and natural gas market prices. Our larger competitors may be able to absorb the burden of present and future federal, state, local and other laws and regulations more easily than we can, which would adversely affect our competitive position. Our ability to acquire additional properties and to

discover reserves in the future will be dependent upon our ability to evaluate and select suitable properties and to consummate transactions in a highly competitive environment. In addition, because we have fewer financial and human resources than many companies in our industry, we may be at a disadvantage in bidding for exploratory prospects and producing oil and natural gas properties.

***Our use of 2-D and 3-D seismic data is subject to interpretation and may not accurately identify the presence of oil and natural gas, which could adversely affect the results of our drilling operations.***

Even when properly used and interpreted, 2-D and 3-D seismic data and visualization techniques are only tools used to assist geoscientists in identifying subsurface structures and hydrocarbon indicators and do not enable the interpreter to know whether hydrocarbons are, in fact, present in those structures. In addition, the use of 3-D seismic and other advanced technologies requires greater predrilling expenditures than traditional drilling strategies, and we could incur losses as a result of such expenditures. As a result, our drilling activities may not be successful or economical.

***We may not be able to keep pace with technological developments in our industry.***

The oil and natural gas industry is characterized by rapid and significant technological advancements and introductions of new products and services using new technologies. As others use or develop new technologies, we may be placed at a competitive disadvantage or may be forced by competitive pressures to implement those new technologies at substantial costs. In addition, other oil and natural gas companies may have greater financial, technical and personnel resources that allow them to enjoy technological advantages and that may in the future allow them to implement new technologies before we can. We may not be able to respond to these competitive pressures or implement new technologies on a timely basis or at an acceptable cost. If one or more of the technologies we use now or in the future were to become obsolete, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

***We are subject to certain requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. If we fail to comply with the requirements of Section 404 or if we or our auditors identify and report material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting, our investors may lose confidence in our reported information and our stock price may be negatively affected.***

We are required to comply with certain provisions of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, or Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Section 404 requires that we document and test our internal control over financial reporting and issue management's assessment of our internal control over financial reporting. This section also requires that our independent registered public accounting firm opine on those internal controls. If we fail to comply with the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, or if we or our auditors identify and report material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting, the accuracy and timeliness of the filing of our annual and quarterly reports may be materially adversely affected and could cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which could have a negative effect on the trading price of our common stock. In addition, a material weakness in the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting could result in an increased chance of fraud and the loss of customers, reduce our ability to obtain financing and require additional expenditures to comply with these requirements, each of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***Increased costs of capital could adversely affect our business.***

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

***We recorded stock-based compensation expense in 2017, 2016 and 2015, and we may incur substantial additional compensation expense related to our future grants of stock compensation which may have a material negative impact on our operating results for the foreseeable future.***

As a result of outstanding stock-based compensation awards, for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 we incurred \$34.2 million, \$33.5 million and \$24.6 million, respectively, of stock based compensation expense, of which we capitalized \$8.6 million, \$7.1 million and \$6.0 million respectively, pursuant to the full cost method of accounting for oil and natural gas properties. In addition, our compensation expenses may increase in the future as compared to our historical expenses because of the costs associated with our existing and possible future incentive plans. These additional expenses could adversely

affect our net income. The future expense will be dependent upon the number of share-based awards issued and the fair value of the options or shares of common stock at the date of the grant; however, they may be significant. We will recognize expenses for restricted stock awards and stock options generally over the vesting period of awards made to recipients.

***Loss of our information and computer systems could adversely affect our business.***

We are heavily dependent on our information systems and computer based programs, including our well operations information, seismic data, electronic data processing and accounting data. If any of such programs or systems were to fail or create erroneous information in our hardware or software network infrastructure, possible consequences include our loss of communication links, inability to find, produce, process and sell oil and natural gas and inability to automatically process commercial transactions or engage in similar automated or computerized business activities. Any such consequence could have a material adverse effect on our business.

***A terrorist attack or armed conflict could harm our business.***

Terrorist activities, anti-terrorist efforts and other armed conflicts involving the United States or other countries may adversely affect the United States and global economies and could prevent us from meeting our financial and other obligations. If any of these events occur, the resulting political instability and societal disruption could reduce overall demand for oil and natural gas, potentially putting downward pressure on demand for our services and causing a reduction in our revenues. Oil and natural gas related facilities could be direct targets of terrorist attacks, and our operations could be adversely impacted if infrastructure integral to our customers' operations is destroyed or damaged. Costs for insurance and other security may increase as a result of these threats, and some insurance coverage may become more difficult to obtain, if available at all.

***We are subject to cyber security risks. A cyber incident could occur and result in information theft, data corruption, operational disruption and/or financial loss.***

The oil and natural gas industry has become increasingly dependent on digital technologies to conduct certain exploration, development, production, and processing activities. For example, the oil and natural gas industry depends on digital technologies to interpret seismic data, manage drilling rigs, production equipment and gathering systems, conduct reservoir modeling and reserves estimation, and process and record financial and operating data. At the same time, cyber incidents, including deliberate attacks or unintentional events, have increased. The U.S. government has issued public warnings that indicate that energy assets might be specific targets of cyber security threats. Our technologies, systems, networks, and those of its vendors, suppliers and other business partners, may become the target of cyberattacks or information security breaches that could result in the unauthorized release, gathering, monitoring, misuse, loss or destruction of proprietary and other information, or other disruption of its business operations. In addition, certain cyber incidents, such as surveillance, may remain undetected for an extended period. Our systems and insurance coverage for protecting against cyber security risks may not be sufficient. As cyber incidents continue to evolve, we may be required to expend additional resources to continue to modify or enhance our protective measures or to investigate and remediate any vulnerability to cyber incidents. We do not maintain specialized insurance for possible liability resulting from a cyberattack on our assets that may shut down all or part of our business.

#### **Risks Related to Our Indebtedness**

***Our substantial level of indebtedness could adversely affect our financial condition and prevent us from fulfilling our obligations under the senior notes and our other indebtedness.***

As of December 31, 2017, we had total long-term debt of \$1.5 billion, including \$1.0 billion outstanding under the 2024 senior notes and 2025 senior notes, and we had an unused borrowing base availability of \$603.0 million under our revolving credit facility. On January 29, 2018, we issued \$300.0 million aggregate principal amount of new 5.375% Senior Notes due 2025, which we refer to as the new 2025 notes, as additional notes under our existing indenture, and repaid \$308.5 million of our outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility with the net proceeds from the issuance of our new 2025 notes. Immediately following the issuance of the new 2025 notes and the application of our net proceeds thereof, we had total long-term debt of \$1.39 billion (including \$1.3 billion attributable to all of our outstanding senior notes), our borrowing base remained \$1.8 billion (as the lenders waived the borrowing base decrease under our revolving credit facility in connection with the issuance of the new 2025 notes), our elected commitment was \$1.0 billion, and we had \$911.4 million of available borrowing capacity under our revolving credit facility. As of December 31, 2017, Viper, one of our subsidiaries, had \$93.5 million in outstanding borrowings, and \$306.5 million available for borrowing, under its revolving credit facility. We may in the future incur significant additional indebtedness under our revolving credit facility or otherwise in order to make acquisitions, to develop our properties or for other purposes. Our level of indebtedness could have important consequences to you and affect our operations in several ways, including the following:

- our high level of indebtedness could make it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to the senior notes, including any repurchase obligations that may arise thereunder;
- a significant portion of our cash flows could be used to service the senior notes and our other indebtedness, which could reduce the funds available to us for operations and other purposes;
- a high level of debt could increase our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions;
- the covenants contained in the agreements governing our outstanding indebtedness will limit our ability to borrow additional funds, dispose of assets, pay dividends and make certain investments;
- a high level of debt may place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors that are less leveraged and, therefore, may be able to take advantage of opportunities that our indebtedness would prevent us from pursuing;
- our debt covenants may also limit management's discretion in operating our business and our flexibility in planning for, and reacting to, changes in the economy and in our industry;
- a high level of debt may make it more likely that a reduction in our borrowing base following a periodic redetermination could require us to repay a portion of our then-outstanding bank borrowings;
- a high level of debt could limit our ability to access the capital markets to raise capital on favorable terms;
- a high level of debt may impair our ability to obtain additional financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, general corporate or other purposes; and
- we may be vulnerable to interest rate increases, as our borrowings under our revolving credit facility are at variable interest rates.

A high level of indebtedness increases the risk that we may default on our debt obligations. Our ability to meet our debt obligations and to reduce our level of indebtedness depends on our future performance. General economic conditions, oil and natural gas prices and financial, business and other factors affect our operations and our future performance. Many of these factors are beyond our control. We may not be able to generate sufficient cash flows to pay the interest on our debt, and future working capital, borrowings or equity financing may not be available to pay or refinance such debt. Factors that will affect our ability to raise cash through an offering of our capital stock or a refinancing of our debt include financial market conditions, the value of our assets and our performance at the time we need capital.

***Restrictive covenants in our revolving credit facility, the indentures governing the senior notes and future debt instruments may limit our ability to respond to changes in market conditions or pursue business opportunities.***

Our revolving credit facility and the indentures governing our outstanding senior notes contain, and the terms of any future indebtedness may contain, restrictive covenants that limit our ability to, among other things:

- incur or guarantee additional indebtedness;
- make certain investments;
- create additional liens;
- sell or transfer assets;
- issue preferred stock;
- merge or consolidate with another entity;
- pay dividends or make other distributions;
- designate certain of our subsidiaries as unrestricted subsidiaries;
- create unrestricted subsidiaries;

- engage in transactions with affiliates; and
- enter into certain swap agreements.

In connection with the closing of Viper's initial public offering on June 23, 2014, we entered into an amendment to our revolving credit facility, which modified certain provisions of our revolving credit facility to allow us, among other things, to designate one or more of our subsidiaries as "unrestricted subsidiaries" that are not subject to certain restrictions contained in the revolving credit facility. Under the amended revolving credit facility, we designated Viper, the general partner and Viper's subsidiary as unrestricted subsidiaries, and upon such designation, they were automatically released from any and all obligations under the amended revolving credit facility, including the related guaranty, and all liens on the assets of, and the equity interests in, Viper, the general partner and Viper's subsidiary under the amended revolving credit facility were automatically released. Further Viper, the general partner and Viper's subsidiaries, Viper Energy Partners LLC and Rattler Midstream LLC (formerly known as White Fang Energy LLC), are designated as unrestricted subsidiaries under the indentures governing our outstanding senior notes.

We may be prevented from taking advantage of business opportunities that arise because of the limitations imposed on us by the restrictive covenants contained in our revolving credit facility and the indentures governing our senior notes. In addition, our revolving credit facility requires us to maintain certain financial ratios and tests. The requirement that we comply with these provisions may materially adversely affect our ability to react to changes in market conditions, take advantage of business opportunities we believe to be desirable, obtain future financing, fund needed capital expenditures or withstand a continuing or future downturn in our business.

A breach of any of these restrictive covenants could result in default under our revolving credit facility. If default occurs, the lenders under our revolving credit facility may elect to declare all borrowings outstanding, together with accrued interest and other fees, to be immediately due and payable, which would result in an event of default under the indentures governing our senior notes. The lenders will also have the right in these circumstances to terminate any commitments they have to provide further borrowings. If we are unable to repay outstanding borrowings when due, the lenders under our revolving credit facility will also have the right to proceed against the collateral granted to them to secure the indebtedness. If the indebtedness under our revolving credit facility and our senior notes were to be accelerated, we cannot assure you that our assets would be sufficient to repay in full that indebtedness.

***Any significant reduction in our borrowing base under our revolving credit facility as a result of the periodic borrowing base redeterminations or otherwise may negatively impact our ability to fund our operations, and we may not have sufficient funds to repay borrowings under our revolving credit facility if required as a result of a borrowing base redetermination.***

Availability under our revolving credit facility is currently subject to a borrowing base of \$1.8 billion, of which we have elected a commitment amount of \$1.0 billion. The borrowing base is subject to scheduled annual and other elective collateral borrowing base redeterminations based on our oil and natural gas reserves and other factors. As of December 31, 2017, we had \$397.0 million borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility. Our weighted average interest rate on borrowings under our revolving credit facility was 2.97% on December 31, 2017. On January 29, 2018, we repaid \$308.5 million of our outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility with the net proceeds from the issuance of our new 2025 notes. Immediately following the issuance of the new 2025 notes and the application of our net proceeds thereof, our borrowing base remained \$1.8 billion (as the lenders waived the borrowing base decrease under our revolving credit facility in connection with the issuance of the new 2025 notes), our elected commitment was \$1.0 billion, and we had \$911.4 million of available borrowing capacity under our revolving credit facility. We expect to borrow under our revolving credit facility in the future. Any significant reduction in our borrowing base as a result of such borrowing base redeterminations or otherwise may negatively impact our liquidity and our ability to fund our operations and, as a result, may have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operation and cash flow. Further if, the outstanding borrowings under our revolving credit facility were to exceed the borrowing base as a result of any such redetermination, we would be required to repay the excess. We may not have sufficient funds to make such repayments. If we do not have sufficient funds and we are otherwise unable to negotiate renewals of our borrowings or arrange new financing, we may have to sell significant assets. Any such sale could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial results.

***Servicing our indebtedness requires a significant amount of cash, and we may not have sufficient cash flow from our business to pay our substantial indebtedness.***

Our ability to make scheduled payments of the principal, to pay interest on or to refinance our indebtedness, including our senior notes, depends on our future performance, which is subject to economic, financial, competitive and other factors beyond our control. Our business may not generate cash flow from operations in the future sufficient to service our debt and make necessary capital expenditures. If we are unable to generate such cash flow, we may be required to adopt one or more



alternatives, such as reducing or delaying capital expenditures, selling assets, restructuring debt or obtaining additional equity capital on terms that may be onerous or highly dilutive. However, we cannot assure you that undertaking alternative financing plans, if necessary, would allow us to meet our debt obligations. In the absence of such cash flows, we could have substantial liquidity problems and might be required to sell material assets or operations to attempt to meet our debt service and other obligations. Our revolving credit facility and the indentures governing our senior notes restrict our ability to use the proceeds from asset sales. We may not be able to consummate those asset sales to raise capital or sell assets at prices that we believe are fair, and proceeds that we do receive may not be adequate to meet any debt service obligations then due. Our ability to refinance our indebtedness will depend on the capital markets and our financial condition at the time. We may not be able to engage in any of these activities or engage in these activities on desirable terms, which could result in a default on our debt obligations and have an adverse effect on our financial condition.

***We may still be able to incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future, which could further exacerbate the risks that we and our subsidiaries face.***

We and our subsidiaries may be able to incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future. The terms of our revolving credit facility and the indentures governing our senior notes restrict, but in each case do not completely prohibit, us from doing so. As of December 31, 2017, our borrowing base under our revolving credit facility was set at \$1.8 billion, of which we have elected a commitment amount of \$1.0 billion and we had \$397.0 million outstanding borrowings under this facility. As of December 31, 2017, Viper had \$93.5 million in outstanding borrowings, and \$306.5 million available for borrowing, under its revolving credit facility. Further, the indentures governing the senior notes allow us to issue additional notes under certain circumstances which will also be guaranteed by the guarantors. The indentures governing the senior notes also allow us to incur certain other additional secured debt and allows us to have subsidiaries that do not guarantee the senior notes and which may incur additional debt, which would be structurally senior to the senior notes. In addition, the indentures governing the senior notes do not prevent us from incurring other liabilities that do not constitute indebtedness. If we or a guarantor incur any additional indebtedness that ranks equally with the senior notes (or with the guarantees thereof), including additional unsecured indebtedness or trade payables, the holders of that indebtedness will be entitled to share ratably with holders of the senior notes in any proceeds distributed in connection with any insolvency, liquidation, reorganization, dissolution or other winding-up of us or a guarantor. If new debt or other liabilities are added to our current debt levels, the related risks that we and our subsidiaries now face could intensify.

***If we experience liquidity concerns, we could face a downgrade in our debt ratings which could restrict our access to, and negatively impact the terms of, current or future financings or trade credit.***

Our ability to obtain financings and trade credit and the terms of any financings or trade credit is, in part, dependent on the credit ratings assigned to our debt by independent credit rating agencies. We cannot provide assurance that any of our current ratings will remain in effect for any given period of time or that a rating will not be lowered or withdrawn entirely by a rating agency if, in its judgment, circumstances so warrant. Factors that may impact our credit ratings include debt levels, planned asset purchases or sales and near-term and long-term production growth opportunities, liquidity, asset quality, cost structure, product mix and commodity pricing levels. A ratings downgrade could adversely impact our ability to access financings or trade credit and increase our borrowing costs.

***Borrowings under our and Viper's revolving credit facilities expose us to interest rate risk.***

Our earnings are exposed to interest rate risk associated with borrowings under our revolving credit facility. The terms of our revolving credit facility provide for interest on borrowings at a floating rate equal to an alternative base rate (which is equal to the greatest of the prime rate, the Federal Funds effective rate plus 0.50% and 3-month LIBOR plus 1.0%) or LIBOR, in each case plus the applicable margin. The applicable margin ranges from 0.25% to 1.25% in the case of the alternative base rate and from 1.25% to 2.25% in the case of LIBOR, in each case depending on the amount of the loan outstanding in relation to the borrowing base. As of December 31, 2017, we had \$397.0 million borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility. Our weighted average interest rate on borrowings under our revolving credit facility was 2.97% on December 31, 2017. Viper's weighted average interest rate on borrowings from its revolving credit facility was 3.19% during the year ended December 31, 2017. As of December 31, 2017, Viper had \$93.5 million in outstanding borrowings, and \$306.5 million available for borrowing, under its revolving credit facility. If interest rates increase, so will our interest costs, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

## Risks Related to Our Common Stock

***The corporate opportunity provisions in our certificate of incorporation could enable affiliates of ours to benefit from corporate opportunities that might otherwise be available to us.***

Subject to the limitations of applicable law, our certificate of incorporation, among other things:

- permits us to enter into transactions with entities in which one or more of our officers or directors are financially or otherwise interested;
- permits any of our stockholders, officers or directors to conduct business that competes with us and to make investments in any kind of property in which we may make investments; and
- provides that if any director or officer of one of our affiliates who is also one of our officers or directors becomes aware of a potential business opportunity, transaction or other matter (other than one expressly offered to that director or officer in writing solely in his or her capacity as our director or officer), that director or officer will have no duty to communicate or offer that opportunity to us, and will be permitted to communicate or offer that opportunity to such affiliates and that director or officer will not be deemed to have (i) acted in a manner inconsistent with his or her fiduciary or other duties to us regarding the opportunity or (ii) acted in bad faith or in a manner inconsistent with our best interests.

These provisions create the possibility that a corporate opportunity that would otherwise be available to us may be used for the benefit of one of our affiliates.

***We have engaged in transactions with our affiliates and expect to do so in the future. The terms of such transactions and the resolution of any conflicts that may arise may not always be in our or our stockholders' best interests.***

In the past, we have engaged in transactions with affiliated companies and may do so again in the future. These transactions, and the resolution of any conflicts that may arise in connection with such related party transactions, including pricing, duration or other terms of service, may not always be in our or our stockholders' best interests.

***If the price of our common stock fluctuates significantly, your investment could lose value.***

Although our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Select Global Market, we cannot assure you that an active public market will continue for our common stock. If an active public market for our common stock does not continue, the trading price and liquidity of our common stock will be materially and adversely affected. If there is a thin trading market or "float" for our stock, the market price for our common stock may fluctuate significantly more than the stock market as a whole. Without a large float, our common stock would be less liquid than the stock of companies with broader public ownership and, as a result, the trading prices of our common stock may be more volatile. In addition, in the absence of an active public trading market, investors may be unable to liquidate their investment in us. Furthermore, the stock market is subject to significant price and volume fluctuations, and the price of our common stock could fluctuate widely in response to several factors, including:

- our quarterly or annual operating results;
- changes in our earnings estimates;
- investment recommendations by securities analysts following our business or our industry;
- additions or departures of key personnel;
- changes in the business, earnings estimates or market perceptions of our competitors;
- our failure to achieve operating results consistent with securities analysts' projections;
- changes in industry, general market or economic conditions; and
- announcements of legislative or regulatory changes.

The stock market has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations in recent years that have significantly affected the quoted prices of the securities of many companies, including companies in our industry. The changes often appear to occur

without regard to specific operating performance. The price of our common stock could fluctuate based upon factors that have little or nothing to do with our company and these fluctuations could materially reduce our stock price.

***Future sales of our common stock, or the perception that such future sales may occur, may cause our stock price to decline.***

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market, or the perception that these sales may occur, could cause the market price of our common stock to decline. In addition, the sale of such shares, or the perception that such sales may occur, could impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of additional common or preferred stock. Except for any shares purchased by our affiliates, all of the shares of common stock sold in our initial public offering and our subsequent equity offerings are freely tradable. In the event that one or more of our stockholders sells a substantial amount of our common stock in the public market, or the market perceives that such sales may occur, the price of our stock could decline.

***The declaration of dividends on our common stock is within the discretion of our board of directors based upon a review of relevant considerations, and there is no guarantee that we will pay any dividends in the future or at levels anticipated by our stockholders.***

On February 13, 2018, we announced that we are initiating an annual cash dividend in the amount of \$0.50 per share of our common stock payable quarterly beginning with the first quarter of 2018. The decision to pay this first dividend or any future dividends, however, is solely within the discretion of, and subject to approval by, our board of directors. Our board of directors' determination with respect to any such dividends, including the record date, the payment date and the actual amount of the dividend, will depend upon our profitability and financial condition, contractual restrictions, restrictions imposed by applicable law and other factors that the board deems relevant at the time of such determination. Based on its evaluation of these factors, the board of directors may determine not to declare a dividend, or declare dividends at rates that are less than currently anticipated, either of which could reduce returns to our stockholders.

***A change of control could limit our use of net operating losses.***

As of December 31, 2017, we had a net operating loss, or NOL, carry forward of approximately \$357.0 million for federal income tax purposes. If we were to experience an "ownership change," as determined under Section 382 of the Code, our ability to offset taxable income arising after the ownership change with NOLs generated prior to the ownership change would be limited, possibly substantially. In general, an ownership change would establish an annual limitation on the amount of our pre-change NOLs we could utilize to offset our taxable income in any future taxable year to an amount generally equal to the value of our stock immediately prior to the ownership change multiplied by the long-term tax-exempt rate. In general, an ownership change will occur if there is a cumulative increase in our ownership of more than 50 percentage points by one or more "5% shareholders" (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code) at any time during a rolling three-year period.

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

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

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

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

*Provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws and Delaware law make it more difficult to effect a change in control of the company, which could adversely affect the price of our common stock.*

The existence of some provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws and Delaware corporate law could delay or prevent a change in control of our company, even if that change would be beneficial to our stockholders. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that may make acquiring control of our company difficult, including:

- provisions regulating the ability of our stockholders to nominate directors for election or to bring matters for action at annual meetings of our stockholders;
- limitations on the ability of our stockholders to call a special meeting and act by written consent;
- the ability of our board of directors to adopt, amend or repeal bylaws, and the requirement that the affirmative vote of holders representing at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of all outstanding shares of capital stock be obtained for stockholders to amend our bylaws;
- the requirement that the affirmative vote of holders representing at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of all outstanding shares of capital stock be obtained to remove directors;
- the requirement that the affirmative vote of holders representing at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of all outstanding shares of capital stock be obtained to amend our certificate of incorporation; and
- the authorization given to our board of directors to issue and set the terms of preferred stock without the approval of our stockholders.

These provisions also could discourage proxy contests and make it more difficult for you and other stockholders to elect directors and take other corporate actions. As a result, these provisions could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us, even if doing so would benefit our stockholders, which may limit the price that investors are willing to pay in the future for shares of our common stock.

#### **ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

#### **ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

Due to the nature of our business, we are, from time to time, involved in routine litigation or subject to disputes or claims related to our business activities, including workers' compensation claims and employment related disputes. In the opinion of our management, none of the pending litigation, disputes or claims against us, if decided adversely, will have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, cash flows or results of operations.

#### **ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

Not applicable.

## PART II

### ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

#### Price Range of Common Stock

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol "FANG".

The following table sets forth the range of high and low sales prices of our common stock for the periods presented:

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
<b>2017</b>		
1st Quarter	\$ 114.00	\$ 96.05
2nd Quarter	\$ 108.17	\$ 83.22
3rd Quarter	\$ 98.36	\$ 82.77
4th Quarter	\$ 127.45	\$ 95.69
<b>2016</b>		
1st Quarter	\$ 79.87	\$ 55.48
2nd Quarter	\$ 96.01	\$ 73.12
3rd Quarter	\$ 99.69	\$ 83.90
4th Quarter	\$ 113.23	\$ 88.74

#### Holders of Record

There were nine holders of record of our common stock on February 9, 2018.

#### Dividend Policy

We have not paid any cash dividends since our inception. Covenants contained in our revolving credit facility restrict the payment of cash dividends on our common stock. See Item 1A. "Risk Factors—Risks Related to the Oil and Natural Gas Industry and Our Business—Our revolving credit facility contains restrictive covenants that may limit our ability to respond to changes in market conditions or pursue business opportunities." and Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources—Credit Facility."

On February 13, 2018, we announced that we are initiating an annual cash dividend in the amount of \$0.50 per share of our common stock payable quarterly beginning with the first quarter of 2018. The decision to pay this first dividend or any future dividends, however, is solely within the discretion of, and subject to approval by, our board of directors. Our board of directors' determination with respect to any such dividends, including the record date, the payment date and the actual amount of the dividend, will depend upon our profitability and financial condition, contractual restrictions, restrictions imposed by applicable law and other factors that the board deems relevant at the time of such determination.

#### Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

None.

#### Repurchases of Equity Securities

None.

## ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

This section presents our selected historical combined consolidated financial data. The selected historical combined consolidated financial data presented below is not intended to replace our historical consolidated financial statements. You should read the following data along with Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and the consolidated financial statements and related notes, each of which is included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Presented below is our historical financial data for the periods and as of the dates indicated. The historical financial data for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 and the balance sheet data as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The historical financial data for the year ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 and the balance sheet data as of December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 are derived from our audited financial statements not included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Statements of Operations Data:</b>					
Total revenues	\$ 1,205,111	\$ 527,107	\$ 446,733	\$ 495,718	\$ 208,002
Total costs and expenses	600,091	595,724	1,187,002	283,048	112,808
Income (loss) from operations	605,020	(68,617)	(740,269)	212,670	95,194
Other income (expense)	(107,831)	(96,099)	(8,831)	92,286	(8,853)
Income (loss) before income taxes	497,189	(164,716)	(749,100)	304,956	86,341
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	(19,568)	192	(201,310)	108,985	31,754
Net income (loss)	516,757	(164,908)	(547,790)	195,971	54,587
Less: Net income attributable to non-controlling interest	34,496	126	2,838	2,216	—
Net income (loss) attributable to Diamondback Energy, Inc.	\$ 482,261	\$ (165,034)	\$ (550,628)	\$ 193,755	\$ 54,587
<b>Earnings per common share</b>					
Basic	\$ 4.95	\$ (2.20)	\$ (8.74)	\$ 3.67	\$ 1.30
Diluted	\$ 4.94	\$ (2.20)	\$ (8.74)	\$ 3.64	\$ 1.29
<b>Weighted average common shares outstanding</b>					
Basic	97,458	75,077	63,019	52,826	42,015
Diluted	97,688	75,077	63,019	53,297	42,255

(In thousands)	As of December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 112,446	\$ 1,666,574	\$ 20,115	\$ 30,183	\$ 15,555
Net property and equipment	7,343,617	3,390,857	2,597,625	2,791,807	1,446,337
Total assets	7,770,985	5,349,680	2,750,719	3,095,481	1,521,614
Current liabilities	577,428	209,342	141,421	266,729	121,320
Long-term debt	1,477,347	1,105,912	487,807	673,500	460,000
Total stockholders'/ members' equity <sup>(1)</sup>	5,254,860	3,697,462	1,875,972	1,751,011	845,541
Total equity	5,581,737	4,018,292	2,108,973	1,985,213	—

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Other Financial Data:</b>					
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 888,625	\$ 332,080	\$ 416,501	\$ 356,389	\$ 155,777
Net cash used in investing activities	(3,132,282)	(1,310,242)	(895,050)	(1,481,997)	(940,140)
Net cash provided by financing activities	689,529	2,624,621	468,481	1,140,236	773,560

**Year Ended December 31,**

<b>(In thousands)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 928,039	\$ 387,535	\$ 449,245	\$ 398,334	\$ 157,604

- (1) For the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014, total stockholders' equity excludes \$326.9 million, \$320.8 million, \$233.0 million and \$234.2 million, respectively, of non-controlling interest related to Viper Energy Partners LP. There was no equity related to non-controlling interest for the year ended December 31, 2013.
- (2) Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA is a supplemental non-GAAP financial measure. For our definition of Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA and a reconciliation of Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA to net income (loss) see “–Non-GAAP financial measure and reconciliation” below.

**Non-GAAP financial measure and reconciliation**

Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA is a supplemental non-GAAP financial measure that is used by management and external users of our financial statements, such as industry analysts, investors, lenders and rating agencies. We define Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA as net income (loss) plus net non-cash (gain) loss on derivative instruments, net interest expense, depreciation, depletion and amortization expense, impairment of oil and natural gas properties, non-cash equity-based compensation expense, capitalized equity-based compensation expense, asset retirement obligation accretion expense, loss on extinguishment of debt, income tax (benefit) provision and non-controlling interest in net (income) loss. Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA is not a measure of net income (loss) as determined by GAAP. Management believes Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA is useful because it allows it to more effectively evaluate our operating performance and compare the results of our operations from period to period without regard to our financing methods or capital structure. We add the items listed above to net income (loss) in arriving at Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA because these amounts can vary substantially from company to company within our industry depending upon accounting methods and book values of assets, capital structures and the method by which the assets were acquired. Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered as an alternative to, or more meaningful than, net income (loss) as determined in accordance with GAAP or as an indicator of our operating performance or liquidity. Certain items excluded from Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA are significant components in understanding and assessing a company's financial performance, such as a company's cost of capital and tax structure, as well as the historic costs of depreciable assets, none of which are components of Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA. Our computations of Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA may not be comparable to other similarly titled measure of other companies or to such measure in our revolving credit facility or any of our other contracts.

The following presents a reconciliation of the non-GAAP financial measure of Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA to the GAAP financial measure of net income (loss).

<b>(In thousands)</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	\$ 516,757	\$ (164,908)	\$ (547,790)	\$ 195,971	\$ 54,587
Non-cash (gain) loss on derivative instruments, net	84,240	26,522	112,918	(117,109)	(5,346)
Interest expense, net	40,554	40,684	41,510	34,515	8,059
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	326,759	178,015	217,697	170,005	66,597
Impairment of oil and natural gas properties	—	245,536	814,798	—	—
Non-cash equity-based compensation expense	34,178	33,532	24,572	14,253	2,724
Capitalized equity-based compensation expense	(8,641)	(7,079)	(6,043)	(4,437)	(972)
Asset retirement obligation accretion expense	1,391	1,064	833	467	201
Loss on extinguishment of debt	—	33,134	—	—	—
Income tax (benefit) provision	(19,568)	192	(201,310)	108,985	31,754
Non-controlling interest in net (income) loss	(47,631)	843	(7,940)	(4,316)	—
<b>Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<u>\$ 928,039</u>	<u>\$ 387,535</u>	<u>\$ 449,245</u>	<u>\$ 398,334</u>	<u>\$ 157,604</u>

**ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

*The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10–K. The following discussion contains “forward-looking statements” that reflect our future plans, estimates, beliefs, and expected performance. Actual results and the timing of events may differ materially from those contained in these forward-looking statements due to a number of factors. See Item 1A. “Risk Factors” and “Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.”*

**Overview**

We are an independent oil and natural gas company focused on the acquisition, development, exploration and exploitation of unconventional, onshore oil and natural gas reserves in the Permian Basin in West Texas. Our activities are primarily directed at the horizontal development of the Wolfcamp and Spraberry formations in the Midland Basin and the Wolfcamp and Bone Spring formations in the Delaware Basin. We intend to continue to develop our reserves and increase production through development drilling and exploitation and exploration activities on our multi-year inventory of identified potential drilling locations and through acquisitions that meet our strategic and financial objectives, targeting oil-weighted reserves. Substantially all of our revenues are generated through the sale of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas production.

The following table sets forth our production data for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Oil (MBbls)	74%	73%	75%
Natural gas (MMcf)	12%	11%	11%
Natural gas liquids (MBbls)	14%	16%	14%
	100%	100%	100%

On December 31, 2017, our acreage position in the Permian Basin was approximately 246,012 gross (206,660 net) acres, which consisted of approximately 117,586 gross (101,941 net) acres in the Northern Midland Basin and approximately 128,426 gross (104,719 net) acres in the Southern Delaware Basin.

**2017 Transactions and Recent Developments***Our Delaware Basin Acquisition*

On February 28, 2017, we completed an acquisition of oil and natural gas properties, midstream assets and other related assets in the Delaware Basin for an aggregate purchase price consisting of \$1.74 billion in cash and 7.69 million shares of our common stock, of which approximately 1.15 million shares were placed in an indemnity escrow. This transaction included the acquisition of (i) approximately 100,306 gross (80,339 net) acres primarily in Pecos and Reeves counties for approximately \$2.5 billion and (ii) midstream assets for approximately \$47.6 million. We used the net proceeds from our December 2016 equity offering, net proceeds from our December 2016 debt offering, cash on hand and other financing sources to fund the cash portion of the purchase price for this acquisition.

*New Senior Notes*

On January 29, 2018, we issued \$300.0 million aggregate principal amount of new 2025 notes as additional notes under our existing indenture, dated as of December 20, 2016, as supplemented, among us, subsidiary guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo, as trustee, under which we previously issued \$500.0 million aggregate principal amount of our existing 5.375% Senior Notes due 2025. We received approximately \$308.4 million in net proceeds, after deducting the initial purchaser’s discount and our estimated offering expenses, but disregarding accrued interest, from the issuance of the new 2025 notes. We used the net proceeds from the issuance of the new 2025 notes to repay a portion of the outstanding borrowings under our revolving credit facility.



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### *Viper Equity Offerings*

In January 2017, Viper completed an underwritten public offering of 9,775,000 common units, which included 1,275,000 common units issued pursuant to an option to purchase additional common units granted to the underwriters. Viper received net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$147.5 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses, of which Viper used \$120.5 million to repay the outstanding borrowings under its revolving credit agreement and the balance was used for general partnership purposes, which included additional acquisitions.

In July 2017, Viper completed an underwritten public offering of 16,100,000 common units, which included 2,100,000 common units issued pursuant to an option to purchase additional common units granted to the underwriters. In this offering, we purchased 700,000 common units, an affiliate of the General Partner purchased 3,000,000 common units and certain officers and directors of our Company and the General Partner purchased an aggregate of 114,000 common units, in each case directly from the underwriters. Following this offering, we had an approximate 64% limited partner interest in Viper. Viper received net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$232.5 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses, of which Viper used \$152.8 million to repay all of the then-outstanding borrowings under Viper's revolving credit facility and the balance was used to fund a portion of the purchase price for acquisitions and for general partnership purposes.

### *Operational Update*

We are operating ten rigs now and currently intend to operate between ten and twelve drilling rigs in 2018 across our asset base in the Midland and Delaware Basins. We plan to operate six to seven of these rigs in the Midland Basin targeting horizontal development of the Wolfcamp and Spraberry formations, with four to five rigs are expected to operate in the Delaware Basin targeting the Wolfcamp and Bone Spring formations.

In the Midland Basin, we continue have positive results across our core development areas located within Midland, Martin, Howard, Glasscock and Andrews counties, where development has primarily focused on drilling long-lateral, multi-well pads targeting the Spraberry and Wolfcamp formations. We are currently operating six rigs on the acreage and expect to average approximately six to eight operated rigs in 2018.

In the Delaware Basin, we have now drilled and completed multiple wells in Pecos, Reeves and Ward counties targeting the Wolfcamp A, which we believe has been de-risked across a significant portion of our total acreage position and remains our primary development target. Additionally, we have successfully completed additional wells targeting such zones as the Wolfcamp B and 2nd Bone Spring, and expect to test these zones further in 2018. We are currently operating four rigs in the Delaware Basin and plan to average approximately four to five rigs in 2018.

We continue to focus on low cost operations and best in class execution. In doing so, we are focused on controlling oilfield service costs as our service providers seek to increase pricing following continued strength in the oil market. To combat rising service costs, we have looked to lock in pricing for dedicated activity levels and will continue to seek opportunities to control additional well cost where possible. Our 2018 drilling and completion budget accounts for rising capital costs that we believe will cover potential increases in our service costs during the year.

### **2018 Capital Budget**

We have currently budgeted a 2018 total capital spend of \$1.3 billion to \$1.5 billion, consisting of \$1.175 billion to \$1.325 billion for horizontal drilling and completions including non-operated activity and \$125.0 million to \$175.0 million for infrastructure and other expenditures, but excluding the cost of any leasehold and mineral interest acquisitions. We expect to drill and complete 170 to 190 gross horizontal wells in 2018.

### **Operating Results Overview**

The following table summarizes our average daily production for the periods presented:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Oil (Bbls)/d	58,678	31,590	24,880
Natural Gas (Mcf)/d	56,602	29,313	21,729
Natural Gas Liquids (Bbls)/d	11,112	6,556	4,596
Total average production per day	79,224	43,031	33,098

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Our average daily production for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2016 increased by 36,193 BOE/d, or 84%.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, we drilled 150 gross (130 net) horizontal wells and participated in the drilling of 16 gross (two net) non-operated horizontal wells in the Permian Basin.

**Reserves and pricing**

Ryder Scott prepared estimates of our proved reserves at December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 (which include estimated proved reserves attributable to Viper). The prices used to estimate proved reserves for all periods did not give effect to derivative transactions, were held constant throughout the life of the properties and have been adjusted for quality, transportation fees, geographical differentials, marketing bonuses or deductions and other factors affecting the price received at the wellhead.

	2017	2016	2015
<b>Estimated Net Proved Reserves:</b>			
Oil (MBbls)	233,181	139,174	105,979
Natural gas (MMcf)	285,369	174,896	149,503
Natural gas liquids (MBbls)	54,610	37,134	26,004
Total (MBOE)	335,352	205,458	156,899

	Unweighted Arithmetic Average First-Day-of-the-Month Prices		
	2017	2016	2015
Oil (per Bbl)	\$ 48.03	\$ 39.94	\$ 45.07
Natural gas (per Mcf)	\$ 2.06	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.83
Natural gas liquids (per Bbl)	\$ 20.79	\$ 12.91	\$ 12.56

**Sources of our revenue**

Our revenues are derived from the sale of oil and natural gas production, as well as the sale of natural gas liquids that are extracted from our natural gas during processing. Our oil and natural gas revenues do not include the effects of derivatives. Our revenues may vary significantly from period to period as a result of changes in volumes of production sold, production mix or commodity prices.

The following table presents the sources of our revenues for the years presented:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
<b>Revenues</b>			
Oil sales	88%	89%	91%
Natural gas sales	4%	4%	4%
Natural gas liquid sales	8%	7%	5%
	100%	100%	100%

Since our production consists primarily of oil, our revenues are more sensitive to fluctuations in oil prices than they are to fluctuations in natural gas liquids or natural gas prices. Oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas prices have historically been volatile. During 2017, WTI posted prices ranged from \$42.48 to \$60.46 per Bbl and the Henry Hub spot market price of natural gas ranged from \$2.44 to \$3.71 per MMBtu. On December 29, 2017, the WTI posted price for crude oil was \$60.46 per Bbl and the Henry Hub spot market price of natural gas was \$3.69 per MMBtu. Lower prices may not only decrease our revenues, but also potentially the amount of oil and natural gas that we can produce economically. Lower oil and natural gas prices may also result in a reduction in the borrowing base under our credit agreement, which may be determined at the discretion of our lenders.

## Principal components of our cost structure

*Lease operating expenses.* These are daily costs incurred to bring oil and natural gas out of the ground and to the market, together with the daily costs incurred to maintain our producing properties. Such costs also include maintenance, repairs and workover expenses related to our oil and natural gas properties.

*Production and ad valorem taxes.* Production taxes are paid on produced oil and natural gas based on a percentage of revenues from products sold at fixed rates established by federal, state or local taxing authorities. Where available, we benefit from tax credits and exemptions in our various taxing jurisdictions. We are also subject to ad valorem taxes in the counties where our production is located. Ad valorem taxes are generally based on the valuation of our oil and gas properties.

*General and administrative expenses.* These are costs incurred for overhead, including payroll and benefits for our corporate staff, costs of maintaining our headquarters, costs of managing our production and development operations, franchise taxes, audit and other fees for professional services and legal compliance.

*Midstream services expense.* These are costs incurred to operate and maintain our oil and natural gas gathering and transportation systems, natural gas lift, compression infrastructure and water transportation facilities.

*Depreciation, depletion and amortization.* Under the full cost accounting method, we capitalize costs within a cost center and then systematically expense those costs on a units of production basis based on proved oil and natural gas reserve quantities. We calculate depletion on the following types of costs: (i) all capitalized costs, other than the cost of investments in unproved properties and major development projects for which proved reserves cannot yet be assigned, less accumulated amortization; (ii) the estimated future expenditures to be incurred in developing proved reserves; and (iii) the estimated dismantlement and abandonment costs, net of estimated salvage values. Depreciation of other property and equipment is computed using the straight line method over their estimated useful lives, which range from three to fifteen years.

*Impairment of oil and natural gas properties.* This is the cost to reduce proved oil and gas properties to the calculated full cost ceiling value.

## Other income (expense)

*Interest income (expense).* We have financed a portion of our working capital requirements, capital expenditures and acquisitions with borrowings under our revolving credit facility and our net proceeds from the issuance of the senior notes. We incur interest expense that is affected by both fluctuations in interest rates and our financing decisions. This amount reflects interest paid to our lender plus the amortization of deferred financing costs (including origination and amendment fees), commitment fees and annual agency fees net of interest received on our cash and cash equivalents.

*Gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net.* We utilize commodity derivative financial instruments to reduce our exposure to fluctuations in the price of crude oil. This amount represents (i) the recognition of the change in the fair value of open non-hedge derivative contracts as commodity prices change and commodity derivative contracts expire or new ones are entered into, and (ii) our gains and losses on the settlement of these commodity derivative instruments.

*Deferred tax assets (liabilities).* We use the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes, under which deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences of (1) temporary differences between the financial statement carrying amounts and the tax bases of existing assets and liabilities and (2) operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are based on enacted tax rates applicable to the future period when those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect of a change in tax rates on deferred tax assets and liabilities is recognized in income in the period the rate change is enacted. A valuation allowance is provided for deferred tax assets when it is more likely than not the deferred tax assets will not be realized.

**Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth selected historical operating data for the periods indicated.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
	(in thousands)		
<b>Revenues</b>			
Oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas	\$ 1,186,275	\$ 527,107	\$ 446,733
Lease bonus	11,764	—	—
Midstream services	7,072	—	—
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>1,205,111</b>	<b>527,107</b>	<b>446,733</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Lease operating expenses	126,524	82,428	82,625
Production and ad valorem taxes	73,505	34,456	32,990
Gathering and transportation	12,834	11,606	6,091
Midstream services	10,409	—	—
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	326,759	178,015	217,697
Impairment of oil and natural gas properties	—	245,536	814,798
General and administrative expenses	48,669	42,619	31,968
Asset retirement obligation accretion	1,391	1,064	833
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>600,091</b>	<b>595,724</b>	<b>1,187,002</b>
Income (loss) from operations	605,020	(68,617)	(740,269)
Interest expense, net	(40,554)	(40,684)	(41,510)
Other income, net	10,235	3,064	728
Gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net	(77,512)	(25,345)	31,951
Loss on extinguishment of debt	—	(33,134)	—
<b>Total other expense, net</b>	<b>(107,831)</b>	<b>(96,099)</b>	<b>(8,831)</b>
Income (loss) before income taxes	497,189	(164,716)	(749,100)
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	(19,568)	192	(201,310)
Net income (loss)	516,757	(164,908)	(547,790)
Net income attributable to non-controlling interest	34,496	126	2,838
Net income (loss) attributable to Diamondback Energy, Inc.	\$ 482,261	\$ (165,034)	\$ (550,628)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
<b>Production Data:</b>			
Oil (MBbls)	21,418	11,562	9,081
Natural gas (MMcf)	20,660	10,728	7,931
Natural gas liquids (MBbls)	4,056	2,399	1,678
Combined volumes (MBOE)	28,917	15,749	12,081
Daily combined volumes (BOE/d)	79,224	43,031	33,098
<b>Average Prices:</b>			
Oil (per Bbl)	\$ 48.75	\$ 40.70	\$ 44.68
Natural gas (per Mcf)	2.53	2.10	2.47
Natural gas liquids (per Bbl)	22.20	14.20	12.77
Combined (per BOE)	41.02	33.47	36.98
Oil, hedged (\$ per Bbl) <sup>(1)</sup>	48.94	40.80	60.63
Natural gas, hedged (\$ per MMBtu) <sup>(1)</sup>	2.65	2.06	2.47
Average price, hedged (\$ per BOE) <sup>(1)</sup>	41.26	33.54	48.97
<b>Average Costs per BOE:</b>			
Lease operating expense	\$ 4.38	\$ 5.23	\$ 6.84
Production and ad valorem taxes	2.54	2.19	2.73
Gathering and transportation expense	0.44	0.74	0.50
General and administrative - cash component	0.80	1.03	1.11
Total operating expense - cash	\$ 8.16	\$ 9.19	\$ 11.18
General and administrative - non-cash component	\$ 0.88	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.54
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	11.30	11.30	18.02
Interest expense	1.40	2.58	3.44
Total expenses	\$ 13.58	\$ 15.56	\$ 23.00
Average realized oil price (\$/Bbl)	\$ 48.75	\$ 40.70	\$ 44.68
Average NYMEX (\$/Bbl)	\$ 50.80	\$ 43.29	\$ 48.66
Differential to NYMEX	\$ (2.05)	\$ (2.59)	\$ (3.98)
Average realized oil price to NYMEX	96%	94%	92%
Average realized natural gas price (\$/Mcf)	\$ 2.53	\$ 2.10	\$ 2.47
Average NYMEX (\$/Mcf)	\$ 2.99	\$ 2.52	\$ 2.62
Differential to NYMEX	\$ (0.46)	\$ (0.42)	\$ (0.15)
Average realized natural gas price to NYMEX	85%	83%	94%
Average realized natural gas liquids price (\$/Bbl)	\$ 22.20	\$ 14.20	\$ 12.77
Average NYMEX oil price (\$/Bbl)	\$ 50.80	\$ 43.29	\$ 48.66
Average realized natural gas liquids price to NYMEX oil price	44%	33%	26%

(1) Hedged prices reflect the effect of our commodity derivative transactions on our average sales prices. Our calculation of such effects include realized gains and losses on cash settlements for commodity derivatives, which we do not designate for hedge accounting.

**Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016**

**Oil, Natural Gas Liquids and Natural Gas Revenues.** Our oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas revenues increased by approximately \$659.2 million, or 125%, to \$1.2 billion for the year ended December 31, 2017 from \$527.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. Our revenues are a function of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas production volumes sold and average sales prices received for those volumes. Average daily production sold increased by 36,193 BOE/d to 79,224 BOE/d during the year ended December 31, 2017 from 43,031 BOE/d during the year ended December 31, 2016. The total increase in revenue of approximately \$659.2 million is attributable to higher oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas production volumes and higher average sales prices for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2016. The increases in production volumes were due to a combination of increased drilling activity and growth through acquisitions. Our production increased by 9,856 MBbls of oil, 1,656 MBbls of natural gas liquids and 9,931 MMcf of natural gas for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2016.

The net dollar effect of the increases in prices of approximately \$213.7 million (calculated as the change in period-to-period average prices multiplied by current period production volumes of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas) and the net dollar effect of the increase in production of approximately \$445.4 million (calculated as the increase in period-to-period volumes for oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas multiplied by the period average prices) are shown below.

	<u>Change in prices</u>	<u>Production volumes<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Total net dollar effect of change</u> (in thousands)
Effect of changes in price:			
Oil	\$ 8.05	21,418	\$ 172,403
Natural gas liquids	\$ 8.00	4,056	\$ 32,446
Natural gas	\$ 0.43	20,660	\$ 8,884
Total revenues due to change in price			\$ 213,733

	<u>Change in production volumes<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Prior period average prices</u>	<u>Total net dollar effect of change</u> (in thousands)
Effect of changes in production volumes:			
Oil	9,856	\$ 40.70	\$ 401,080
Natural gas liquids	1,656	\$ 14.20	\$ 23,521
Natural gas	9,931	\$ 2.10	\$ 20,834
Total revenues due to change in production volumes			\$ 445,435
Total change in revenues			\$ 659,168

(1) Production volumes are presented in MBbls for oil and natural gas liquids and MMcf for natural gas.

**Lease Bonus Revenue.** Lease bonus revenue was \$11.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, \$2.8 million of which was attributable to lease bonus payments to extend the term of seven leases, reflecting an average bonus of \$3,442 per acre and the remaining \$9.1 million was attributable to lease bonus payments on three new leases, reflecting an average bonus of \$14,320 per acre. We had no lease bonus revenue for the year ended December 31, 2016.

**Midstream Services Revenue.** Midstream services revenue was \$7.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. We had no midstream services revenue for the year ended December 31, 2016. Our midstream services revenue represents fees charged to our joint interest owners and third parties for the transportation of oil and natural gas along with water gathering and related disposal facilities. These assets complement our operations in areas where we have significant production.

**Lease Operating Expenses.** Lease operating expenses were \$126.5 million (\$4.38 per BOE) for the year ended December 31, 2017, an increase of \$44.1 million from \$82.4 million (\$5.23 per BOE) for the year ended December 31, 2016. The increase in lease operating expense was due to an increase of 234 producing wells compared to 2016. This increase was offset by higher production volumes which resulted in a decrease in lease operating expense per BOE.

**Production and Ad Valorem Taxes.** Production and ad valorem taxes increased to \$73.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2017 from \$34.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. In general, production taxes and ad valorem

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taxes are directly related to commodity price changes; however, Texas ad valorem taxes are based upon prior year commodity prices, whereas production taxes are based upon current year commodity prices. The increase in production and ad valorem taxes during the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to 2016 was primarily due to an increase in our production taxes as a result of increased commodity prices and volumes.

**Midstream Services Expense.** Midstream services expense was \$10.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. We had no midstream services expense for the year ended December 31, 2016. Midstream services expense represents costs incurred to operate and maintain our oil and natural gas gathering and transportation systems, natural gas lift, compression infrastructure and water transportation facilities.

**Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization.** Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense increased \$148.7 million, or 84%, from \$178.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2016 to \$326.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2017.

The following table provides components of our depreciation, depletion and amortization expense for the periods presented:

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2017	2016
	(in thousands, except BOE amounts)	
Depletion of proved oil and natural gas properties	\$ 321,870	\$ 176,369
Depreciation of midstream assets	3,451	252
Depreciation of other property and equipment	1,438	1,394
Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense	\$ 326,759	\$ 178,015
Oil and natural gas properties depreciation, depletion and amortization expense per BOE	\$ 11.11	\$ 11.23
Total depreciation, depletion and amortization expense per BOE	\$ 11.30	\$ 11.30

The increase in depletion of proved oil and natural gas properties of \$145.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2016 resulted primarily from higher production levels and an increase in net book value on new reserves added.

**Impairment of Oil and Natural Gas Properties.** During the year ended December 31, 2016, we recorded an impairment of oil and gas properties of \$245.5 million as a result of the significant decline in commodity prices, which resulted in a reduction of the discounted present value of our proved oil and natural gas reserves. We did not record an impairment of oil and natural gas properties during the year ended December 31, 2017.

**General and Administrative Expenses.** General and administrative expenses increased \$6.1 million from \$42.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2016 to \$48.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. The increase was due to an increase in salaries and benefits expense as a result of an increase in workforce.

**Net Interest Expense.** Net interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$40.6 million as compared to \$40.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2016, a decrease of \$0.1 million. This decrease was due primarily to the issuance in October 2016 of new senior notes due 2024 with a lower interest rate than the senior notes which we redeemed in the fourth quarter of 2016 partially offset by the interest on the additional senior notes due in 2025 that we issued in December 2016.

**Gain (Loss) on Derivative Instruments, Net.** We are required to recognize all derivative instruments on the balance sheet as either assets or liabilities measured at fair value. We have not designated our derivative instruments as hedges for accounting purposes. As a result, we mark our derivative instruments to fair value and recognize the cash and non-cash changes in fair value on derivative instruments in our consolidated statements of operations under the line item captioned "Gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net." For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, we had a cash gain on settlement of derivative instruments of \$6.7 million and \$1.2 million, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, we had a negative change in the fair value of open derivative instruments of \$84.2 million and \$26.5 million, respectively.

**Provision for (Benefit from) Income Taxes.** We recorded an income tax benefit of \$19.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to an income tax provision of \$0.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. Our effective tax rate was (3.9)% for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to (0.1)% for the year ended December 31, 2016. The change in our income tax provision for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2016 is primarily due to the reduction in our valuation allowance against deferred tax assets, as well as the favorable impact of the

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reduction in the federal statutory tax rate enacted in December 2017. While we generated positive pre-tax income from continuing operations in 2017, our 2017 effective tax rate was negative due to the income tax benefit generated by these items.



**Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015**

**Oil, Natural Gas Liquids and Natural Gas Revenues.** Our oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas revenues increased by approximately \$80.4 million, or 18%, to \$527.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2016 from \$446.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2015. Our revenues are a function of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas production volumes sold and average sales prices received for those volumes. Average daily production sold increased by 9,933 BOE/d to 43,031 BOE/d during the year ended December 31, 2016 from 33,098 BOE/d during the year ended December 31, 2015. The total increase in revenue of approximately \$80.4 million is largely attributable to higher oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas production volumes partially offset by lower average sales prices for the year ended December 31, 2016 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2015. The increases in production volumes were due to a combination of increased drilling activity and growth through acquisitions. Our production increased by 2,481 MBbls of oil, 722 MBbls of natural gas liquids and 2,797 MMcf of natural gas for the year ended December 31, 2016 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2015.

The net dollar effect of the decreases in prices of approximately \$46.6 million (calculated as the change in period-to-period average prices multiplied by current period production volumes of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas) and the net dollar effect of the increase in production of approximately \$126.9 million (calculated as the increase in period-to-period volumes for oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas multiplied by the period average prices) are shown below.

	<u>Change in prices</u>	<u>Production volumes<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Total net dollar effect of change</u> <u>(in thousands)</u>
Effect of changes in price:			
Oil	\$ (3.98)	11,562	\$ (46,031)
Natural gas liquids	\$ 1.43	2,399	\$ 3,431
Natural gas	\$ (0.37)	10,728	\$ (3,970)
Total revenues due to change in price			\$ (46,570)

  

	<u>Change in production volumes<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Prior period average prices</u>	<u>Total net dollar effect of change</u> <u>(in thousands)</u>
Effect of changes in production volumes:			
Oil	2,481	\$ 44.68	\$ 110,815
Natural gas liquids	722	\$ 12.77	\$ 9,219
Natural gas	2,797	\$ 2.47	\$ 6,910
Total revenues due to change in production volumes			\$ 126,944
Total change in revenues			\$ 80,374

(1) Production volumes are presented in MBbls for oil and natural gas liquids and MMcf for natural gas.

**Lease Operating Expenses.** Lease operating expenses were \$82.4 million (\$5.23 per BOE) for the year ended December 31, 2016, a decrease of \$0.2 million from \$82.6 million (\$6.84 per BOE) for the year ended December 31, 2015. The decrease is a result of efficiencies we achieved in our field operations. Upon becoming the operator of wells acquired in our acquisitions, we seek to achieve the efficiencies in those wells that we have established with our existing portfolio of wells.

**Production and Ad Valorem Taxes.** Production and ad valorem taxes increased to \$34.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2016 from \$33.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2015. In general, production taxes and ad valorem taxes are directly related to commodity price changes; however, Texas ad valorem taxes are based upon prior year commodity prices, whereas production taxes are based upon current year commodity prices. The increase in production and ad valorem taxes during the year ended December 31, 2016 as compared to 2015 was primarily due to an increase in our production taxes as a result of increased production partially offset by lower ad valorem taxes.

**Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization.** Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense decreased \$39.7 million, or 18%, from \$217.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 to \$178.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2016.

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The following table provides components of our depreciation, depletion and amortization expense for the periods presented:

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2016	2015
	(in thousands, except BOE amounts)	
Depletion of proved oil and natural gas properties	\$ 176,369	\$ 216,056
Depreciation of midstream assets	252	239
Depreciation of other property and equipment	1,394	1,402
Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense	\$ 178,015	\$ 217,697
Oil and natural gas properties depreciation, depletion and amortization expense per BOE	\$ 11.23	\$ 17.84
Total depreciation, depletion and amortization expense per BOE	\$ 11.30	\$ 18.02

The decreases in depletion of proved oil and natural gas properties of \$39.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2016 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2015 resulted primarily from the impairment of oil and gas properties recorded in 2016.

**Impairment of Oil and Natural Gas Properties.** During the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, we recorded impairments of oil and gas properties of \$245.5 million and \$814.8 million, respectively, as a result of the significant decline in commodity prices, which resulted in a reduction of the discounted present value of our proved oil and natural gas reserves.

**General and Administrative Expenses.** General and administrative expenses increased \$10.7 million from \$32.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 to \$42.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. The increase was due to increases in salaries and benefits expense as a result of an increase in workforce and equity-based compensation.

**Net Interest Expense.** Net interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2016 was \$40.7 million as compared to \$41.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2015, a decrease of \$0.8 million. This decrease was due primarily to the lower average level of outstanding borrowings under our credit facility during 2016.

**Gain (Loss) on Derivative Instruments, Net.** We are required to recognize all derivative instruments on the balance sheet as either assets or liabilities measured at fair value. We have not designated our derivative instruments as hedges for accounting purposes. As a result, we mark our derivative instruments to fair value and recognize the cash and non-cash changes in fair value on derivative instruments in our consolidated statements of operations under the line item captioned "Gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net." For the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, we had a cash gain on settlement of derivative instruments of \$1.2 million and \$144.9 million, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, we had a negative change in the fair value of open derivative instruments of \$26.5 million and \$112.9 million, respectively.

**Provision for (Benefit from) Income Taxes.** We recorded an income tax expense of \$0.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2016 as compared to an income tax benefit of \$201.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2015. Our effective tax rate was (0.1%) for the year ended December 31, 2016 as compared to 26.9% for the year ended December 31, 2015.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our primary sources of liquidity have been proceeds from our public equity offerings, borrowings under our revolving credit facility, proceeds from the issuance of the senior notes and cash flows from operations. Our primary use of capital has been for the acquisition, development and exploration of oil and natural gas properties. As we pursue reserves and production growth, we regularly consider which capital resources, including equity and debt financings, are available to meet our future financial obligations, planned capital expenditure activities and liquidity requirements. Our future ability to grow proved reserves and production will be highly dependent on the capital resources available to us.

### Liquidity and Cash Flow

Our cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 are presented below:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
	(in thousands)		
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 888,625	\$ 332,080	\$ 416,501
Net cash used in investing activities	(3,132,282)	(1,310,242)	(895,050)
Net cash provided by financing activities	\$ 689,529	\$ 2,624,621	\$ 468,481
Net change in cash	\$ (1,554,128)	\$ 1,646,459	\$ (10,068)

### Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$888.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to \$332.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. The increase in operating cash flows is primarily the result of an increase in our oil and natural gas revenues due to an increase in average prices and production growth during the year ended December 31, 2017.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$332.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2016 as compared to \$416.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2015. The decrease in operating cash flows is primarily the result of a higher gain on settlement of derivative instruments during the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2016.

Our operating cash flow is sensitive to many variables, the most significant of which is the volatility of prices for the oil and natural gas we produce. Prices for these commodities are determined primarily by prevailing market conditions. Regional and worldwide economic activity, weather and other substantially variable factors influence market conditions for these products. These factors are beyond our control and are difficult to predict. See “—Sources of our revenue” and Item 1A. “Risk Factors” above.

### Investing Activities

The purchase and development of oil and natural gas properties accounted for the majority of our cash outlays for investing activities. We used cash for investing activities of \$3.1 billion, \$1.3 billion and \$895.1 million during the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, we spent (a) \$860.7 million on capital expenditures in conjunction with our drilling program, in which we drilled 150 gross (130 net) horizontal wells and participated in the drilling of 16 gross (two net) non-operated wells, (b) \$68.1 million on additions to midstream assets, (c) \$407.5 million for the acquisition of mineral interests, (d) \$1,960.6 million on leasehold acquisitions, (e) \$50.3 million for the acquisition of midstream assets and (f) \$22.8 million for the purchase of other property and equipment.

During the year ended December 31, 2016, we spent (a) \$364.3 million on capital expenditures in conjunction with our drilling program, in which we drilled 73 gross (61 net) horizontal wells and two gross (one net) vertical wells and participated in the drilling of 19 gross (five net) non-operated wells, (b) \$611.3 million on leasehold acquisitions, (c) \$205.7 million on royalty interest acquisitions, (d) \$9.9 million for the purchase of other property and equipment and (e) \$121.4 million was placed in escrow as a deposit under the purchase agreement for oil and natural gas assets located in Pecos and Reeves counties in Texas.

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During the year ended December 31, 2015, we spent (a) \$419.5 million on capital expenditures in conjunction with our drilling program, in which we drilled 64 gross (54 net) horizontal wells and four gross (three net) vertical wells and participated in the drilling of 15 gross (six net) non-operated wells, (b) \$437.5 million on leasehold acquisitions, (c) \$43.9 million on royalty interest acquisitions and (d) \$1.2 million for the purchase of other property and equipment.

Our investing activities for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 are summarized in the following table:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
	(in thousands)		
Drilling, completion and infrastructure	\$ (860,738)	\$ (363,087)	\$ (419,512)
Additions to midstream assets	(68,139)	(1,188)	—
Acquisition of leasehold interests	(1,960,591)	(611,280)	(437,455)
Acquisition of mineral interests	(407,450)	(205,721)	(43,907)
Acquisition of midstream assets	(50,279)	—	—
Purchase of other property and equipment	(22,779)	(9,891)	(1,213)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	65,656	4,661	9,739
Funds held in escrow	104,087	(121,391)	—
Equity investments	(188)	(2,345)	(2,702)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>\$ (3,200,421)</u>	<u>\$ (1,310,242)</u>	<u>\$ (895,050)</u>

### *Financing Activities*

Net cash provided by financing activities for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 was \$689.5 million, \$2.6 billion and \$468.5 million, respectively.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, the amount provided by financing activities was primarily attributable to proceeds from Viper's January and July 2017 equity offerings of \$370.3 million as well as borrowings net of repayments of \$370.0 million partially offset by distributions to non-controlling interests of \$41.4 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2016, the amount provided by financing activities was primarily attributable to the aggregate proceeds of \$2.1 billion from our January, July and December 2016 equity offerings partially offset by repayments of net borrowings of \$75.0 million under our credit facility.

During the year ended December 31, 2015, the amount provided by financing activities was primarily attributable to the aggregate proceeds of \$650.7 million from our January, May and August 2015 equity offerings of \$650.7 million partially offset by repayments of net borrowings of \$184.5 million under our credit facility.

### *2024 Senior Notes*

On October 28, 2016, we issued \$500.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.750% senior notes due 2024, which we refer to as the 2024 senior notes. The 2024 senior notes bear interest at a rate of 4.750% per annum, payable semi-annually, in arrears on May 1 and November 1 of each year, commencing on May 1, 2017 and will mature on November 1, 2024. All of our existing and future restricted subsidiaries that guarantee our revolving credit facility or certain other debt guarantee the 2024 senior notes; provided, however, that the 2024 senior notes are not guaranteed by Viper, Viper Energy Partners GP LLC, Viper Energy Partners LLC or Rattler Midstream LLC, and will not be guaranteed by any of our future unrestricted subsidiaries.

The 2024 senior notes were issued under, and are governed by, an indenture among us, the subsidiary guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo, as the trustee, as supplemented. The 2024 indenture contains certain covenants that, subject to certain exceptions and qualifications, among other things, limit our ability and the ability of the restricted subsidiaries to incur or guarantee additional indebtedness, make certain investments, declare or pay dividends or make other distributions on capital stock, prepay subordinated indebtedness, sell assets including capital stock of restricted subsidiaries, agree to payment restrictions affecting our restricted subsidiaries, consolidate, merge, sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets, enter into transactions with affiliates, incur liens, engage in business other than the oil and natural gas business and designate certain of our subsidiaries as unrestricted subsidiaries.

We may on any one or more occasions redeem some or all of the 2024 senior notes at any time on or after November 1, 2019 at the redemption prices (expressed as percentages of principal amount) of 103.563% for the 12-month period beginning

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on November 1, 2019, 102.375% for the 12-month period beginning on November 1, 2020, 101.188% for the 12-month period beginning on November 1, 2021 and 100.000% beginning on November 1, 2022 and at any time thereafter with any accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the date of redemption. Prior to November 1, 2019, we may on any one or more occasions redeem all or a portion of the 2024 senior notes at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2024 senior notes plus a “make-whole” premium and accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date. In addition, any time prior to November 1, 2019, we may on any one or more occasions redeem the 2024 senior notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the 2024 senior notes issued prior to such date at a redemption price of 104.750%, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date, with an amount equal to the net cash proceeds from certain equity offerings.

**2025 Senior Notes**

On December 20, 2016, we issued \$500.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.375% senior notes due 2025, which we refer to as the existing 2025 notes, under an indenture (which, as may be amended or supplemented from time to time, is referred to as the 2025 Indenture) among us, the subsidiary guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo, as the trustee. On July 27, 2017, we exchanged all of the existing 2025 notes for substantially identical notes in the same aggregate principal amount that were registered under the Securities Act.

On January 29, 2018, we issued \$300.0 million aggregate principal amount of new 5.375% senior notes due 2025, which we refer to as the new 2025 notes, as additional notes under the 2025 Indenture. The new 2025 notes were issued in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements under the Securities Act. We refer to the new 2025 notes, together with the existing 2025 notes, as the 2025 senior notes. We received approximately \$308.4 million in net proceeds, after deducting the initial purchaser’s discount and our estimated offering expenses, but disregarding accrued interest, from the issuance of the new 2025 notes. We used the net proceeds from the issuance of the new 2025 notes to repay a portion of the outstanding borrowings under our revolving credit facility.

The 2025 senior notes bear interest at a rate of 5.375% per annum, payable semi-annually, in arrears on May 31 and November 30 of each year and will mature on May 31, 2025. All of our existing and future restricted subsidiaries that guarantee our revolving credit facility or certain other debt guarantee the 2025 senior notes; provided, however, that the 2025 senior notes are not guaranteed by Viper, Viper Energy Partners GP LLC, Viper Energy Partners LLC or Rattler Midstream LLC, and will not be guaranteed by any of our future unrestricted subsidiaries.

The 2025 Indenture contains certain covenants that, subject to certain exceptions and qualifications, among other things, limit our ability and the ability of the restricted subsidiaries to incur or guarantee additional indebtedness, make certain investments, declare or pay dividends or make other distributions on capital stock, prepay subordinated indebtedness, sell assets including capital stock of restricted subsidiaries, agree to payment restrictions affecting our restricted subsidiaries, consolidate, merge, sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets, enter into transactions with affiliates, incur liens, engage in business other than the oil and natural gas business and designate certain of our subsidiaries as unrestricted subsidiaries.

We may on any one or more occasions redeem some or all of the 2025 senior notes at any time on or after May 31, 2020 at the redemption prices (expressed as percentages of principal amount) of 104.031% for the 12-month period beginning on May 31, 2020, 102.688% for the 12-month period beginning on May 31, 2021, 101.344% for the 12-month period beginning on May 31, 2022 and 100.000% beginning on May 31, 2023 and at any time thereafter with any accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the date of redemption. Prior to May 31, 2020, we may on any one or more occasions redeem all or a portion of the 2025 senior notes at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2025 senior notes plus a “make-whole” premium and accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date. In addition, any time prior to May 31, 2020, we may on any one or more occasions redeem the 2025 senior notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the 2025 senior notes issued prior to such date at a redemption price of 105.375%, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date, with an amount equal to the net cash proceeds from certain equity offerings.

Under a registration rights agreement executed in connection with the issuance of the new 2025 notes, we and our subsidiary guarantors agreed to file, subject to certain conditions, a registration statement relating to the new 2025 notes with the SEC pursuant to which we will either offer to exchange the new 2025 notes for registered notes with substantially identical terms or, in certain circumstances, register the resale of the new 2025 notes. Additional interest on the new 2025 notes may become payable if we do not comply with our obligations under the registration rights agreement relating to the new 2025 notes.

**Second Amended and Restated Credit Facility**

Our credit agreement dated November 1, 2013, as amended and restated, with a syndicate of banks, including Wells Fargo, as administrative agent, and its affiliate Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, as sole book runner and lead arranger, provides for

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a revolving credit facility in the maximum credit amount of \$5.0 billion, subject to a borrowing base based on our oil and natural gas reserves and other factors (the “borrowing base”). The borrowing base is scheduled to be redetermined, under certain circumstances, annually with an effective date of May 1st, and, under certain circumstances, semi-annually with effective dates of May 1st and November 1st. In addition, we may request up to two additional redeterminations of the borrowing base during any 12-month period. As of December 31, 2017, the borrowing base was set at \$1.8 billion, we had elected a commitment amount of \$1.0 billion and we had borrowings of \$397.0 million outstanding under the revolving credit facility. Of this amount, we repaid \$308.5 million with the net proceeds from our issuance of the new 2025 notes on January 29, 2018. Immediately following the completion of the new 2025 notes offering and the application of our net proceeds thereof, our borrowing base remained \$1.8 billion (as the lenders waived the borrowing base decrease under our revolving credit facility in connection with the issuance of the new 2025 notes), our elected commitment was \$1.0 billion, and we had \$911.4 million of available borrowing capacity under our revolving credit facility.

Diamondback O&G LLC is the borrower under our credit agreement. As of December 31, 2017, the credit agreement is guaranteed by us, Diamondback E&P LLC and Rattler Midstream LLC (formerly known as White Fang Energy LLC) and will also be guaranteed by any of our future subsidiaries that are classified as restricted subsidiaries under the credit agreement. The credit agreement is also secured by substantially all of our assets and the assets of Diamondback O&G LLC and the guarantors.

The outstanding borrowings under the credit agreement bear interest at a per annum rate elected by us that is equal to an alternative base rate (which is equal to the greatest of the prime rate, the Federal Funds effective rate plus 0.50% and 3-month LIBOR plus 1.0%) or LIBOR, in each case plus the applicable margin. The applicable margin ranges from 0.25% to 1.25% in the case of the alternative base rate and from 1.25% to 2.25% in the case of LIBOR, each of which applicable margin rates is increased by 0.25% per annum if the total debt to EBITDAX ratio is greater than 3.0 to 1.0. The applicable margin depends on the amount of loans and letters of credit outstanding in relation to the commitment, which is defined as the least of the maximum credit amount, the borrowing base and the elected commitment amount. We are obligated to pay a quarterly commitment fee ranging from 0.375% to 0.500% per year on the unused portion of the borrowing base, which fee is also dependent on the amount of loans and letters of credit outstanding in relation to the commitment. Loan principal may be optionally repaid from time to time without premium or penalty (other than customary LIBOR breakage), and is required to be repaid (a) to the extent the loan amount exceeds the commitment or the borrowing base, whether due to a borrowing base redetermination or otherwise (in some cases subject to a cure period), (b) in an amount equal to the net cash proceeds from the sale of property when a borrowing base deficiency or event of default exists under the credit agreement and (c) at the maturity date of November 1, 2022.

The credit agreement contains various affirmative, negative and financial maintenance covenants. These covenants, among other things, limit additional indebtedness, additional liens, sales of assets, mergers and consolidations, dividends and distributions, transactions with affiliates and entering into certain swap agreements and require the maintenance of the financial ratios described below.

<b>Financial Covenant</b>	<b>Required Ratio</b>
Ratio of total debt to EBITDAX	Not greater than 3.0 to 1.0
Ratio of current assets to liabilities, as defined in the credit agreement	Not less than 1.0 to 1.0

The covenant prohibiting additional indebtedness, as amended in November 2017, allows for the issuance of unsecured debt in the form of senior or senior subordinated notes if no default would result from the incurrence of such debt after giving effect thereto and if, in connection with any such issuance, the borrowing base is reduced by 25% of the stated principal amount of each such issuance.

As of December 31, 2017, we were in compliance with all financial covenants under our revolving credit facility. The lenders may accelerate all of the indebtedness under our revolving credit facility upon the occurrence and during the continuance of any event of default. The credit agreement contains customary events of default, including non-payment, breach of covenants, materially incorrect representations, cross-default, bankruptcy and change of control. With certain specified exceptions, the terms and provisions of our revolving credit facility generally may be amended with the consent of the lenders holding a majority of the outstanding loans or commitments to lend.

### ***Viper's Facility-Wells Fargo Bank***

On July 8, 2014, Viper entered into a secured revolving credit agreement with Wells Fargo, as administrative agent, and Wells Fargo Securities, as sole book runner and lead arranger. The credit agreement, as amended, provides for a revolving credit facility in the maximum credit amount of \$2.0 billion and a borrowing base based on our oil and natural gas reserves and other factors (the "borrowing base") of \$400.0 million, subject to scheduled semi-annual and other elective borrowing base redeterminations. The borrowing base is scheduled to be re-determined semi-annually with effective dates of May 1st and November 1st. In addition, Viper may request up to three additional redeterminations of the borrowing base during any 12-month period. As of December 31, 2017, the borrowing base was set at \$400.0 million, and Viper had \$93.5 million of outstanding borrowings and \$306.5 million available for future borrowings under its revolving credit facility.

The outstanding borrowings under the credit agreement bear interest at a per annum rate elected by Viper that is equal to an alternate base rate (which is equal to the greatest of the prime rate, the Federal Funds effective rate plus 0.5% and 3-month LIBOR plus 1.0%) or LIBOR, in each case plus the applicable margin. The applicable margin ranges from 0.75% to 1.75% per annum in the case of the alternate base rate and from 1.75% to 2.75% per annum in the case of LIBOR, in each case depending on the amount of loans and letters of credit outstanding in relation to the commitment, which is defined as the lesser of the maximum credit amount and the borrowing base. Viper is obligated to pay a quarterly commitment fee ranging from 0.375% to 0.500% per year on the unused portion of the commitment, which fee is also dependent on the amount of loans and letters of credit outstanding in relation to the commitment. Loan principal may be optionally repaid from time to time without premium or penalty (other than customary LIBOR breakage), and is required to be repaid (a) to the extent the loan amount exceeds the commitment or the borrowing base, whether due to a borrowing base redetermination or otherwise (in some cases subject to a cure period), (b) in an amount equal to the net cash proceeds from the sale of property when a borrowing base deficiency or event of default exists under the credit agreement and (c) at the maturity date of November 1, 2022. The loan is secured by substantially all of Viper and its subsidiary's assets.

The credit agreement contains various affirmative, negative and financial maintenance covenants. These covenants, among other things, limit additional indebtedness, additional liens, sales of assets, mergers and consolidations, dividends and distributions, transactions with affiliates and entering into certain swap agreements and require the maintenance of the financial ratios described below.

<b>Financial Covenant</b>	<b>Required Ratio</b>
Ratio of total debt to EBITDAX	Not greater than 4.0 to 1.0
Ratio of current assets to liabilities, as defined in the credit agreement	Not less than 1.0 to 1.0

The covenant prohibiting additional indebtedness allows for the issuance of unsecured debt of up to \$400.0 million in the form of senior unsecured notes and, in connection with any such issuance, the reduction of the borrowing base by 25% of the stated principal amount of each such issuance. A borrowing base reduction in connection with such issuance may require a portion of the outstanding principal of the loan to be repaid.

The lenders may accelerate all of the indebtedness under Viper's revolving credit facility upon the occurrence and during the continuance of any event of default. Viper's credit agreement contains customary events of default, including non-payment, breach of covenants, materially incorrect representations, cross-default, bankruptcy and change of control. There are no cure periods for events of default due to non-payment of principal and breaches of negative and financial covenants, but non-payment of interest and breaches of certain affirmative covenants are subject to customary cure periods.

### ***Capital Requirements and Sources of Liquidity***

Our board of directors approved a 2018 capital budget for drilling and infrastructure of \$1.3 billion to \$1.5 billion, representing an increase of 60% over our 2017 capital budget. We estimate that, of these expenditures, approximately:

- \$1.175 billion to \$1.325 billion will be spent on drilling and completing 170 to 190 gross (146 to 163 net) horizontal wells across our operated leasehold acreage in the Northern Midland and Southern Delaware Basins; and
- \$125.0 million to \$175.0 million will be spent on infrastructure and other expenditures, excluding the cost of any leasehold and mineral interest acquisitions.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, our aggregate capital expenditures for drilling and infrastructure were \$860.7 million. We do not have a specific acquisition budget since the timing and size of acquisitions cannot be accurately



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forecasted. During the year ended December 31, 2017, we spent approximately \$2.0 billion on acquisitions of leasehold interests, primarily related to the Brigham Resources acquisition which closed on February 28, 2017.

The amount and timing of these capital expenditures are largely discretionary and within our control. We could choose to defer a portion of these planned capital expenditures depending on a variety of factors, including but not limited to the success of our drilling activities, prevailing and anticipated prices for oil and natural gas, the availability of necessary equipment, infrastructure and capital, the receipt and timing of required regulatory permits and approvals, seasonal conditions, drilling and acquisition costs and the level of participation by other interest owners. With recent improvement in oil prices, we are currently operating ten horizontal rigs and four completion crews. We will continue monitoring commodity prices and overall market conditions and can adjust our rig cadence up or down in response to changes in commodity prices and overall market conditions.

Based upon current oil and natural gas price and production expectations for 2018, we believe that our cash flow from operations and borrowings under our revolving credit facility will be sufficient to fund our operations through year-end 2018. However, future cash flows are subject to a number of variables, including the level of oil and natural gas production and prices, and significant additional capital expenditures will be required to more fully develop our properties. Further, our 2018 capital expenditure budget does not allocate any funds for leasehold and mineral interest acquisitions.

We monitor and adjust our projected capital expenditures in response to success or lack of success in drilling activities, changes in prices, availability of financing, drilling and acquisition costs, industry conditions, the timing of regulatory approvals, the availability of rigs, contractual obligations, internally generated cash flow and other factors both within and outside our control. If we require additional capital, we may seek such capital through traditional reserve base borrowings, joint venture partnerships, production payment financing, asset sales, offerings of debt and or equity securities or other means. We cannot assure you that the needed capital will be available on acceptable terms or at all. If we are unable to obtain funds when needed or on acceptable terms, we may be required to curtail our drilling programs, which could result in a loss of acreage through lease expirations. In addition, we may not be able to complete acquisitions that may be favorable to us or finance the capital expenditures necessary to replace our reserves. Further, if the decline in commodity prices continue, our revenues, cash flows, results of operations, liquidity and reserves may be materially and adversely affected.

**Contractual Obligations**

The following table summarizes our contractual obligations and commitments as of December 31, 2017:

	Payments Due by Period				
	2018	2019-2020	2021-2022	Thereafter	Total
	(in thousands)				
Secured revolving credit facility <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 397,000	\$ —	\$ 397,000
Interest expense related to the secured revolving credit facility	2,261	10,522	7,144	—	19,927
Senior notes	—	—	—	1,000,000	1,000,000
Interest expense related to the senior notes <sup>(2)</sup>	50,625	101,250	101,250	108,475	361,600
Viper's secured revolving credit facility <sup>(1)</sup>	—	—	93,500	—	93,500
Interest and commitment fees under Viper's credit agreement <sup>(3)</sup>	1,149	2,299	2,107	—	5,555
Asset retirement obligations <sup>(4)</sup>	1,163	—	—	20,122	21,285
Drilling commitments <sup>(5)</sup>	21,882	10,082	—	—	31,964
Sand supply agreements	—	18,000	18,000	9,000	45,000
Operating lease obligations <sup>(6)</sup>	3,581	6,234	4,648	7,973	22,436
Fasken Center office building <sup>(7)</sup>	99,000	—	—	—	99,000
	<u>\$ 179,661</u>	<u>\$ 148,387</u>	<u>\$ 623,649</u>	<u>\$ 1,145,570</u>	<u>\$ 2,097,267</u>

- (1) Includes the outstanding principal amount under the revolving credit facilities, the table does not include interest expense or other fees payable under this floating rate facility as we cannot predict the timing of future borrowings and repayments or interest rates to be charged.
- (2) Interest represents the scheduled cash payments on the senior notes.
- (3) Includes only the minimum amount of interest and commitment fees due which, as of December 31, 2017, includes a commitment fee equal to 0.375% per year of the unused portion of the borrowing base of Viper's credit agreement.
- (4) Amounts represent our estimates of future asset retirement obligations. Because these costs typically extend many years into the future, estimating these future costs requires management to make estimates and judgments that are subject to



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future revisions based upon numerous factors, including the rate of inflation, changing technology and the political and regulatory environment. See Note 6 of the notes to our consolidated financial statements set forth in Part IV, Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

- (5) Drilling commitments represent future minimum expenditure commitments for drilling rig services under contracts to which the Company was a party on December 31, 2017.
- (6) Operating lease obligations represent future commitments for building and vehicle leases.
- (7) Fasken Center office buildings represents the amount we paid on January 31, 2018 at the closing of this transaction. The Fasken building contains our corporate offices.

### **Critical Accounting Policies**

The discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Below, we have provided expanded discussion of our more significant accounting policies, estimates and judgments. We believe these accounting policies reflect our more significant estimates and assumptions used in preparation of our financial statements. See Note 2 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Part IV, Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

#### *Use of Estimates*

Certain amounts included in or affecting our consolidated financial statements and related disclosures must be estimated by our management, requiring certain assumptions to be made with respect to values or conditions that cannot be known with certainty at the time the consolidated financial statements are prepared. These estimates and assumptions affect the amounts we report for assets and liabilities and our disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

We evaluate these estimates on an ongoing basis, using historical experience, consultation with experts and other methods we consider reasonable in the particular circumstances. Nevertheless, actual results may differ significantly from our estimates. Any effects on our business, financial position or results of operations resulting from revisions to these estimates are recorded in the period in which the facts that give rise to the revision become known. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include estimates of proved oil and gas reserves and related present value estimates of future net cash flows therefrom, the carrying value of oil and natural gas properties, asset retirement obligations, the fair value determination of acquired assets and liabilities, equity-based compensation, fair value estimates of commodity derivatives and estimates of income taxes.

#### *Method of accounting for oil and natural gas properties*

We account for our oil and natural gas producing activities using the full cost method of accounting. Accordingly, all costs incurred in the acquisition, exploration and development of proved oil and natural gas properties, including the costs of abandoned properties, dry holes, geophysical costs and annual lease rentals are capitalized. We also capitalize direct operating costs for services performed with internally owned drilling and well servicing equipment. Internal costs capitalized to the full cost pool represent management's estimate of costs incurred directly related to exploration and development activities such as geological and other administrative costs associated with overseeing the exploration and development activities. All internal costs unrelated to drilling activities are expensed as incurred. Sales or other dispositions of oil and natural gas properties are accounted for as adjustments to capitalized costs, with no gain or loss recorded unless the ratio of cost to proved reserves would significantly change. Income from services provided to working interest owners of properties in which we also own an interest, to the extent they exceed related costs incurred, are accounted for as reductions of capitalized costs of oil and natural gas properties. Depletion of evaluated oil and natural gas properties is computed on the units of production method, whereby capitalized costs plus estimated future development costs are amortized over total proved reserves.

Costs associated with unevaluated properties are excluded from the full cost pool until we have made a determination as to the existence of proved reserves. We assess all items classified as unevaluated property on an annual basis for possible impairment. We assess properties on an individual basis or as a group if properties are individually insignificant. The assessment includes consideration of the following factors, among others: intent to drill; remaining lease term; geological and geophysical evaluations; drilling results and activity; the assignment of proved reserves; and the economic viability of development if proved reserves are assigned. During any period in which these factors indicate an impairment, the cumulative drilling costs incurred to date for such property and all or a portion of the associated leasehold costs are transferred to the full cost pool and are then subject to amortization.

***Oil and natural gas reserve quantities and standardized measure of future net revenue***

Our independent engineers and technical staff prepare our estimates of oil and natural gas reserves and associated future net revenues. The SEC has defined proved reserves as the estimated quantities of oil and gas which geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions. The process of estimating oil and natural gas reserves is complex, requiring significant decisions in the evaluation of available geological, geophysical, engineering and economic data. The data for a given property may also change substantially over time as a result of numerous factors, including additional development activity, evolving production history and a continual reassessment of the viability of production under changing economic conditions. As a result, material revisions to existing reserve estimates occur from time to time. Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure that reserve estimates reported represent the most accurate assessments possible, the subjective decisions and variances in available data for various properties increase the likelihood of significant changes in these estimates. If such changes are material, they could significantly affect future amortization of capitalized costs and result in impairment of assets that may be material.

There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of proved oil and natural gas reserves. Oil and natural gas reserve engineering is a subjective process of estimating underground accumulations of oil and natural gas that cannot be precisely measured and the accuracy of any reserve estimate is a function of the quality of available data and of engineering and geological interpretation and judgment. Results of drilling, testing and production subsequent to the date of the estimate may justify revision of such estimate. Accordingly, reserve estimates are often different from the quantities of oil and natural gas that are ultimately recovered.

***Revenue recognition***

Oil and natural gas revenues are recorded when title passes to the purchaser, net of royalty interests, discounts and allowances, as applicable. We account for oil and natural gas production imbalances using the sales method, whereby a liability is recorded when our volumes exceed our estimated remaining recoverable reserves. No receivables are recorded for those wells where we have taken less than our ownership share of production. We did not have any gas imbalances as of December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015. Revenues from oil and natural gas services are recognized as services are provided.

***Impairment***

We use the full cost method of accounting for our oil and natural gas properties. Under this method, all acquisition, exploration and development costs, including certain internal costs, are capitalized and amortized on a composite unit of production method based on proved oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas reserves. Internal costs capitalized to the full cost pool represent management's estimate of costs incurred directly related to exploration and development activities such as geological and other administrative costs associated with overseeing the exploration and development activities. All internal costs not directly associated with exploration and development activities were charged to expense as they were incurred. Costs associated with unevaluated properties are excluded from the full cost pool until we have made a determination as to the existence of proved reserves. The inclusion of our unevaluated costs into the amortization base is expected to be completed within three to five years. Sales of oil and natural gas properties, whether or not being amortized currently, are accounted for as adjustments of capitalized costs, with no gain or loss recognized, unless such adjustments would significantly alter the relationship between capitalized costs and proved reserves of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas.

Under this method of accounting, we are required to perform a ceiling test each quarter. The test determines a limit, or ceiling, on the book value of the proved oil and natural gas properties. Net capitalized costs are limited to the lower of unamortized cost net of deferred income taxes, or the cost center ceiling. The cost center ceiling is defined as the sum of (a) estimated future net revenues, discounted at 10% per annum, from proved reserves, based on the trailing 12-month unweighted average of the first-day-of-the-month price, adjusted for any contract provisions and excluding the estimated abandonment costs for properties with asset retirement obligations recorded on the balance sheet, (b) the cost of properties not being amortized, if any, and (c) the lower of cost or market value of unproved properties included in the cost being amortized, including related deferred taxes for differences between the book and tax basis of the oil and natural gas properties. If the net book value, including related deferred taxes, exceeds the ceiling, an impairment or non-cash writedown is required.

***Asset retirement obligations***

We measure the future cost to retire our tangible long-lived assets and recognize such cost as a liability for legal obligations associated with the retirement of long-lived assets that result from the acquisition, construction or normal operation of a long-lived asset. The fair value of a liability for an asset's retirement obligation is recorded in the period in which it is incurred if a reasonable estimate of fair value can be made and the corresponding cost is capitalized as part of the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. The liability is accreted to its then present value each period, and the capitalized cost is

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depreciated over the useful life of the related asset. If the liability is settled for an amount other than the recorded amount, the difference is recorded in oil and natural gas properties.

Our asset retirement obligations primarily relate to the future plugging and abandonment of wells and related facilities. Estimating the future restoration and removal costs is difficult and requires management to make estimates and judgments because most of the removal obligations are many years in the future and asset removal technologies and costs are constantly changing, as are regulatory, political, environmental, safety and public relations considerations. We estimate the future plugging and abandonment costs of wells, the ultimate productive life of the properties, a risk-adjusted discount rate and an inflation factor in order to determine the current present value of this obligation. To the extent future revisions to these assumptions impact the present value of the existing asset retirement obligation liability, a corresponding adjustment is made to the oil and natural gas property balance.

### ***Derivatives***

From time to time, we have used energy derivatives for the purpose of mitigating the risk resulting from fluctuations in the market price of crude oil and natural gas. We recognize all of our derivative instruments as either assets or liabilities at fair value. The accounting for changes in the fair value (i.e., gains or losses) of a derivative instrument depends on whether it has been designated and qualifies as part of a hedging relationship and further on the type of hedging relationship. None of our derivatives were designated as hedging instruments during the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015. For derivative instruments not designated as hedging instruments, changes in the fair value of these instruments are recognized in earnings during the period of change.

### ***Accounting for Equity-Based Compensation***

We grant various types of equity-based awards including stock options and restricted stock units. These plans and related accounting policies are defined and described more fully in Note 10—Equity-Based Compensation. Stock compensation awards are measured at fair value on the date of grant and are expensed, net of estimated forfeitures, over the required service period.

### ***Income Taxes***

We use the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes, under which deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences of (1) temporary differences between the financial statement carrying amounts and the tax bases of existing assets and liabilities and (2) operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are based on enacted tax rates applicable to the future period when those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect of a change in tax rates on deferred tax assets and liabilities is recognized in income in the period the rate change is enacted. A valuation allowance is provided for deferred tax assets when it is more likely than not the deferred tax assets will not be realized.

### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

#### *Recently Issued Pronouncements*

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2014-09, “Revenue from Contracts with Customers”. This update supersedes most of the existing revenue recognition requirements in GAAP and requires (i) an entity to recognize revenue when it transfers promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services and (ii) requires expanded disclosures regarding the nature, amount, timing and certainty of revenue and cash flows from contracts with customers.

We will adopt this Accounting Standards Update effective January 1, 2018 using the modified retrospective approach. We have reviewed various contracts that represent our material revenue streams and determined that there will be no impact to our financial position, results of operations or liquidity. Upon adoption of this Accounting Standards Update, we will not be required to record a cumulative effect adjustment due to the new Accounting Standards Update not having a quantitative impact compared to existing GAAP. Also, upon adoption of this Accounting Standards Update, we will not be required to alter our existing information technology and internal controls outside of ongoing contract review processes in order to identify impacts of future revenue contracts entered into by us. We do not anticipate the disclosure requirements under the Accounting Standards Update to have a material change on how we present information regarding our revenue streams as compared to existing GAAP.

In January 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-01, “Financial Instruments—Overall”. This update applies to any entity that holds financial assets or owes financial liabilities. This update

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requires equity investments (except for those accounted for under the equity method or those that result in consolidation of the investee) to be measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net income. Viper will adopt this standard effective January 1, 2018 by means of a cumulative-effect adjustment which will decrease Viper's Unitholders' Equity and will bring the fair value of its investment to \$15.2 million or \$15.20 per unit for that investment.

In August 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-15, "Statement of Cash Flows - Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments". This update applies to all entities that are required to present a statement of cash flows. This update provides guidance on eight specific cash flow issues: debt prepayment or debt extinguishment costs, settlement of zero-coupon debt instruments or other debt instruments with coupon interest rates that are insignificant in relation to the effective interest rate of the borrowing, contingent consideration payments made after a business combination, proceeds from the settlement of insurance claims, proceeds from the settlement of corporate-owned life insurance policies, including bank-owned life insurance policies, distributions received from equity method investees, beneficial interests in securitization transactions and separately identifiable cash flows and application of the predominance principle. We will adopt this update effective January 1, 2018 using the retrospective transition method. Adoption of this standard will change the presentation of our cash flows and will not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In November 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-18, "Statement of Cash Flows - Restricted Cash". This update affects entities that have restricted cash or restricted cash equivalents. We adopted this update retrospectively effective January 1, 2018. Adoption of this standard will change the presentation of our cash flows and will not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In January 2017, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2017-01, "Business Combinations - Clarifying the Definition of a Business". This update applies to all entities that must determine whether they acquired or sold a business. This update provides a screen to determine when a set is not a business. The screen requires that when substantially all of the fair value of the gross assets acquired (or disposed of) is concentrated in a single identifiable asset or a group of similar identifiable assets, the set is not a business. We will adopt this update prospectively effective January 1, 2018. The adoption of this update will not have an impact on our financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

### *Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted*

In February 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-02, "Leases". This update applies to any entity that enters into a lease, with some specified scope exemptions. Under this update, a lessee should recognize in the statement of financial position a liability to make lease payments (the lease liability) and a right-of-use asset representing its right to use the underlying asset for the lease term. While there were no major changes to the lessor accounting, changes were made to align key aspects with the revenue recognition guidance. This update will be effective for public entities for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those fiscal years, with early adoption permitted. Entities will be required to recognize and measure leases at the beginning of the earliest period presented using a modified retrospective approach. We believe the primary impact of adopting this standard will be the recognition of assets and liabilities on our balance sheet for current operating leases. We are still evaluating the impact of this standard.

In June 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-13, "Financial Instruments - Credit Losses". This update affects entities holding financial assets and net investment in leases that are not accounted for at fair value through net income. The amendments affect loans, debt securities, trade receivables, net investments in leases, off-balance sheet credit exposures, reinsurance receivables, and any other financial assets not excluded from the scope that have the contractual right to receive cash. This update will be effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, including interim periods within those fiscal years. This update will be applied through a cumulative-effect adjustment to retained earnings as of the beginning of the first reporting period in which the guidance is effective. We do not believe the adoption of this standard will have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements since we do not have a history of credit losses.

### **Inflation**

Inflation in the United States has been relatively low in recent years and did not have a material impact on results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015. Although the impact of inflation has been insignificant in recent years, it is still a factor in the United States economy and we tend to experience inflationary pressure on the cost of oilfield services and equipment as increasing oil and gas prices increase drilling activity in our areas of operations.

## **Off-balance Sheet Arrangements**

We had no off-balance sheet arrangements as of December 31, 2017. Please read Note 15 included in Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Part IV, Item 15 of this Form 10-K, for a discussion of our commitments and contingencies, some of which are not recognized in the balance sheets under GAAP.

## **ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

### ***Commodity Price Risk***

Our major market risk exposure is in the pricing applicable to our oil and natural gas production. Realized pricing is primarily driven by the prevailing worldwide price for crude oil and spot market prices applicable to our natural gas production. Pricing for oil and natural gas production has been volatile and unpredictable for several years, and we expect this volatility to continue in the future. The prices we receive for production depend on many factors outside of our control.

We use price swap derivatives, including basis swaps and costless collars, to reduce price volatility associated with certain of our oil and natural gas sales. With respect to these fixed price swap contracts, the counterparty is required to make a payment to us if the settlement price for any settlement period is less than the swap price, and we are required to make a payment to the counterparty if the settlement price for any settlement period is greater than the swap price. Our derivative contracts are based upon reported settlement prices on commodity exchanges, with crude oil derivative settlements based on NYMEX WTI and Crude Oil Brent and with natural gas derivative settlements based on NYMEX Henry Hub.

At December 31, 2017 and 2016, we had a net liability derivative position of \$106.7 million and \$22.6 million, respectively, related to our price swap and price basis swap derivatives. Utilizing actual derivative contractual volumes under our fixed price swaps and fixed price basis swaps as of December 31, 2017, a 10% increase in forward curves associated with the underlying commodity would have increased the net liability position to \$180.2 million, an increase of \$74.1 million, while a 10% decrease in forward curves associated with the underlying commodity would have decreased the net liability derivative position to \$32.1 million, a decrease of \$74.1 million. However, any cash derivative gain or loss would be substantially offset by a decrease or increase, respectively, in the actual sales value of production covered by the derivative instrument.

### ***Counterparty and Customer Credit Risk***

Our principal exposures to credit risk are through receivables resulting from joint interest receivables (approximately \$73.0 million at December 31, 2017) and receivables from the sale of our oil and natural gas production (approximately \$158.6 million at December 31, 2017).

We are subject to credit risk due to the concentration of our oil and natural gas receivables with several significant customers. We do not require our customers to post collateral, and the inability of our significant customers to meet their obligations to us or their insolvency or liquidation may adversely affect our financial results. For the year ended December 31, 2017, three purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (31%); Koch Supply & Trading LP (19%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (11%). For the year ended December 31, 2016, three purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (45%); Koch Supply & Trading LP (15%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (13%). For the year ended December 31, 2015, two purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of our revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (59%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (15%). No other customer accounted for more than 10% of our revenue during these periods.

Joint operations receivables arise from billings to entities that own partial interests in the wells we operate. These entities participate in our wells primarily based on their ownership in leases on which we intend to drill. We have little ability to control whether these entities will participate in our wells. At December 31, 2017, we had three customers that represented approximately 74% of our total joint operations receivables. At December 31, 2016, we had three customer that represented approximately 75% of our total joint operations receivables.

### ***Interest Rate Risk***

We are subject to market risk exposure related to changes in interest rates on our indebtedness under our revolving credit facility. The terms of our revolving credit facility provide for interest on borrowings at a floating rate equal to an alternative base rate (which is equal to the greatest of the prime rate, the Federal Funds effective rate plus 0.5% and 3-month LIBOR plus 1.0%) or LIBOR, in each case plus the applicable margin. The applicable margin ranges from 0.25% to 1.25% in the case of the

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alternative base rate and from 1.25% to 2.25% in the case of LIBOR, in each case depending on the amount of the loan outstanding in relation to the borrowing base.

As of December 31, 2017, we had \$397.0 million borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility. Our weighted average interest rate on borrowings under our revolving credit facility was 2.97% on December 31, 2017. An increase or decrease of 1% in the interest rate would have a corresponding decrease or increase in our interest expense of approximately \$4.0 million based on the \$397.0 million outstanding in the aggregate under our revolving credit facility as of such date.

**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

The information required by this item appears beginning on page F-1 of this report.

**ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

None.

**ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Control and Procedures**

Under the direction of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we have established disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. The disclosure controls and procedures are also intended to ensure that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. In addition, the design of disclosure controls and procedures must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints and that management is required to apply judgment in evaluating the benefits of possible controls and procedures relative to their costs.

As of December 31, 2017, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15(b) under the Exchange Act. Based upon our evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that as of December 31, 2017, our disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

**Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There have not been any changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the year ended December 31, 2017 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, internal controls over financial reporting.

## **MANAGEMENT’S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. The Company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed under the supervision of the Company’s Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of the Company’s financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Management conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in the 2013 Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on its evaluation under the framework in the 2013 Internal Control-Integrated Framework, management did not identify any material weaknesses in the Company’s internal control over financial reporting and determined that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Grant Thornton LLP, the independent registered public accounting firm that audited the consolidated financial statements of the Company included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, has issued their report on the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting at December 31, 2017. The report, which expresses an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting at December 31, 2017, is included in this Item under the heading “Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.”

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Board of Directors and Stockholders  
Diamondback Energy, Inc.

**Opinion on internal control over financial reporting**

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Diamondback Energy, Inc. (a Delaware corporation) and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in the 2013 *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on the criteria established in the 2013 *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* issued by COSO.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”), the consolidated financial statements of the Company as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017, and our report dated February 14, 2018 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

**Basis for opinion**

The Company’s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

**Definition and limitations of internal control over financial reporting**

A company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
February 14, 2018



## ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

## PART III

### ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Information as to Item 10 will be set forth in our definitive proxy statement, which is to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A with the SEC within 120 days after the close of the year ended December 31, 2017.

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, principal accounting officer and controller and persons performing similar functions. Any amendments to or waivers from the code of business conduct and ethics will be disclosed on our website. The Company also has made the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics available on our website under the "Corporate Governance" section at <http://ir.diamondbackenergy.com>. We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirements under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K regarding an amendment to, or waiver from, a provision of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics by posting such information on our website at the address specified above.

### ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Information as to Item 11 will be set forth in our definitive proxy statement, which is to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A with the SEC within 120 days after the close of the year ended December 31, 2017.

### ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Information as to Item 12 will be set forth in our definitive proxy statement, which is to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A with the SEC within 120 days after the close of the year ended December 31, 2017.

### ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Information as to Item 13 will be set forth in our definitive proxy statement, which is to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A with the SEC within 120 days after the close of the year ended December 31, 2017.

### ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

Information as to Item 14 will be set forth in our definitive proxy statement, which is to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A with the SEC within 120 days after the close of the year ended December 31, 2017.

### ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) Documents included in this report:

#### 1. Financial Statements

<a href="#">Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</a>	<a href="#">F-1</a>
<a href="#">Consolidated Balance Sheets</a>	<a href="#">F-2</a>
<a href="#">Consolidated Statements of Operations</a>	<a href="#">F-3</a>
<a href="#">Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity</a>	<a href="#">F-4</a>
<a href="#">Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</a>	<a href="#">F-5</a>
<a href="#">Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</a>	<a href="#">F-7</a>

#### 2. Financial Statement Schedules

Financial statement schedules have been omitted because they are either not required, not applicable or the information required to be presented is included in the Company's consolidated financial statements and related notes.

### 3. Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Description
2.1#	<a href="#"><u>Purchase and Sale Agreement dated February 14, 2014, between Henry Resources LLC, Henry Production LLC, Henry Taw Production LP, Davlin LP, Good Providence LP, William R. Fair, UTH Investments LTD, Paloma Oil &amp; Ranch LP, Chinati Oil &amp; Ranch LP, J. Craig Corbett, Bambana Resources LP, and FC Permian Properties, Inc., as Sellers, and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC, as Buyer (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on February 18, 2014).</u></a>
2.2#	<a href="#"><u>Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated February 14, 2014, between Henry Resources LLC, Henry Production LLC, Henry Taw Production LP, Davlin LP, Good Providence LP, William R. Fair, UTH Investments LTD, Paloma Oil &amp; Ranch LP, Chinati Oil &amp; Ranch LP, J. Craig Corbett, Bambana Resources LP, FC Permian Properties, Inc., Blake Braun, Richard D. Campbell, and Thomas J. Woodside, as Sellers, and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC, as Buyer (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on February 18, 2014).</u></a>
2.3#	<a href="#"><u>Purchase and Sale Agreement by and among Rio Oil and Gas, LLC, Rio Oil and Gas (Permian) LLC, Rio Oil and Gas (OPCO), LLC, Bluestem Energy, LP, Bluestem Energy Partners, LP, Bluestem Energy Holdings, LLC, Bluestem Energy Assets, LLC, Bluestem Acquisitions, LLC, BC Operating, Inc., Crown Oil Partners V, LP and Crump Energy Partners II, LLC, as sellers, and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC, as buyer, dated July 18, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on July 21, 2014).</u></a>
2.4#	<a href="#"><u>Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of December 13, 2016, by and among Brigham Resources Operating, LLC and Brigham Resources Midstream, LLC, as sellers, and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC and Diamondback Energy, Inc., as buyers (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on December 14, 2016).</u></a>
3.1	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 16, 2012).</u></a>
3.2	<a href="#"><u>Certificate of Amendment No. 1 of the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on December 12, 2016).</u></a>
3.3	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 16, 2012).</u></a>
4.1	<a href="#"><u>Specimen certificate for shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 4 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on August 20, 2012).</u></a>
4.2	<a href="#"><u>Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of October 11, 2012, by and between the Company and DB Energy Holdings LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 16, 2012).</u></a>
4.3	<a href="#"><u>Indenture, dated as of October 28, 2016, among Diamondback Energy, Inc., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (including the form of Diamondback Energy, Inc.'s 4.750 % Senior Notes due 2024) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 2, 2016).</u></a>
4.4	<a href="#"><u>Indenture, dated as of December 20, 2016, among Diamondback Energy, Inc., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (including the form of Diamondback Energy, Inc.'s 5.375% Senior Notes due 2025) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on December 21, 2016).</u></a>
4.5	<a href="#"><u>First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of January 29, 2018, among Diamondback Energy, Inc., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on January 30, 2018).</u></a>
4.6	<a href="#"><u>Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of January 29, 2018, among Diamondback Energy, Inc., the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on January 30, 2018).</u></a>
4.7	<a href="#"><u>Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of February 28, 2017, among Diamondback Energy, Inc., Brigham Resources, LLC, Brigham Resources Operating, LLC and Brigham Resources Upstream Holdings, LP (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001.35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on March 6, 2017).</u></a>
10.1	<a href="#"><u>Diamondback Energy, Inc. 2016 Amended and Restated Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Appendix A to Schedule DEFA 14A filed by the Company with the SEC on May 25, 2016).</u></a>
10.2+	<a href="#"><u>Form of Stock Option Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to Amendment No. 4 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on August 20, 2012).</u></a>

### 3. Exhibits

10.3+	<a href="#"><u>Form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to Amendment No. 4 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on August 20, 2012).</u></a>
10.4+	<a href="#"><u>Form of Director and Officer Indemnification Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to Amendment No. 4 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on August 20, 2012).</u></a>
10.5	<a href="#"><u>Advisory Services Agreement, dated as of October 11, 2012, by and between Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Wexford Capital LP (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 16, 2012).</u></a>
10.6	<a href="#"><u>Merger Agreement, dated as of October 11, 2012, by and between the Company and Diamondback Energy LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 16, 2012).</u></a>
10.7+	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated April 24, 2014, effective as of April 18, 2014, by and between Travis D. Stice and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-035700, filed by the Company with the SEC on May 9, 2014).</u></a>
10.8+	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated as of February 27, 2014, effective as of January 1, 2014, by and between Teresa Dick and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on March 5, 2014).</u></a>
10.9+	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated as of February 27, 2014, effective as of January 1, 2014, by and between Michael Hollis and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on March 5, 2014).</u></a>
10.10+	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated as of February 27, 2014, effective as of January 1, 2014, by and between Jeff White and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on March 5, 2014).</u></a>
10.11+	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated as of February 27, 2014, effective as of January 1, 2014, by and between Russell Pantermuehl and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-035700, filed by the Company with the SEC on May 9, 2014).</u></a>
10.12+	<a href="#"><u>2014 Executive Annual Incentive Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on April 2, 2014).</u></a>
10.13+	<a href="#"><u>Form of Time-Vesting Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on March 5, 2014).</u></a>
10.14+	<a href="#"><u>Form of Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on March 5, 2014).</u></a>
10.15	<a href="#"><u>Lease Agreement, dated as of April 19, 2011, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Windsor Permian LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on June 11, 2012).</u></a>
10.16	<a href="#"><u>Lease Amendment No. 1 to Lease Agreement, dated as of June 6, 2011, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Windsor Permian LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on May 8, 2012).</u></a>
10.17	<a href="#"><u>Lease Amendment No. 2 to Lease Agreement, dated as of August 5, 2011, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Windsor Permian LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on May 8, 2012).</u></a>
10.18	<a href="#"><u>Lease Amendment No. 3 to Lease Agreement, dated as of September 28, 2011, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Windsor Permian LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on May 8, 2012).</u></a>
10.19	<a href="#"><u>Lease Amendment No. 4 to Lease Agreement, dated February 6, 2012, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Windsor Permian LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on May 8, 2012).</u></a>

### 3. Exhibits

10.20	<a href="#"><u>Lease Amendment No. 5 to Lease Agreement, dated as of July 25, 2012, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.36 to Amendment No. 5 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on October 2, 2012).</u></a>
10.21	<a href="#"><u>Contribution Agreement, dated May 7, 2012, by and between the Company and Gulfport Energy Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on May 8, 2012).</u></a>
10.22	<a href="#"><u>Master Drilling Agreement, dated January 1, 2012, by and between Windsor Permian LLC and Bison Drilling and Field Services LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on May 8, 2012).</u></a>
10.23	<a href="#"><u>Gas Purchase Agreement, dated May 1, 2009, by and between Windsor Permian LLC and Feagan Gathering Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on May 8, 2012).</u></a>
10.24	<a href="#"><u>Amendment to Gas Purchase Agreement, dated July 1, 2011, by and between Windsor Permian LLC and MidMar Gas LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on May 8, 2012).</u></a>
10.25	<a href="#"><u>Amendment to Gas Purchase Agreement, dated January 11, 2012, by and between Windsor Permian LLC and MidMar Gas LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on May 8, 2012).</u></a>
10.26	<a href="#"><u>Crude Oil Purchase Agreement, dated May 24, 2012, by and between Windsor Permian LLC and Shell Trading (US) Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to Amendment No. 4 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-179502, filed by the Company with the SEC on August 20, 2012).</u></a>
10.27	<a href="#"><u>Master Drilling Agreement, effective as of January 1, 2013, by and between Diamondback E&amp;P LLC and Bison Drilling and Field Services LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on February 1, 2013).</u></a>
10.28	<a href="#"><u>Master Field Services Agreement, effective as of January 1, 2013, by and between Diamondback E&amp;P LLC and Bison Drilling and Field Services LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on February 1, 2013).</u></a>
10.29	<a href="#"><u>First Amendment to Master Field Services Agreement, dated as of February 21, 2013, by and between Diamondback E&amp;P LLC and Bison Drilling and Field Services LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.35 to the Form 10-K, file No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on March 1, 2013).</u></a>
10.30+	<a href="#"><u>Form of Amendment to Restricted Stock Unit Certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.38 to the Form 10-K/A, file No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on April 10, 2013).</u></a>
10.31	<a href="#"><u>Lease Amendment No. 6 effective May 1, 2013 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Windsor Permian LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.39 to the Form 10-K/A, file No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on April 10, 2013).</u></a>
10.32	<a href="#"><u>Lease Amendment No. 7 effective September 1, 2013 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on August 8, 2013).</u></a>
10.33	<a href="#"><u>Lease Amendment No. 8 effective October 1, 2013 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on August 8, 2013).</u></a>
10.34	<a href="#"><u>Lease Amendment No. 9 effective August 1, 2013 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 5, 2013).</u></a>
10.35	<a href="#"><u>Lease Amendment No. 10 effective October 1, 2013 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 5, 2013).</u></a>
10.36	<a href="#"><u>Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2103, among Diamondback Energy, Inc., as parent guarantor, Diamondback O&amp;G LLC, as borrower, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 5, 2013).</u></a>

### 3. Exhibits

- 10.37 [First Amendment, dated June 9, 2014, to the Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, originally dated November 1, 2013, by and among the Company, as parent guarantor, Diamondback O&G LLC, as borrower, each of the guarantors party thereto, each of the lenders party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on August 7, 2014\).](#)
- 10.38 [Second Amendment to the Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of November 13, 2014, among Diamondback Energy, Inc., as parent guarantor, Diamondback O&G LLC, as borrower, the guarantors, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 18, 2014\).](#)
- 10.39 [Third Amendment, dated as of June 21, 2016, to the Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2013, by and among Diamondback Energy, Inc., as parent guarantor, Diamondback O&G LLC, as borrower, certain other subsidiaries of Diamondback Energy, Inc., as guarantors, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on June 27, 2016\).](#)
- 10.40 [Fourth Amendment, dated as of December 15, 2016, to the Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2013, by and among Diamondback Energy, Inc., as parent guarantor, Diamondback O&G LLC, as borrower, certain other subsidiaries of Diamondback Energy, Inc., as guarantors, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on December 20, 2016\).](#)
- 10.41 [Fifth Amendment, dated as of November 28, 2017, to the Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2013, by and among Diamondback Energy, Inc., as parent guarantor, Diamondback O&G LLC, as borrower, certain other subsidiaries of Diamondback Energy, Inc., as guarantors, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on December 4, 2017\).](#)
- 10.42 [Senior Secured Revolving Credit Agreement, dated as of July 8, 2014, among Viper Energy Partners LP, as borrower, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as the administrative agent, sole book runner and lead arranger, and certain lenders from time to time party thereto \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-36505, filed by Viper Energy Partners LP on July 14, 2014\).](#)
- 10.43 [Contribution Agreement by and among Diamondback Energy, Inc., Viper Energy Partners LLC, Viper Energy Partners GP LLC and Viper Energy Partners LP, dated as of June 17, 2014 \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 8-K, File No. 001-35700, filed by Viper Energy Partners LP with the SEC on May 7, 2014\).](#)
- 10.44 [First Amendment, dated as of August 15, 2014, to Credit Agreement, dated as of July 8, 2014, among Viper Energy Partners LP, as borrower, the guarantors party thereto, Wells Fargo, National Association, as administrative agent, and certain lenders party thereto \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on August 10, 2015\).](#)
- 10.45 [Second Amendment, dated as of May 22, 2015, to Credit Agreement, dated as of July 8, 2014, among Viper Energy Partners LP, as borrower, the guarantors party thereto, Wells Fargo, National Association, as administrative agent, and certain lenders party thereto \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on August 6, 2015\).](#)
- 10.46 [Third Amendment, dated as of June 21, 2016, to the Credit Agreement, dated as of July 8, 2014, by and among Viper Energy Partners LP, as borrower, Viper Energy Partners LLC, as guarantor, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Viper's Current Report on Form 8-K \(File No. 001-36505\) filed June 27, 2016\).](#)
- 10.47 [Fourth Amendment, dated as of October 28, 2016, to the Credit Agreement, dated as of July 8, 2014, by and among Viper Energy Partners LP, as borrower, Viper Energy Partners LLC, as guarantor, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Viper's Current Report on Form 8-K \(File No. 001-36505\) filed on November 3, 2016\).](#)
- 10.48 [Fifth Amendment, dated as of November 28, 2017, to the Credit Agreement, dated as of July 8, 2014, by and among Viper Energy Partners LP, as borrower, Viper Energy Partners LLC, as guarantor, Wells Fargo Bank National Association, as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Viper's Current Report on Form 8-K \(File No. 001-36505\) filed on December 4, 2017\).](#)
- 10.49 [Lease Amendment No. 11 effective July 31, 2014 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&P LLC \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 5, 2015\).](#)

### 3. Exhibits

10.50	<a href="#">Lease Amendment No. 12 effective October 23, 2014 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 5, 2015).</a>
10.51	<a href="#">Lease Amendment No. 13 effective October 30, 2014 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 5, 2015).</a>
10.52	<a href="#">Lease Amendment No. 14 effective November 10, 2014 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 5, 2015).</a>
10.53	<a href="#">Lease Amendment No. 15 effective November 10, 2014 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 5, 2015).</a>
10.54	<a href="#">Lease Amendment No. 16 effective April 1, 2015 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 5, 2015).</a>
10.55	<a href="#">Lease Amendment No. 17 effective June 1, 2015 to Lease Agreement dated as of April 19, 2011, as amended, by and between Fasken Midland, LLC and Diamondback E&amp;P LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Form 10-Q, File No. 001-35700, filed by the Company with the SEC on November 5, 2015).</a>
21.1*	<a href="#">Subsidiaries of the Registrant.</a>
23.1*	<a href="#">Consent of Grant Thornton LLP.</a>
23.2*	<a href="#">Consent of Ryder Scott Company, L.P. with respect to the Diamondback Energy, Inc. reserve report included as Exhibit 99.1.</a>
23.3*	<a href="#">Consent of Ryder Scott Company, L.P. with respect to the Viper Energy Partners LP reserve report included as Exhibit 99.2.</a>
31.1*	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Executive Officer of the Registrant pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.</a>
31.2*	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Financial Officer of the Registrant pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.</a>
32.1**	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Executive Officer of the Registrant pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code.</a>
32.2**	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Financial Officer of the Registrant pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code.</a>
99.1*	<a href="#">Report of Ryder Scott Company, L.P., dated January 18, 2018, with respect to an estimate of the proved reserves, future production and income attributable to certain leasehold interests of Diamondback Energy, Inc. as of December 31, 2017.</a>
99.2*	<a href="#">Report of Ryder Scott Company, L.P., dated January 18, 2018, with respect to an estimate of the proved reserves, future production and income attributable to certain royalty interests of Viper Energy Partners LP, a subsidiary of Diamondback Energy, Inc., as of December 31, 2017.</a>
101.INS*	XBRL Instance Document.
101.SCH*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
101.CAL*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase.
101.DEF*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
101.LAB*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels Linkbase Document.
101.PRE*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.

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\* Filed herewith.

\*\* The certifications attached as Exhibit 32.1 and Exhibit 32.2 accompany this Annual Report on Form 10-K pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and shall not be deemed “filed” by the Registrant for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

+ Management contract, compensatory plan or arrangement.

# The schedules (or similar attachments) referenced in this agreement have been omitted in accordance with Item 601(b)(2) of Regulation S-K. A copy of any omitted schedule (or similar attachment) will be furnished supplementally to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request.

**ITEM 16. FORM 10-K SUMMARY**

None

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

DIAMONDBACK ENERGY, INC.

Date: February 14, 2018

/s/ Travis D. Stice

Travis D. Stice  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<b><u>Signature</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
<u>/s/ Steven E. West</u> Steven E. West	Chairman of the Board and Director	February 14, 2018
<u>/s/ Travis D. Stice</u> Travis D. Stice	Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	February 14, 2018
<u>/s/ Michael P. Cross</u> Michael P. Cross	Director	February 14, 2018
<u>/s/ David L. Houston</u> David L. Houston	Director	February 14, 2018
<u>/s/ Mark L. Plaumann</u> Mark L. Plaumann	Director	February 14, 2018
<u>/s/ Teresa L. Dick</u> Teresa L. Dick	Chief Financial Officer, Senior Vice President, and Assistant Secretary (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	February 14, 2018



**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Board of Directors and Stockholders  
Diamondback Energy, Inc.

**Opinion on financial statements**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Diamondback Energy, Inc. (a Delaware corporation) and subsidiaries (collectively the “Company”) as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders’ equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2017, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”), the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in the 2013 *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated February 14, 2018 expressed an unqualified opinion.

**Basis for opinion**

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

We have served as the Company’s auditor since 2009

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
February 14, 2018

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Balance Sheets**

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
(In thousands, except share amounts)		
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 112,446	\$ 1,666,574
Restricted cash	—	500
Accounts receivable:		
Joint interest and other	73,038	49,476
Oil and natural gas sales	158,575	70,349
Related party	—	297
Inventories	9,108	1,983
Derivative instruments	531	—
Prepaid expenses and other	4,903	2,987
Total current assets	<u>358,601</u>	<u>1,792,166</u>
Property and equipment:		
Oil and natural gas properties, full cost method of accounting (\$4,105,865 and \$1,730,519 excluded from amortization at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively)	9,232,694	5,160,261
Midstream assets	191,519	8,362
Other property, equipment and land	80,776	58,290
Accumulated depletion, depreciation, amortization and impairment	<u>(2,161,372)</u>	<u>(1,836,056)</u>
Net property and equipment	<u>7,343,617</u>	<u>3,390,857</u>
Funds held in escrow	6,304	121,391
Derivative instruments	—	709
Other assets	62,463	44,557
Total assets	<u>\$ 7,770,985</u>	<u>\$ 5,349,680</u>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable-trade	\$ 94,590	\$ 47,648
Accounts payable-related party	—	1
Accrued capital expenditures	221,256	60,350
Other accrued liabilities	92,512	55,330
Revenues and royalties payable	68,703	23,405
Derivative instruments	100,367	22,608
Total current liabilities	<u>577,428</u>	<u>209,342</u>
Long-term debt	1,477,347	1,105,912
Derivative instruments	6,303	—
Asset retirement obligations	20,122	16,134
Deferred income taxes	108,048	—
Total liabilities	<u>2,189,248</u>	<u>1,331,388</u>
Commitments and contingencies (Note 15)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$0.01 par value, 200,000,000 shares authorized, 98,167,289 issued and outstanding at December 31, 2017; 90,143,934 issued and outstanding at December 31, 2016	982	901
Additional paid-in capital	5,291,011	4,215,955
Accumulated deficit	<u>(37,133)</u>	<u>(519,394)</u>
Total Diamondback Energy, Inc. stockholders' equity	<u>5,254,860</u>	<u>3,697,462</u>
Non-controlling interest	326,877	320,830
Total equity	<u>5,581,737</u>	<u>4,018,292</u>
Total liabilities and equity	<u>\$ 7,770,985</u>	<u>\$ 5,349,680</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Operations**

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
(In thousands, except per share amounts)			
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Oil sales	\$ 1,044,017	\$ 470,528	\$ 405,715
Natural gas sales	52,210	22,506	19,592
Natural gas liquid sales	90,048	34,073	21,426
Lease bonus	11,764	—	—
Midstream services	7,072	—	—
Total revenues	<u>1,205,111</u>	<u>527,107</u>	<u>446,733</u>
<b>Costs and expenses:</b>			
Lease operating expenses	126,524	82,428	82,625
Production and ad valorem taxes	73,505	34,456	32,990
Gathering and transportation	12,834	11,606	6,091
Midstream services	10,409	—	—
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	326,759	178,015	217,697
Impairment of oil and natural gas properties	—	245,536	814,798
General and administrative expenses (including non-cash equity-based compensation, net of capitalized amounts, of \$25,537, \$26,453 and \$18,529 for the year ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively)	48,669	42,619	31,968
Asset retirement obligation accretion	1,391	1,064	833
Total costs and expenses	<u>600,091</u>	<u>595,724</u>	<u>1,187,002</u>
<b>Income (loss) from operations</b>	<b>605,020</b>	<b>(68,617)</b>	<b>(740,269)</b>
<b>Other income (expense):</b>			
Interest expense, net	(40,554)	(40,684)	(41,510)
Other income, net	10,235	3,064	728
Gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net	(77,512)	(25,345)	31,951
Loss on extinguishment of debt	—	(33,134)	—
Total other expense, net	<u>(107,831)</u>	<u>(96,099)</u>	<u>(8,831)</u>
<b>Income (loss) before income taxes</b>	<b>497,189</b>	<b>(164,716)</b>	<b>(749,100)</b>
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	(19,568)	192	(201,310)
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>516,757</b>	<b>(164,908)</b>	<b>(547,790)</b>
Net income attributable to non-controlling interest	34,496	126	2,838
<b>Net income (loss) attributable to Diamondback Energy, Inc.</b>	<b><u>\$ 482,261</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (165,034)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (550,628)</u></b>
<b>Earnings per common share:</b>			
Basic	\$ 4.95	\$ (2.20)	\$ (8.74)
Diluted	\$ 4.94	\$ (2.20)	\$ (8.74)
<b>Weighted average common shares outstanding:</b>			
Basic	97,458	75,077	63,019
Diluted	97,688	75,077	63,019

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity**

	Common Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings (Accumulated Deficit)	Non- Controlling Interest	Total
	Shares	Amount				
	(In thousands)					
Balance December 31, 2014	56,888	\$ 569	\$ 1,554,174	\$ 196,268	\$ 234,202	\$ 1,985,213
Unit-based compensation		—	—	—	3,929	3,929
Distribution to non-controlling interest		—	—	—	(7,968)	(7,968)
Stock-based compensation		—	20,645	—	—	20,645
Common shares issued in public offering, net of offering costs	9,488	94	649,979	—	—	650,073
Exercise of stock options and vesting of restricted stock units	421	5	4,866	—	—	4,871
Net income (loss)		—	—	(550,628)	2,838	(547,790)
Balance December 31, 2015	66,797	668	2,229,664	(354,360)	233,001	2,108,973
Net proceeds from issuance of common units - Viper Energy Partners LP		—	—	—	93,462	93,462
Unit-based compensation		—	—	—	3,815	3,815
Distribution to non-controlling interest		—	—	—	(9,574)	(9,574)
Stock-based compensation		—	29,717	—	—	29,717
Common shares issued in public offering, net of offering costs	23,000	229	1,956,079	—	—	1,956,308
Exercise of stock options and awards of restricted stock	347	4	495	—	—	499
Net income (loss)		—	—	(165,034)	126	(164,908)
Balance December 31, 2016	90,144	901	4,215,955	(519,394)	320,830	4,018,292
Net proceeds from issuance of common units - Viper Energy Partners LP		—	—	—	369,896	369,896
Unit-based compensation		—	—	—	2,395	2,395
Common units issued for acquisition		—	—	—	3,050	3,050
Stock-based compensation		—	31,783	—	—	31,783
Distribution to non-controlling interest		—	—	—	(41,367)	(41,367)
Common shares issued in public offering, net of offering costs		—	14	—	—	14
Common shares issued for acquisition	7,686	77	809,096	—	—	809,173
Exercise of stock options and awards of restricted stock	337	4	355	—	—	359
Change in ownership of consolidated subsidiaries, net		—	233,808	—	(362,423)	(128,615)
Net income		—	—	482,261	34,496	516,757
Balance December 31, 2017	98,167	\$ 982	\$ 5,291,011	\$ (37,133)	\$ 326,877	\$ 5,581,737

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
	(In thousands)		
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income (loss)	\$ 516,757	\$ (164,908)	\$ (547,790)
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Provision for deferred income taxes	(20,567)	—	(201,545)
Impairment of oil and natural gas properties	—	245,536	814,798
Asset retirement obligation accretion	1,391	1,064	833
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	326,759	178,015	217,697
Amortization of debt issuance costs	3,943	2,717	2,601
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	—	33,134	—
Change in fair value of derivative instruments	84,240	26,522	112,918
Income from equity investment	(657)	(676)	—
Equity-based compensation expense	25,537	26,453	18,529
Gain (loss) on sale of assets, net	(455)	(61)	668
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	(97,611)	(35,030)	8,998
Accounts receivable-related party	297	1,294	2,149
Restricted cash	500	—	—
Inventories	(2,245)	(255)	224
Prepaid expenses and other	(11,362)	(709)	(1,310)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	36,762	15,922	802
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities-related party	(2)	(216)	218
Income tax payable	814	—	—
Accrued interest	(20,774)	(3,161)	(255)
Revenues and royalties payable	45,298	6,439	(13,034)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>888,625</u>	<u>332,080</u>	<u>416,501</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Additions to oil and natural gas properties	(792,599)	(362,450)	(419,241)
Additions to oil and natural gas properties-related party	—	(637)	(271)
Additions to midstream assets	(68,139)	(1,188)	—
Purchase of other property, equipment and land	(22,779)	(9,891)	(1,213)
Acquisition of leasehold interests	(1,960,591)	(611,280)	(437,455)
Acquisition of mineral interests	(407,450)	(205,721)	(43,907)
Acquisition of midstream assets	(50,279)	—	—
Proceeds from sale of assets	65,656	4,661	9,739
Funds held in escrow	104,087	(121,391)	—
Equity investments	(188)	(2,345)	(2,702)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(3,132,282)</u>	<u>(1,310,242)</u>	<u>(895,050)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Proceeds from borrowings under credit facility	753,500	164,000	425,001
Repayment under credit facility	(383,500)	(89,000)	(603,001)
Proceeds from senior notes	—	1,000,000	—
Repayment of senior notes	—	(450,000)	—
Premium on extinguishment of debt	—	(26,561)	—
Debt issuance costs	(9,296)	(15,063)	(526)
Public offering costs	(510)	(1,182)	(586)

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows - Continued**

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
	(In thousands)		
Proceeds from public offerings	370,344	2,051,503	650,688
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	358	498	4,873
Distributions to non-controlling interest	(41,367)	(9,574)	(7,968)
Net cash provided by financing activities	689,529	2,624,621	468,481
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,554,128)	1,646,459	(10,068)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	1,666,574	20,115	30,183
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 112,446	\$ 1,666,574	\$ 20,115
<b>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:</b>			
Interest paid, net of capitalized interest	\$ 57,668	\$ 38,177	\$ 38,758
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ —	\$ 192	\$ 267
<b>Supplemental disclosure of non-cash transactions:</b>			
Change in accrued capital expenditures	\$ 160,906	\$ 413	\$ (69,460)
Capitalized stock-based compensation	\$ 8,641	\$ 7,079	\$ 6,043
Common stock issued for oil and natural gas properties	\$ 809,173	\$ —	\$ —
Asset retirement obligations acquired	\$ 2,432	\$ 3,696	\$ 3,159

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**1. DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

***Organization and Description of the Business***

Diamondback Energy, Inc. (“Diamondback” or the “Company”) is an independent oil and gas company focused on the acquisition, development, exploration and exploitation of unconventional, onshore oil and natural gas reserves in the Permian Basin in West Texas. Diamondback was incorporated in Delaware on December 30, 2011.

On June 17, 2014, Diamondback entered into a contribution agreement with Viper Energy Partners LP (the “Partnership”), Viper Energy Partners GP LLC (the “General Partner”) and Viper Energy Partners LLC to transfer Diamondback’s ownership interest in Viper Energy Partners LLC to the Partnership in exchange for 70,450,000 common units. Diamondback also owns and controls the General Partner, which holds a non-economic general partner interest in the Partnership. On June 23, 2014, the Partnership completed its initial public offering (the “Viper Offering”) of 5,750,000 common units, and the Company’s common units represented an approximate 92% limited partner interest in the Partnership. On September 19, 2014, the Partnership completed an underwritten public offering of 3,500,000 common units. At the completion of this offering, the Company owned approximately 88% of the common units of the Partnership. See Note 4—Viper Energy Partners LP for additional information regarding the Partnership.

The wholly-owned subsidiaries of Diamondback, as of December 31, 2017, include Diamondback E&P LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Diamondback O&G LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Viper Energy Partners GP LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and Rattler Midstream LLC (formerly known as White Fang Energy LLC), a Delaware limited liability company. The consolidated subsidiaries include the wholly-owned subsidiaries as well as Viper Energy Partners LP, a Delaware limited partnership, and Viper Energy Partners LLC, a Delaware limited liability company.

***Basis of Presentation***

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries after all significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated upon consolidation.

The Partnership is consolidated in the financial statements of the Company. As of December 31, 2017, the Company owned approximately 64% of the common units of the Partnership and the Company’s wholly owned subsidiary, Viper Energy Partners GP LLC, is the General Partner of the Partnership.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

***Use of Estimates***

Certain amounts included in or affecting the Company’s consolidated financial statements and related disclosures must be estimated by management, requiring certain assumptions to be made with respect to values or conditions that cannot be known with certainty at the time the consolidated financial statements are prepared. These estimates and assumptions affect the amounts the Company reports for assets and liabilities and the Company’s disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The Company evaluates these estimates on an ongoing basis, using historical experience, consultation with experts and other methods the Company considers reasonable in the particular circumstances. Nevertheless, actual results may differ significantly from the Company’s estimates. Any effects on the Company’s business, financial position or results of operations resulting from revisions to these estimates are recorded in the period in which the facts that give rise to the revision become known. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include, but are not limited to, estimates of proved oil and natural gas reserves and related present value estimates of future net cash flows therefrom, the carrying value of oil and natural gas properties, asset retirement obligations, the fair value determination of acquired assets and liabilities, equity-based compensation, fair value estimates of commodity derivatives and estimates of income taxes.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

***Cash and Cash Equivalents***

The Company considers all highly liquid investments purchased with a maturity of three months or less and money market funds to be cash equivalents. The Company maintains cash and cash equivalents in bank deposit accounts which, at times, may exceed the federally insured limits. The Company has not experienced any significant losses from such investments.

***Restricted Cash***

In 2014, a subsidiary of the Company entered into an agreement to purchase certain overriding royalty interests and deposited \$0.5 million in escrow. The subsidiary subsequently terminated the agreement and requested a return of the deposit. The seller challenged the termination and the escrow agent tendered the deposit to the court subject to a judicial determination of the proper payment of the funds. The parties reached a settlement of this matter in April 2017 and the funds were distributed in accordance with the terms of the settlement. Pending such distribution, these funds were classified as restricted cash.

***Accounts Receivable***

Accounts receivable consist of receivables from joint interest owners on properties the Company operates and from sales of oil and natural gas production delivered to purchasers. The purchasers remit payment for production directly to the Company. Most payments for production are received within three months after the production date.

Accounts receivable are stated at amounts due from joint interest owners or purchasers, net of an allowance for doubtful accounts when the Company believes collection is doubtful. For receivables from joint interest owners, the Company typically has the ability to withhold future revenue disbursements to recover any non-payment of joint interest billings. Accounts receivable outstanding longer than the contractual payment terms are considered past due. The Company determines its allowance by considering a number of factors, including the length of time accounts receivable are past due, the Company's previous loss history, the debtor's current ability to pay its obligation to the Company, the condition of the general economy and the industry as a whole. The Company writes off specific accounts receivable when they become uncollectible, and payments subsequently received on such receivables are credited to the allowance for doubtful accounts. No allowance was deemed necessary at December 31, 2017 or December 31, 2016.

***Derivative Instruments***

The Company is required to recognize its derivative instruments on the consolidated balance sheets as assets or liabilities at fair value with such amounts classified as current or long-term based on their anticipated settlement dates. The accounting for the changes in fair value of a derivative depends on the intended use of the derivative and resulting designation. The Company has not designated its derivative instruments as hedges for accounting purposes and, as a result, marks its derivative instruments to fair value and recognizes the cash and non-cash change in fair value on derivative instruments for each period in the consolidated statements of operations.

***Fair Value of Financial Instruments***

The Company's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, receivables, payables, derivatives and senior notes. The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents, receivables and payables approximates fair value because of the short-term nature of the instruments. The fair value of the revolving credit facility approximates its carrying value based on the borrowing rates currently available to the Company for bank loans with similar terms and maturities. The fair value of the senior notes are determined using quoted market prices. Derivatives are recorded at fair value (see Note 14—Fair Value Measurements).

***Oil and Natural Gas Properties***

The Company uses the full cost method of accounting for its oil and natural gas properties. Under this method, all acquisition, exploration and development costs, including certain internal costs, are capitalized and amortized on a composite unit of production method based on proved oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas reserves. Internal costs capitalized to the full cost pool represent management's estimate of costs incurred directly related to exploration and development activities such as geological and other administrative costs associated with overseeing the exploration and development activities. Costs, including related employee costs, associated with production and operation of the properties are charged to expense as incurred. All other internal costs not directly associated with exploration and development activities are charged to expense as they are incurred.



**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

Sales of oil and natural gas properties, whether or not being amortized currently, are accounted for as adjustments of capitalized costs, with no gain or loss recognized, unless such adjustments would significantly alter the relationship between capitalized costs and proved reserves of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas. Any income from services provided by subsidiaries to working interest owners of properties in which the Company also owns an interest, to the extent they exceed related costs incurred, are accounted for as reductions of capitalized costs of oil and natural gas properties proportionate to the Company's investment in the subsidiary (see Note 7—Equity Method Investments). Depletion of evaluated oil and natural gas properties is computed on the units of production method, whereby capitalized costs plus estimated future development costs are amortized over total proved reserves. The average depletion rate per barrel equivalent unit of production was \$11.11, \$11.23 and \$17.84 for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense for oil and natural gas properties was \$321.9 million, \$176.4 million and \$216.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Under this method of accounting, the Company is required to perform a ceiling test each quarter. The test determines a limit, or ceiling, on the book value of the proved oil and natural gas properties. Net capitalized costs are limited to the lower of unamortized cost net of deferred income taxes, or the cost center ceiling. The cost center ceiling is defined as the sum of (a) estimated future net revenues, discounted at 10% per annum, from proved reserves, based on the trailing 12-month unweighted average of the first-day-of-the-month price, adjusted for any contract provisions, and excluding the estimated abandonment costs for properties with asset retirement obligations recorded on the balance sheet, (b) the cost of properties not being amortized, if any, and (c) the lower of cost or market value of unproved properties included in the cost being amortized, including related deferred taxes for differences between the book and tax basis of the oil and natural gas properties. If the net book value, including related deferred taxes, exceeds the ceiling, an impairment or non-cash writedown is required. During the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Company recorded impairments on proved oil and natural gas properties of \$245.5 million and \$814.8 million, respectively. No impairment on proved oil and natural gas properties was recorded for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Costs associated with unevaluated properties are excluded from the full cost pool until the Company has made a determination as to the existence of proved reserves. The Company assesses all items classified as unevaluated property on an annual basis for possible impairment. The Company assesses properties on an individual basis or as a group if properties are individually insignificant. The assessment includes consideration of the following factors, among others: intent to drill; remaining lease term; geological and geophysical evaluations; drilling results and activity; the assignment of proved reserves; and the economic viability of development if proved reserves are assigned. During any period in which these factors indicate an impairment, the cumulative drilling costs incurred to date for such property and all or a portion of the associated leasehold costs are transferred to the full cost pool and are then subject to amortization.

***Other Property, Equipment and Land***

Other property and equipment is recorded at cost. The Company expenses maintenance and repairs in the period incurred. Upon retirements or disposition of assets, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the consolidated balance sheet with the resulting gains or losses, if any, reflected in operations. Depreciation of other property and equipment is computed using the straight line method over their estimated useful lives, which range from three to fifteen years. Depreciation expense for other property and equipment was \$1.4 million for each of the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015.

***Asset Retirement Obligations***

The Company measures the future cost to retire its tangible long-lived assets and recognizes such cost as a liability for legal obligations associated with the retirement of long-lived assets that result from the acquisition, construction or normal operation of a long-lived asset.

The Company records a liability relating to the retirement and removal of all assets used in their businesses. Asset retirement obligations represent the future abandonment costs of tangible assets, namely wells. The fair value of a liability for an asset's retirement obligation is recorded in the period in which it is incurred if a reasonable estimate of fair value can be made and the corresponding cost is capitalized as part of the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. The liability is accreted to its then present value each period, and the capitalized cost is depreciated over the useful life of the related asset. If the liability is settled for an amount other than the recorded amount or if there is a change in the estimated liability, the difference is recorded in oil and natural gas properties.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

***Impairment of Long-Lived Assets***

Other property and equipment used in operations are reviewed whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized only if the carrying amount of a long-lived asset is not recoverable from its estimated future undiscounted cash flows. An impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and fair value of the asset. The Company had no such impairment losses for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

***Capitalized Interest***

The Company capitalizes interest on expenditures made in connection with exploration and development projects that are not subject to current amortization. Interest is capitalized only for the period that activities are in progress to bring these projects to their intended use. Capitalized interest cannot exceed gross interest expense. The Company capitalized interest of \$22.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. The Company did not have any capitalized interest for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

***Inventories***

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market and consist of tubular goods and equipment at December 31, 2017 and 2016. The Company's tubular goods and equipment are primarily comprised of oil and natural gas drilling or repair items such as tubing, casing and pumping units. The inventory is primarily acquired for use in future drilling or repair operations and is carried at lower of cost or market. "Market", in the context of inventory valuation, represents net realizable value, which is the amount that the Company is allowed to bill to the joint accounts under joint operating agreements to which the Company is a party. As of December 31, 2017, the Company estimated that all of its tubular goods and equipment will be utilized within one year.

***Debt Issuance Costs***

Other assets included capitalized costs related to the credit facility of \$16.7 million and \$8.2 million, net of accumulated amortization of \$7.0 million and \$4.9 million, as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. Long-term debt included capitalized costs related to the senior notes of \$15.2 million and \$14.8 million, net of accumulated amortization of \$2.0 million and \$0.2 million, as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The costs associated with the senior notes are being netted against the senior notes balances and are being amortized over the term of the senior notes using the effective interest method. The costs associated with the Company's credit facility that are included in other assets are being amortized over the term of the facility.

***Other Accrued Liabilities***

Other accrued liabilities consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
(In thousands)		
Liability for drilling costs prepaid by joint interest partners	\$ 30,320	\$ 21,595
Interest payable	6,770	5,445
Lease operating expenses payable	27,850	13,857
Ad valorem taxes payable	3,306	776
Current portion of asset retirement obligations	1,163	1,288
Other	23,103	12,369
Total other accrued liabilities	\$ 92,512	\$ 55,330

***Revenue and Royalties Payable***

For certain oil and natural gas properties, where the Company serves as operator, the Company receives production proceeds from the purchaser and further distributes such amounts to other revenue and royalty owners. Production proceeds that

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

the Company has not yet distributed to other revenue and royalty owners are reflected as revenue and royalties payable in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. The Company recognizes revenue for only its net revenue interest in oil and natural gas properties.

***Revenue Recognition***

Oil and natural gas revenues are recorded when title passes to the purchaser, net of royalty interests, discounts and allowances, as applicable. The Company accounts for oil and natural gas production imbalances using the sales method, whereby a liability is recorded when the Company's overtake volumes exceed its estimated remaining recoverable reserves. No receivables are recorded for those wells where the Company has taken less than its ownership share of production. The Company did not have any gas imbalances as of December 31, 2017 or December 31, 2016. Revenues from oil and natural gas services are recognized when services are provided.

***Investments***

Equity investments in which the Company exercises significant influence but does not control are accounted for using the equity method. Under the equity method, generally the Company's share of investees' earnings or loss is recognized in the statement of operations. The Company reviews its investments to determine if a loss in value which is other than a temporary decline has occurred. If such loss has occurred, the Company would recognize an impairment provision. There was no impairment for the Company's equity investments for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015.

For additional information on the Company's investments, see Note 7—Equity Method Investments.

***Accounting for Equity-Based Compensation***

The Company grants various types of stock-based awards including stock options and restricted stock units. The Partnership grants various unit-based awards including unit options and phantom units to employees, officers and directors of the General Partner and the Company who perform services for the Partnership. These plans and related accounting policies are defined and described more fully in Note 10—Equity-Based Compensation. Equity compensation awards are measured at fair value on the date of grant and are expensed, net of estimated forfeitures, over the required service period.

***Concentrations***

The Company is subject to risk resulting from the concentration of its crude oil and natural gas sales and receivables with several significant purchasers. For the year ended December 31, 2017, three purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of the Company's revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (31%); Koch Supply & Trading LP (19%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (11%). For the year ended December 31, 2016, three purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of the Company's revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (45%); Koch Supply & Trading LP (15%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (13%). For the year ended December 31, 2015, two purchasers each accounted for more than 10% of the Company's revenue: Shell Trading (US) Company (59%); and Enterprise Crude Oil LLC (15%). The Company does not require collateral and does not believe the loss of any single purchaser would materially impact its operating results, as crude oil and natural gas are fungible products with well-established markets and numerous purchasers.

***Environmental Compliance and Remediation***

Environmental compliance and remediation costs, including ongoing maintenance and monitoring, are expensed as incurred. Liabilities are accrued when environmental assessments and remediation are probable, and the costs can be reasonably estimated.

***Income Taxes***

Diamondback uses the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes, under which deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences of (i) temporary differences between the financial statement carrying amounts and the tax bases of existing assets and liabilities and (ii) operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are based on enacted tax rates applicable to the future period when those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect of a change in tax rates on deferred tax assets and liabilities is recognized in

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

income in the period the rate change is enacted. A valuation allowance is provided for deferred tax assets when it is more likely than not the deferred tax assets will not be realized.

The Company is subject to margin tax in the state of Texas. During the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, the Company had no margin tax expense. The Company's 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 federal income tax and state margin tax returns remain open to examination by tax authorities. As of December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, the Company had no unrecognized tax benefits that would have a material impact on the effective tax rate. The Company is continuing its practice of recognizing interest and penalties related to income tax matters as interest expense and general and administrative expenses, respectively. During the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, there was no interest or penalties associated with uncertain tax positions recognized in the Company's consolidated financial statements.

***Recent Accounting Pronouncements***

*Recently Issued Pronouncements*

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2014-09, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers". This update supersedes most of the existing revenue recognition requirements in GAAP and requires (i) an entity to recognize revenue when it transfers promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services and (ii) requires expanded disclosures regarding the nature, amount, timing and certainty of revenue and cash flows from contracts with customers.

The Company will adopt this Accounting Standards Update effective January 1, 2018 using the modified retrospective approach. The Company has reviewed various contracts that represent its material revenue streams and determined that there will be no impact to its financial position, results of operations or liquidity. Upon adoption of this Accounting Standards Update, the Company will not be required to record a cumulative effect adjustment due to the new Accounting Standards Update not having a quantitative impact compared to existing GAAP. Also, upon adoption of this Accounting Standards Update, the Company will not be required to alter its existing information technology and internal controls outside of ongoing contract review processes in order to identify impacts of future revenue contracts entered into by the Company. The Company does not anticipate the disclosure requirements under the Accounting Standards Update to have a material change on how it presents information regarding its revenue streams as compared to existing GAAP.

In January 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-01, "Financial Instruments—Overall". This update applies to any entity that holds financial assets or owes financial liabilities. This update requires equity investments (except for those accounted for under the equity method or those that result in consolidation of the investee) to be measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net income. The Partnership will adopt this standard effective January 1, 2018 by means of a cumulative-effect adjustment which will decrease Unitholders' Equity and will bring the fair value of its investment to \$15.2 million or \$15.20 per unit for that investment.

In August 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-15, "Statement of Cash Flows - Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments". This update applies to all entities that are required to present a statement of cash flows. This update provides guidance on eight specific cash flow issues: debt prepayment or debt extinguishment costs; settlement of zero-coupon debt instruments or other debt instruments with coupon interest rates that are insignificant in relation to the effective interest rate of the borrowing; contingent consideration payments made after a business combination; proceeds from the settlement of insurance claims; proceeds from the settlement of corporate-owned life insurance policies; including bank-owned life insurance policies; distributions received from equity method investees; beneficial interests in securitization transactions; and separately identifiable cash flows and application of the predominance principle. The Company will adopt this update effective January 1, 2018 using the retrospective transition method. Adoption of this standard will change the presentation of its cash flows and did not have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In November 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-18, "Statement of Cash Flows - Restricted Cash". This update affects entities that have restricted cash or restricted cash equivalents. The Company will adopt this update retrospectively effective January 1, 2018. Adoption of this standard will change the presentation of its cash flows and did not have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In January 2017, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2017-01, "Business Combinations - Clarifying the Definition of a Business". This update applies to all entities that must determine whether they acquired or sold a business. This update provides a screen to determine when a set is not a business. The screen requires that

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

when substantially all of the fair value of the gross assets acquired (or disposed of) is concentrated in a single identifiable asset or a group of similar identifiable assets, the set is not a business. The Company will adopt this update prospectively effective January 1, 2018. The adoption of this update will not have an impact on its financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

*Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted*

In February 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-02, "Leases". This update applies to any entity that enters into a lease, with some specified scope exemptions. Under this update, a lessee should recognize in the statement of financial position a liability to make lease payments (the lease liability) and a right-of-use asset representing its right to use the underlying asset for the lease term. While there were no major changes to the lessor accounting, changes were made to align key aspects with the revenue recognition guidance. This update will be effective for public entities for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those fiscal years, with early adoption permitted. Entities will be required to recognize and measure leases at the beginning of the earliest period presented using a modified retrospective approach. The Company believes the primary impact of adopting this standard will be the recognition of assets and liabilities on the balance sheet for current operating leases. The Company is still evaluating the impact of this standard.

In June 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-13, "Financial Instruments - Credit Losses". This update affects entities holding financial assets and net investment in leases that are not accounted for at fair value through net income. The amendments affect loans, debt securities, trade receivables, net investments in leases, off-balance sheet credit exposures, reinsurance receivables, and any other financial assets not excluded from the scope that have the contractual right to receive cash. This update will be effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, including interim periods within those fiscal years. This update will be applied through a cumulative-effect adjustment to retained earnings as of the beginning of the first reporting period in which the guidance is effective. The Company does not believe the adoption of this standard will have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements since the Company does not have a history of credit losses.

**3. ACQUISITIONS**

**2017 Activity**

On February 28, 2017, the Company completed its acquisition of certain oil and natural gas properties, midstream assets and other related assets in the Delaware Basin for an aggregate purchase price consisting of \$1.74 billion in cash and 7.69 million shares of the Company's common stock, of which approximately 1.15 million shares were placed in an indemnity escrow. This transaction included the acquisition of (i) approximately 100,306 gross (80,339 net) acres primarily in Pecos and Reeves counties for approximately \$2.5 billion and (ii) midstream assets for approximately \$47.6 million. The Company used the net proceeds from its December 2016 equity offering, net proceeds from its December 2016 debt offering, cash on hand and other financing sources to fund the cash portion of the purchase price for this acquisition.

The following represents the fair value of the assets and liabilities assumed on the acquisition date. The aggregate consideration transferred was \$2.5 billion, resulting in no goodwill or bargain purchase gain.

	<b>(in thousands)</b>
Proved oil and natural gas properties	\$ 386,308
Unevaluated oil and natural gas properties	2,122,597
Midstream assets	47,432
Prepaid capital costs	3,460
Oil inventory	839
Equipment	163
Revenues and royalties payable	(9,650)
Asset retirement obligations	(1,550)
<b>Total fair value of net assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,549,599</b>

The Company has included in its consolidated statements of operations revenues of \$81.4 million and direct operating expenses of \$23.5 million for the period from February 28, 2017 to December 31, 2017 due to the acquisition.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**Pro Forma Financial Information**

The following unaudited summary pro forma consolidated statement of operations data of Diamondback for the year ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 have been prepared to give effect to the February 28, 2017 acquisition as if it had occurred on January 1, 2016. The pro forma data are not necessarily indicative of the financial results that would have been attained had the acquisitions occurred on January 1, 2016.

The pro forma data also necessarily exclude various operation expenses related to the properties and the financial statements should not be viewed as indicative of operations in future periods.

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>(in thousands, except per share amounts)</b>	
Revenues	\$ 1,228,040	\$ 627,301
Income (loss) from operations	619,369	(12,812)
Net income (loss)	472,649	(109,229)
Basic earnings per common share	4.85	(1.45)
Diluted earnings per common share	4.84	(1.45)

**2016 Activity**

On September 1, 2016, the Company acquired from an unrelated third party leasehold interests and related assets in the Southern Delaware Basin for an aggregate purchase price of \$558.5 million. This transaction included approximately 26,797 gross (19,262 net) acres primarily in Reeves and Ward counties. The Company financed this acquisition with net proceeds from the July 2016 equity offering discussed in Note 9 and cash on hand.

**2015 Activity**

During 2015, the Company completed acquisitions from unrelated third party sellers of an aggregate of approximately 16,940 gross (12,672 net) acres in the Midland Basin, primarily in northwest Howard County, for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$437.5 million. The acquisitions were accounted for according to the acquisition method, which requires the recording of net assets acquired and consideration transferred at fair value. These acquisitions were funded with the net proceeds of the May 2015 equity offering discussed in Note 9—Capital Stock and Earnings Per Share and borrowings under the Company’s revolving credit facility discussed in Note 8—Debt.

On July 9, 2015, the Company completed the sale of an approximate average 1.5% overriding royalty interest in certain of its acreage primarily located in Howard County, Texas to the Partnership for \$31.1 million. The Partnership primarily funded this acquisition with borrowings under its revolving credit facility discussed in Note 8 – Debt.

**4. VIPER ENERGY PARTNERS LP**

The Partnership is a publicly traded Delaware limited partnership, the common units of which are listed on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol “VNOM”. The Partnership was formed by Diamondback on February 27, 2014, to, among other things, own, acquire and exploit oil and natural gas properties in North America. The Partnership is currently focused on oil and natural gas properties in the Permian Basin. Viper Energy Partners GP LLC, a consolidated subsidiary of Diamondback, serves as the general partner of, and holds a non-economic general partner interest in, the Partnership. As of December 31, 2017, the Company owned approximately 64% of the common units of the Partnership.

Prior to the completion on June 23, 2014 of the Viper Offering, Diamondback owned all of the general and limited partner interests in the Partnership. The Viper Offering consisted of 5,750,000 common units representing approximately 8% of the limited partner interests in the Partnership at a price to the public of \$26.00 per common unit. In connection with the Viper Offering, Diamondback contributed all of the membership interests in Viper Energy Partners LLC to the Partnership in exchange for 70,450,000 common units. The contribution of Viper Energy Partners LLC to the Partnership was accounted for as a

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

combination of entities under common control with assets and liabilities transferred at their carrying amounts in a manner similar to a pooling of interests.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, the Partnership distributed \$89.5 million to Diamondback in respect of its common units.

In August 2016, the Partnership completed an underwritten public offering of 8,050,000 common units, which included 1,050,000 common units issued pursuant to an option to purchase additional common units granted to the underwriter. In this offering, Diamondback purchased 2,000,000 common units from the underwriter at \$15.60 per unit, which is the price per common unit paid by the underwriter to the Partnership. Following the August 2016 public offering, Diamondback had an approximate 83% limited partner interest in the Partnership. The Partnership received net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$125.0 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses, which it used to fund an acquisition and repaid outstanding borrowings under its revolving credit facility.

In January 2017, the Partnership completed an underwritten public offering of 9,775,000 common units, which included 1,275,000 common units issued pursuant to an option to purchase additional common units granted to the underwriters. The Partnership received net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$147.5 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses, of which the Partnership used \$120.5 million to repay the outstanding borrowings under its revolving credit agreement and the balance was used for general partnership purposes, which included additional acquisitions.

In July 2017, the Partnership completed an underwritten public offering of 16,100,000 common units, which included 2,100,000 common units issued pursuant to an option to purchase additional common units granted to the underwriters. In this offering, we purchased 700,000 common units, an affiliate of the General Partner purchased 3,000,000 common units and certain officers and directors of the Company and the General Partner purchased an aggregate of 114,000 common units, in each case directly from the underwriters. Following this offering, the Company had an approximate 64% limited partner interest in the Partnership. The Partnership received net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$232.5 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses, of which the Partnership used \$152.8 million to repay all of the then-outstanding borrowings under the Partnership's revolving credit facility and the balance was used fund a portion of the purchase price for acquisitions and for general partnership purposes.

As a result of these public offerings and the Partnership's issuance of unit-based compensation, the Company's ownership percentage in the Partnership was reduced. During the year ended December 31, 2017, the Company recorded a \$362.4 million decrease to Non-controlling interest in the Partnership with an increase to Additional paid-in capital, which represents the difference between the Company's share of the underlying net book value in the Partnership before and after the respective Partnership common unit transactions, on the Company's consolidated balance sheet.

***Partnership Agreement***

In connection with the closing of the Viper Offering, the General Partner and Diamondback entered into the first amended and restated agreement of limited partnership, dated as of June 23, 2014 (the "Partnership Agreement"). The Partnership Agreement requires the Partnership to reimburse the General Partner for all direct and indirect expenses incurred or paid on the Partnership's behalf and all other expenses allocable to the Partnership or otherwise incurred by the General Partner in connection with operating the Partnership's business. The Partnership Agreement does not set a limit on the amount of expenses for which the General Partner and its affiliates may be reimbursed. These expenses include salary, bonus, incentive compensation and other amounts paid to persons who perform services for the Partnership or on its behalf and expenses allocated to the General Partner by its affiliates. The General Partner is entitled to determine the expenses that are allocable to the Partnership.

***Tax Sharing***

In connection with the closing of the Viper Offering, the Partnership entered into a tax sharing agreement with Diamondback, dated June 23, 2014, pursuant to which the Partnership agreed to reimburse Diamondback for its share of state and local income and other taxes for which the Partnership's results are included in a consolidated tax return filed by Diamondback with respect to taxable periods including or beginning on June 23, 2014. The amount of any such reimbursement is limited to the tax the Partnership would have paid had it not been included in a combined group with Diamondback. Diamondback may use its tax attributes to cause its consolidated group, of which the Partnership may be a member for this purpose, to owe less or no tax. In such a situation, the Partnership agreed to reimburse Diamondback for the tax the Partnership would have owed had

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

the tax attributes not been available or used for the Partnership's benefit, even though Diamondback had no cash tax expense for that period.

**Other Agreements**

See Note 11—Related Party Transactions for information regarding the advisory services agreement the Partnership and the General Partner entered into with Wexford Capital LP (“Wexford”).

The Partnership has entered into a secured revolving credit facility with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, (“Wells Fargo”) as administrative agent sole book runner and lead arranger. See Note 8—Debt for a description of this credit facility.

**5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

Property and equipment includes the following:

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>	
<b>Oil and natural gas properties:</b>		
Subject to depletion	\$ 5,126,829	\$ 3,429,742
Not subject to depletion	4,105,865	1,730,519
Gross oil and natural gas properties	9,232,694	5,160,261
Accumulated depletion	(1,009,893)	(687,685)
Accumulated impairment	(1,143,498)	(1,143,498)
Oil and natural gas properties, net	7,079,303	3,329,078
Midstream assets	191,519	8,362
Other property, equipment and land	80,776	58,290
Accumulated depreciation	(7,981)	(4,873)
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation, depletion, amortization and impairment	<u>\$ 7,343,617</u>	<u>\$ 3,390,857</u>
<b>Balance of costs not subject to depletion:</b>		
Incurred in 2017	\$ 2,746,936	
Incurred in 2016	727,411	
Incurred in 2015	301,879	
Incurred in 2014	316,455	
Incurred in 2013	13,184	
Total not subject to depletion	<u>\$ 4,105,865</u>	

The Company uses the full cost method of accounting for its oil and natural gas properties. Under this method, all acquisition, exploration and development costs, including certain internal costs, are capitalized and amortized on a composite unit of production method based on proved oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas reserves. Internal costs capitalized to the full cost pool represent management's estimate of costs incurred directly related to exploration and development activities such as geological and other administrative costs associated with overseeing the exploration and development activities. Costs, including related employee costs, associated with production and operation of the properties are charged to expense as incurred. All other internal costs not directly associated with exploration and development activities are charged to expense as they are incurred. Capitalized internal costs were approximately \$22.0 million \$17.2 million and \$15.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. Costs associated with unevaluated properties are excluded from the full cost pool until the Company has made a determination as to the existence of proved reserves. The inclusion of the Company's unevaluated costs into the amortization base is expected to be completed within three to five years. Acquisition costs not currently being amortized are primarily related to unproved acreage that the Company plans to prove up through drilling. The Company has no plans to let any acreage expire. Sales of oil and natural gas properties, whether or not being amortized currently, are accounted for as



**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

adjustments of capitalized costs, with no gain or loss recognized, unless such adjustments would significantly alter the relationship between capitalized costs and proved reserves of oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas.

Under this method of accounting, the Company is required to perform a ceiling test each quarter. The test determines a limit, or ceiling, on the book value of the proved oil and natural gas properties. Net capitalized costs are limited to the lower of unamortized cost net of deferred income taxes, or the cost center ceiling. The cost center ceiling is defined as the sum of (a) estimated future net revenues, discounted at 10% per annum, from proved reserves, based on the trailing 12-month unweighted average of the first-day-of-the-month price, adjusted for any contract provisions, and excluding the estimated abandonment costs for properties with asset retirement obligations recorded on the balance sheet, (b) the cost of properties not being amortized, if any, and (c) the lower of cost or market value of unproved properties included in the cost being amortized, including related deferred taxes for differences between the book and tax basis of the oil and natural gas properties. If the net book value, including related deferred taxes, exceeds the ceiling, an impairment or non-cash writedown is required.

As a result of the significant decline in prices during 2016, the Company recorded non-cash ceiling test impairments for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 of \$245.5 million and \$814.8 million, respectively, which are included in accumulated depletion. No impairment on proved oil and natural gas properties was recorded for the year ended December 31, 2017. For 2016 and 2015, the impairment charges affected the Company's reported net income but did not reduce its cash flow. In addition to commodity prices, the Company's production rates, levels of proved reserves, future development costs, transfers of unevaluated properties and other factors will determine its actual ceiling test calculation and impairment analysis in future periods.

At December 31, 2017, there was \$26.0 million in exploration costs and development costs and \$22.1 million in capitalized interest that are not subject to depletion. At December 31, 2016, there were no exploration costs, development costs or capitalized interest that are not subject to depletion.

**6. ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS**

The following table describes the changes to the Company's asset retirement obligations liability for the following periods:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
	(in thousands)		
Asset retirement obligations, beginning of period	\$ 17,422	\$ 12,711	\$ 8,486
Additional liabilities incurred	1,526	637	594
Liabilities acquired	2,432	3,696	3,159
Liabilities settled	(1,555)	(711)	(292)
Accretion expense	1,391	1,064	833
Revisions in estimated liabilities	69	25	(69)
Asset retirement obligations, end of period	21,285	17,422	12,711
Less current portion	1,163	1,288	193
Asset retirement obligations - long-term	<u>\$ 20,122</u>	<u>\$ 16,134</u>	<u>\$ 12,518</u>

The Company's asset retirement obligations primarily relate to the future plugging and abandonment of wells and related facilities. The Company estimates the future plugging and abandonment costs of wells, the ultimate productive life of the properties, a risk-adjusted discount rate and an inflation factor in order to determine the current present value of this obligation. To the extent future revisions to these assumptions impact the present value of the existing asset retirement obligation liability, a corresponding adjustment is made to the oil and natural gas property balance.

**7. EQUITY METHOD INVESTMENTS**

In October 2014, the Company obtained a 25% interest in HMW Fluid Management LLC, which was formed to develop, own and operate an integrated water management system to gather, store, process, treat, distribute and dispose of water to exploration and production companies operating in Midland, Martin and Andrews Counties, Texas. The board of this entity may also authorize the entity to offer these services to other counties in the Permian Basin and to pursue other business opportunities.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

During the year ended December 31, 2017, the Company invested \$0.2 million in this entity and recorded income of \$0.7 million, which was the Company's share of HMW Fluid Management LLC's net income, bringing the Company's total investment to \$7.2 million at December 31, 2017. During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company invested \$2.3 million in this entity and recorded income of \$0.7 million, which was the Company's share of HMW Fluid Management LLC's net income, bringing its total investment to \$6.3 million at December 31, 2016. The Company will retain a minority interest after all commitments are received. The entity was formed as a limited liability company and maintains a specific ownership account for each investor, similar to a partnership capital account structure. The Company accounts for this investment under the equity method of accounting.

**8. DEBT**

Long-term debt consisted of the following as of the dates indicated:

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
	(in thousands)	
4.750 % Senior Notes due 2024	500,000	500,000
5.375 % Senior Notes due 2025	500,000	500,000
Unamortized debt issuance costs	(13,153)	(14,588)
Revolving credit facility	397,000	—
Partnership revolving credit facility	93,500	120,500
Total long-term debt	\$ 1,477,347	\$ 1,105,912

**2024 Senior Notes**

On October 28, 2016, the Company issued \$500.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.750% Senior Notes due 2024 (the "2024 Senior Notes"). The 2024 Senior Notes bear interest at a rate of 4.750% per annum, payable semi-annually, in arrears on May 1 and November 1 of each year, commencing on May 1, 2017 and will mature on November 1, 2024. All of the Company's existing and future restricted subsidiaries that guarantee its revolving credit facility or certain other debt guarantee the 2024 Senior Notes, provided, however, that the 2024 Senior Notes are not guaranteed by the Partnership, the General Partner, Viper Energy Partners LLC or Rattler Midstream LLC, and will not be guaranteed by any of the Company's future unrestricted subsidiaries. See also "Note 16. Subsequent Events—New Senior Notes due 2025 and Repayment of Portion of Outstanding Borrowings under Revolving Credit Facility."

The 2024 Senior Notes were issued under, and are governed by, an indenture among the Company, the subsidiary guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo, as the trustee, as supplemented (the "2024 Indenture"). The 2024 Indenture contains certain covenants that, subject to certain exceptions and qualifications, among other things, limit the Company's ability and the ability of the restricted subsidiaries to incur or guarantee additional indebtedness, make certain investments, declare or pay dividends or make other distributions on capital stock, prepay subordinated indebtedness, sell assets including capital stock of restricted subsidiaries, agree to payment restrictions affecting the Company's restricted subsidiaries, consolidate, merge, sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets, enter into transactions with affiliates, incur liens, engage in business other than the oil and natural gas business and designate certain of the Company's subsidiaries as unrestricted subsidiaries.

The Company may on any one or more occasions redeem some or all of the 2024 Senior Notes at any time on or after November 1, 2019 at the redemption prices (expressed as percentages of principal amount) of 103.563% for the 12-month period beginning on November 1, 2019, 102.375% for the 12-month period beginning on November 1, 2020, 101.188% for the 12-month period beginning on November 1, 2021 and 100.000% beginning on November 1, 2022 and at any time thereafter with any accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the date of redemption. Prior to November 1, 2019, the Company may on any one or more occasions redeem all or a portion of the 2024 Senior Notes at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2024 Senior Notes plus a "make-whole" premium and accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date. In addition, any time prior to November 1, 2019, the Company may on any one or more occasions redeem the 2024 Senior Notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the 2024 Senior Notes issued prior to such date at a redemption price of 104.750%, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date, with an amount equal to the net cash proceeds from certain equity offerings.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**2025 Senior Notes**

On December 20, 2016, the Company issued \$500.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.375% Senior Notes due 2025 (the “2025 Senior Notes”). The 2025 Senior Notes bear interest at a rate of 5.375% per annum, payable semi-annually, in arrears on May 31 and November 30 of each year, commencing on May 31, 2017 and will mature on May 31, 2025. All of the Company’s existing and future restricted subsidiaries that guarantee its revolving credit facility or certain other debt guarantee the 2025 Senior Notes, provided, however, that the 2025 Senior Notes are not guaranteed by the Partnership, the General Partner, Viper Energy Partners LLC or Rattler Midstream LLC, and will not be guaranteed by any of the Company’s future unrestricted subsidiaries.

The 2025 Senior Notes were issued under an indenture, dated as of December 20, 2016, among the Company, the guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, as the trustee (the “2025 Indenture”). The 2025 Indenture contains certain covenants that, subject to certain exceptions and qualifications, among other things, limit the Company’s ability and the ability of the restricted subsidiaries to incur or guarantee additional indebtedness, make certain investments, declare or pay dividends or make other distributions on capital stock, prepay subordinated indebtedness, sell assets including capital stock of restricted subsidiaries, agree to payment restrictions affecting the Company’s restricted subsidiaries, consolidate, merge, sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets, enter into transactions with affiliates, incur liens, engage in business other than the oil and natural gas business and designate certain of the Company’s subsidiaries as unrestricted subsidiaries.

The Company may on any one or more occasions redeem some or all of the 2025 Senior Notes at any time on or after May 31, 2020 at the redemption prices (expressed as percentages of principal amount) of 104.031% for the 12-month period beginning on May 31, 2020, 102.688% for the 12-month period beginning on May 31, 2021, 101.344% for the 12-month period beginning on May 31, 2022 and 100.000% beginning on May 31, 2023 and at any time thereafter with any accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the date of redemption. Prior to May 31, 2020, the Company may on any one or more occasions redeem all or a portion of the 2025 Senior Notes at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2025 Senior Notes plus a “make-whole” premium and accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date. In addition, any time prior to May 31, 2020, the Company may on any one or more occasions redeem the 2025 Senior Notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the 2025 Senior Notes issued prior to such date at a redemption price of 105.375%, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date, with an amount equal to the net cash proceeds from certain equity offerings.

As required under the terms of the registration rights agreements relating to the 2024 Senior Notes and the 2025 Senior Notes, on April 26, 2017, the Company filed with the SEC a Registration Statement on Form S-4 (the “Registration Statement”) relating to the exchange offers of the 2024 Senior Notes and the 2025 Senior Notes for substantially identical notes registered under the Securities Act (the “Exchange Offers”). The Registration Statement was declared effective by the SEC on June 21, 2017 and the Exchange Offers closed on July 27, 2017, in which all of the privately placed 2024 Senior Notes and 2025 Senior Notes were exchanged for substantially identical notes in the same aggregate principal amount that were registered under the Securities Act.

***The Company’s Credit Facility***

The Company and Diamondback O&G LLC, as borrower, entered into the second amended and restated credit agreement, dated November 1, 2013, as amended on June 9, 2014, November 13, 2014, June 21, 2016, December 15, 2016 and November 28, 2017, with a syndicate of banks, including Wells Fargo, as administrative agent, and its affiliate Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, as sole book runner and lead arranger. The credit agreement provides for a revolving credit facility in the maximum credit amount of \$5.0 billion, subject to a borrowing base based on the Company’s oil and natural gas reserves and other factors (the “borrowing base”). The borrowing base is scheduled to be redetermined, under certain circumstances, annually with an effective date of May 1st, and, under certain circumstances, semi-annually with effective dates of May 1st and November 1st. In addition, the Company may request up to two additional redeterminations of the borrowing base during any 12-month period. As of December 31, 2017, the borrowing base was set at \$1.8 billion, the Company had elected a commitment amount of \$1.0 billion and the Company had \$397.0 million of outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit facility. See “Note 16. Subsequent Events-New Senior Notes due 2025 and Repayment of Portion of Outstanding Borrowings under Revolving Credit Facility.”

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

Diamondback O&G LLC is the borrower under the credit agreement. As of December 31, 2017, the credit agreement is guaranteed by the Company, Diamondback E&P LLC and Rattler Midstream LLC (formerly known as White Fang Energy LLC) and will also be guaranteed by any of the Company's future subsidiaries that are classified as restricted subsidiaries under the credit agreement. The credit agreement is also secured by substantially all of the assets of the Company, Diamondback O&G LLC and the guarantors.

The outstanding borrowings under the credit agreement bear interest at a per annum rate elected by the Company that is equal to an alternate base rate (which is equal to the greatest of the prime rate, the Federal Funds effective rate plus 0.5%, and 3-month LIBOR plus 1.0%) or LIBOR, in each case plus the applicable margin. The applicable margin ranges from 0.25% to 1.25% in the case of the alternate base rate and from 1.25% to 2.25% in the case of LIBOR, each of which applicable margin rates is increased by 0.25% per annum if the total debt to EBITDAX ratio is greater than 3.0 to 1.0. The applicable margin depends on the amount of loans and letters of credit outstanding in relation to the commitment, which is defined as the least of the maximum credit amount, the borrowing base and the elected commitment amount. The Company is obligated to pay a quarterly commitment fee ranging from 0.375% to 0.500% per year on the unused portion of the commitment, which fee is also dependent on the amount of loans and letters of credit outstanding in relation to the commitment. Loan principal may be optionally repaid from time to time without premium or penalty (other than customary LIBOR breakage), and is required to be repaid (a) to the extent the loan amount exceeds the commitment or the borrowing base, whether due to a borrowing base redetermination or otherwise (in some cases subject to a cure period), (b) in an amount equal to the net cash proceeds from the sale of property when a borrowing base deficiency or event of default exists under the credit agreement and (c) at the maturity date of November 1, 2022.

The credit agreement contains various affirmative, negative and financial maintenance covenants. These covenants, among other things, limit additional indebtedness, additional liens, sales of assets, mergers and consolidations, dividends and distributions, transactions with affiliates and entering into certain swap agreements and require the maintenance of the financial ratios described below.

<b>Financial Covenant</b>	<b>Required Ratio</b>
Ratio of total debt to EBITDAX	Not greater than 3.0 to 1.0
Ratio of current assets to liabilities, as defined in the credit agreement	Not less than 1.0 to 1.0

The covenant prohibiting additional indebtedness, as amended in November 2017, allows for the issuance of unsecured debt in the form of senior or senior subordinated notes if no default would result from the incurrence of such debt after giving effect thereto and if, in connection with any such issuance, the borrowing base is reduced by 25% of the stated principal amount of each such issuance.

As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Company was in compliance with all financial covenants under its revolving credit facility, as then in effect. The lenders may accelerate all of the indebtedness under the Company's revolving credit facility upon the occurrence and during the continuance of any event of default. The credit agreement contains customary events of default, including non-payment, breach of covenants, materially incorrect representations, cross-default, bankruptcy and change of control. There are no cure periods for events of default due to non-payment of principal and breaches of negative and financial covenants, but non-payment of interest and breaches of certain affirmative covenants are subject to customary cure periods.

***The Partnership's Credit Agreement***

On July 8, 2014, the Partnership entered into a secured revolving credit agreement with Wells Fargo, as administrative agent, and Wells Fargo Securities, as sole book runner and lead arranger. The credit agreement, as amended, provides for a revolving credit facility in the maximum credit amount of \$2.0 billion and a borrowing base based on our oil and natural gas reserves and other factors (the "borrowing base") of \$400.0 million, subject to scheduled semi-annual and other elective borrowing base redeterminations. The borrowing base is scheduled to be re-determined semi-annually with effective dates of May 1st and November 1st. In addition, Viper may request up to three additional redeterminations of the borrowing base during any 12-month period. As of December 31, 2017, the borrowing base was set at \$400.0 million, and the Partnership had \$93.5 million of outstanding borrowings and \$306.5 million available for future borrowings under its revolving credit facility.

The outstanding borrowings under the credit agreement bear interest at a per annum rate elected by the Partnership that is equal to an alternate base rate (which is equal to the greatest of the prime rate, the Federal Funds effective rate plus 0.5% and 3-month LIBOR plus 1.0%) or LIBOR, in each case plus the applicable margin. The applicable margin ranges from 0.75% to 1.75% per annum in the case of the alternate base rate and from 1.75% to 2.75% per annum in the case of LIBOR, in each case

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

depending on the amount of loans and letters of credit outstanding in relation to the commitment, which is defined as the lesser of the maximum credit amount and the borrowing base. The Partnership is obligated to pay a quarterly commitment fee ranging from 0.375% to 0.500% per year on the unused portion of the commitment, which fee is also dependent on the amount of loans and letters of credit outstanding in relation to the commitment. Loan principal may be optionally repaid from time to time without premium or penalty (other than customary LIBOR breakage), and is required to be repaid (i) to the extent the loan amount exceeds the commitment or the borrowing base, whether due to a borrowing base redetermination or otherwise (in some cases subject to a cure period), (ii) in an amount equal to the net cash proceeds from the sale of property when a borrowing base deficiency or event of default exists under the credit agreement and (iii) at the maturity date of November 1, 2022. The loan is secured by substantially all of the Partnership and its subsidiary's assets.

The credit agreement contains various affirmative, negative and financial maintenance covenants. These covenants, among other things, limit additional indebtedness, purchases of margin stock, additional liens, sales of assets, mergers and consolidations, dividends and distributions, transactions with affiliates and entering into certain swap agreements and require the maintenance of the financial ratios described below.

<b>Financial Covenant</b>	<b>Required Ratio</b>
Ratio of total debt to EBITDAX	Not greater than 4.0 to 1.0
Ratio of current assets to liabilities, as defined in the credit agreement	Not less than 1.0 to 1.0

The covenant prohibiting additional indebtedness allows for the issuance of unsecured debt of up to \$400.0 million in the form of senior unsecured notes and, in connection with any such issuance, the reduction of the borrowing base by 25% of the stated principal amount of each such issuance. A borrowing base reduction in connection with such issuance may require a portion of the outstanding principal of the loan to be repaid.

The lenders may accelerate all of the indebtedness under the Partnership's credit agreement upon the occurrence and during the continuance of any event of default. The Partnership's credit agreement contains customary events of default, including non-payment, breach of covenants, materially incorrect representations, cross-default, bankruptcy and change of control. There are no cure periods for events of default due to non-payment of principal and breaches of negative and financial covenants, but non-payment of interest and breaches of certain affirmative covenants are subject to customary cure periods.

**Interest expense**

The following amounts have been incurred and charged to interest expense for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015:

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>		
Interest expense	\$ 60,671	\$ 39,642	\$ 40,221
Less capitalized interest	(22,097)	—	—
Other fees and expenses	2,160	1,426	1,292
Total interest expense	<u>\$ 40,734</u>	<u>\$ 41,068</u>	<u>\$ 41,513</u>

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**9. CAPITAL STOCK AND EARNINGS PER SHARE**

Diamondback completed the following equity offerings during the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015:

Date	Number of Shares of Common Stock Sold	Number of Shares of Common Stock Issued to Underwriters	Price per Share Sold to Underwriters	Proceeds Received by the Company
January 2015	2,012,500	262,500	\$ 59.34	\$ 119,422
May 2015	4,600,000	600,000	\$ 72.53	\$ 333,638
August 2015	2,875,000	375,000	\$ 68.74	\$ 197,628
January 2016	4,600,000	600,000	\$ 55.33	\$ 254,518
July 2016	6,325,000	825,000	\$ 87.24	\$ 551,777
December 2016	12,075,000	1,575,000	\$ 95.3025	\$ 1,150,828

**Earnings Per Share**

The Company's basic earnings per share amounts have been computed based on the weighted-average number of shares of common stock outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per share include the effect of potentially dilutive shares outstanding for the period. Additionally, for the diluted earnings per share computation, the per share earnings of the Partnership are included in the consolidated earnings per share computation based on the consolidated group's holdings of the subsidiary.

A reconciliation of the components of basic and diluted earnings per common share is presented in the table below:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Net income (loss) attributable to common stock	\$ 482,261	\$ (165,034)	\$ (550,628)
Weighted average common shares outstanding			
Basic weighted average common units outstanding	97,458	75,077	63,019
Effect of dilutive securities:			
Potential common shares issuable	230	—	—
Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding	97,688	75,077	63,019
Basic net income (loss) attributable to common stock	\$ 4.95	\$ (2.20)	\$ (8.74)
Diluted net income (loss) attributable to common stock	\$ 4.94	\$ (2.20)	\$ (8.74)

For the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, there were 45,690 shares, 243,654 shares and 100,924 shares, respectively, that were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive for the periods presented but could potentially dilute basic earnings per share in future periods.

**10. EQUITY-BASED COMPENSATION**

On October 10, 2012, the Board of Directors approved the Diamondback Energy, Inc. 2012 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2012 Plan"), which is intended to provide eligible employees with equity-based incentives. The 2012 Plan provides for the granting of incentive stock options, nonstatutory stock options, restricted awards (restricted stock and restricted stock units), performance awards, and stock appreciation rights, or any combination of the foregoing. A total of 2,500,000 shares of the Company's common stock has been reserved for issuance pursuant to this plan.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

The following table presents the effects of the equity and stock based compensation plans and related costs:

	2017	2016	2015
	(In thousands)		
General and administrative expenses	\$ 25,537	\$ 26,453	\$ 18,529
Equity-based compensation capitalized pursuant to full cost method of accounting for oil and natural gas properties	8,641	7,079	6,043

On June 17, 2014, in connection with the Viper Offering, the Board of Directors of the General Partner adopted the Viper Energy Partners LP Long Term Incentive Plan (“Viper LTIP”), effective June 17, 2014, for employees, officers, consultants and directors of the General Partner and any of its affiliates, including Diamondback, who perform services for the Partnership. The Viper LTIP provides for the grant of unit options, unit appreciation rights, restricted units, unit awards, phantom units, distribution equivalent rights, cash awards, performance awards, other unit-based awards and substitute awards. A total of 9,070,356 common units has been reserved for issuance pursuant to the Viper LTIP. Common units that are cancelled, forfeited or withheld to satisfy exercise prices or tax withholding obligations will be available for delivery pursuant to other awards. The Viper LTIP is administered by the Board of Directors of the General Partner or a committee thereof.

**Stock Options**

In accordance with the 2012 Plan, the exercise price of stock options granted may not be less than the market value of the stock at the date of grant. The shares issued under the 2012 Plan will consist of new shares of Company stock. Unless otherwise specified in an agreement, options become exercisable ratably over a five-year period. However, as described above, options associated with the modification vest in four substantially equal annual installments and are exercisable for five years from the date of grant.

The fair value of the stock options on the date of grant is expensed over the applicable vesting period. The Company estimates the fair values of stock options granted using a Black-Scholes option valuation model, which requires the Company to make several assumptions. The Company does not have a long history of market prices, thus the expected volatility was determined using the historical volatility for a peer group of companies. The expected term of options granted was determined based on the contractual term of the awards and remaining vesting term at the modification date. The risk-free interest rate is based on the U.S. treasury yield curve rate for the expected term of the option at the date of grant. The Company does not anticipate paying cash dividends; therefore, the expected dividend yield was assumed to be zero. All such amounts represent the weighted-average amounts for each year.

The following table presents the Company’s stock option activity under the Company’s 2012 Equity Incentive Plan (“2012 Plan”) for the year ended December 31, 2017.

	Options	Weighted Average		Intrinsic Value (in thousands)
		Exercise Price	Remaining Term (in years)	
Outstanding at December 31, 2016	15,750	\$ 22.72		
Exercised	(15,750)	\$ 22.72		
Outstanding at December 31, 2017	—	\$ —	0.00	\$ —

The aggregate intrinsic value of stock options that were exercised during the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 was \$1.3 million and \$15.7 million, respectively.

**Restricted Stock Units**

Under the 2012 Plan, approved by the Board of Directors, the Company is authorized to issue restricted stock and restricted stock units to eligible employees. The Company estimates the fair values of restricted stock awards and units as the closing price of the Company’s common stock on the grant date of the award, which is expensed over the applicable vesting period.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

The following table presents the Company's restricted stock units activity under the 2012 Plan during the year ended December 31, 2017.

	<b>Restricted Stock Awards &amp; Units</b>	<b>Weighted Average Grant- Date Fair Value</b>
Unvested at December 31, 2016	206,004	\$ 70.33
Granted	188,438	\$ 102.77
Vested	(147,934)	\$ 77.44
Forfeited	(2,931)	\$ 89.21
Unvested at December 31, 2017	<u>243,577</u>	<u>\$ 90.88</u>

The aggregate fair value of restricted stock units that vested during the year ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 was \$14.8 million, \$12.5 million and \$10.1 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2017, the Company's unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested restricted stock awards and units was \$14.4 million. Such cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.5 years.

***Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units***

To provide long-term incentives for the executive officers to deliver competitive returns to the Company's stockholders, the Company has granted performance-based restricted stock units to eligible employees. The ultimate number of shares awarded from these conditional restricted stock units is based upon measurement of total stockholder return of the Company's common stock ("TSR") as compared to a designated peer group during a three-year performance period.

In February 2015, eligible employees received performance restricted stock unit awards totaling 90,249 units from which a minimum of 0% and a maximum of 200% units could be awarded. The awards have a performance period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016 and vested at December 31, 2016.

In February 2016, eligible employees received performance restricted stock unit awards totaling 174,325 units from which a minimum of 0% and a maximum of 200% units could be awarded. The awards have a performance period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017 and vested at December 31, 2017. Eligible employees received additional performance restricted stock unit awards totaling 87,163 units from which a minimum of 0% and a maximum of 200% units could be awarded. The awards have a performance period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018 and cliff vest at December 31, 2018.

In February 2017, eligible employees received performance restricted stock unit awards totaling 37,440 units from which a minimum of 0% and a maximum of 200% units could be awarded. The awards have a performance period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018 and cliff vest at December 31, 2018. Eligible employees received additional performance restricted stock unit awards totaling 74,880 units from which a minimum of 0% and a maximum of 200% units could be awarded. The awards have a performance period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019 and cliff vest at December 31, 2019.

The fair value of each performance restricted stock unit is estimated at the date of grant using a Monte Carlo simulation, which results in an expected percentage of units to be earned during the performance period. The following table presents a summary of the grant-date fair values of performance restricted stock units granted and the related assumptions.

	<b>2017</b>		<b>2016</b>		<b>2015</b>
	<b>Two-Year Performance Period</b>	<b>Three-Year Performance Period</b>	<b>Two-Year Performance Period</b>	<b>Three-Year Performance Period</b>	
Grant-date fair value	\$ 162.13	\$ 168.73	\$ 103.41	\$ 102.35	\$ 137.14
Risk-free rate	1.27%	1.59%	0.86%	1.10%	0.49%
Company volatility	39.32%	41.14%	41.91%	42.16%	43.36%



**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

The following table presents the Company's performance restricted stock unit activity under the 2012 Plan for the year ended December 31, 2017.

	<b>Performance Restricted Stock Units</b>	<b>Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value</b>
Unvested at December 31, 2016	252,471	\$ 103.06
Granted	118,169	\$ 166.53
Vested	(168,314)	\$ 103.41
Unvested at December 31, 2017 <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>202,326</u>	<u>\$ 139.83</u>

(1) A maximum of 404,652 units could be awarded based upon the Company's final TSR ranking.

As of December 31, 2017, the Company's unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested performance based restricted stock awards and units was \$15.6 million. Such cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.4 years.

**Partnership Unit Options**

In accordance with the Viper LTIP, the exercise price of unit options granted may not be less than the market value of the common units at the date of grant. The units issued under the Viper LTIP will consist of new common units of the Partnership. On June 17, 2014, the Board of Directors of the General Partner granted 2,500,000 unit options to the executive officers of the General Partner. The unit options vest approximately 33% ratably on each of the first three anniversaries of the date of grant or earlier upon a change of control (as defined in the Viper LTIP). All outstanding unit options were amended effective November 29, 2016 to provide that vested unit options will become exercisable upon the earlier to occur of (i) the "Exercise Window Period" beginning on the third anniversary of the date of grant and ending on December 31, 2017, or (ii) the "Change of Control Exercise Period" beginning ten days before and ending on the date a change of control occurs (the earlier occurring of such events, the "Exercise Period"). At any time within the Exercise Period, if a participant attempts to exercise a vested unit option and the fair market value per unit as of such date is less than the exercise price per option unit, the vested unit option will not be exercisable. At the end of the Exercise Period, any vested unit option that is not exercisable or that has not been exercised will automatically terminate and become null and void.

The fair value of the unit options on the date of grant is expensed over the applicable vesting period. The Partnership estimates the fair values of unit options granted using a Black-Scholes option valuation model, which requires the Partnership to make several assumptions. At the time of grant the Partnership did not have a history of market prices, thus the expected volatility was determined using the historical volatility for a peer group of companies. The expected term of options granted was determined based on the contractual term of the awards. The risk-free interest rate is based on the U.S. treasury yield curve rate for the expected term of the unit option at the date of grant. The expected dividend yield was based upon projected performance of the Partnership.

	<b>2015</b>
Grant-date fair value	\$ 4.24
Expected volatility	36.0%
Expected dividend yield	5.9%
Expected term (in years)	3.0
Risk-free rate	0.99%

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

The following table presents the unit option activity under the Viper LTIP for the year ended December 31, 2017.

	Unit Options	Weighted Average		Intrinsic Value (in thousands)
		Exercise Price	Remaining Term (in years)	
Outstanding at December 31, 2016	2,424,266	\$ 26.00		
Forfeited	(2,416,666)	\$ 26.00		
Outstanding at December 31, 2017	<u>7,600</u>	\$ 18.49	0.00	\$ —
Vested and Expected to vest at December 31, 2017	<u>7,600</u>	\$ 18.49	0.00	\$ —

**Phantom Units**

Under the Viper LTIP, the Board of Directors of the General Partner is authorized to issue phantom units to eligible employees. The Partnership estimates the fair value of phantom units as the closing price of the Partnership's common units on the grant date of the award, which is expensed over the applicable vesting period. Upon vesting the phantom units entitle the recipient one common unit of the Partnership for each phantom unit.

The following table presents the phantom unit activity under the Viper LTIP for the year ended December 31, 2017.

	Phantom Units	Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value	
Unvested at December 31, 2016	21,048	\$	16.23
Granted	116,567	\$	17.09
Vested	(32,176)	\$	16.49
Unvested at December 31, 2017	<u>105,439</u>	\$	17.10

The aggregate fair value of phantom units that vested during the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$0.5 million. As of December 31, 2017, the unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested phantom units was \$1.3 million. Such cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.4 years.

**11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Immediately upon the completion of the Company's initial public offering on October 17, 2012, Wexford beneficially owned approximately 44% of the Company's outstanding common stock. As of December 31, 2016, Wexford beneficially owned less than 1% of the Company's outstanding common stock. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of both the Company and the General Partner was a partner at Wexford until his retirement from Wexford effective December 31, 2016. Another partner at Wexford serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the General Partner. Beginning January 1, 2017, Wexford and entities affiliated with Wexford are no longer considered related parties of the Company and any expenses after December 31, 2016 are no longer classified as related party expenses.

**Related Party Revenue and Expenses**

During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company paid \$3.3 million in lease operating expenses and \$2.2 million in general and administrative expenses to related parties. During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company received \$0.2 million in other income from related parties. During the year ended December 31, 2015, the Company paid \$0.2 million in lease operating expenses, \$0.2 million in production and ad valorem taxes, \$1.0 million in gathering and transportation expenses and \$2.3 million in general and administrative expenses to related parties. During the year ended December 31, 2015, the Company received \$0.2 million in other income from related parties.

**Advisory Services Agreement - The Company**

The Company entered into an advisory services agreement (the "Advisory Services Agreement") with Wexford, dated as of October 11, 2012, under which Wexford provides the Company with general financial and strategic advisory services

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

related to the business in return for an annual fee of \$0.5 million, plus reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. The Advisory Services Agreement had an initial term of two years commencing on October 18, 2012, and continues for additional one-year periods unless terminated in writing by either party at least ten days prior to the expiration of the then current term. It may be terminated at any time by either party upon 30 days prior written notice. In the event the Company terminates such agreement, it is obligated to pay all amounts due through the remaining term. In addition, the Company agreed to pay Wexford to-be-negotiated market-based fees approved by the Company's independent directors for such services as may be provided by Wexford at the Company's request in connection with acquisitions and divestitures, financings or other transactions in which the Company may be involved. The services provided by Wexford under the Advisory Services Agreement do not extend to the Company's day-to-day business or operations. The Company has agreed to indemnify Wexford and its affiliates from any and all losses arising out of or in connection with the Advisory Services Agreement except for losses resulting from Wexford's or its affiliates' gross negligence or willful misconduct. The Company paid \$0.5 million during both of the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 under the Advisory Services Agreement.

***Advisory Services Agreement - The Partnership***

In connection with the closing of the Viper Offering, the Partnership and the General Partner entered into an advisory services agreement (the "Viper Advisory Services Agreement") with Wexford, dated as of June 23, 2014, under which Wexford provides the Partnership and the General Partner with general financial and strategic advisory services related to the business in return for an annual fee of \$0.5 million, plus reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. The Viper Advisory Services Agreement had an initial term of two years commencing on June 23, 2014, and will continue for additional one-year periods unless terminated in writing by either party at least ten days prior to the expiration of the then current term. It may be terminated at any time by either party upon 30 days prior written notice. In the event the Partnership or the General Partner terminates such agreement, the Partnership is obligated to pay all amounts due through the remaining term. In addition, the Partnership and the General Partner have agreed to pay Wexford to-be-negotiated market-based fees approved by the conflict committee of the board of directors of the General Partner for such services as may be provided by Wexford at the Partnership's or the General Partner's request in connection with acquisitions and divestitures, financings or other transactions in which the Partnership may be involved. The services provided by Wexford under the Viper Advisory Services Agreement do not extend to the Partnership or the General Partner's day-to-day business or operations. The Partnership and General Partner have agreed to indemnify Wexford and its affiliates from any and all losses arising out of or in connection with the Viper Advisory Services Agreement except for losses resulting from Wexford's or its affiliates' gross negligence or willful misconduct. The Partnership did not pay any amounts during the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 under the Viper Advisory Services Agreement. The Partnership paid \$0.5 million during the year ended December 31, 2015 under the Viper Advisory Services Agreement.

***Coronado Midstream***

The Company is party to a gas purchase agreement, dated May 1, 2009, as amended, with Coronado Midstream LLC, formerly known as MidMar Gas LLC, an entity that was affiliated with Wexford, that owns a gas gathering system and processing plant in the Permian Basin. Under this agreement, Coronado Midstream LLC is obligated to purchase from the Company, and the Company is obligated to sell to Coronado Midstream LLC, all of the gas conforming to certain quality specifications produced from certain of the Company's Permian Basin acreage. An entity controlled by Wexford had owned approximately 28% equity interest in Coronado Midstream LLC until Coronado Midstream LLC was sold in March 2015. Coronado Midstream LLC is no longer a related party and any revenues, production and ad valorem taxes and gathering and transportation expense after March 2015 are not classified as those attributable to a related party.

***Midland Leases***

Effective May 15, 2011, the Company occupied corporate office space in the Fasken building in Midland, Texas under a lease with an initial term of five years. On November 10, 2014, the lease was amended to extend the term of the lease for an additional 10-year period and to increase the monthly base rent to \$94,000 beginning in June 2016, with an increase of approximately 2% annually. The office space is owned by Fasken, which is an entity controlled by an affiliate of Wexford.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

The following table contains amendments made to lease additional office space in the Midland corporate office during the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015:

Date of Amendments	Rent for Additional Space	Approx. Annual Increase of Monthly Base Rent
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2014	\$27,000	N/A
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2014	\$53,000	4%
April 2015	\$23,000	N/A
June 2015	\$22,000	2%

**Field Office Lease**

The Company leased field office space in Midland, Texas from an unrelated third party from March 1, 2011. On March 1, 2014, the building was purchased by WT Commercial Portfolio, LLC, which is controlled by an affiliate of Wexford. The term of the lease expires on February 28, 2018. The monthly base rent was \$11,000 and increased 3% annually on March 1 of each year. During the third quarter of 2014, the Company entered into a sublease with Bison, in which Bison leased the field office space on the same terms as the Company's lease for the remainder of the lease term. The Company paid rent of \$0.2 million during both of the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015. The Company received payments of \$0.2 million from Bison in respect of this sublease during both of the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015. During the second quarter of 2017, the sublease between the Company and Bison as well as the original lease between the Company and WT Commercial Portfolio, LLC were terminated.

**The Partnership - Lease Bonus**

During the year ended December 31, 2017, the Company paid the Partnership \$0.1 million in lease bonus payments to extend the term of two leases, reflecting an average bonus of \$7,459 per acre. During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company paid the Partnership \$0.3 million in lease bonus payments to extend the term of six leases, reflecting an average bonus of \$1,371 per acre.

**12. INCOME TAXES**

Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes. The Company is subject to corporate income taxes and the Texas margin tax.

For certain reporting periods prior to the quarter ended December 31, 2017, the Company's deferred tax assets exceeded its deferred tax liabilities. The resulting net deferred tax asset was subject to a full valuation allowance. The Company continually assesses its deferred tax assets for realizability and, as a result of such reassessment, in the quarter ended December 31, 2017 the Company determined that sufficient evidence existed to indicate that it is probable that its deferred tax assets will be realized primarily through the unfavorable reversal of deferred tax liabilities, which currently exceed the Company's deferred tax assets. In the quarter ended December 31, 2017, the valuation allowance historically applied against the Company's gross deferred tax assets was removed. The Company's gross deferred tax assets were recorded based upon the 35% federal income tax rate that was in effect prior to the enactment of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act. Subsequently, but also in the quarter ended December 31, 2017, the Company's deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities were revalued to reflect the federal income tax rate enacted by the Tax Cut and Jobs Act. The effects of the removal of the valuation allowance and the reduction to the federal income tax rate may both be seen in the reconciliation of our effective tax rate to the statutory rate below.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, a historic reform of the U.S. federal income tax statutes, was enacted on December 22, 2017. Among other significant features, the Tax Cut and Jobs Act reduces the maximum US federal corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21%, preserves long-standing upstream oil and gas tax provisions such as immediate deduction of intangible drilling costs, allows for immediate expensing of capital expenditures for tangible personal property for a period of time, modifies the provisions related to the limitations on deductions for executive compensation of publicly traded corporations, and enacts new limitations regarding the deductibility of interest expense.

As of the completion of the Company's financial statements for its year ended December 31, 2017, the Company has substantially completed its accounting for the effects of the enactment of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act. With respect to those items

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

for which the Company's accounting is not complete, as described below, the Company has made reasonable estimates of the effects on its existing deferred tax balances. In all cases, the Company will continue to make and refine its calculations as additional analysis is completed.

To account for the effects of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, the Company remeasured its deferred tax assets and liabilities based on the federal income and state income tax rates at which they are now expected to reverse, which is generally a federal income tax rate of 21%. The enacted rate change resulted in a non-cash decrease of approximately \$67.9 million to the Company's income tax provision for the period ended December 31, 2017 and a corresponding reduction to the Company's net noncurrent deferred tax liability balance as of December 31, 2017.

The Company is still analyzing certain aspects of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, specifically the provisions related to limitations on the deductibility of certain executive compensation, including equity based compensation. The Company is refining its calculations, which could potentially affect the measurement of related deferred tax balances or potentially give rise to new deferred tax amounts. The Company does not expect that a material adjustment to its deferred tax position will result from the completion of its computations, which the Company expects to finalize by the fourth quarter of 2018.

At December 31, 2017, the Company did not have any significant uncertain tax positions requiring recognition in the financial statements. The tax years 2014 through 2017 remain subject to examination by the major tax jurisdictions.

The components of the provision for income taxes for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
(In thousands)			
Current income tax provision (benefit):			
Federal	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (33)
State	999	192	268
Total current income tax provision	999	192	235
Deferred income tax provision (benefit):			
Federal	(21,720)	(579)	(198,729)
State	1,153	579	(2,816)
Total deferred income tax provision (benefit)	(20,567)	—	(201,545)
Total provision for (benefit from) income taxes	\$ (19,568)	\$ 192	\$ (201,310)

A reconciliation of the statutory federal income tax amount to the recorded expense is as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
(In thousands)			
Income tax expense (benefit) at the federal statutory rate (35%)	\$ 174,016	\$ (57,694)	\$ (263,179)
Impact of nontaxable noncontrolling interest	(12,073)	—	—
Income tax benefit relating to change in statutory tax rate	(67,938)	—	(1,145)
State income tax expense (benefit), net of federal tax effect	3,413	770	(2,548)
Non-deductible compensation	13,492	3,990	1,354
Change in valuation allowance	(127,485)	53,336	61,056
Other, net	(2,993)	(210)	3,152
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	\$ (19,568)	\$ 192	\$ (201,310)

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

The components of the Company's deferred tax assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
(In thousands)		
<b>Current:</b>		
Deferred tax assets		
Derivative instruments	\$ —	\$ 7,771
Other	—	3,518
Current deferred tax assets	—	11,289
Valuation allowance	—	(11,289)
Current deferred tax assets, net of valuation allowance	—	—
Deferred tax liabilities		
Derivative instruments	—	—
Total current deferred tax liabilities	—	—
Net current deferred tax assets	—	—
<b>Noncurrent:</b>		
Deferred tax assets		
Net operating loss carryforwards (subject to 20 year expiration)	74,997	139,065
Derivative instruments	22,918	—
Stock based compensation	942	6,234
Other	2,464	—
Noncurrent deferred tax assets	101,321	145,299
Valuation allowance	(104)	(103,112)
Noncurrent deferred tax assets, net of valuation allowance	101,217	42,187
Deferred tax liabilities		
Oil and natural gas properties and equipment	202,997	42,187
Midstream assets	6,268	—
Total noncurrent deferred tax liabilities	209,265	42,187
Net noncurrent deferred tax liabilities	108,048	—
Net deferred tax liabilities	\$ 108,048	\$ —

The Company incurred a tax net operating loss ("NOL") in the current year due principally to the ability to expense certain intangible drilling and development costs under current law. There is no tax refund available to the Company, nor is there any current income tax payable. At December 31, 2017, the Company had approximately \$357.0 million of federal NOLs expiring in 2032 through 2037. The Company principally operates in the state of Texas and is subject to Texas Margin Tax, which currently does not include an NOL carryover provision. The Company believes that Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which relates to tax attribute limitations upon the 50% or greater change of ownership of an entity during any three-year look back period, will not have an adverse effect on future NOL usage.

As of December 31, 2017, the Company has a remaining valuation allowance of \$0.1 million for certain state NOL carryforwards which the Company does not believe are realizable as it does not anticipate future operations in those states. In the fourth quarter of 2017, the Company removed its valuation allowance against deferred tax assets for U.S. NOL carryforwards resulting in income tax benefit of \$127.5 million. As discussed above, management's assessment included consideration of all available positive and negative evidence including the anticipated timing of reversal of deferred tax liabilities. Management believes that the balance of the Company's NOLs are realizable to the extent of future taxable income primarily related to the excess of book carrying value of properties over their respective tax bases. As a result of management's assessment, in the quarter ended December 31, 2017, the Company has removed its valuation allowance against its federal NOLs and other federal deferred tax assets in order to state its deferred assets and liabilities at the amount more likely than not to be realized.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**13. DERIVATIVES**

All derivative financial instruments are recorded at fair value in the accompanying balance sheet. The Company has not designated its derivative instruments as hedges for accounting purposes and, as a result, marks its derivative instruments to fair value and recognizes the cash and non-cash changes in fair value in the consolidated statements of operations under the caption "Gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net."

The Company has used fixed price swap contracts, fixed price basis swap contracts and costless collars with corresponding put and call options to reduce price volatility associated with certain of its oil and natural gas sales. With respect to the Company's fixed price swap and fixed price basis contracts, the counterparty is required to make a payment to the Company if the settlement price for any settlement period is less than the swap price, and the Company is required to make a payment to the counterparty if the settlement price for any settlement period is greater than the swap price. The Company has fixed price basis swaps for the spread between the WTI Midland price and the WTI Cushing price. Under the Company's costless collar contracts, the counterparty is required to make a payment to the Company if the settlement price for any settlement period is less than the put option price, and the Company is required to make a payment to the counterparty if the settlement price for any settlement period is greater than the call option price. If the settlement price is between the put and the call price, there is no payment required. The Company's derivative contracts are based upon reported settlement prices on commodity exchanges, with crude oil derivative settlements based on New York Mercantile Exchange West Texas Intermediate pricing and Crude Oil Brent, and with natural gas derivative settlements based on the New York Mercantile Exchange Henry Hub pricing.

By using derivative instruments to economically hedge exposure to changes in commodity prices, the Company exposes itself to credit risk and market risk. Credit risk is the failure of the counterparty to perform under the terms of the derivative contract. When the fair value of a derivative contract is positive, the counterparty owes the Company, which creates credit risk. The Company's counterparties are participants in the secured second amended and restated credit agreement, which is secured by substantially all of the assets of the guarantor subsidiaries; therefore, the Company is not required to post any collateral. The Company does not require collateral from its counterparties. The Company has entered into derivative instruments only with counterparties that are also lenders in our credit facility and have been deemed an acceptable credit risk.

As of December 31, 2017, the Company had the following outstanding derivative contracts. When aggregating multiple contracts, the weighted average contract price is disclosed.

	2018		2019	
	Volume (Bbls/MMBtu)	Fixed Price Swap (per Bbl/MMBtu)	Volume (Bbls/MMBtu)	Fixed Price Swap (per Bbl/MMBtu)
Oil Swaps - WTI	9,761,000	\$ 51.10	1,095,000	\$ 49.82
Oil Swaps - BRENT	1,830,000	\$ 54.89	0	\$ —
Oil Basis Swaps	5,475,000	\$ 0.88	0	\$ —
Natural Gas Swaps	7,750,000	\$ 3.14	0	\$ —

	Floor		Ceiling	
	Volume (Bbls)	Fixed Price (per Bbl)	Volume (Bbls)	Fixed Price (per Bbl)
<b>January 2018 - March 2018</b>				
Costless Collars	540,000	\$ 47.00	270,000	\$ 56.34

**Balance sheet offsetting of derivative assets and liabilities**

The fair value of swaps is generally determined using established index prices and other sources which are based upon, among other things, futures prices and time to maturity. These fair values are recorded by netting asset and liability positions that are with the same counterparty and are subject to contractual terms which provide for net settlement.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

The following tables present the gross amounts of recognized derivative assets and liabilities, the amounts offset under master netting arrangements with counterparties and the resulting net amounts presented in the Company's consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2017 and 2016.

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
	(in thousands)	
Gross amounts of assets presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheet	\$ 531	\$ 709
Net amounts of assets presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheet	531	709
Gross amounts of liabilities presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheet	106,670	22,608
Net amounts of liabilities presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheet	\$ 106,670	\$ 22,608

The net amounts are classified as current or noncurrent based on their anticipated settlement dates. The net fair value of the Company's derivative assets and liabilities and their locations on the consolidated balance sheet are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
	(in thousands)	
Current assets: derivative instruments	\$ 531	\$ —
Noncurrent assets: derivative instruments	—	709
Total assets	\$ 531	\$ 709
Current liabilities: derivative instruments	\$ 100,367	\$ 22,608
Noncurrent liabilities: derivative instruments	6,303	—
Total liabilities	\$ 106,670	\$ 22,608

None of the Company's derivatives have been designated as hedges. As such, all changes in fair value are immediately recognized in earnings. The following table summarizes the gains and losses on derivative instruments included in the consolidated statements of operations:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
	(in thousands)		
Change in fair value of open non-hedge derivative instruments	\$ (84,240)	\$ (26,522)	\$ (112,918)
Gain on settlement of non-hedge derivative instruments	6,728	1,177	144,869
Gain (loss) on derivative instruments	\$ (77,512)	\$ (25,345)	\$ 31,951

#### 14. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair value is defined 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. Valuation techniques used to measure fair value must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The fair value hierarchy is based on three levels of inputs, of which the first two are considered observable and the last unobservable, that may be used to measure fair value. The Company's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurements requires judgment and may affect the valuation of the assets and liabilities being measured and their placement within the fair value hierarchy. The Company uses appropriate valuation techniques based on available inputs to measure the fair values of its assets and liabilities.

Level 1 - Observable inputs that reflect unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets as of the reporting date.



**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

Level 2 - Observable market-based inputs or unobservable inputs that are corroborated by market data. These are inputs other than quoted prices in active markets included in Level 1, which are either directly or indirectly observable as of the reporting date.

Level 3 - Unobservable inputs that are not corroborated by market data and may be used with internally developed methodologies that result in management's best estimate of fair value.

Financial assets and liabilities are classified based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

***Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis***

Certain assets and liabilities are reported at fair value on a recurring basis, including the Company's derivative instruments. The fair values of the Company's fixed price crude oil swaps are measured internally using established commodity futures price strips for the underlying commodity provided by a reputable third party, the contracted notional volumes, and time to maturity. These valuations are Level 2 inputs.

The following table provides fair value measurement information for financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2017 and 2016.

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
(in thousands)		
Fixed price swaps:		
Quoted prices in active markets level 1	\$ —	\$ —
Significant other observable inputs level 2	(106,139)	23,317
Significant unobservable inputs level 3	—	—
Total	\$ (106,139)	\$ 23,317

***Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Nonrecurring Basis***

The following table provides the fair value of financial instruments that are not recorded at fair value in the consolidated balance sheets.

	December 31, 2017		December 31, 2016	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
(in thousands)				
Debt:				
Revolving credit facility	\$ 397,000	\$ 397,000	\$ —	\$ —
4.750% Senior Notes due 2024	500,000	501,855	500,000	491,250
5.375% Senior Notes due 2025	500,000	515,000	500,000	502,850
Partnership revolving credit facility	93,500	93,500	120,500	120,500

The fair value of the revolving credit facility and the Partnership's revolving credit facility approximates their carrying value based on borrowing rates available to the Company for bank loans with similar terms and maturities and is classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value of the Senior Notes was determined using the December 31, 2017 quoted market price, a Level 1 classification in the fair value hierarchy.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**15. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

The Company could be subject to various possible loss contingencies which arise primarily from interpretation of federal and state laws and regulations affecting the natural gas and crude oil industry. Such contingencies include differing interpretations as to the prices at which natural gas and crude oil sales may be made, the prices at which royalty owners may be paid for production from their leases, environmental issues and other matters. Management believes it has complied with the various laws and regulations, administrative rulings and interpretations.

***Lease Commitments***

The following is a schedule of minimum future lease payments with commitments that have initial or remaining noncancelable lease terms in excess of one year as of December 31, 2017:

Year Ending December 31,	Drilling Rig Commitments	Office and Equipment Leases
(in thousands)		
2018	\$ 21,882	\$ 3,581
2019	10,082	3,307
2020	—	2,927
2021	—	2,406
2022	—	2,242
Thereafter	—	7,973
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,964</b>	<b>\$ 22,436</b>

The Company leases office space in Midland, Texas and in Oklahoma City, OK from unrelated third parties. The following table presents rent expense for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015.

	Year ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
(in thousands)			
Rent Expense	\$ 2,412	\$ 1,961	\$ 1,449

***Drilling contracts***

As of December 31, 2017, the Company had entered into drilling rig contracts with various third parties in the ordinary course of business to ensure rig availability to complete the Company's drilling projects. These commitments are not recorded in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. Future commitments as of December 31, 2017 total approximately \$32.0 million.

***Oil production purchase agreement***

On May 24, 2012, the Company entered into an oil purchase agreement with Shell Trading (US) Company, in which the Company is obligated to commence delivery of specified quantities of oil to Shell Trading (US) Company upon completion of the reversal of the Magellan Longhorn pipeline and its conversion for oil shipment, which occurred on October 1, 2013. The Company's agreement with Shell Trading has an initial term of five years from the completion date. The Company's maximum delivery obligation under this agreement is 8,000 gross barrels per day. The Company has a one-time right to elect to decrease the contract quantity by not more than 20% of the then-current quantity, which decreased contract quantity will be effective for the remainder of the term of the agreement. The Company will receive the price per barrel of oil based on the arithmetic average of the daily settlement price for "Light Sweet Crude Oil" Prompt Month future contracts reported by the NYMEX over the one-month period, as adjusted based on adjustment formulas specified in the agreement. If the Company fails to deliver the required quantities of oil under the agreement during any three-month period following the service commencement date, the Company has agreed to pay Shell Trading (US) Company a deficiency payment, which is calculated by multiplying (i) the volume of oil that the Company failed to deliver as required under the agreement during such period by (ii) Magellan's Longhorn Spot tariff rate in effect for transportation from Crane, Texas to the Houston Ship Channel for the period of time for which such deficiency

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

volume is calculated. The agreement may be terminated by Shell Trading (US) Company in the event that Shell Trading (US) Company's contract for transportation on the pipeline is terminated.

**Defined contribution plan**

The Company sponsors a 401(k) defined contribution plan for the benefit of substantially all employees at their date of hire. The plan allows eligible employees to contribute up to 100% of their annual compensation, not to exceed annual limits established by the federal government. The Company makes matching contributions of up to 6% of an employee's compensation and may make additional discretionary contributions for eligible employees. Employer contributions vest immediately. For the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 the Company paid \$1.8 million, \$1.2 million and \$1.4 million, respectively, in contributions to the plan.

**16. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

**Commodity Contracts**

Subsequent to December 31, 2017, the Company entered into new fixed price swaps and costless collars with corresponding put and call options. The Company's derivative contracts are based upon reported settlement prices on commodity exchanges, with crude oil derivative settlements based on New York Mercantile Exchange West Texas Intermediate pricing.

The following tables present the derivative contracts entered into by the Company subsequent to December 31, 2017. When aggregating multiple contracts, the weighted average contract price is disclosed.

	Volume (Bbls/MMBtu)		Fixed Price Swap (per Bbl/MMBtu)
<b>July 2018 - December 2018</b>			
Oil Swaps - WTI	184,000	\$	60.70
<b>January 2019 - March 2019</b>			
Oil Swaps - WTI	90,000	\$	58.70

**Fasken Building Purchase**

On January 31, 2018, the Company completed its acquisition of the Fasken Center office buildings in Midland, TX where the Company's corporate offices are located.

**New Senior Notes due 2025 and Repayment of Portion of Outstanding Borrowings under Revolving Credit Facility**

On January 29, 2018, the Company closed on the private placement issuance of \$300.0 million aggregate principal amount of 5.375% Senior Notes due 2025. In the offering, the Company received approximately \$308.4 million in net proceeds, after deducting the initial purchasers' discount and its estimated offering expenses, but disregarding accrued interest. The Company used all of the net proceeds from the offering to repay a portion of the outstanding borrowings under its revolving credit facility. In connection with the offering, the lenders under the Company's revolving credit facility waived the borrowing base decrease that would have been triggered in connection with the offering. Immediately following the completion of the offering and the application of the net proceeds thereof, the Company's borrowing base remained \$1.8 billion, the Company's elected commitment was \$1.0 billion, and the Company had \$911.4 million of available borrowing capacity under its revolving credit facility.

**17. GUARANTOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As of December 31, 2017, Diamondback E&P LLC and Diamondback O&G LLC (the "Guarantor Subsidiaries") are guarantors under the indentures relating to the 2024 Senior Notes and the 2025 Senior Notes. In connection with the issuance of the 2024 Senior Notes and the 2025 Senior Notes, the Partnership, the General Partner, Viper Energy Partners LLC and Rattler Midstream LLC were designated as Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries. The following presents condensed consolidated financial information for the Company (which for purposes of this Note 17 is referred to as the "Parent"), the Guarantor Subsidiaries and the Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries on a consolidated basis. Elimination entries presented are necessary to combine the entities. The information is presented in accordance with the requirements of Rule 3-10 under the SEC's Regulation S-X. The financial

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

information may not necessarily be indicative of results of operations, cash flows or financial position had the Guarantor Subsidiaries operated as independent entities. The Company has not presented separate financial and narrative information for each of the Guarantor Subsidiaries because it believes such financial and narrative information would not provide any additional information that would be material in evaluating the sufficiency of the Guarantor Subsidiaries.

**Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet**  
**December 31, 2017**  
(In thousands)

	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
<b>Assets</b>					
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 54,074	\$ 34,175	\$ 24,197	\$ —	\$ 112,446
Accounts receivable	—	205,859	25,754	—	231,613
Accounts receivable - related party	—	—	5,142	(5,142)	—
Intercompany receivable	2,624,810	2,267,308	—	(4,892,118)	—
Inventories	—	9,108	—	—	9,108
Other current assets	618	4,461	355	—	5,434
Total current assets	<u>2,679,502</u>	<u>2,520,911</u>	<u>55,448</u>	<u>(4,897,260)</u>	<u>358,601</u>
Property and equipment:					
Oil and natural gas properties, at cost, full cost method of accounting	—	8,129,211	1,103,897	(414)	9,232,694
Midstream assets	—	191,519	—	—	191,519
Other property, equipment and land	—	80,776	—	—	80,776
Accumulated depletion, depreciation, amortization and impairment	—	(1,976,248)	(189,466)	4,342	(2,161,372)
Net property and equipment	<u>—</u>	<u>6,425,258</u>	<u>914,431</u>	<u>3,928</u>	<u>7,343,617</u>
Funds held in escrow	—	—	6,304	—	6,304
Derivative instruments	—	—	—	—	—
Investment in subsidiaries	3,809,557	—	—	(3,809,557)	—
Other assets	—	25,609	36,854	—	62,463
Total assets	<u>\$ 6,489,059</u>	<u>\$ 8,971,778</u>	<u>\$ 1,013,037</u>	<u>\$ (8,702,889)</u>	<u>\$ 7,770,985</u>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>					
Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable-trade	\$ 1	\$ 91,629	\$ 2,960	\$ —	\$ 94,590
Intercompany payable	132,067	4,765,193	—	(4,897,260)	—
Other current liabilities	7,236	472,933	2,669	—	482,838
Total current liabilities	<u>139,304</u>	<u>5,329,755</u>	<u>5,629</u>	<u>(4,897,260)</u>	<u>577,428</u>
Long-term debt	986,847	397,000	93,500	—	1,477,347
Derivative instruments	—	6,303	—	—	6,303
Asset retirement obligations	—	20,122	—	—	20,122
Deferred income taxes	108,048	—	—	—	108,048
Total liabilities	<u>1,234,199</u>	<u>5,753,180</u>	<u>99,129</u>	<u>(4,897,260)</u>	<u>2,189,248</u>
Commitments and contingencies					
Stockholders' equity	5,254,860	3,218,598	913,908	(4,132,506)	5,254,860
Non-controlling interest	—	—	—	326,877	326,877
Total equity	<u>5,254,860</u>	<u>3,218,598</u>	<u>913,908</u>	<u>(3,805,629)</u>	<u>5,581,737</u>
Total liabilities and equity	<u>\$ 6,489,059</u>	<u>\$ 8,971,778</u>	<u>\$ 1,013,037</u>	<u>\$ (8,702,889)</u>	<u>\$ 7,770,985</u>

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet**

**December 31, 2016**

(In thousands)

	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
<b>Assets</b>					
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,643,226	\$ 14,135	\$ 9,213	\$ —	\$ 1,666,574
Restricted cash	—	—	500	—	500
Accounts receivable	—	109,782	10,043	—	119,825
Accounts receivable - related party	—	297	3,470	(3,470)	297
Intercompany receivable	3,060,566	359,502	—	(3,420,068)	—
Inventories	—	1,983	—	—	1,983
Other current assets	481	2,319	187	—	2,987
Total current assets	<u>4,704,273</u>	<u>488,018</u>	<u>23,413</u>	<u>(3,423,538)</u>	<u>1,792,166</u>
Property and equipment:					
Oil and natural gas properties, at cost, full cost method of accounting	—	4,400,002	760,818	(559)	5,160,261
Midstream assets	—	8,362	—	—	8,362
Other property, equipment and land	—	58,290	—	—	58,290
Accumulated depletion, depreciation, amortization and impairment	—	(1,695,701)	(148,948)	8,593	(1,836,056)
Net property and equipment	<u>—</u>	<u>2,770,953</u>	<u>611,870</u>	<u>8,034</u>	<u>3,390,857</u>
Funds held in escrow	—	121,391	—	—	121,391
Derivative instruments	—	709	—	—	709
Investment in subsidiaries	(15,500)	—	—	15,500	—
Other assets	—	9,291	35,266	—	44,557
Total assets	<u>\$ 4,688,773</u>	<u>\$ 3,390,362</u>	<u>\$ 670,549</u>	<u>\$ (3,400,004)</u>	<u>\$ 5,349,680</u>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>					
Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable-trade	\$ 30	\$ 45,838	\$ 1,780	\$ —	\$ 47,648
Accounts payable-related party	1	—	—	—	1
Intercompany payable	—	3,423,538	—	(3,423,538)	—
Other current liabilities	5,868	155,454	371	—	161,693
Total current liabilities	<u>5,899</u>	<u>3,624,830</u>	<u>2,151</u>	<u>(3,423,538)</u>	<u>209,342</u>
Long-term debt	985,412	—	120,500	—	1,105,912
Asset retirement obligations	—	16,134	—	—	16,134
Total liabilities	<u>991,311</u>	<u>3,640,964</u>	<u>122,651</u>	<u>(3,423,538)</u>	<u>1,331,388</u>
Commitments and contingencies					
Stockholders' equity	3,697,462	(250,602)	547,898	(297,296)	3,697,462
Non-controlling interest	—	—	—	320,830	320,830
Total equity	<u>3,697,462</u>	<u>(250,602)</u>	<u>547,898</u>	<u>23,534</u>	<u>4,018,292</u>
Total liabilities and equity	<u>\$ 4,688,773</u>	<u>\$ 3,390,362</u>	<u>\$ 670,549</u>	<u>\$ (3,400,004)</u>	<u>\$ 5,349,680</u>

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2017**  
(In thousands)

	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
<b>Revenues:</b>					
Oil sales	\$ —	\$ 903,842	\$ —	\$ 140,175	\$ 1,044,017
Natural gas sales	—	42,899	—	9,311	52,210
Natural gas liquid sales	—	79,371	—	10,677	90,048
Royalty income	—	—	160,163	(160,163)	—
Lease bonus income	—	—	11,870	(106)	11,764
Midstream services	—	7,072	—	—	7,072
Total revenues	—	1,033,184	172,033	(106)	1,205,111
<b>Costs and expenses:</b>					
Lease operating expenses	—	126,524	—	—	126,524
Production and ad valorem taxes	—	62,897	10,608	—	73,505
Gathering and transportation	—	12,045	789	—	12,834
Midstream services	—	10,409	—	—	10,409
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	—	281,989	40,519	4,251	326,759
General and administrative expenses	26,776	18,057	6,296	(2,460)	48,669
Asset retirement obligation accretion	—	1,391	—	—	1,391
Total costs and expenses	26,776	513,312	58,212	1,791	600,091
<b>Income (loss) from operations</b>	(26,776)	519,872	113,821	(1,897)	605,020
<b>Other income (expense)</b>					
Interest expense, net	(29,925)	(7,465)	(3,164)	—	(40,554)
Other income, net	1,142	10,732	821	(2,460)	10,235
Loss on derivative instruments, net	—	(77,512)	—	—	(77,512)
Total other expense, net	(28,783)	(74,245)	(2,343)	(2,460)	(107,831)
Income (loss) before income taxes	(55,559)	445,627	111,478	(4,357)	497,189
Benefit from income taxes	(19,568)	—	—	—	(19,568)
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	(35,991)	445,627	111,478	(4,357)	516,757
Net income attributable to non-controlling interest	—	—	—	34,496	34,496
<b>Net income (loss) attributable to Diamondback Energy, Inc.</b>	\$ (35,991)	\$ 445,627	\$ 111,478	\$ (38,853)	\$ 482,261

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2016**  
(In thousands)

	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
<b>Revenues:</b>					
Oil sales	\$ —	\$ 399,007	\$ —	\$ 71,521	\$ 470,528
Natural gas sales	—	19,399	—	3,107	22,506
Natural gas liquid sales	—	29,864	—	4,209	34,073
Royalty income	—	—	78,837	(78,837)	—
Lease bonus income	—	—	309	(309)	—
Total revenues	—	448,270	79,146	(309)	527,107
<b>Costs and expenses:</b>					
Lease operating expenses	—	82,428	—	—	82,428
Production and ad valorem taxes	—	28,912	5,544	—	34,456
Gathering and transportation	—	11,189	415	2	11,606
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	—	151,376	29,820	(3,181)	178,015
Impairment of oil and natural gas properties	—	198,067	47,469	—	245,536
General and administrative expenses	25,959	11,451	5,209	—	42,619
Asset retirement obligation accretion	—	1,064	—	—	1,064
Total costs and expenses	25,959	484,487	88,457	(3,179)	595,724
<b>Income (loss) from operations</b>	(25,959)	(36,217)	(9,311)	2,870	(68,617)
<b>Other income (expense)</b>					
Interest expense, net	(35,318)	(2,911)	(2,455)	—	(40,684)
Other income, net	437	2,010	867	(250)	3,064
Loss on derivative instruments, net	—	(25,345)	—	—	(25,345)
Loss on extinguishment of debt	(33,134)	—	—	—	(33,134)
Total other expense, net	(68,015)	(26,246)	(1,588)	(250)	(96,099)
Income (loss) before income taxes	(93,974)	(62,463)	(10,899)	2,620	(164,716)
Provision for income taxes	192	—	—	—	192
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	(94,166)	(62,463)	(10,899)	2,620	(164,908)
Net income attributable to non-controlling interest	—	—	—	126	126
<b>Net income (loss) attributable to Diamondback Energy, Inc.</b>	\$ (94,166)	\$ (62,463)	\$ (10,899)	\$ 2,494	\$ (165,034)

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2015**  
(In thousands)

	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
<b>Revenues:</b>					
Oil sales	\$ —	\$ 336,106	\$ —	\$ 69,609	\$ 405,715
Natural gas sales	—	16,932	—	2,660	19,592
Natural gas liquid sales	—	18,836	—	2,590	21,426
Royalty income	—	—	74,859	(74,859)	—
Total revenues	—	371,874	74,859	—	446,733
<b>Costs and expenses:</b>					
Lease operating expenses	—	82,625	—	—	82,625
Production and ad valorem taxes	—	27,459	5,531	—	32,990
Gathering and transportation	—	5,832	259	—	6,091
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	—	182,395	35,436	(134)	217,697
Impairment of oil and natural gas properties	—	814,798	3,423	(3,423)	814,798
General and administrative expenses	17,077	9,056	5,835	—	31,968
Asset retirement obligation accretion expense	—	833	—	—	833
Total costs and expenses	17,077	1,122,998	50,484	(3,557)	1,187,002
<b>Income (loss) from operations</b>	(17,077)	(751,124)	24,375	3,557	(740,269)
<b>Other income (expense)</b>					
Interest expense, net	(35,651)	(4,749)	(1,110)	—	(41,510)
Other income, net	1	(427)	1,154	—	728
Gain on derivative instruments, net	—	31,951	—	—	31,951
Total other expense, net	(35,650)	26,775	44	—	(8,831)
Income (loss) before income taxes	(52,727)	(724,349)	24,419	3,557	(749,100)
Benefit from income taxes	(201,310)	—	—	—	(201,310)
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	\$ 148,583	\$ (724,349)	\$ 24,419	\$ 3,557	\$ (547,790)
Net income attributable to non-controlling interest	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,838	\$ 2,838
<b>Net income (loss) attributable to Diamondback Energy, Inc.</b>	\$ 148,583	\$ (724,349)	\$ 24,419	\$ 719	\$ (550,628)



**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2017**  
(In thousands)

	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ (29,470)	\$ 778,876	\$ 139,219	\$ —	\$ 888,625
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Additions to oil and natural gas properties	—	(792,599)	—	—	(792,599)
Additions to midstream assets	—	(68,139)	—	—	(68,139)
Purchase of other property, equipment and land	—	(22,779)	—	—	(22,779)
Acquisition of leasehold interests	—	(1,960,591)	—	—	(1,960,591)
Acquisition of mineral interests	—	(63,371)	(344,079)	—	(407,450)
Acquisition of midstream assets	—	(50,279)	—	—	(50,279)
Proceeds from sale of assets	—	65,656	—	—	65,656
Funds held in escrow	—	104,087	—	—	104,087
Equity investments	—	(188)	—	—	(188)
Intercompany transfers	(1,631,078)	1,631,078	—	—	—
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,631,078)	(1,157,125)	(344,079)	—	(3,132,282)
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Proceeds from borrowing on credit facility	—	475,000	278,500	—	753,500
Repayment on credit facility	—	(78,000)	(305,500)	—	(383,500)
Purchase of subsidiary units by parent	(10,068)	—	—	10,068	—
Debt issuance costs	(8,326)	1,289	(2,259)	—	(9,296)
Public offering costs	(77)	—	(433)	—	(510)
Proceeds from public offerings	—	—	380,412	(10,068)	370,344
Distribution from subsidiary	89,509	—	—	(89,509)	—
Exercise of stock options	358	—	—	—	358
Distribution to non-controlling interest	—	—	(130,876)	89,509	(41,367)
Net cash provided by financing activities	71,396	398,289	219,844	—	689,529
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,589,152)	20,040	14,984	—	(1,554,128)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	1,643,226	14,135	9,213	—	1,666,574
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 54,074	\$ 34,175	\$ 24,197	\$ —	\$ 112,446

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2016**  
(In thousands)

	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ (39,894)	\$ 303,347	\$ 68,627	\$ —	\$ 332,080
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Additions to oil and natural gas properties	—	(363,087)	—	—	(363,087)
Additions to midstream assets	—	(1,188)	—	—	(1,188)
Purchase of other property, equipment and land	—	(9,891)	—	—	(9,891)
Acquisition of leasehold interests	—	(611,280)	—	—	(611,280)
Acquisition of mineral interests	—	—	(205,721)	—	(205,721)
Proceeds from sale of assets	—	4,661	—	—	4,661
Funds held in escrow	—	(121,391)	—	—	(121,391)
Equity investments	—	(2,345)	—	—	(2,345)
Intercompany transfers	(796,053)	796,053	—	—	—
Net cash used in investing activities	(796,053)	(308,468)	(205,721)	—	(1,310,242)
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Proceeds from borrowing on credit facility	—	—	164,000	—	164,000
Repayment on credit facility	—	(11,000)	(78,000)	—	(89,000)
Proceeds from senior notes	1,000,000	—	—	—	1,000,000
Repayment of senior notes	(450,000)	—	—	—	(450,000)
Premium on extinguishment of debt	(26,561)	—	—	—	(26,561)
Debt issuance costs	(14,449)	(172)	(442)	—	(15,063)
Public offering costs	(636)	—	(546)	—	(1,182)
Proceeds from public offerings	1,925,923	—	125,580	—	2,051,503
Distribution from subsidiary	55,250	—	—	(55,250)	—
Exercise of stock options	498	—	—	—	498
Distribution to non-controlling interest	—	—	(64,824)	55,250	(9,574)
Intercompany transfers	(11,000)	11,000	—	—	—
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	2,479,025	(172)	145,768	—	2,624,621
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,643,078	(5,293)	8,674	—	1,646,459
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	148	19,428	539	—	20,115
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 1,643,226	\$ 14,135	\$ 9,213	\$ —	\$ 1,666,574

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2015**  
(In thousands)

	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ (37,597)	\$ 390,266	\$ 63,832	\$ —	\$ 416,501
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Additions to oil and natural gas properties	—	(419,512)	—	—	(419,512)
Purchase of other property, equipment and land	—	(1,213)	—	—	(1,213)
Acquisition of leasehold interests	—	(437,455)	—	—	(437,455)
Acquisition of royalty interests	—	—	(43,907)	—	(43,907)
Proceeds from sale of assets	—	9,739	—	—	9,739
Equity investments	—	(2,702)	—	—	(2,702)
Intercompany transfers	(145,023)	145,023	—	—	—
Net cash used in investing activities	(145,023)	(706,120)	(43,907)	—	(895,050)
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Proceeds from borrowing on credit facility	—	390,501	34,500	—	425,001
Repayment on credit facility	—	(603,001)	—	—	(603,001)
Debt issuance costs	—	(85)	(441)	—	(526)
Public offering costs	(586)	—	—	—	(586)
Proceeds from public offerings	650,688	—	—	—	650,688
Distribution from subsidiary	60,587	—	—	(60,587)	—
Exercise of stock options	4,873	—	—	—	4,873
Distribution to non-controlling interest	—	—	(68,555)	60,587	(7,968)
Intercompany transfers	(532,800)	532,800	—	—	—
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	182,762	320,215	(34,496)	—	468,481
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	142	4,361	(14,571)	—	(10,068)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	6	15,067	15,110	—	30,183
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 148	\$ 19,428	\$ 539	\$ —	\$ 20,115

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**18. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON OIL AND NATURAL GAS OPERATIONS (Unaudited)**

The Company's oil and natural gas reserves are attributable solely to properties within the United States.

*Capitalized oil and natural gas costs*

Aggregate capitalized costs related to oil and natural gas production activities with applicable accumulated depreciation, depletion, amortization and impairment are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
(In thousands)		
<b>Oil and Natural Gas Properties:</b>		
Proved properties	\$ 5,126,829	\$ 3,429,742
Unproved properties	4,105,865	1,730,519
Total oil and natural gas properties	9,232,694	5,160,261
Accumulated depreciation, depletion, amortization	(1,009,893)	(687,685)
Accumulated impairment	(1,143,498)	(1,143,498)
Net oil and natural gas properties capitalized	<u>\$ 7,079,303</u>	<u>\$ 3,329,078</u>

*Costs incurred in oil and natural gas activities*

Costs incurred in oil and natural gas property acquisition, exploration and development activities are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
(In thousands)			
<b>Acquisition costs</b>			
Proved properties	\$ 452,661	\$ 72,044	\$ 64,340
Unproved properties	2,692,000	752,117	448,638
Development costs	145,362	47,575	42,749
Exploration costs	779,728	329,122	319,102
Capitalized asset retirement costs	2,682	4,030	3,458
Total	<u>\$ 4,072,433</u>	<u>\$ 1,204,888</u>	<u>\$ 878,287</u>

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

*Results of Operations from Oil and Natural Gas Producing Activities*

The following schedule sets forth the revenues and expenses related to the production and sale of oil and natural gas. It does not include any interest costs or general and administrative costs and, therefore, is not necessarily indicative of the contribution to consolidated net operating results of our oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids operations.

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>		
Oil, natural gas and natural gas liquid sales	\$ 1,186,275	\$ 527,107	\$ 446,733
Lease operating expenses	(126,524)	(82,428)	(82,625)
Production and ad valorem taxes	(73,505)	(34,456)	(32,990)
Gathering and transportation	(12,834)	(11,606)	(6,091)
Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	(321,870)	(176,369)	(216,056)
Impairment	—	(245,536)	(814,798)
Asset retirement obligation accretion expense	(1,391)	(1,064)	(833)
Income tax benefit (expense)	19,568	(192)	201,310
Results of operations	<u>\$ 669,719</u>	<u>\$ (24,544)</u>	<u>\$ (505,350)</u>

***Oil and Natural Gas Reserves***

Proved oil and natural gas reserve estimates as of December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 were prepared by Ryder Scott Company, L.P., independent petroleum engineers. Proved reserves were estimated in accordance with guidelines established by the SEC, which require that reserve estimates be prepared under existing economic and operating conditions based upon the 12-month unweighted average of the first-day-of-the-month prices.

There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of proved oil and natural gas reserves. Oil and natural gas reserve engineering is a subjective process of estimating underground accumulations of oil and natural gas that cannot be precisely measured and the accuracy of any reserve estimate is a function of the quality of available data and of engineering and geological interpretation and judgment. Results of drilling, testing and production subsequent to the date of the estimate may justify revision of such estimate. Accordingly, reserve estimates are often different from the quantities of oil and natural gas that are ultimately recovered.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

The changes in estimated proved reserves are as follows:

	Oil (MBbls)	Natural Gas Liquids (MBbls)	Natural Gas (MMcf)
<b>Proved Developed and Undeveloped Reserves:</b>			
<b>As of January 1, 2015</b>	75,690	18,542	111,605
Extensions and discoveries	48,725	12,056	53,453
Revisions of previous estimates	(12,130)	(4,081)	(14,726)
Purchase of reserves in place	2,775	1,165	7,102
Production	(9,081)	(1,678)	(7,931)
<b>As of December 31, 2015</b>	105,979	26,004	149,503
Extensions and discoveries	55,069	13,962	64,758
Revisions of previous estimates	(12,483)	(1,888)	(34,519)
Purchase of reserves in place	2,537	1,455	7,567
Divestitures	(366)	—	(1,985)
Production	(11,562)	(2,399)	(10,428)
<b>As of December 31, 2016</b>	139,174	37,134	174,896
Extensions and discoveries	99,980	20,825	109,032
Revisions of previous estimates	(7,715)	(1,466)	(10,065)
Purchase of reserves in place	24,322	2,633	34,640
Divestitures	(1,163)	(461)	(2,474)
Production	(21,417)	(4,056)	(20,660)
<b>As of December 31, 2017</b>	233,181	54,609	285,369
<b>Proved Developed Reserves:</b>			
January 1, 2015	43,886	11,221	68,264
December 31, 2015	60,569	15,418	96,871
December 31, 2016	79,457	22,080	105,399
December 31, 2017	141,246	35,412	190,740
<b>Proved Undeveloped Reserves:</b>			
January 1, 2015	31,804	7,321	43,341
December 31, 2015	45,409	10,586	52,632
December 31, 2016	59,717	15,054	69,497
December 31, 2017	91,935	19,198	94,629

Revisions represent changes in previous reserves estimates, either upward or downward, resulting from new information normally obtained from development drilling and production history or resulting from a change in economic factors, such as commodity prices, operating costs or development costs.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, the Company's extensions and discoveries of 138,977 MBOE resulted primarily from the drilling of 102 new wells and from 87 new proved undeveloped locations added. Partnership royalty interests accounted for 8% of the extension volumes. The Company's revisions of previous estimates were primarily the result of 2,550 MBOE from reclassifying PUD locations due to anticipated timing, with the remaining 8,308 MBOE being technical revisions. Delaware Basin working interest purchases accounted for 87% of the total purchases and Partnership royalty interest purchases accounted for 10%, with working interest purchases contributing the remainder.

During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company's extensions and discoveries of 69,042 MBOE resulted primarily from the drilling of 59 new wells and from 51 new proved undeveloped locations added. The Company owns the mineral interests associated with 30 of the 59 new wells and 30 of the 51 proved undeveloped locations through the Partnership. The Company's negative revisions of previous estimates were primarily the result of 5,978 MBOE of pricing revisions and 7,253 MBOE from reclassifying 17 locations from proved undeveloped due to pricing. Purchases of reserves in place of 3,993 MBOE

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

were primarily the result of the purchase of producing wells included with the Reeves and Ward county acreage purchase and reserves associated with multiple purchases made by the Partnership.

During the year ended December 31, 2015, the Company made one large acquisition of oil and natural gas interests in 2015 located in western Howard and eastern Martin counties. Several small acquisitions were also made in various counties including Andrews, Midland, Martin, and Glasscock counties. The reserves from these acquisitions were primarily proved producing reserves from 136 vertical wells and four horizontal wells and three vertical wells where additional interest was acquired. All of the properties were acquired for horizontal exploitation. Although there were four producing horizontal wells on the properties no PUD's were included in the acquired properties because of very limited production from the wells at the time of acquisition. Significant extensions occurred in 2015 as a result of continued horizontal development of the Lower Spraberry and Wolfcamp B horizons. There was also initial development of the Wolfcamp A and Middle Spraberry horizons in some locations. The extensions resulted from two vertical wells and 119 horizontal wells in which the Company has a working interest and from 16 horizontal wells in which the Company has a mineral interest through its ownership in Viper. Of the two vertical wells and 135 horizontal wells, one of the vertical wells and 89 of the horizontal wells are in the proved undeveloped category. The revisions are primarily the result of lower product pricing. As a result of lower pricing, 80 vertical wells and 22 horizontal wells in which the Company has a working interest and 22 vertical wells in which the Company has a mineral interest were downgraded from the proved undeveloped category to probable or possible reserves. Additional downward revisions resulted from shorter producing lives on existing wells as a result of the wells reaching their economic limit sooner due to lower revenues.

At December 31, 2017, the Company's estimated PUD reserves were approximately 126,904 MBOE, a 40,550 MBOE increase over the reserve estimate at December 31, 2016 of 86,354 MBOE. The following table includes the changes in PUD reserves for 2017:

	(MBOE)
Beginning proved undeveloped reserves at December 31, 2016	86,354
Undeveloped reserves transferred to developed	(31,666)
Revisions	(4,710)
Net purchases	6,246
Extensions and discoveries	70,680
Ending proved undeveloped reserves at December 31, 2017	126,904

The increase in proved undeveloped reserves was primarily attributable to extensions of 67,676 MBOE from 87 gross (75 net) wells in which the Company has a working interest and 3,004 MBOE from 40 gross wells in which the Partnership owns royalty interests. Of the 87 gross wells, 26 were in the Delaware Basin. Transfers of 31,666 MBOE were the result of drilling or participating in 44 gross (37 net) horizontal wells in which the Company has a working interest and 27 gross wells in which the Company has a royalty interest or mineral interest through the Partnership. The Company owns a working interest in 23 of the 27 gross Partnership wells. Net purchases of 6,246 MBOE were primarily from the Company's purchase in Pecos and Reeves counties. Downward revisions of 4,710 MBOE resulted from reclassification of seven locations and technical revisions.

As of December 31, 2017, all of the Company's proved undeveloped reserves are planned to be developed within five years from the date they were initially recorded. During 2017, approximately \$145.4 million in capital expenditures went toward the development of proved undeveloped reserves, which includes drilling, completion and other facility costs associated with developing proved undeveloped wells.

***Standardized Measure of Discounted Future Net Cash Flows***

The standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows is based on the unweighted average, first-day-of-the-month price. The projections should not be viewed as realistic estimates of future cash flows, nor should the "standardized measure" be interpreted as representing current value to the Company. Material revisions to estimates of proved reserves may occur in the future; development and production of the reserves may not occur in the periods assumed; actual prices realized are expected to vary significantly from those used; and actual costs may vary.

**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

The following table sets forth the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows attributable to the Company's proved oil and natural gas reserves as of December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015.

	December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
	(In thousands)		
Future cash inflows	\$ 12,921,897	\$ 6,275,705	\$ 5,377,783
Future development costs	(1,123,979)	(617,636)	(548,239)
Future production costs	(2,994,877)	(1,392,852)	(1,279,101)
Future production taxes	(928,891)	(459,244)	(363,129)
Future income tax expenses	(83,961)	(75,595)	(28,233)
Future net cash flows	7,790,189	3,730,378	3,159,081
10% discount to reflect timing of cash flows	(4,033,130)	(2,018,965)	(1,740,948)
Standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows	<u>\$ 3,757,059</u>	<u>\$ 1,711,413</u>	<u>\$ 1,418,133</u>

In the table below the average first-day-of-the-month price for oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids is presented, all utilized in the computation of future cash inflows.

	December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
	Unweighted Arithmetic Average First-Day-of-the-Month Prices		
Oil (per Bbl)	\$ 48.03	\$ 39.94	\$ 45.07
Natural gas (per Mcf)	\$ 2.06	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.83
Natural gas liquids (per Bbl)	\$ 20.79	\$ 12.91	\$ 12.56

Principal changes in the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows attributable to the Company's proved reserves are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
	(In thousands)		
Standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows at the beginning of the period	\$ 1,711,413	\$ 1,418,133	\$ 2,045,224
Sales of oil and natural gas, net of production costs	(986,246)	(411,558)	(331,119)
Acquisition of reserves	439,396	43,142	58,849
Divestiture of reserves	(11,072)	(5,481)	(1,490)
Extensions and discoveries, net of future development costs	1,791,686	779,359	629,149
Previously estimated development costs incurred during the period	190,121	85,696	129,901
Net changes in prices and production costs	577,781	(150,509)	(1,383,698)
Changes in estimated future development costs	(52,908)	20,647	38,638
Revisions of previous quantity estimates	(98,857)	(123,795)	(377,160)
Accretion of discount	174,185	143,134	236,716
Net change in income taxes	(9,074)	(30,530)	268,963
Net changes in timing of production and other	30,634	(56,825)	104,160
Standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows at the end of the period	<u>\$ 3,757,059</u>	<u>\$ 1,711,413</u>	<u>\$ 1,418,133</u>



**Diamondback Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-(Continued)**

**19. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (Unaudited)**

The Company's unaudited quarterly financial data for 2017 and 2016 is summarized below.

	2017			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Revenues	\$ 235,230	\$ 269,434	\$ 301,253	\$ 399,194
Income from operations	116,410	132,308	142,639	213,663
Income tax expense (benefit)	1,957	1,579	857	(23,961)
Net income	141,074	164,128	81,948	129,607
Net income attributable to non-controlling interest	4,801	5,723	8,924	15,048
Net income attributable to Diamondback Energy, Inc.	\$ 136,273	\$ 158,405	\$ 73,024	\$ 114,559
Earnings per common share				
Basic	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.61	\$ 0.74	\$ 1.17
Diluted	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.61	\$ 0.74	\$ 1.16

	2016			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Revenues	\$ 87,481	\$ 112,483	\$ 142,131	\$ 185,012
Income (loss) from operations	(27,603)	(134,786)	6,693	87,079
Income tax expense (benefit)	—	368	—	(176)
Net income (loss)	(35,627)	(157,121)	(600)	28,440
Net income (loss) attributable to non-controlling interest	(2,715)	(1,631)	1,630	2,842
Net income (loss) attributable to Diamondback Energy, Inc.	\$ (32,912)	\$ (155,490)	\$ (2,230)	\$ 25,598
Earnings per common share				
Basic	\$ (0.46)	\$ (2.17)	\$ (0.03)	\$ 0.32
Diluted	\$ (0.46)	\$ (2.17)	\$ (0.03)	\$ 0.32

**Diamondback Energy, Inc.  
Subsidiaries of Registrant**

<b>Name of Subsidiary</b>	<b>Jurisdiction of Incorporation</b>
Diamondback E&P LLC	Delaware
Diamondback O&G LLC	Delaware
Rattler Midstream LLC	Delaware
Viper Energy Partners GP	Delaware
Viper Energy Partners LP	Delaware
Viper Energy Partners LLC	Delaware

**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We have issued our reports dated February 14, 2018, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting included in the Annual Report of Diamondback Energy, Inc. on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017. We consent to the incorporation by reference of said reports in the Registration Statements of Diamondback Energy, Inc. on Forms S-3ASR (File No. 333-214892, effective December 2, 2016) and (File No. 333-218346, effective May 30, 2017), Form S-4, as amended (File No. 333-217479, effective August 9, 2017) and on Forms S-8 (File No. 333-188552, effective May 13, 2013) and (File No. 333-215798, effective January 27, 2017).

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

February 14, 2018

**CONSENT OF RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.**

We have issued our report dated January 18, 2018 on estimates of proved reserves, future production and income attributable to certain leasehold interest of Diamondback Energy, Inc. (“Diamondback”) as of December 31, 2017. As independent oil and gas consultants, we hereby consent to the inclusion of our report and the information contained therein and information from our prior reserve reports referenced in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Diamondback (this “Annual Report”) and to all references to our firm in this Annual Report. We hereby also consent to the incorporation by reference of such reports and the information contained therein in the Registration Statements of Diamondback on Forms S-3ASR (File No. 333-214892, effective December 2, 2016) and (File No. 333-218346, effective May 30, 2017), Form S-4, as amended (File No. 333-217479, effective August 9, 2017) and on Forms S-8 (File No. 333-188552, effective May 13, 2013) and (File No. 333-215798, effective January 27, 2017).

/s/ Ryder Scott Company, L.P.

**RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.**

TBPE Firm Registration No. F-1580

Houston, Texas

February 14, 2018

CONSENT OF RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.

We have issued our report dated January 18, 2018 on estimates of proved reserves, future production and income attributable to certain royalty interests of Viper Energy Partners LP, a subsidiary of Diamondback Energy, Inc. (“Diamondback”), as of December 31, 2017. As independent oil and gas consultants, we hereby consent to the inclusion of our report and the information contained therein and information from our prior reserve reports referenced in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Diamondback (this “Annual Report”) and to all references to our firm in this Annual Report. We hereby also consent to the incorporation by reference of such reports and the information contained therein in the Registration Statements of Diamondback on Forms S-3ASR (File No. 333-214892, effective December 2, 2016) and (File No. 333-218346, effective May 30, 2017), Form S-4, as amended (File No. 333-217479, effective August 9, 2017) and on Forms S-8 (File No. 333-188552, effective May 13, 2013) and (File No. 333-215798, effective January 27, 2017).

/s/ Ryder Scott Company, L.P.

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**RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.**  
TBPE Firm Registration No. F-1580

Houston, Texas  
February 14, 2018

## CERTIFICATION

I, Travis D. Stice, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Diamondback Energy, Inc.
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 14, 2018

/s/ Travis D. Stice

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Travis D. Stice

Chief Executive Officer

## CERTIFICATION

I, Teresa L. Dick, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Diamondback Energy, Inc.
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 14, 2018

/s/ Teresa L. Dick

Teresa L. Dick

Chief Financial Officer

**CERTIFICATION OF PERIOD REPORT**

I, Travis D. Stice, Chief Executive Officer of Diamondback Energy, Inc. (the "Company"), certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that, to the best of my knowledge:

- (1) the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2017 (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13 (a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a) or 78o(d)); and
- (2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: February 14, 2018

/s/ Travis D. Stice

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Travis D. Stice

Chief Executive Officer



**CERTIFICATION OF PERIOD REPORT**

I, Teresa L. Dick, Chief Financial Officer of Diamondback Energy, Inc. (the "Company"), certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that, to the best of my knowledge:

- (1) the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2017 (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13 (a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a) or 78o(d)); and
- (2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: February 14, 2018

/s/ Teresa L. Dick

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Teresa L. Dick

Chief Financial Officer

**DIAMONDBACK ENERGY, INC.**

**Estimated  
Future Reserves and Income  
Attributable to Certain  
Leasehold Interests**

**SEC Parameters**

**As of  
December 31, 2017**

\s\ Val Rick Robinson

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Val Rick Robinson, P.E.  
TBPE License No. 105137  
Managing Senior Vice President

**RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.**  
TBPE Firm License No. F-1580

**[SEAL]**

January 18, 2018

Diamondback Energy, Inc.  
500 West Texas, Suite 1210  
Midland, Texas 79701

Gentlemen:

At your request, Ryder Scott Company, L.P. (Ryder Scott) has prepared an estimate of the proved reserves, future production, and income attributable to certain leasehold interests of Diamondback Energy, Inc. (Diamondback) as of December 31, 2017. The subject properties are located in the state of Texas. The reserves and income data were estimated based on the definitions and disclosure guidelines of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) contained in Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting, Final Rule released January 14, 2009 in the Federal Register (SEC regulations). Our third party study, completed on January 16, 2018 and presented herein, was prepared for public disclosure in Diamondback's filings made with the SEC in accordance with the disclosure requirements set forth in the SEC regulations.

The properties evaluated by Ryder Scott represent 100 percent of the total net proved liquid hydrocarbon reserves and 100 percent of the total net proved gas reserves of Diamondback as of December 31, 2017.

The estimated reserves and future net income amounts presented in this report, as of December 31, 2017 are related to hydrocarbon prices. The hydrocarbon prices used in the preparation of this report are based on the average prices during the 12-month period prior to the "as of date" of this report, determined as the un-weighted arithmetic averages of the prices in effect on the first-day-of-the-month for each month within such period, unless prices were defined by contractual arrangements, as required by the SEC regulations. Actual future prices may vary significantly from the prices required by SEC regulations; therefore, volumes of reserves actually recovered and the amounts of income actually received may differ significantly from the estimated quantities presented in this report. The results of this study are summarized as follows.

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**SEC PARAMETERS**  
 Estimated Net Reserves and Income Data  
 Certain Leasehold Interests of  
**Diamondback Energy, Inc.**

As of December 31, 2017

	Proved		
	Developed		Total Proved
	Producing	Non-Producing	
<b><u>Net Remaining Reserves</u></b>			
Oil/Condensate – MBbl	122,458	84,838	207,296
Plant Products – MBbl	30,875	17,439	48,314
Gas – MMCF	161,484	87,490	248,974
MBOE	180,247	116,859	297,106
<b><u>Income Data (\$M)</u></b>			
Future Gross Revenue	\$6,520,998	\$4,382,901	\$10,903,899
Deductions	2,230,752	2,119,316	4,350,068
Future Net Income (FNI)	\$4,290,246	\$2,263,585	\$6,553,831
Discounted FNI @ 10%	\$2,329,892	\$838,029	\$3,167,921

Liquid hydrocarbons are expressed in thousands of standard 42 gallon barrels (Mbbbl). All gas volumes are reported on an “as sold basis” expressed in millions of cubic feet (MMcf) at the official temperature and pressure bases of the areas in which the gas reserves are located. The net remaining reserves are also shown herein on an equivalent unit basis wherein natural gas is converted to oil equivalent using a factor of 6,000 cubic feet of natural gas per one barrel of oil equivalent. MBOE means thousands barrels of oil equivalent. In this report, the revenues, deductions, and income data are expressed as thousands of U.S. dollars (\$M).

The estimates of the reserves, future production, and income attributable to properties in this report were prepared using the economic software package ARIES™ Petroleum Economics and Reserves Software, a copyrighted program of Halliburton. The program was used solely at the request of Diamondback. Ryder Scott has found this program to be generally acceptable, but notes that certain summaries and calculations may vary due to rounding and may not exactly match the sum of the properties being summarized. Furthermore, one line economic summaries may vary slightly from the more detailed cash flow projections of the same properties, also due to rounding. The rounding differences are not material.

The future gross revenue is after the deduction of production taxes. The deductions incorporate the normal direct costs of operating the wells, ad valorem taxes, recompletion costs, development costs, and certain abandonment costs net of salvage. Other costs shown in the cash flow are variable production costs. The future net income is before the deduction of state and federal income taxes and general administrative overhead, and has not been adjusted for outstanding loans that may exist nor does it include any adjustment for cash on hand or undistributed income.

Liquid hydrocarbon reserves account for approximately 96 percent and gas reserves account for the remaining 4 percent of total future gross revenue from proved reserves.

The discounted future net income shown above was calculated using a discount rate of 10 percent per annum compounded monthly. Future net income was discounted at four other discount rates which were also compounded monthly. These results are shown in summary form as follows.

Discount Rate Percent	Discounted Future Net Income (M\$)	
	As of December 31, 2017	
	Total Proved	
5	\$4,262,105	
15	\$2,536,634	
20	\$2,125,329	
30	\$1,618,661	

The results shown above are presented for your information and should not be construed as our estimate of fair market value.

### ***Reserves Included in This Report***

The proved reserves included herein conform to the definitions as set forth in the Securities and Exchange Commission's Regulations Part 210.4-10(a). An abridged version of the SEC reserves definitions from 210.4-10(a) entitled "Petroleum Reserves Definitions" is included as an attachment to this report.

The various proved reserve status categories are defined under the attachment entitled "Petroleum Reserves Status Definitions and Guidelines" in this report.

No attempt was made to quantify or otherwise account for any accumulated gas production imbalances that may exist. The proved gas volumes presented herein do not include volumes of gas consumed in operations as reserves.

Reserves are "estimated remaining quantities of oil and gas and related substances anticipated to be economically producible, as of a given date, by application of development projects to known accumulations." All reserve estimates involve an assessment of the uncertainty relating the likelihood that the actual remaining quantities recovered will be greater or less than the estimated quantities determined as of the date the estimate is made. The uncertainty depends chiefly on the amount of reliable geologic and engineering data available at the time of the estimate and the interpretation of these data. The relative degree of uncertainty may be conveyed by placing reserves into one of two principal classifications, either proved or unproved. Unproved reserves are less certain to be recovered than proved reserves and may be further sub-classified as probable and possible reserves to denote progressively increasing uncertainty in their recoverability. At Diamondback's request, this report addresses only the proved reserves attributable to the properties evaluated herein.

Proved oil and gas reserves are "those quantities of oil and gas which, by analysis of geoscience and engineering data, can be estimated with reasonable certainty to be economically producible from a given date forward." The proved reserves included herein were estimated using deterministic methods. The SEC has defined reasonable certainty for proved reserves, when based on deterministic methods, as a "high degree of confidence that the quantities will be recovered."

Proved reserve estimates will generally be revised only as additional geologic or engineering data become available or as economic conditions change. For proved reserves, the SEC states that “as changes due to increased availability of geoscience (geological, geophysical, and geochemical), engineering, and economic data are made to the estimated ultimate recovery (EUR) with time, reasonably certain EUR is much more likely to increase or remain constant than to decrease.” Moreover, estimates of proved reserves may be revised as a result of future operations, effects of regulation by governmental agencies or geopolitical or economic risks. Therefore, the proved reserves included in this report are estimates only and should not be construed as being exact quantities, and if recovered, the revenues therefrom, and the actual costs related thereto, could be more or less than the estimated amounts.

Diamondback’s operations may be subject to various levels of governmental controls and regulations. These controls and regulations may include, but may not be limited to, matters relating to land tenure and leasing, the legal rights to produce hydrocarbons, drilling and production practices, environmental protection, marketing and pricing policies, royalties, various taxes and levies including income tax and are subject to change from time to time. Such changes in governmental regulations and policies may cause volumes of proved reserves actually recovered and amounts of proved income actually received to differ significantly from the estimated quantities.

The estimates of proved reserves presented herein were based upon a detailed study of the properties in which Diamondback owns an interest; however, we have not made any field examination of the properties. No consideration was given in this report to potential environmental liabilities that may exist nor were any costs included for potential liabilities to restore and clean up damages, if any, caused by past operating practices.

### ***Estimates of Reserves***

The estimation of reserves involves two distinct determinations. The first determination results in the estimation of the quantities of recoverable oil and gas and the second determination results in the estimation of the uncertainty associated with those estimated quantities in accordance with the definitions set forth by the Securities and Exchange Commission’s Regulations Part 210.4-10(a). The process of estimating the quantities of recoverable oil and gas reserves relies on the use of certain generally accepted analytical procedures. These analytical procedures fall into three broad categories or methods: (1) performance-based methods, (2) volumetric-based methods and (3) analogy. These methods may be used individually or in combination by the reserve evaluator in the process of estimating the quantities of reserves. Reserve evaluators must select the method or combination of methods which in their professional judgment is most appropriate given the nature and amount of reliable geoscience and engineering data available at the time of the estimate, the established or anticipated performance characteristics of the reservoir being evaluated and the stage of development or producing maturity of the property.

In many cases, the analysis of the available geoscience and engineering data and the subsequent interpretation of this data may indicate a range of possible outcomes in an estimate, irrespective of the method selected by the evaluator. When a range in the quantity of reserves is identified, the evaluator must determine the uncertainty associated with the incremental quantities of the reserves. If the reserve quantities are estimated using the deterministic incremental approach, the uncertainty for each discrete incremental quantity of the reserves is addressed by the reserve category assigned by the evaluator. Therefore, it is the categorization of reserve quantities as proved, probable and/or possible that addresses the inherent uncertainty in the estimated quantities reported. For proved reserves, uncertainty is defined by the SEC as reasonable certainty wherein the “quantities actually recovered are much more likely than not to be achieved.” The SEC states that “probable reserves are those additional reserves that are less certain to be recovered than proved reserves but which, together with proved reserves, are as likely as not to be recovered.” The SEC states that “possible reserves are those additional reserves that are less

certain to be recovered than probable reserves and the total quantities ultimately recovered from a project have a low probability of exceeding proved plus probable plus possible reserves." All quantities of reserves within the same reserve category must meet the SEC definitions as noted above.

Estimates of reserves quantities and their associated reserve categories may be revised in the future as additional geoscience or engineering data become available. Furthermore, estimates of reserves quantities and their associated reserve categories may also be revised due to other factors such as changes in economic conditions, results of future operations, effects of regulation by governmental agencies or geopolitical or economic risks as previously noted herein.

The proved reserves for the properties included herein were estimated by performance methods, analogy, or a combination of both methods. Approximately 83 percent of the proved producing reserves attributable to producing wells were estimated by performance methods. These performance methods include, but may not be limited to, decline curve analysis, which utilized extrapolations of historical production and pressure data available through December 2017 in those cases where such data were considered to be definitive. The data utilized in this analysis were furnished to Ryder Scott by Diamondback and were considered sufficient for the purpose thereof. The remaining 17 percent of the proved producing reserves were estimated by analogy, or a combination of performance and analogy methods. The analogy method was used where there were inadequate historical performance data to establish a definitive trend and where the use of production performance data as a basis for the reserve estimates was considered to be inappropriate.

All proved undeveloped reserves included herein were estimated by the analogy method.

To estimate economically recoverable proved oil and gas reserves and related future net cash flows, we consider many factors and assumptions including, but not limited to, the use of reservoir parameters derived from geological, geophysical and engineering data which cannot be measured directly, economic criteria based on current costs and SEC pricing requirements, and forecasts of future production rates. Under the SEC regulations 210.4-10(a)(22)(v) and (26), proved reserves must be anticipated to be economically producible from a given date forward based on existing economic conditions including the prices and costs at which economic producibility from a reservoir is to be determined. While it may reasonably be anticipated that the future prices received for the sale of production and the operating costs and other costs relating to such production may increase or decrease from those under existing economic conditions, such changes were, in accordance with rules adopted by the SEC, omitted from consideration in making this evaluation.

Diamondback has informed us that they have furnished us all of the material accounts, records, geological and engineering data, and reports and other data required for this investigation. In preparing our forecast of future proved production and income, we have relied upon data furnished by Diamondback with respect to property interests owned, production and well tests from examined wells, normal direct costs of operating the wells or leases, other costs such as transportation and/or processing fees, ad valorem and production taxes, recompletion and development costs, development plans, abandonment costs after salvage, product prices based on the SEC regulations, adjustments or differentials to product prices, geological structural and isochore maps, well logs, core analyses, and pressure measurements. Ryder Scott reviewed such factual data for its reasonableness; however, we have not conducted an independent verification of the data furnished by Diamondback. We consider the factual data used in this report appropriate and sufficient for the purpose of preparing the estimates of reserves and future net revenues herein.

In summary, we consider the assumptions, data, methods and analytical procedures used in this report appropriate for the purpose hereof, and we have used all such methods and procedures that we consider necessary and appropriate to prepare the estimates of reserves herein. The proved reserves

included herein were determined in conformance with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule, including all references to Regulation S-X and Regulation S-K, referred to herein collectively as the "SEC Regulations." In our opinion, the proved reserves presented in this report comply with the definitions, guidelines and disclosure requirements as required by the SEC regulations.

### ***Future Production Rates***

For wells currently on production, our forecasts of future production rates are based on historical performance data. If no production decline trend has been established, future production rates were held constant, or adjusted for the effects of curtailment where appropriate, until a decline in ability to produce was anticipated. An estimated rate of decline was then applied to depletion of the reserves. If a decline trend has been established, this trend was used as the basis for estimating future production rates.

Test data and other related information were used to estimate the anticipated initial production rates for those wells or locations that are not currently producing. For reserves not yet on production, sales were estimated to commence at an anticipated date furnished by Diamondback. Wells or locations that are not currently producing may start producing earlier or later than anticipated in our estimates due to unforeseen factors causing a change in the timing to initiate production. Such factors may include delays due to weather, the availability of rigs, the sequence of drilling, completing and/or recompleting wells and/or constraints set by regulatory bodies.

The future production rates from wells currently on production or wells or locations that are not currently producing may be more or less than estimated because of changes including, but not limited to, reservoir performance, operating conditions related to surface facilities, compression and artificial lift, pipeline capacity and/or operating conditions, producing market demand and/or allowables or other constraints set by regulatory bodies.

### ***Hydrocarbon Prices***

The hydrocarbon prices used herein are based on SEC price parameters using the average prices during the 12-month period prior to the "as of date" of this report, determined as the unweighted arithmetic averages of the prices in effect on the first-day-of-the-month for each month within such period, unless prices were defined by contractual arrangements. For hydrocarbon products sold under contract, the contract prices, including fixed and determinable escalations, exclusive of inflation adjustments, were used until expiration of the contract. Upon contract expiration, the prices were adjusted to the 12-month un-weighted arithmetic average as previously described.

As noted above, Diamondback furnished us with the average prices in effect on December 31, 2017. These initial SEC hydrocarbon prices were determined using the 12-month average first-day-of-the-month benchmark prices appropriate to the geographic area where the hydrocarbons are sold. These benchmark prices are prior to the adjustments for differentials as described herein. The table below summarizes the "benchmark prices" and "price reference" used for the geographic area included in the report. In certain geographic areas, the price reference and benchmark prices may be defined by contractual arrangements.

The product prices which were actually used to determine the future gross revenue for each property reflect adjustments to the benchmark prices for gravity, quality, local conditions, gathering and transportation fees and/or distance from market, referred to herein as "differentials." The differentials used in the preparation of this report were furnished to us by Diamondback and were accepted as factual data



and reviewed by us for their reasonableness; however, we have not conducted an independent verification of the data used by Diamondback to determine these differentials.

In addition, the table below summarizes the net volume weighted benchmark prices adjusted for differentials and referred to herein as the “average realized prices.” The average realized prices shown in the table below were determined from the total future gross revenue before production taxes and the total net reserves for the geographic area and presented in accordance with SEC disclosure requirements for each of the geographic areas included in the report.

Geographic Area	Product	Price Reference	Average Benchmark Prices	Average Proved Realized Prices
North America				
United States	Oil/Condensate	WTI Cushing	\$51.34/Bbl	\$48.00/Bbl
	NGLs	Propane, Mt. Belvieu	\$31.82/Bbl	\$21.01/Bbl
	Gas	Henry Hub	\$2.98/MMBTU	\$2.05/MCF

The effects of derivative instruments designated as price hedges of oil and gas quantities are not reflected in our individual property evaluations.

### Costs

Operating costs for the leases and wells in this report were furnished by Diamondback and are based on the operating expense reports of Diamondback and include only those costs directly applicable to the leases or wells. The operating costs include a portion of general and administrative costs allocated directly to the leases and wells. The operating costs furnished to us were accepted as factual data and reviewed by us for their reasonableness; however, we have not conducted an independent verification of the operating cost data used by Diamondback. No deduction was made for loan repayments, interest expenses, or exploration and development prepayments that were not charged directly to the leases or wells.

Development costs were furnished to us by Diamondback and are based on authorizations for expenditure for the proposed work or actual costs for similar projects. The development costs furnished to us were accepted as factual data and reviewed by us for their reasonableness; however, we have not conducted an independent verification of these costs. The estimated net cost of abandonment after salvage was included for properties where abandonment costs net of salvage were significant. The estimates of the net abandonment costs furnished by Diamondback were accepted without independent verification. Ryder Scott has not performed a detailed study of the abandonment costs or the salvage value and makes no warranty for Diamondback’s estimate.

The undeveloped reserves in this report have been incorporated herein in accordance with Diamondback’s plans to develop these reserves as of December 31, 2017. The implementation of Diamondback’s development plans as presented to us and incorporated herein is subject to the approval process adopted by Diamondback’s management. As the result of our inquiries during the course of preparing this report, Diamondback has informed us that the development activities included herein have been subjected to and received the internal approvals required by Diamondback’s management at the appropriate local, regional and/or corporate level. In addition to the internal approvals as noted, certain development activities may still be subject to specific partner AFE processes, Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) requirements or other administrative approvals external to Diamondback. Additionally,

Diamondback has informed us that they are not aware of any legal, regulatory or political obstacles that would significantly alter their plans. While these plans could change from those under existing economic conditions as of December 31, 2017, such changes were, in accordance with rules adopted by the SEC, omitted from consideration in making this evaluation.

Current costs used by Diamondback were held constant throughout the life of the properties.

### ***Standards of Independence and Professional Qualification***

Ryder Scott is an independent petroleum engineering consulting firm that has been providing petroleum consulting services throughout the world since 1937. Ryder Scott is employee-owned and maintains offices in Houston, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and Calgary, Alberta, Canada. We have over eighty engineers and geoscientists on our permanent staff. By virtue of the size of our firm and the large number of clients for which we provide services, no single client or job represents a material portion of our annual revenue. We do not serve as officers or directors of any privately-owned or publicly-traded oil and gas company and are separate and independent from the operating and investment decision-making process of our clients. This allows us to bring the highest level of independence and objectivity to each engagement for our services.

Ryder Scott actively participates in industry-related professional societies and organizes an annual public forum focused on the subject of reserves evaluations and SEC regulations. Many of our staff have authored or co-authored technical papers on the subject of reserves related topics. We encourage our staff to maintain and enhance their professional skills by actively participating in ongoing continuing education.

Prior to becoming an officer of the Company, Ryder Scott requires that staff engineers and geoscientists have received professional accreditation in the form of a registered or certified professional engineer's license or a registered or certified professional geoscientist's license, or the equivalent thereof, from an appropriate governmental authority or a recognized self-regulating professional organization.

We are independent petroleum engineers with respect to Diamondback. Neither we nor any of our employees have any financial interest in the subject properties and neither the employment to do this work nor the compensation is contingent on our estimates of reserves for the properties which were reviewed.

The results of this study, presented herein, are based on technical analysis conducted by teams of geoscientists and engineers from Ryder Scott. The professional qualifications of the undersigned, the technical person primarily responsible for the evaluation of the reserves information discussed in this report, are included as an attachment to this letter.

### ***Terms of Usage***

The results of our third party study, presented in report form herein, were prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements set forth in the SEC regulations and intended for public disclosure as an exhibit in filings made with the SEC by Diamondback.

Diamondback makes periodic filings on Form 10-K with the SEC under the 1934 Exchange Act. Furthermore, Diamondback has certain registration statements filed with the SEC under the 1933 Securities Act into which any subsequently filed Form 10-K is incorporated by reference. We have consented to the incorporation by reference in the registration statements on Form S-3 of Diamondback of the references

to our name as well as to the references to our third party report for Diamondback, which appears in the December 31, 2017 annual report on Form 10-K of Diamondback. Our written consent for such use is included as a separate exhibit to the filings made with the SEC by Diamondback.

We have provided Diamondback with a digital version of the original signed copy of this report letter. In the event there are any differences between the digital version included in filings made by Diamondback and the original signed report letter, the original signed report letter shall control and supersede the digital version.

The data and work papers used in the preparation of this report are available for examination by authorized parties in our offices. Please contact us if we can be of further service.

Very truly yours,

**RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.**  
TBPE Firm Registration No. F-1580

\s\ Val Rick Robinson

Val Rick Robinson, P.E.  
TBPE License No. 105137  
Managing Senior Vice President

**[SEAL]**

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## **Professional Qualifications of Primary Technical Engineer**

The conclusions presented in this report are the result of technical analysis conducted by teams of geoscientists and engineers from Ryder Scott Company, L.P. Mr. Val Rick Robinson was the primary technical person responsible for the estimate of the reserves, future production and income presented herein.

Mr. Robinson, an employee of Ryder Scott Company, L.P. (Ryder Scott) since 2006, is a Managing Senior Vice President responsible for coordinating and supervising staff and consulting engineers of the company in ongoing reservoir evaluation studies worldwide. Before joining Ryder Scott, Mr. Robinson served in a number of engineering positions with ExxonMobil Corporation. For more information regarding Mr. Robinson's geographic and job specific experience, please refer to the Ryder Scott Company website at [www.ryderscott.com](http://www.ryderscott.com).

Mr. Robinson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Brigham Young University in 2003 and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. He is also a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

In addition to gaining experience and competency through prior work experience, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers requires a minimum of fifteen hours of continuing education annually, including at least one hour in the area of professional ethics, which Mr. Robinson fulfills. As part of his 2017 continuing education hours, Mr. Robinson attended 28 hours of formalized training including the 2017 RSC Reserves Conference and various professional society presentations covering such topics as the definitions and disclosure guidelines contained in the United States Securities and Exchange Commission Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting, Final Rule released January 14, 2009 in the Federal Register, the SPE/WPC/AAPG/SPEE Petroleum Resources Management System, reservoir engineering, overviews of the various productive basins of North America, computer software, and professional ethics.

Based on his educational background, professional training and more than 14 years of practical experience in the estimation and evaluation of petroleum reserves, Mr. Robinson has attained the professional qualifications as a Reserves Estimator set forth in Article III of the "Standards Pertaining to the Estimating and Auditing of Oil and Gas Reserves Information" promulgated by the Society of Petroleum Engineers as of February 19, 2007.

RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS  
RYDER SCOTT COMPANY PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS  
**PETROLEUM RESERVES DEFINITIONS**

**As Adapted From:**  
**RULE 4-10(a) of REGULATION S-X PART 210**  
**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)**

**PREAMBLE**

On January 14, 2009, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) published the “Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule” in the Federal Register of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The “Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule” includes revisions and additions to the definition section in Rule 4-10 of Regulation S-X, revisions and additions to the oil and gas reporting requirements in Regulation S-K, and amends and codifies Industry Guide 2 in Regulation S-K. The “Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule”, including all references to Regulation S-X and Regulation S-K, shall be referred to herein collectively as the “SEC regulations”. The SEC regulations take effect for all filings made with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission as of December 31, 2009, or after January 1, 2010. Reference should be made to the full text under Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Regulation S-X Part 210, Rule 4-10(a) for the complete definitions (direct passages excerpted in part or wholly from the aforementioned SEC document are denoted in italics herein).

*Reserves are estimated remaining quantities of oil and gas and related substances anticipated to be economically producible, as of a given date, by application of development projects to known accumulations.* All reserve estimates involve an assessment of the uncertainty relating the likelihood that the actual remaining quantities recovered will be greater or less than the estimated quantities determined as of the date the estimate is made. The uncertainty depends chiefly on the amount of reliable geologic and engineering data available at the time of the estimate and the interpretation of these data. The relative degree of uncertainty may be conveyed by placing reserves into one of two principal classifications, either proved or unproved. Unproved reserves are less certain to be recovered than proved reserves and may be further sub-classified as probable and possible reserves to denote progressively increasing uncertainty in their recoverability. Under the SEC regulations as of December 31, 2009, or after January 1, 2010, a company may optionally disclose estimated quantities of probable or possible oil and gas reserves in documents publicly filed with the SEC. The SEC regulations continue to prohibit disclosure of estimates of oil and gas resources other than reserves and any estimated values of such resources in any document publicly filed with the SEC unless such information is required to be disclosed in the document by foreign or state law as noted in §229.1202 Instruction to Item 1202.

Reserves estimates will generally be revised only as additional geologic or engineering data become available or as economic conditions change.

Reserves may be attributed to either natural energy or improved recovery methods. Improved recovery methods include all methods for supplementing natural energy or altering natural forces in the reservoir to increase ultimate recovery. Examples of such methods are pressure maintenance, natural gas cycling, waterflooding, thermal methods, chemical flooding, and the use of miscible and immiscible displacement fluids. Other improved recovery methods may be developed in the future as petroleum technology continues to evolve.

Reserves may be attributed to either conventional or unconventional petroleum accumulations. Petroleum accumulations are considered as either conventional or unconventional based on the nature of their in-place characteristics, extraction method applied, or degree of processing prior to sale. Examples of unconventional petroleum accumulations include coalbed or coalseam methane (CBM/CSM), basin-centered gas, shale gas, gas hydrates, natural bitumen and oil shale deposits. These unconventional accumulations may require specialized extraction technology and/or significant processing prior to sale.

Reserves do not include quantities of petroleum being held in inventory.

Because of the differences in uncertainty, caution should be exercised when aggregating quantities of petroleum from different reserves categories.

## **RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS)**

Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X §210.4-10(a)(26) defines reserves as follows:

**Reserves.** *Reserves are estimated remaining quantities of oil and gas and related substances anticipated to be economically producible, as of a given date, by application of development projects to known accumulations. In addition, there must exist, or there must be a reasonable expectation that there will exist, the legal right to produce or a revenue interest in the production, installed means of delivering oil and gas or related substances to market, and all permits and financing required to implement the project.*

*Note to paragraph (a)(26): Reserves should not be assigned to adjacent reservoirs isolated by major, potentially sealing, faults until those reservoirs are penetrated and evaluated as economically producible. Reserves should not be assigned to areas that are clearly separated from a known accumulation by a non-productive reservoir (i.e., absence of reservoir, structurally low reservoir, or negative test results). Such areas may contain prospective resources (i.e., potentially recoverable resources from undiscovered accumulations).*

## **PROVED RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS)**

Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X §210.4-10(a)(22) defines proved oil and gas reserves as follows:

**Proved oil and gas reserves.** *Proved oil and gas reserves are those quantities of oil and gas, which, by analysis of geoscience and engineering data, can be estimated with reasonable certainty to be economically producible-from a given date forward, from known reservoirs, and under existing economic conditions, operating methods, and government regulations-prior to the time at which contracts providing the right to operate expire, unless evidence indicates that renewal is reasonably certain, regardless of whether deterministic or probabilistic methods are used for the estimation. The project to extract the hydrocarbons must have commenced or the operator must be reasonably certain that it will commence the project within a reasonable time.*

(i) *The area of the reservoir considered as proved includes:*

(A) *The area identified by drilling and limited by fluid contacts, if any, and*

(B) *Adjacent undrilled portions of the reservoir that can, with reasonable certainty, be judged to be continuous with it and to contain economically producible oil or gas on the basis of available geoscience and engineering data.*

## **PROVED RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS) CONTINUED**

*(ii) In the absence of data on fluid contacts, proved quantities in a reservoir are limited by the lowest known hydrocarbons (LKH) as seen in a well penetration unless geoscience, engineering, or performance data and reliable technology establishes a lower contact with reasonable certainty.*

*(iii) Where direct observation from well penetrations has defined a highest known oil (HKO) elevation and the potential exists for an associated gas cap, proved oil reserves may be assigned in the structurally higher portions of the reservoir only if geoscience, engineering, or performance data and reliable technology establish the higher contact with reasonable certainty.*

*(iv) Reserves which can be produced economically through application of improved recovery techniques (including, but not limited to, fluid injection) are included in the proved classification when:*

*(A) Successful testing by a pilot project in an area of the reservoir with properties no more favorable than in the reservoir as a whole, the operation of an installed program in the reservoir or an analogous reservoir, or other evidence using reliable technology establishes the reasonable certainty of the engineering analysis on which the project or program was based; and*

*(B) The project has been approved for development by all necessary parties and entities, including governmental entities.*

*(v) Existing economic conditions include prices and costs at which economic producibility from a reservoir is to be determined. The price shall be the average price during the 12-month period prior to the ending date of the period covered by the report, determined as an unweighted arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month price for each month within such period, unless prices are defined by contractual arrangements, excluding escalations based upon future conditions.*

## PETROLEUM RESERVES STATUS DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES

As Adapted From:  
RULE 4-10(a) of REGULATION S-X PART 210  
UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)

and

## PETROLEUM RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SPE-PRMS)

Sponsored and Approved by:  
SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERS (SPE)  
WORLD PETROLEUM COUNCIL (WPC)  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS (AAPG)  
SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM EVALUATION ENGINEERS (SPEE)

Reserves status categories define the development and producing status of wells and reservoirs. Reference should be made to Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Regulation S-X Part 210, Rule 4-10(a) and the SPE-PRMS as the following reserves status definitions are based on excerpts from the original documents (direct passages excerpted from the aforementioned SEC and SPE-PRMS documents are denoted in italics herein).

### **DEVELOPED RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS)**

Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X §210.4-10(a)(6) defines developed oil and gas reserves as follows:

*Developed oil and gas reserves are reserves of any category that can be expected to be recovered:*

- (i) Through existing wells with existing equipment and operating methods or in which the cost of the required equipment is relatively minor compared to the cost of a new well; and*
- (ii) Through installed extraction equipment and infrastructure operational at the time of the reserves estimate if the extraction is by means not involving a well.*

### **Developed Producing (SPE-PRMS Definitions)**

While not a requirement for disclosure under the SEC regulations, developed oil and gas reserves may be further sub-classified according to the guidance contained in the SPE-PRMS as Producing or Non-Producing.

#### **Developed Producing Reserves**

*Developed Producing Reserves are expected to be recovered from completion intervals that are open and producing at the time of the estimate.*

*Improved recovery reserves are considered producing only after the improved recovery project is in operation.*

#### **Developed Non-Producing**

*Developed Non-Producing Reserves include shut-in and behind-pipe reserves.*



### **Shut-In**

*Shut-in Reserves are expected to be recovered from:*

- (1) completion intervals which are open at the time of the estimate, but which have not started producing;*
- (2) wells which were shut-in for market conditions or pipeline connections; or*
- (3) wells not capable of production for mechanical reasons.*

### **Behind-Pipe**

*Behind-pipe Reserves are expected to be recovered from zones in existing wells, which will require additional completion work or future re-completion prior to start of production.*

*In all cases, production can be initiated or restored with relatively low expenditure compared to the cost of drilling a new well.*

## **UNDEVELOPED RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS)**

Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X §210.4-10(a)(31) defines undeveloped oil and gas reserves as follows:

*Undeveloped oil and gas reserves are reserves of any category that are expected to be recovered from new wells on undrilled acreage, or from existing wells where a relatively major expenditure is required for recompletion.*

- (i) Reserves on undrilled acreage shall be limited to those directly offsetting development spacing areas that are reasonably certain of production when drilled, unless evidence using reliable technology exists that establishes reasonable certainty of economic producibility at greater distances.*
- (ii) Undrilled locations can be classified as having undeveloped reserves only if a development plan has been adopted indicating that they are scheduled to be drilled within five years, unless the specific circumstances, justify a longer time.*
- (iii) Under no circumstances shall estimates for undeveloped reserves be attributable to any acreage for which an application of fluid injection or other improved recovery technique is contemplated, unless such techniques have been proved effective by actual projects in the same reservoir or an analogous reservoir, as defined in paragraph (a) (2) of this section, or by other evidence using reliable technology establishing reasonable certainty.*

**VIPER ENERGY PARTNERS, LP**

**Estimated  
Future Reserves and Income  
Attributable to Certain  
Royalty Interests**

**SEC Parameters**

**As of  
December 31, 2017**

\s\ Val Rick Robinson

---

Val Rick Robinson, P.E.  
TBPE License No. 105137  
Managing Senior Vice President

**RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.**  
TBPE Firm License No. F-1580

**[SEAL]**

January 18, 2018

Viper Energy Partners, LP  
500 West Texas, Suite 1210  
Midland, Texas 79701

Gentlemen:

At your request, Ryder Scott Company, L.P. (Ryder Scott) has prepared an estimate of the proved reserves, future production, and income attributable to certain royalty interests of Viper Energy Partners, LP (Viper), a subsidiary of Diamondback Energy, Inc. (Diamondback), as of December 31, 2017. The subject properties are located in the state of Texas. The reserves and income data were estimated based on the definitions and disclosure guidelines of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) contained in Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting, Final Rule released January 14, 2009 in the Federal Register (SEC regulations). Our third party study, completed on January 16, 2018 and presented herein, was prepared for public disclosure in Viper's filings made with the SEC in accordance with the disclosure requirements set forth in the SEC regulations.

The properties evaluated by Ryder Scott represent 100 percent of the total net proved liquid hydrocarbon reserves and 100 percent of the total net proved gas reserves of Viper as of December 31, 2017.

The estimated reserves and future net income amounts presented in this report, as of December 31, 2017 are related to hydrocarbon prices. The hydrocarbon prices used in the preparation of this report are based on the average prices during the 12-month period prior to the "as of date" of this report, determined as the un-weighted arithmetic averages of the prices in effect on the first-day-of-the-month for each month within such period, unless prices were defined by contractual arrangements, as required by the SEC regulations. Actual future prices may vary significantly from the prices required by SEC regulations; therefore, volumes of reserves actually recovered and the amounts of income actually received may differ significantly from the estimated quantities presented in this report. The results of this study are summarized as follows.

SUITE 600, 1015 4TH STREET, S.W. CALGARY, ALBERTA T2R 1J4 TEL (403) 262-2799 FAX (403) 262-2790  
621 17TH STREET, SUITE 1550 DENVER, COLORADO 80293-1501 TEL (303) 623-9147 FAX (303) 623-4258

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**SEC PARAMETERS**  
 Estimated Net Reserves and Income Data  
 Certain Royalty Interests of  
**Viper Energy Partners, LP**

As of December 31, 2017

	Proved		Total Proved
	Developed Producing	Undeveloped	
<b><u>Net Remaining Reserves</u></b>			
Oil/Condensate – MBbl	18,788	7,097	25,885
Plant Products – MBbl	4,536	1,759	6,295
Gas – MMCF	29,256	7,139	36,395
MBOE	28,200	10,046	38,246
<b><u>Income Data (\$M)</u></b>			
Future Gross Revenue	\$ 1,004,913	\$ 368,717	\$ 1,373,630
Deductions	38,220	15,091	53,311
Future Net Income (FNI)	\$ 966,693	\$ 353,626	\$ 1,320,319
Discounted FNI @ 10%	\$ 456,837	\$ 171,829	\$ 628,666

Liquid hydrocarbons are expressed in thousands of standard 42 gallon barrels (Mbbbl). All gas volumes are reported on an “as sold basis” expressed in millions of cubic feet (MMcf) at the official temperature and pressure bases of the areas in which the gas reserves are located. The net remaining reserves are also shown herein on an equivalent unit basis wherein natural gas is converted to oil equivalent using a factor of 6,000 cubic feet of natural gas per one barrel of oil equivalent. MBOE means thousands barrels of oil equivalent. In this report, the revenues, deductions, and income data are expressed as thousands of U.S. dollars (\$M).

The estimates of the reserves, future production, and income attributable to properties in this report were prepared using the economic software package ARIES™ Petroleum Economics and Reserves Software, a copyrighted program of Halliburton. The program was used solely at the request of Diamondback. Ryder Scott has found this program to be generally acceptable, but notes that certain summaries and calculations may vary due to rounding and may not exactly match the sum of the properties being summarized. Furthermore, one line economic summaries may vary slightly from the more detailed cash flow projections of the same properties, also due to rounding. The rounding differences are not material.

The future gross revenue is after the deduction of production taxes. The deductions incorporate ad valorem taxes only. The future net income is before the deduction of state and federal income taxes and general administrative overhead, and has not been adjusted for outstanding loans that may exist nor does it include any adjustment for cash on hand or undistributed income.

Liquid hydrocarbon reserves account for approximately 95 percent and gas reserves account for the remaining 5 percent of total future gross revenue from proved reserves.

The discounted future net income shown above was calculated using a discount rate of 10 percent per annum compounded monthly. Future net income was discounted at four other discount rates which were also compounded monthly. These results are shown in summary form as follows.

Discount Rate Percent	Discounted Future Net Income (\$M)
	As of December 31, 2017
	Total Proved
5	\$834,824
15	\$515,654
20	\$443,507
30	\$355,098

The results shown above are presented for your information and should not be construed as our estimate of fair market value.

### ***Reserves Included in This Report***

The proved reserves included herein conform to the definitions as set forth in the Securities and Exchange Commission's Regulations Part 210.4-10(a). An abridged version of the SEC reserves definitions from 210.4-10(a) entitled "Petroleum Reserves Definitions" is included as an attachment to this report.

The various proved reserve status categories are defined under the attachment entitled "Petroleum Reserves Status Definitions and Guidelines" in this report.

No attempt was made to quantify or otherwise account for any accumulated gas production imbalances that may exist. The proved gas volumes presented herein do not include volumes of gas consumed in operations as reserves.

Reserves are "estimated remaining quantities of oil and gas and related substances anticipated to be economically producible, as of a given date, by application of development projects to known accumulations." All reserve estimates involve an assessment of the uncertainty relating the likelihood that the actual remaining quantities recovered will be greater or less than the estimated quantities determined as of the date the estimate is made. The uncertainty depends chiefly on the amount of reliable geologic and engineering data available at the time of the estimate and the interpretation of these data. The relative degree of uncertainty may be conveyed by placing reserves into one of two principal classifications, either proved or unproved. Unproved reserves are less certain to be recovered than proved reserves and may be further sub-classified as probable and possible reserves to denote progressively increasing uncertainty in their recoverability. At Viper's request, this report addresses only the proved reserves attributable to the properties evaluated herein.

Proved oil and gas reserves are "those quantities of oil and gas which, by analysis of geoscience and engineering data, can be estimated with reasonable certainty to be economically producible from a given date forward." The proved reserves included herein were estimated using deterministic methods. The SEC has defined reasonable certainty for proved reserves, when based on deterministic methods, as a "high degree of confidence that the quantities will be recovered."

Proved reserve estimates will generally be revised only as additional geologic or engineering data become available or as economic conditions change. For proved reserves, the SEC states that "as changes due to increased availability of geoscience (geological, geophysical, and geochemical), engineering, and economic data are made to the estimated ultimate recovery (EUR) with time, reasonably certain EUR is much more likely to increase or remain constant than to decrease." Moreover, estimates of proved reserves

may be revised as a result of future operations, effects of regulation by governmental agencies or geopolitical or economic risks. Therefore, the proved reserves included in this report are estimates only and should not be construed as being exact quantities, and if recovered, the revenues therefrom, and the actual costs related thereto, could be more or less than the estimated amounts.

Diamondback's operations may be subject to various levels of governmental controls and regulations. These controls and regulations may include, but may not be limited to, matters relating to land tenure and leasing, the legal rights to produce hydrocarbons, drilling and production practices, environmental protection, marketing and pricing policies, royalties, various taxes and levies including income tax and are subject to change from time to time. Such changes in governmental regulations and policies may cause volumes of proved reserves actually recovered and amounts of proved income actually received to differ significantly from the estimated quantities.

The estimates of proved reserves presented herein were based upon a detailed study of the properties in which Viper owns an interest; however, we have not made any field examination of the properties. No consideration was given in this report to potential environmental liabilities that may exist nor were any costs included for potential liabilities to restore and clean up damages, if any, caused by past operating practices.

### ***Estimates of Reserves***

The estimation of reserves involves two distinct determinations. The first determination results in the estimation of the quantities of recoverable oil and gas and the second determination results in the estimation of the uncertainty associated with those estimated quantities in accordance with the definitions set forth by the Securities and Exchange Commission's Regulations Part 210.4-10(a). The process of estimating the quantities of recoverable oil and gas reserves relies on the use of certain generally accepted analytical procedures. These analytical procedures fall into three broad categories or methods: (1) performance-based methods, (2) volumetric-based methods and (3) analogy. These methods may be used individually or in combination by the reserve evaluator in the process of estimating the quantities of reserves. Reserve evaluators must select the method or combination of methods which in their professional judgment is most appropriate given the nature and amount of reliable geoscience and engineering data available at the time of the estimate, the established or anticipated performance characteristics of the reservoir being evaluated and the stage of development or producing maturity of the property.

In many cases, the analysis of the available geoscience and engineering data and the subsequent interpretation of this data may indicate a range of possible outcomes in an estimate, irrespective of the method selected by the evaluator. When a range in the quantity of reserves is identified, the evaluator must determine the uncertainty associated with the incremental quantities of the reserves. If the reserve quantities are estimated using the deterministic incremental approach, the uncertainty for each discrete incremental quantity of the reserves is addressed by the reserve category assigned by the evaluator. Therefore, it is the categorization of reserve quantities as proved, probable and/or possible that addresses the inherent uncertainty in the estimated quantities reported. For proved reserves, uncertainty is defined by the SEC as reasonable certainty wherein the "quantities actually recovered are much more likely than not to be achieved." The SEC states that "probable reserves are those additional reserves that are less certain to be recovered than proved reserves but which, together with proved reserves, are as likely as not to be recovered." The SEC states that "possible reserves are those additional reserves that are less certain to be recovered than probable reserves and the total quantities ultimately recovered from a project have a low probability of exceeding proved plus probable plus possible reserves." All quantities of reserves within the same reserve category must meet the SEC definitions as noted above.

Estimates of reserves quantities and their associated reserve categories may be revised in the future as additional geoscience or engineering data become available. Furthermore, estimates of reserves quantities and their associated reserve categories may also be revised due to other factors such as changes in economic conditions, results of future operations, effects of regulation by governmental agencies or geopolitical or economic risks as previously noted herein.

The proved reserves for the properties included herein were estimated by performance methods, analogy, or a combination of both methods. Approximately 90 percent of the proved producing reserves attributable to producing wells were estimated by performance methods. These performance methods include, but may not be limited to, decline curve analysis, which utilized extrapolations of historical production and pressure data available through December 2017 in those cases where such data were considered to be definitive. The data utilized in this analysis were furnished to Ryder Scott by Diamondback and were considered sufficient for the purpose thereof. The remaining 10 percent of the proved producing reserves were estimated by analogy, or a combination of performance and analogy methods. The analogy method was used where there were inadequate historical performance data to establish a definitive trend and where the use of production performance data as a basis for the reserve estimates was considered to be inappropriate.

All proved undeveloped reserves included herein were estimated by the analogy method.

To estimate economically recoverable proved oil and gas reserves and related future net cash flows, we consider many factors and assumptions including, but not limited to, the use of reservoir parameters derived from geological, geophysical and engineering data which cannot be measured directly, economic criteria based on current costs and SEC pricing requirements, and forecasts of future production rates. Under the SEC regulations 210.4-10(a)(22)(v) and (26), proved reserves must be anticipated to be economically producible from a given date forward based on existing economic conditions including the prices and costs at which economic producibility from a reservoir is to be determined. While it may reasonably be anticipated that the future prices received for the sale of production and the operating costs and other costs relating to such production may increase or decrease from those under existing economic conditions, such changes were, in accordance with rules adopted by the SEC, omitted from consideration in making this evaluation.

Diamondback has informed us that they have furnished us all of the material accounts, records, geological and engineering data, and reports and other data required for this investigation. In preparing our forecast of future proved production and income, we have relied upon data furnished by Diamondback with respect to property interests owned, production and well tests from examined wells, normal direct costs of operating the wells or leases, other costs such as transportation and/or processing fees, ad valorem and production taxes, recompletion and development costs, development plans, product prices based on the SEC regulations, adjustments or differentials to product prices, geological structural and isochore maps, well logs, core analyses, and pressure measurements. Ryder Scott reviewed such factual data for its reasonableness; however, we have not conducted an independent verification of the data furnished by Diamondback. We consider the factual data used in this report appropriate and sufficient for the purpose of preparing the estimates of reserves and future net revenues herein.

In summary, we consider the assumptions, data, methods and analytical procedures used in this report appropriate for the purpose hereof, and we have used all such methods and procedures that we consider necessary and appropriate to prepare the estimates of reserves herein. The proved reserves included herein were determined in conformance with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule, including all references to Regulation S-X and Regulation S-K, referred to herein collectively as the "SEC Regulations." In our opinion, the proved reserves presented in this report comply with the definitions, guidelines and disclosure requirements as required by the SEC regulations.

### ***Future Production Rates***

For wells currently on production, our forecasts of future production rates are based on historical performance data. If no production decline trend has been established, future production rates were held constant, or adjusted for the effects of curtailment where appropriate, until a decline in ability to produce was anticipated. An estimated rate of decline was then applied to depletion of the reserves. If a decline trend has been established, this trend was used as the basis for estimating future production rates.

Test data and other related information were used to estimate the anticipated initial production rates for those wells or locations that are not currently producing. For reserves not yet on production, sales were estimated to commence at an anticipated date furnished by Diamondback. Wells or locations that are not currently producing may start producing earlier or later than anticipated in our estimates due to unforeseen factors causing a change in the timing to initiate production. Such factors may include delays due to weather, the availability of rigs, the sequence of drilling, completing and/or recompleting wells and/or constraints set by regulatory bodies.

The future production rates from wells currently on production or wells or locations that are not currently producing may be more or less than estimated because of changes including, but not limited to, reservoir performance, operating conditions related to surface facilities, compression and artificial lift, pipeline capacity and/or operating conditions, producing market demand and/or allowables or other constraints set by regulatory bodies.

### ***Hydrocarbon Prices***

The hydrocarbon prices used herein are based on SEC price parameters using the average prices during the 12-month period prior to the "as of date" of this report, determined as the unweighted arithmetic averages of the prices in effect on the first-day-of-the-month for each month within such period, unless prices were defined by contractual arrangements. For hydrocarbon products sold under contract, the contract prices, including fixed and determinable escalations, exclusive of inflation adjustments, were used until expiration of the contract. Upon contract expiration, the prices were adjusted to the 12-month un-weighted arithmetic average as previously described.

As noted above, Diamondback furnished us with the average prices in effect on December 31, 2017. These initial SEC hydrocarbon prices were determined using the 12-month average first-day-of-the-month benchmark prices appropriate to the geographic area where the hydrocarbons are sold. These benchmark prices are prior to the adjustments for differentials as described herein. The table below summarizes the "benchmark prices" and "price reference" used for the geographic area included in the report. In certain geographic areas, the price reference and benchmark prices may be defined by contractual arrangements.

The product prices which were actually used to determine the future gross revenue for each property reflect adjustments to the benchmark prices for gravity, quality, local conditions, gathering and transportation fees and/or distance from market, referred to herein as "differentials." The differentials used in the preparation of this report were furnished to us by Diamondback and were accepted as factual data and reviewed by us for their reasonableness; however, we have not conducted an independent verification of the data used by Diamondback to determine these differentials.

In addition, the table below summarizes the net volume weighted benchmark prices adjusted for differentials and referred to herein as the "average realized prices." The average realized prices shown in the table below were determined from the total future gross revenue before production taxes and the



total net reserves for the geographic area and presented in accordance with SEC disclosure requirements for each of the geographic areas included in the report.

Geographic Area	Product	Price Reference	Average Benchmark Prices	Average Proved Realized Prices
North America				
United States	Oil/Condensate	WTI Cushing	\$51.34/Bbl	\$48.21/Bbl
	NGLs	Propane, Mt. Belvieu	\$31.82/Bbl	\$19.15/Bbl
	Gas	Henry Hub	\$2.98/MMBTU	\$2.13/MCF

The effects of derivative instruments designated as price hedges of oil and gas quantities are not reflected in our individual property evaluations.

### **Costs**

As a holder of royalty interests only, Viper bears none of the operating or development costs associated with the underlying properties of this report. Nevertheless, the undeveloped reserves in this report have been incorporated herein in accordance with Diamondback's plans to develop these reserves as of December 31, 2017. The implementation of Diamondback's development plans as presented to us and incorporated herein is subject to the approval process adopted by Diamondback's management. As the result of our inquiries during the course of preparing this report, Diamondback has informed us that the development activities included herein have been subjected to and received the internal approvals required by Diamondback's management at the appropriate local, regional and/or corporate level. In addition to the internal approvals as noted, certain development activities may still be subject to specific partner AFE processes, Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) requirements or other administrative approvals external to Diamondback. Additionally, Diamondback has informed us that they are not aware of any legal, regulatory, or political obstacles that would significantly alter their plans. While these plans could change from those under existing economic conditions as of December 31, 2017, such changes were, in accordance with rules adopted by the SEC, omitted from consideration in making this evaluation.

### **Standards of Independence and Professional Qualification**

Ryder Scott is an independent petroleum engineering consulting firm that has been providing petroleum consulting services throughout the world since 1937. Ryder Scott is employee-owned and maintains offices in Houston, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and Calgary, Alberta, Canada. We have over eighty engineers and geoscientists on our permanent staff. By virtue of the size of our firm and the large number of clients for which we provide services, no single client or job represents a material portion of our annual revenue. We do not serve as officers or directors of any privately-owned or publicly-traded oil and gas company and are separate and independent from the operating and investment decision-making process of our clients. This allows us to bring the highest level of independence and objectivity to each engagement for our services.

Ryder Scott actively participates in industry-related professional societies and organizes an annual public forum focused on the subject of reserves evaluations and SEC regulations. Many of our staff have authored or co-authored technical papers on the subject of reserves related topics. We encourage our staff to maintain and enhance their professional skills by actively participating in ongoing continuing education.

Prior to becoming an officer of the Company, Ryder Scott requires that staff engineers and geoscientists have received professional accreditation in the form of a registered or certified professional engineer's license or a registered or certified professional geoscientist's license, or the equivalent thereof, from an appropriate governmental authority or a recognized self-regulating professional organization.

We are independent petroleum engineers with respect to Viper and Diamondback. Neither we nor any of our employees have any financial interest in the subject properties and neither the employment to do this work nor the compensation is contingent on our estimates of reserves for the properties which were reviewed.

The results of this study, presented herein, are based on technical analysis conducted by teams of geoscientists and engineers from Ryder Scott. The professional qualifications of the undersigned, the technical person primarily responsible for the evaluation of the reserves information discussed in this report, are included as an attachment to this letter.

**Terms of Usage**

The results of our third party study, presented in report form herein, were prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements set forth in the SEC regulations and intended for public disclosure as an exhibit in filings made with the SEC by Viper.

Viper makes periodic filings on Form 10-K with the SEC under the 1934 Exchange Act. Furthermore, Viper has certain registration statements filed with the SEC under the 1933 Securities Act into which any subsequently filed Form 10-K is incorporated by reference. We have consented to the incorporation by reference in the registration statements on Form S-3 of Viper of the references to our name as well as to the references to our third party report for Viper, which appears in the December 31, 2017 annual report on Form 10-K of Viper. Our written consent for such use is included as a separate exhibit to the filings made with the SEC by Viper.

We have provided Viper with a digital version of the original signed copy of this report letter. In the event there are any differences between the digital version included in filings made by Viper and the original signed report letter, the original signed report letter shall control and supersede the digital version.

The data and work papers used in the preparation of this report are available for examination by authorized parties in our offices. Please contact us if we can be of further service.

Very truly yours,

**RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.**  
TBPE Firm Registration No. F-1580

\\s\ Val Rick Robinson

Val Rick Robinson, P.E.  
TBPE License No. 105137  
Managing Senior Vice President

**[SEAL]**

VRR (DPR)/pl

## Professional Qualifications of Primary Technical Engineer

The conclusions presented in this report are the result of technical analysis conducted by teams of geoscientists and engineers from Ryder Scott Company, L.P. Mr. Val Rick Robinson was the primary technical person responsible for the estimate of the reserves, future production and income presented herein.

Mr. Robinson, an employee of Ryder Scott Company, L.P. (Ryder Scott) since 2006, is a Managing Senior Vice President responsible for coordinating and supervising staff and consulting engineers of the company in ongoing reservoir evaluation studies worldwide. Before joining Ryder Scott, Mr. Robinson served in a number of engineering positions with ExxonMobil Corporation. For more information regarding Mr. Robinson's geographic and job specific experience, please refer to the Ryder Scott Company website at [www.ryderscott.com](http://www.ryderscott.com).

Mr. Robinson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Brigham Young University in 2003 and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. He is also a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

In addition to gaining experience and competency through prior work experience, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers requires a minimum of fifteen hours of continuing education annually, including at least one hour in the area of professional ethics, which Mr. Robinson fulfills. As part of his 2017 continuing education hours, Mr. Robinson attended 28 hours of formalized training including the 2017 RSC Reserves Conference and various professional society presentations covering such topics as the definitions and disclosure guidelines contained in the United States Securities and Exchange Commission Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting, Final Rule released January 14, 2009 in the Federal Register, the SPE/WPC/AAPG/SPEE Petroleum Resources Management System, reservoir engineering, overviews of the various productive basins of North America, computer software, and professional ethics.

Based on his educational background, professional training and more than 14 years of practical experience in the estimation and evaluation of petroleum reserves, Mr. Robinson has attained the professional qualifications as a Reserves Estimator set forth in Article III of the "Standards Pertaining to the Estimating and Auditing of Oil and Gas Reserves Information" promulgated by the Society of Petroleum Engineers as of February 19, 2007.

## PETROLEUM RESERVES DEFINITIONS

**As Adapted From:  
RULE 4-10(a) of REGULATION S-X PART 210  
UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)**

### **PREAMBLE**

On January 14, 2009, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) published the "Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule" in the Federal Register of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The "Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule" includes revisions and additions to the definition section in Rule 4-10 of Regulation S-X, revisions and additions to the oil and gas reporting requirements in Regulation S-K, and amends and codifies Industry Guide 2 in Regulation S-K. The "Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting; Final Rule", including all references to Regulation S-X and Regulation S-K, shall be referred to herein collectively as the "SEC regulations". The SEC regulations take effect for all filings made with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission as of December 31, 2009, or after January 1, 2010. Reference should be made to the full text under Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Regulation S-X Part 210, Rule 4-10(a) for the complete definitions (direct passages excerpted in part or wholly from the aforementioned SEC document are denoted in italics herein).

*Reserves are estimated remaining quantities of oil and gas and related substances anticipated to be economically producible, as of a given date, by application of development projects to known accumulations.* All reserve estimates involve an assessment of the uncertainty relating the likelihood that the actual remaining quantities recovered will be greater or less than the estimated quantities determined as of the date the estimate is made. The uncertainty depends chiefly on the amount of reliable geologic and engineering data available at the time of the estimate and the interpretation of these data. The relative degree of uncertainty may be conveyed by placing reserves into one of two principal classifications, either proved or unproved. Unproved reserves are less certain to be recovered than proved reserves and may be further sub-classified as probable and possible reserves to denote progressively increasing uncertainty in their recoverability. Under the SEC regulations as of December 31, 2009, or after January 1, 2010, a company may optionally disclose estimated quantities of probable or possible oil and gas reserves in documents publicly filed with the SEC. The SEC regulations continue to prohibit disclosure of estimates of oil and gas resources other than reserves and any estimated values of such resources in any document publicly filed with the SEC unless such information is required to be disclosed in the document by foreign or state law as noted in §229.1202 Instruction to Item 1202.

Reserves estimates will generally be revised only as additional geologic or engineering data become available or as economic conditions change.

Reserves may be attributed to either natural energy or improved recovery methods. Improved recovery methods include all methods for supplementing natural energy or altering natural forces in the reservoir to increase ultimate recovery. Examples of such methods are pressure maintenance, natural gas cycling, waterflooding, thermal methods, chemical flooding, and the use of miscible and immiscible displacement fluids. Other improved recovery methods may be developed in the future as petroleum technology continues to evolve.

Reserves may be attributed to either conventional or unconventional petroleum accumulations. Petroleum accumulations are considered as either conventional or unconventional based on the nature of their in-place characteristics, extraction method applied, or degree of processing prior to sale. Examples of unconventional petroleum accumulations include coalbed or coalseam methane (CBM/CSM), basin-

centered gas, shale gas, gas hydrates, natural bitumen and oil shale deposits. These unconventional accumulations may require specialized extraction technology and/or significant processing prior to sale.

Reserves do not include quantities of petroleum being held in inventory.

Because of the differences in uncertainty, caution should be exercised when aggregating quantities of petroleum from different reserves categories.

## **RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS)**

Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X §210.4-10(a)(26) defines reserves as follows:

**Reserves.** *Reserves are estimated remaining quantities of oil and gas and related substances anticipated to be economically producible, as of a given date, by application of development projects to known accumulations. In addition, there must exist, or there must be a reasonable expectation that there will exist, the legal right to produce or a revenue interest in the production, installed means of delivering oil and gas or related substances to market, and all permits and financing required to implement the project.*

*Note to paragraph (a)(26): Reserves should not be assigned to adjacent reservoirs isolated by major, potentially sealing, faults until those reservoirs are penetrated and evaluated as economically producible. Reserves should not be assigned to areas that are clearly separated from a known accumulation by a non-productive reservoir (i.e., absence of reservoir, structurally low reservoir, or negative test results). Such areas may contain prospective resources (i.e., potentially recoverable resources from undiscovered accumulations).*

## **PROVED RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS)**

Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X §210.4-10(a)(22) defines proved oil and gas reserves as follows:

**Proved oil and gas reserves.** *Proved oil and gas reserves are those quantities of oil and gas, which, by analysis of geoscience and engineering data, can be estimated with reasonable certainty to be economically producible—from a given date forward, from known reservoirs, and under existing economic conditions, operating methods, and government regulations—prior to the time at which contracts providing the right to operate expire, unless evidence indicates that renewal is reasonably certain, regardless of whether deterministic or probabilistic methods are used for the estimation. The project to extract the hydrocarbons must have commenced or the operator must be reasonably certain that it will commence the project within a reasonable time.*

(i) *The area of the reservoir considered as proved includes:*

(A) *The area identified by drilling and limited by fluid contacts, if any, and*

(B) *Adjacent undrilled portions of the reservoir that can, with reasonable certainty, be judged to be continuous with it and to contain economically producible oil or gas on the basis of available geoscience and engineering data.*

## **PROVED RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS) CONTINUED**

*(ii) In the absence of data on fluid contacts, proved quantities in a reservoir are limited by the lowest known hydrocarbons (LKH) as seen in a well penetration unless geoscience, engineering, or performance data and reliable technology establishes a lower contact with reasonable certainty.*

*(iii) Where direct observation from well penetrations has defined a highest known oil (HKO) elevation and the potential exists for an associated gas cap, proved oil reserves may be assigned in the structurally higher portions of the reservoir only if geoscience, engineering, or performance data and reliable technology establish the higher contact with reasonable certainty.*

*(iv) Reserves which can be produced economically through application of improved recovery techniques (including, but not limited to, fluid injection) are included in the proved classification when:*

*(A) Successful testing by a pilot project in an area of the reservoir with properties no more favorable than in the reservoir as a whole, the operation of an installed program in the reservoir or an analogous reservoir, or other evidence using reliable technology establishes the reasonable certainty of the engineering analysis on which the project or program was based; and*

*(B) The project has been approved for development by all necessary parties and entities, including governmental entities.*

*(v) Existing economic conditions include prices and costs at which economic producibility from a reservoir is to be determined. The price shall be the average price during the 12-month period prior to the ending date of the period covered by the report, determined as an unweighted arithmetic average of the first-day-of-the-month price for each month within such period, unless prices are defined by contractual arrangements, excluding escalations based upon future conditions.*

## PETROLEUM RESERVES STATUS DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES

As Adapted From:  
RULE 4-10(a) of REGULATION S-X PART 210  
UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)

and

## PETROLEUM RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SPE-PRMS)

Sponsored and Approved by:  
SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERS (SPE)  
WORLD PETROLEUM COUNCIL (WPC)  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS (AAPG)  
SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM EVALUATION ENGINEERS (SPEE)

## PETROLEUM RESERVES STATUS DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES

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Reserves status categories define the development and producing status of wells and reservoirs. Reference should be made to Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Regulation S-X Part 210, Rule 4-10(a) and the SPE-PRMS as the following reserves status definitions are based on excerpts from the original documents (direct passages excerpted from the aforementioned SEC and SPE-PRMS documents are denoted in italics herein).

### **DEVELOPED RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS)**

Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X §210.4-10(a)(6) defines developed oil and gas reserves as follows:

*Developed oil and gas reserves are reserves of any category that can be expected to be recovered:*

- (i) Through existing wells with existing equipment and operating methods or in which the cost of the required equipment is relatively minor compared to the cost of a new well; and*
- (ii) Through installed extraction equipment and infrastructure operational at the time of the reserves estimate if the extraction is by means not involving a well.*

### **Developed Producing (SPE-PRMS Definitions)**

While not a requirement for disclosure under the SEC regulations, developed oil and gas reserves may be further sub-classified according to the guidance contained in the SPE-PRMS as Producing or Non-Producing.

#### **Developed Producing Reserves**

*Developed Producing Reserves are expected to be recovered from completion intervals that are open and producing at the time of the estimate.*

*Improved recovery reserves are considered producing only after the improved recovery project is in operation.*

### **Developed Non-Producing**

*Developed Non-Producing Reserves include shut-in and behind-pipe reserves.*

### **Shut-In**

*Shut-in Reserves are expected to be recovered from:*

- (1) completion intervals which are open at the time of the estimate, but which have not started producing;*
- (2) wells which were shut-in for market conditions or pipeline connections; or*
- (3) wells not capable of production for mechanical reasons.*

### **Behind-Pipe**

*Behind-pipe Reserves are expected to be recovered from zones in existing wells, which will require additional completion work or future re-completion prior to start of production.*

*In all cases, production can be initiated or restored with relatively low expenditure compared to the cost of drilling a new well.*

## **UNDEVELOPED RESERVES (SEC DEFINITIONS)**

Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X §210.4-10(a)(31) defines undeveloped oil and gas reserves as follows:

*Undeveloped oil and gas reserves are reserves of any category that are expected to be recovered from new wells on undrilled acreage, or from existing wells where a relatively major expenditure is required for recompletion.*

- (i) Reserves on undrilled acreage shall be limited to those directly offsetting development spacing areas that are reasonably certain of production when drilled, unless evidence using reliable technology exists that establishes reasonable certainty of economic producibility at greater distances.*
- (ii) Undrilled locations can be classified as having undeveloped reserves only if a development plan has been adopted indicating that they are scheduled to be drilled within five years, unless the specific circumstances, justify a longer time.*
- (iii) Under no circumstances shall estimates for undeveloped reserves be attributable to any acreage for which an application of fluid injection or other improved recovery technique is contemplated, unless such techniques have been proved effective by actual projects in the same reservoir or an analogous reservoir, as defined in paragraph (a) (2) of this section, or by other evidence using reliable technology establishing reasonable certainty.*



