



**(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)**

**(510) 522-9600**

**(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)**

N/A

**(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)**

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. x Yes " No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). x Yes " No

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," "smaller reporting company" and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

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

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 to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act. "

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

The registrant had 101,166,746 shares outstanding as of November 2, 2017.

**UNITED STATES NATURAL GAS FUND, LP**

**Table of Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
<b><u>Part I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u></b>	
<u>Item 1. Condensed Financial Statements.</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures.</u>	<u>34</u>
<b><u>Part II. OTHER INFORMATION</u></b>	<u>34</u>
<u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings.</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors.</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Item 5. Other Information.</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Item 6. Exhibits.</u>	<u>35</u>

**Part I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Condensed Financial Statements.**

**Index to Condensed Financial Statements**

<b>Documents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<u>Condensed Statements of Financial Condition at September 30, 2017 (Unaudited) and December 31, 2016</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Condensed Schedule of Investments (Unaudited) at September 30, 2017</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Condensed Statements of Operations (Unaudited) for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Condensed Statement of Changes in Partners' Capital (Unaudited) for the nine months ended September 30, 2017</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Condensed Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited) for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Notes to Condensed Financial Statements for the period ended September 30, 2017 (Unaudited)</u>	<u>8</u>

*United States Natural Gas Fund, LP**Condensed Statements of Financial Condition**At September 30, 2017 (Unaudited) and December 31, 2016*

	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (at cost \$441,727,976 and \$522,819,857, respectively) (Notes 2 and 5)	\$ 441,727,976	\$ 522,819,857
Equity in trading accounts:		
Cash and cash equivalents (at cost \$88,881,582 and \$44,966,225, respectively)	88,881,582	44,966,225
Unrealized gain (loss) on open commodity futures contracts	(18,634,130	) 37,435,507
Receivable for shares sold	12,432,498	4,646,990
Dividends receivable	14,395	14,954
Interest receivable	25,774	—
Directors' fees and insurance receivable	1,445	—
Prepaid registration fees	199,910	187,798
ETF transaction fees receivable	2,000	2,000
 Total assets	 \$ 524,651,450	 \$ 610,073,331
Liabilities and Partners' Capital		
Payable due to Broker	\$ —	\$ 44,770,339
Payable for shares redeemed	—	26,641,069
General Partner management fees payable (Note 3)	240,475	303,354
Professional fees payable	419,345	437,218
Brokerage commissions payable	72,800	85,200
Directors' fees and insurance payable	—	5,417
License fees payable	8,338	19,932
 Total liabilities	 740,958	 72,262,529
Commitments and Contingencies (Notes 3, 4 and 5)		
Partners' Capital		
General Partner	—	—
Limited Partners	523,910,492	537,810,802
Total Partners' Capital	523,910,492	537,810,802
 Total liabilities and partners' capital	 \$ 524,651,450	 \$ 610,073,331

Edgar Filing: United States Natural Gas Fund, LP - Form 10-Q

Limited Partners' shares outstanding	80,066,476	57,866,476
Net asset value per share	\$ 6.54	\$ 9.29
Market value per share	\$ 6.57	\$ 9.34

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*

**United States Natural Gas Fund, LP**  
**Condensed Schedule of Investments (Unaudited)**  
**At September 30, 2017**

	Notional Amount	Number of Contracts	Value/ Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Open Commodity Contracts	% of Partners' Capital
Open Futures Contracts - Long				
United States Contracts				
NYMEX Natural Gas Futures NG November 2017 contracts, expiring October 2017	\$ 386,459,240	12,423	\$ (12,899,630 )	(2.46 )
ICE Natural Gas Futures LD1 H November 2017 contracts, expiring November 2017	156,084,500	20,000	(5,734,500 )	(1.10 )
Total Open Futures Contracts*	\$542,543,740	32,423	\$ (18,634,130 )	(3.56 )
		Principal Amount	Market Value	
Cash Equivalents				
United States Treasury Obligations				
U.S. Treasury Bills:				
0.90%, 10/05/2017		\$ 15,000,000	\$ 14,998,508	2.86
0.92%, 10/12/2017		20,000,000	19,994,408	3.82
0.91%, 10/19/2017		20,000,000	19,990,950	3.82
0.95%, 10/26/2017		10,000,000	9,993,403	1.91
0.97%, 11/02/2017		15,000,000	14,987,133	2.86
1.01%, 11/09/2017		15,000,000	14,983,669	2.86
0.98%, 11/16/2017		20,000,000	19,974,956	3.81
1.05%, 11/24/2017		20,000,000	19,968,650	3.81
1.05%, 11/30/2017		20,000,000	19,965,167	3.81
1.08%, 12/07/2017		15,000,000	14,970,129	2.86
1.09%, 12/14/2017		20,000,000	19,955,600	3.81
1.11%, 12/21/2017		20,000,000	19,950,500	3.81
1.10%, 12/28/2017		20,000,000	19,946,467	3.81
1.12%, 1/04/2018		10,000,000	9,970,576	1.90
1.11%, 1/11/2018		15,000,000	14,953,038	2.85
1.10%, 1/18/2018		15,000,000	14,950,496	2.85
1.12%, 1/25/2018		10,000,000	9,964,072	1.90
1.12%, 2/01/2018		10,000,000	9,961,904	1.90
1.13%, 2/08/2018		10,000,000	9,959,375	1.90
1.12%, 2/15/2018		10,000,000	9,957,758	1.90
1.10%, 2/22/2018		15,000,000	14,934,600	2.85
1.09%, 3/01/2018		20,000,000	19,908,981	3.80
1.14%, 3/08/2018		10,000,000	9,950,296	1.90



Edgar Filing: United States Natural Gas Fund, LP - Form 10-Q

1.14%, 3/15/2018	10,000,000	9,948,208	1.90
1.16%, 3/22/2018	15,000,000	14,917,583	2.85
1.17%, 3/29/2018	15,000,000	14,913,483	2.85
Total Treasury Obligations		393,969,910	75.20

***United States Natural Gas Fund, LP***  
***Condensed Schedule of Investments (Unaudited)(Continued)***  
***At September 30, 2017***

	Principal Amount	Market Value	% of Partners' Capital
United States - Money Market Funds			
Fidelity Investments Money Market Funds - Government Portfolio	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	1.91
Goldman Sachs Financial Square Funds - Government Fund - Class FS	10,000,000	10,000,000	1.91
Total Money Market Funds		20,000,000	3.82
Total Cash Equivalents		\$ 413,969,910	79.02

\* Collateral amounted to \$88,881,582 on open futures contracts.

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*

*United States Natural Gas Fund, LP**Condensed Statements of Operations (Unaudited)**For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016*

	Three months ended September 30, 2017	Three months ended September 30, 2016	Nine months ended September 30, 2017	Nine months ended September 30, 2016
<b>Income</b>				
Gain (loss) on trading of commodity futures contracts:				
Realized gain (loss) on closed futures contracts	\$ 12,090,930	\$ 52,730,870	\$ (94,356,398	) \$ 139,402,758
Change in unrealized gain (loss) on open futures contracts	(23,925,480	) (71,923,920	) (56,069,637	) (119,737,962
Realized gain (loss) on short-term investments	—	—	(1,172	) —
Dividend income	45,186	31,521	98,793	76,239
Interest income*	1,073,563	473,173	2,480,379	1,172,377
ETF transaction fees	48,000	30,000	192,000	76,000
<b>Total income (loss)</b>	<b>(10,667,801</b>	<b>) (18,658,356</b>	<b>) (147,656,035</b>	<b>) 20,989,412</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
General Partner management fees (Note 3)	697,857	823,113	2,098,179	2,368,781
Professional fees	188,839	46,786	911,447	164,792
Brokerage commissions	403,584	440,975	1,204,240	1,526,497
Directors' fees and insurance	15,964	15,881	45,571	78,027
License fees	17,446	20,577	52,454	59,219
Registration fees	41,637	101,751	163,361	303,041
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,365,327</b>	<b>1,449,083</b>	<b>4,475,252</b>	<b>4,500,357</b>
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>\$ (12,033,128</b>	<b>) \$ (20,107,439</b>	<b>) \$ (152,131,287</b>	<b>) \$ 16,489,055</b>
Net income (loss) per limited partnership share	\$ (0.24	) \$ (0.32	) \$ (2.75	) \$ (0.36
Net income (loss) per weighted average limited partnership share	\$ (0.17	) \$ (0.31	) \$ (2.32	) \$ 0.23
Weighted average limited partnership shares outstanding	70,036,041	65,875,172	65,584,425	70,525,965

\* Interest income does not exceed paid in kind of 5%.

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*

*United States Natural Gas Fund, LP*

*Condensed Statement of Changes in Partners' Capital (Unaudited)*

*For the nine months ended September 30, 2017*

	General Partner	Limited Partners	Total
Balances, at December 31, 2016	\$ —	\$ 537,810,802	\$ 537,810,802
Addition of 171,500,000 partnership shares	—	1,219,305,781	1,219,305,781
Redemption of 149,300,000 partnership shares	—	(1,081,074,804)	(1,081,074,804)
Net income (loss)	—	(152,131,287 )	(152,131,287 )
Balances, at September 30, 2017	\$ —	\$ 523,910,492	\$ 523,910,492
Net Asset Value Per Share:			
At December 31, 2016			\$9.29
At September 30, 2017			\$6.54

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*

*United States Natural Gas Fund, LP**Condensed Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)**For the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016*

	Nine months ended September 30, 2017	Nine months ended September 30, 2016
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Net income (loss)	\$ (152,131,287	) \$ 16,489,055
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
(Increase) decrease in commodity futures trading account - cash and cash equivalents	(43,915,357	) (33,277,614 )
Unrealized (gain) loss on open futures contracts	56,069,637	119,737,962
(Increase) decrease in dividends receivable	559	(10,957 )
(Increase) decrease in interest receivable	(25,774	) —
(Increase) decrease in directors' fees and insurance receivable	(1,445	) 24,839
(Increase) decrease in prepaid registration fees	(12,112	) 303,041
(Increase) decrease in ETF transaction fees receivable	—	1,000
Increase (decrease) in payable due to Broker	(44,770,339	) (40,863,950 )
Increase (decrease) in General Partner management fees payable	(62,879	) 29,212
Increase (decrease) in professional fees payable	(17,873	) (791,729 )
Increase (decrease) in brokerage commissions payable	(12,400	) 1,450
Increase (decrease) in directors' fees and insurance payable	(5,417	) —
Increase (decrease) in license fees payable	(11,594	) (3,513 )
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(184,896,281	) 61,638,796
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:		
Addition of partnership shares	1,211,520,273	357,303,689
Redemption of partnership shares	(1,107,715,873	) (348,826,140 )
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	103,804,400	8,477,549
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(81,091,881	) 70,116,345
Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning of period	522,819,857	453,830,484
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of period	\$ 441,727,976	\$ 523,946,829

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*

**United States Natural Gas Fund, LP**

**Notes to Condensed Financial Statements**

**For the period ended September 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

**NOTE 1 — ORGANIZATION AND BUSINESS**

The United States Natural Gas Fund, LP (“UNG”) was organized as a limited partnership under the laws of the state of Delaware on September 11, 2006. UNG is a commodity pool that issues limited partnership shares (“shares”) that may be purchased and sold on the NYSE Arca, Inc. (the “NYSE Arca”). Prior to November 25, 2008, UNG’s shares traded on the American Stock Exchange (the “AMEX”). UNG will continue in perpetuity, unless terminated sooner upon the occurrence of one or more events as described in its Fourth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership dated as of March 1, 2013 (the “LP Agreement”). The investment objective of UNG is for the daily changes in percentage terms of its shares’ per share net asset value (“NAV”) to reflect the daily changes in percentage terms of the price of natural gas delivered at the Henry Hub, Louisiana as measured by the daily changes in the price of the futures contract on natural gas as traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (the “NYMEX”) that is the near month contract to expire, except when the near month contract is within two weeks of expiration, in which case the futures contract will be the next month contract to expire (the “Benchmark Futures Contract”), less UNG’s expenses.

UNG’s investment objective is *not* for its NAV or market price of shares to equal, in dollar terms, the spot price of natural gas or any particular futures contract based on natural gas, *nor* is UNG’s investment objective for the percentage change in its NAV to reflect the percentage change of the price of any particular futures contract as measured over a time period *greater than one day*.

United States Commodity Funds LLC (“USCF”), the general partner of UNG, believes that it is not practical to manage the portfolio to achieve such an investment goal when investing in Natural Gas Futures Contracts (as defined below) and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments (as defined below). The net assets of UNG consist primarily of investments in futures contracts for natural gas that are traded on the NYMEX, ICE Futures Exchange (“ICE Futures”) or other U.S. and foreign exchanges (collectively, “Natural Gas Futures Contracts”) and, to a lesser extent, in order to comply with regulatory requirements or in view of market conditions, other natural gas-related investments such as cash-settled options on Natural Gas Futures Contracts, forward contracts for natural gas, cleared swap contracts, and non-exchange traded over-the-counter (“OTC”) transactions that are based on the price of natural gas, crude oil and other petroleum-based fuels, as well as futures contracts for crude oil, diesel-heating oil, gasoline and other petroleum-based fuels and indices based on the foregoing (collectively, “Other Natural Gas-Related Investments”). Market conditions that USCF currently anticipates could cause UNG to invest in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments including those allowing UNG to obtain greater liquidity or to execute transactions with more favorable pricing. For convenience and unless otherwise specified, Natural Gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments collectively are referred to as “Natural Gas Interests” in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q. As

of September 30, 2017, UNG held 12,423 NG Futures November 2017 Contracts traded on the NYMEX and 20,000 LD1 H Futures November 2017 Contracts traded on the ICE Futures US.

UNG commenced investment operations on April 18, 2007 and has a fiscal year ending on December 31. USCF is responsible for the management of UNG. USCF is a member of the National Futures Association (the "NFA") and became registered as a commodity pool operator with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the "CFTC") effective December 1, 2005 and a swaps firm on August 8, 2013. USCF is also the general partner of the United States Oil Fund, LP ("USO"), the United States 12 Month Oil Fund, LP ("USL"), the United States Gasoline Fund, LP ("UGA") and the United States Diesel-Heating Oil Fund, LP ("UHN"), which listed their limited partnership shares on the AMEX under the ticker symbols "USO" on April 10, 2006, "USL" on December 6, 2007, "UGA" on February 26, 2008 and "UHN" on April 9, 2008, respectively. As a result of the acquisition of the AMEX by NYSE Euronext, each of USO's, USL's, UGA's and UHN's shares commenced trading on the NYSE Arca on November 25, 2008. USCF is also the general partner of the United States Short Oil Fund, LP ("DNO"), the United States 12 Month Natural Gas Fund, LP ("UNL") and the United States Brent Oil Fund, LP ("BNO"), which listed their limited partnership shares on the NYSE Arca under the ticker symbols "DNO" on September 24, 2009, "UNL" on November 18, 2009 and "BNO" on June 2, 2010, respectively. USCF is also the sponsor of the United States Commodity Index Fund ("USCI"), the United States Copper Index Fund ("CPER"), the United States Agriculture Index Fund ("USAG") and the USCF Canadian Crude Oil Index Fund ("UCCO"), each a series of the United States Commodity Index Funds Trust. USCI, CPER and USAG listed their shares on the NYSE Arca under the ticker symbol "USCI" on August 10, 2010, "CPER" on November 15, 2011 and "USAG" on April 13, 2012, respectively. UCCO is currently in registration and has not commenced operations.

In addition, USCF is the sponsor of the USCF Funds Trust, a Delaware statutory trust, and each of its series, the REX S&P MLP Fund and the REX S&P MLP Inverse Fund, which are currently in registration and have not commenced operations (together, the "REX Funds"), and the United States 3x Oil Fund ("USOU") and the United States 3x Short Oil Fund ("USOD") which commenced operations on July 20, 2017.

All funds listed previously, other than UCCO and the REX Funds, are referred to collectively herein as the "Related Public Funds."



UNG issues shares to certain authorized purchasers (“Authorized Participants”) by offering baskets consisting of 100,000 shares (“Creation Baskets”) through ALPS Distributors, Inc., as the marketing agent (the “Marketing Agent”). The purchase price for a Creation Basket is based upon the NAV of a share calculated shortly after the close of the core trading session on the NYSE Arca on the day the order to create the basket is properly received.

In addition, Authorized Participants pay UNG a \$1,000 fee for each order placed to create one or more Creation Baskets or to redeem one or more baskets (“Redemption Baskets”), consisting of 100,000 shares. Shares may be purchased or sold on a nationally recognized securities exchange in smaller increments than a Creation Basket or Redemption Basket. Shares purchased or sold on a nationally recognized securities exchange are not purchased or sold at the per share NAV of UNG but rather at market prices quoted on such exchange.

In April 2007, UNG initially registered 30,000,000 shares on Form S-1 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). On April 18, 2007, UNG listed its shares on the AMEX under the ticker symbol “UNG” and switched to trading on the NYSE Arca under the same ticker symbol on November 25, 2008. On that day, UNG established its initial per share NAV by setting the price at \$50.00 and issued 200,000 shares in exchange for \$10,001,000. UNG also commenced investment operations on April 18, 2007, by purchasing Natural Gas Futures Contracts traded on the NYMEX based on natural gas. As of September 30, 2017, UNG had registered a total of 2,080,000,000 shares.

The accompanying unaudited condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X promulgated by the SEC and, therefore, do not include all information and footnote disclosure required under generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”). The financial information included herein is unaudited; however, such financial information reflects all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, which are, in the opinion of USCF, necessary for the fair presentation of the condensed financial statements for the interim period.

## **NOTE 2 — SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **Basis of Presentation**

The financial statements have been prepared in conformity with U.S. GAAP as detailed in the Financial Accounting Standards Board’s (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification. UNG is an investment company and follows the accounting and reporting guidance in FASB Topic 946.

## Revenue Recognition

Commodity futures contracts, forward contracts, physical commodities and related options are recorded on the trade date. All such transactions are recorded on the identified cost basis and marked to market daily. Unrealized gains or losses on open contracts are reflected in the condensed statements of financial condition and represent the difference between the original contract amount and the market value (as determined by exchange settlement prices for futures contracts and related options and cash dealer prices at a predetermined time for forward contracts, physical commodities, and their related options) as of the last business day of the year or as of the last date of the condensed financial statements. Changes in the unrealized gains or losses between periods are reflected in the condensed statements of operations. UNG earns income on funds held at the custodian or futures commission merchant (“FCM”) at prevailing market rates earned on such investments.

## Brokerage Commissions

Brokerage commissions on all open commodity futures contracts are accrued on a full-turn basis.

## Income Taxes

UNG is not subject to federal income taxes; each partner reports his/her allocable share of income, gain, loss deductions or credits on his/her own income tax return.

In accordance with U.S. GAAP, UNG is required to determine whether a tax position is more likely than not to be sustained upon examination by the applicable taxing authority, including resolution of any tax related appeals or litigation processes, based on the technical merits of the position. UNG files an income tax return in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, and may file income tax returns in various U.S. states. UNG is not subject to income tax return examinations by major taxing authorities for years before 2014. The tax benefit recognized is measured as the largest amount of benefit that has a greater than fifty percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement. De-recognition of a tax benefit previously recognized results in UNG recording a tax liability that reduces net assets. However, UNG’s conclusions regarding this policy may be subject to review and adjustment at a later date based on factors including, but not limited to, on-going analysis of and changes to tax laws, regulations and interpretations thereof. UNG recognizes interest accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax fees payable, if assessed. No interest expense or penalties have been recognized as of and for the period ended September 30, 2017.

## **Creations and Redemptions**

Authorized Participants may purchase Creation Baskets or redeem Redemption Baskets only in blocks of 100,000 shares at a price equal to the NAV of the shares calculated shortly after the close of the core trading session on the NYSE Arca on the day the order is placed.

UNG receives or pays the proceeds from shares sold or redeemed within three business days after the trade date of the purchase or redemption. The amounts due from Authorized Participants are reflected in UNG's condensed statements of financial condition as receivable for shares sold, and amounts payable to Authorized Participants upon redemption are reflected as payable for shares redeemed.

Authorized Participants pay UNG a transaction fee of \$1,000 for each order placed to create one or more Creation Baskets or to redeem one or more Redemption Baskets.

## **Partnership Capital and Allocation of Partnership Income and Losses**

Profit or loss shall be allocated among the partners of UNG in proportion to the number of shares each partner holds as of the close of each month. USCF may revise, alter or otherwise modify this method of allocation as described in the LP Agreement.

## **Calculation of Per Share NAV**

UNG's per share NAV is calculated on each NYSE Arca trading day by taking the current market value of its total assets, subtracting any liabilities and dividing that amount by the total number of shares outstanding. UNG uses the closing price for the contracts on the relevant exchange on that day to determine the value of contracts held on such exchange.

## **Net Income (Loss) Per Share**

Net income (loss) per share is the difference between the per share NAV at the beginning of each period and at the end of each period. The weighted average number of shares outstanding was computed for purposes of disclosing net income (loss) per weighted average share. The weighted average shares are equal to the number of shares outstanding at the end of the period, adjusted proportionately for shares added and redeemed based on the amount of time the shares were outstanding during such period. There were no shares held by USCF at September 30, 2017.

### **Offering Costs**

Offering costs incurred in connection with the registration of additional shares after the initial registration of shares are borne by UNG. These costs include registration fees paid to regulatory agencies and all legal, accounting, printing and other expenses associated with such offerings. These costs are accounted for as a deferred charge and thereafter amortized to expense over twelve months on a straight-line basis or a shorter period if warranted.

### **Cash Equivalents**

Cash equivalents include money market funds and overnight deposits or time deposits with original maturity dates of six months or less.

### **Reclassification**

Certain amounts in the accompanying condensed financial statements were reclassified to conform to the current presentation.

### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of condensed financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires USCF to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the condensed financial statements, and the reported amounts of the revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from those estimates and assumptions.

### **NOTE 3 — FEES PAID BY THE FUND AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

#### **USCF Management Fee**

Under the LP Agreement, USCF is responsible for investing the assets of UNG in accordance with the objectives and policies of UNG. In addition, USCF has arranged for one or more third parties to provide administrative, custody, accounting, transfer agency and other necessary services to UNG. For these services, UNG is contractually obligated to pay USCF a fee, which is paid monthly, equal to 0.60% per annum of average daily total net assets of \$1,000,000,000 or less and 0.50% per annum of average daily total net assets that are greater than \$1,000,000,000.

#### **Ongoing Registration Fees and Other Offering Expenses**

UNG pays all costs and expenses associated with the ongoing registration of its shares subsequent to the initial offering. These costs include registration or other fees paid to regulatory agencies in connection with the offer and sale of shares, and all legal, accounting, printing and other expenses associated with such offer and sale. For the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, UNG incurred \$163,361 and \$303,041, respectively, in registration fees and other offering expenses.

#### **Independent Directors' and Officers' Expenses**

UNG is responsible for paying its portion of the directors' and officers' liability insurance for UNG and the Related Public Funds and the fees and expenses of the independent directors who also serve as audit committee members of UNG and the Related Public Funds. UNG shares the fees and expenses on a pro rata basis with each Related Public Fund, as described above, based on the relative assets of each Related Public Fund computed on a daily basis. These fees and expenses for the year ending December 31, 2017 are estimated to be a total of \$62,300 for UNG and, in the aggregate for UNG and the Related Public Funds, \$539,350.

#### **Licensing Fees**

As discussed in Note 4 below, UNG entered into a licensing agreement with the NYMEX on April 10, 2006, as amended on October 20, 2011. Pursuant to the agreement, UNG and the Related Public Funds, other than BNO,

USCI, CPER and USAG, pay a licensing fee that is equal to 0.015% on all net assets. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, UNG incurred \$52,454 and \$59,219, respectively, under this arrangement.

### **Investor Tax Reporting Cost**

The fees and expenses associated with UNG's audit expenses and tax accounting and reporting requirements are paid by UNG. These costs are estimated to be \$1,100,000 for the year ending December 31, 2017. Tax reporting costs fluctuate between years due to the number of shareholders during any given year.

### **Other Expenses and Fees**

In addition to the fees described above, UNG pays all brokerage fees and other expenses in connection with the operation of UNG, excluding costs and expenses paid by USCF as outlined in *Note 4 – Contracts and Agreements* below.

## **NOTE 4 — CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS**

### **Marketing Agent Agreement**

UNG is party to a marketing agent agreement, dated as of April 17, 2007, as amended from time to time, with the Marketing Agent and USCF, whereby the Marketing Agent provides certain marketing services for UNG as outlined in the agreement. The fee of the Marketing Agent, which is borne by USCF, is equal to 0.06% on UNG's assets up to \$3 billion and 0.04% on UNG's assets in excess of \$3 billion. In no event may the aggregate compensation paid to the Marketing Agent and any affiliate of USCF for distribution-related services exceed 10% of the gross proceeds of UNG's offering.

The above fee does not include website construction and development, which are also borne by USCF.

### **Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. Agreements**

UNG is also party to a custodian agreement, dated March 5, 2007, as amended from time to time, with Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. (“BBH&Co.”) and USCF, whereby BBH&Co. holds investments on behalf of UNG. USCF pays the fees of the custodian, which are determined by the parties from time to time. In addition, UNG is party to an administrative agency agreement, dated March 5, 2007, as amended from time to time, with USCF and BBH&Co., whereby BBH&Co. acts as the administrative agent, transfer agent and registrar for UNG. USCF also pays the fees of BBH&Co. for its services under such agreement and such fees are determined by the parties from time to time.

Currently, USCF pays BBH&Co. for its services, in the foregoing capacities, a minimum amount of \$75,000 annually for its custody, fund accounting and fund administration services rendered to UNG and each of the Related Public Funds, as well as a \$20,000 annual fee for its transfer agency services. In addition, USCF pays BBH&Co. an asset-based charge of (a) 0.06% for the first \$500 million of the Related Public Funds’ combined net assets, (b) 0.0465% for the Related Public Funds’ combined net assets greater than \$500 million but less than \$1 billion, and (c) 0.035% once the Related Public Funds’ combined net assets exceed \$1 billion. The annual minimum amount will not apply if the asset-based charge for all accounts in the aggregate exceeds \$75,000. USCF also pays BBH&Co. transaction fees ranging from \$7 to \$15 per transaction.

### **Brokerage and Futures Commission Merchant Agreements**

On October 8, 2013, UNG entered into a brokerage agreement with RBC Capital Markets, LLC (“RBC Capital” or “RBC”) to serve as UNG’s FCM effective October 10, 2013. The agreement with RBC requires it to provide services to UNG in connection with the purchase and sale of Natural Gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments that may be purchased and sold by or through RBC Capital for UNG’s account. In accordance with the agreement, RBC Capital charges UNG commissions of approximately \$7 to \$8 per round-turn trade, including applicable exchange and NFA fees for Natural Gas Futures Contracts and options on Natural Gas Futures Contracts. Such fees include those incurred when purchasing Natural Gas Futures Contracts and options on Natural Gas Futures Contracts when UNG issues shares as a result of a Creation Basket, as well as fees incurred when selling Natural Gas Futures Contracts and options on Natural Gas Futures Contracts when UNG redeems shares as a result of a Redemption Basket. Such fees are also incurred when Natural Gas Futures Contracts and options on Natural Gas Futures Contracts are purchased or redeemed for the purpose of rebalancing the portfolio. UNG also incurs commissions to brokers for the purchase and sale of Natural Gas Futures Contracts, Other Natural Gas-Related Investments or short-term obligations of the United States of two years or less (“Treasuries”).

For the nine months ended September 30,	For the nine months ended September 30,
---	---

Edgar Filing: United States Natural Gas Fund, LP - Form 10-Q

	2017	2016		
Total commissions accrued to brokers	\$ 1,204,240	\$ 1,526,497		
Total commissions as an annualized percentage of average total net assets	0.34	% 0.39		%
Commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	\$ 998,598	\$ 1,444,429		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	82.92	% 94.62		%
Commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	\$ 205,642	\$ 82,068		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	17.08	% 5.38		%

The decrease in the total commissions accrued to brokers by UNG for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2016, was due primarily to a lower number of futures contracts being held and traded as a result of UNG's smaller size in terms of average net assets.

### **NYMEX Licensing Agreement**

UNG and the NYMEX entered into a licensing agreement on April 10, 2006, as amended on October 20, 2011, whereby UNG was granted a non-exclusive license to use certain of the NYMEX's settlement prices and service marks. Under the licensing agreement, UNG and the Related Public Funds, other than BNO, USCI, CPER and USAG, pay the NYMEX an asset-based fee for the license, the terms of which are described in Note 3. UNG expressly disclaims any association with the NYMEX or endorsement of UNG by the NYMEX and acknowledges that "NYMEX" and "New York Mercantile Exchange" are registered trademarks of the NYMEX.



**NOTE 5 — FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, OFF-BALANCE SHEET RISKS AND CONTINGENCIES**

UNG may engage in the trading of futures contracts, options on futures contracts, cleared swaps and OTC swaps (collectively, “derivatives”). UNG is exposed to both market risk, which is the risk arising from changes in the market value of the contracts, and credit risk, which is the risk of failure by another party to perform according to the terms of a contract.

UNG may enter into futures contracts, options on futures contracts and swaps to gain exposure to changes in the value of an underlying commodity. A futures contract obligates the seller to deliver (and the purchaser to accept) the future delivery of a specified quantity and type of a commodity at a specified time and place. Some futures contracts may call for physical delivery of the asset, while others are settled in cash. The contractual obligations of a buyer or seller may generally be satisfied by taking or making physical delivery of the underlying commodity or by making an offsetting sale or purchase of an identical futures contract on the same or linked exchange before the designated date of delivery. Cleared swaps are agreements that are eligible to be cleared by a clearinghouse, e.g., ICE Clear Europe, and provide the efficiencies and benefits that centralized clearing on an exchange offers to traders of futures contracts, including credit risk intermediation and the ability to offset positions initiated with different counterparties.

The purchase and sale of futures contracts, options on futures contracts and cleared swaps require margin deposits with an FCM. Additional deposits may be necessary for any loss on contract value. The Commodity Exchange Act requires an FCM to segregate all customer transactions and assets from the FCM’s proprietary activities.

Futures contracts, options on futures contracts and cleared swaps involve, to varying degrees, elements of market risk (specifically commodity price risk) and exposure to loss in excess of the amount of variation margin. The face or contract amounts reflect the extent of the total exposure UNG has in the particular classes of instruments. Additional risks associated with the use of futures contracts are an imperfect correlation between movements in the price of the futures contracts and the market value of the underlying securities and the possibility of an illiquid market for a futures contract. Buying and selling options on futures contracts exposes investors to the risks of purchasing or selling futures contracts.

All of the futures contracts held by UNG through September 30, 2017 were exchange-traded. The risks associated with exchange-traded contracts are generally perceived to be less than those associated with OTC swaps since, in OTC swaps, a party must rely solely on the credit of its respective individual counterparties. However, in the future, if UNG were to enter into non-exchange traded contracts, it would be subject to the credit risk associated with counterparty non-performance. The credit risk from counterparty non-performance associated with such instruments is the net unrealized gain, if any, on the transaction. UNG has credit risk under its futures contracts since the sole counterparty to all domestic and foreign futures contracts is the clearinghouse for the exchange on which the relevant contracts are traded. In addition, UNG bears the risk of financial failure by the clearing broker.

UNG's cash and other property, such as Treasuries, deposited with an FCM are considered commingled with all other customer funds, subject to the FCM's segregation requirements. In the event of an FCM's insolvency, recovery may be limited to a pro rata share of segregated funds available. It is possible that the recovered amount could be less than the total of cash and other property deposited. The insolvency of an FCM could result in the complete loss of UNG's assets posted with that FCM; however, the majority of UNG's assets are held in investments in Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents with UNG's custodian and would not be impacted by the insolvency of an FCM. The failure or insolvency of UNG's custodian, however, could result in a substantial loss of UNG's assets.

USCF invests a portion of UNG's cash in money market funds that seek to maintain a stable per share NAV. UNG is exposed to any risk of loss associated with an investment in such money market funds. As of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, UNG held investments in money market funds in the amounts of \$20,000,000 and \$50,000,000, respectively. UNG also holds cash deposits with its custodian. Pursuant to a written agreement with BBH&Co., uninvested overnight cash balances are swept to offshore branches of U.S. regulated and domiciled banks located in Toronto, Canada; London, United Kingdom; Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands; and Nassau, Bahamas; which are subject to U.S. regulation and regulatory oversight. As of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, UNG held cash deposits and investments in Treasuries in the amounts of \$510,609,558 and \$517,786,082, respectively, with the custodian and FCM. Some or all of these amounts may be subject to loss should UNG's custodian and/or FCM cease operations.

For derivatives, risks arise from changes in the market value of the contracts. Theoretically, UNG is exposed to market risk equal to the value of futures contracts purchased and unlimited liability on such contracts sold short. As both a buyer and a seller of options, UNG pays or receives a premium at the outset and then bears the risk of unfavorable changes in the price of the contract underlying the option.

UNG's policy is to continuously monitor its exposure to market and counterparty risk through the use of a variety of financial, position and credit exposure reporting controls and procedures. In addition, UNG has a policy of requiring review of the credit standing of each broker or counterparty with which it conducts business.

The financial instruments held by UNG are reported in its condensed statements of financial condition at market or fair value, or at carrying amounts that approximate fair value, because of their highly liquid nature and short-term maturity.

**NOTE 6 — FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The following table presents per share performance data and other supplemental financial data for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 for the shareholders. This information has been derived from information presented in the condensed financial statements.

	For the nine months ended September 30, 2017 (Unaudited)		For the nine months ended September 30, 2016 (Unaudited)	
Per Share Operating Performance:				
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$	9.29	\$	8.69
Total income (loss)		(2.68)	)	(0.30)
Total expenses		(0.07)	)	(0.06)
Net increase (decrease) in net asset value		(2.75)	)	(0.36)
Net asset value, end of period	\$	6.54	\$	8.33
 Total Return		(29.60)	)%	(4.14)
 Ratios to Average Net Assets				
Total income (loss)		(31.58)	)%	3.98
Management fees*		0.60	%	0.60
Expenses excluding management fees*		0.68	%	0.54
Net income (loss)		(32.54)	)%	3.13

\* Annualized.

Total returns are calculated based on the change in value during the period. An individual shareholder's total return and ratio may vary from the above total returns and ratios based on the timing of contributions to and withdrawals from UNG.

**NOTE 7 — FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

UNG values its investments in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification 820 – Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (“ASC 820”). ASC 820 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosures about fair value measurement. The changes to past practice resulting from the application of ASC 820 relate to the definition of fair value, the methods used to measure fair value, and the expanded disclosures about fair value measurement. ASC 820 establishes a fair value hierarchy that

distinguishes between: (1) market participant assumptions developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of UNG (observable inputs) and (2) UNG's own assumptions about market participant assumptions developed based on the best information available under the circumstances (unobservable inputs). The three levels defined by the ASC 820 hierarchy are as follows:

Level I – Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for *identical* assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date.

Level II – Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level I that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level II assets include the following: quoted prices for *similar* assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, and inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means (market-corroborated inputs).

Level III – Unobservable pricing input at the measurement date for the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs shall be used to measure fair value to the extent that observable inputs are not available.

In some instances, the inputs used to measure fair value might fall within different levels of the fair value hierarchy. The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety falls shall be determined based on the lowest input level that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

The following table summarizes the valuation of UNG's securities at September 30, 2017 using the fair value hierarchy:

At September 30, 2017	Total	Level I	Level II	Level III
Short-Term Investments	\$413,969,910	\$413,969,910	\$ —	\$ —
Exchange-Traded Futures Contracts				
United States Contracts	(18,634,130 )	(18,634,130 )	—	—

During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, there were no transfers between Level I and Level II.

The following table summarizes the valuation of UNG's securities at December 31, 2016 using the fair value hierarchy:

At December 31, 2016	Total	Level I	Level II	Level III
Short-Term Investments	\$484,298,065	\$484,298,065	\$ —	\$ —
Exchange-Traded Futures Contracts				
United States Contracts	37,435,507	37,435,507	—	—

During the year ended December 31, 2016, there were no transfers between Level I and Level II.

Effective January 1, 2009, UNG adopted the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification 815 — Derivatives and Hedging, which require presentation of qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts and gains and losses on derivatives.

### Fair Value of Derivative Instruments

Derivatives not Accounted for as Hedging Instruments	Condensed Statements of Financial Condition Location	Fair Value At September 30, 2017	Fair Value At December 31, 2016
Futures - Commodity Contracts	Assets	\$ (18,634,130 )	\$ 37,435,507

**The Effect of Derivative Instruments on the Condensed Statements of Operations**

Derivatives not Accounted for as Hedging Instruments	Location of Gain (Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income	For the nine months ended September 30, 2017		For the nine months ended September 30, 2016	
		Realized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income	Change in Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income	Realized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income	Change in Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income
Futures - Commodity Contracts	Realized gain (loss) on closed futures contracts	\$(94,356,398)		\$139,402,758	
	Change in unrealized gain (loss) on open contracts		\$(56,069,637 )		\$(119,737,962 )

**NOTE 8 — SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

UNG has performed an evaluation of subsequent events through the date the condensed financial statements were issued. This evaluation did not result in any subsequent events that necessitated disclosures and/or adjustments.

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

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the condensed financial statements and the notes thereto of the United States Natural Gas Fund, LP ("UNG") included elsewhere in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

### *Forward-Looking Information*

This quarterly report on Form 10-Q, including this "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," contains forward-looking statements regarding the plans and objectives of management for future operations. This information may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause UNG's actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by any forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements, which involve assumptions and describe UNG's future plans, strategies and expectations, are generally identifiable by use of the words "may," "will," "should," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "believe," "intend" or "project," the negative of these words or variations on these words or comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements are based on assumptions that may be incorrect, and UNG cannot assure investors that the projections included in these forward-looking statements will come to pass. UNG's actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors.

UNG has based the forward-looking statements included in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q on information available to it on the date of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, and UNG assumes no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Although UNG undertakes no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, investors are advised to consult any additional disclosures that UNG may make directly to them or through reports that UNG in the future files with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K.

### **Introduction**

UNG, a Delaware limited partnership, is a commodity pool that issues shares that may be purchased and sold on the NYSE Arca, Inc. (the "NYSE Arca"). The investment objective of UNG is for the daily changes, in percentage terms, of its shares' per share net asset value ("NAV") to reflect the daily changes, in percentage terms, of the price of natural gas delivered at the Henry Hub, Louisiana, as measured by the daily changes, in the price of a specified short-term futures contract for natural gas traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (the "NYMEX") that is the near month contract to expire, except when the near month contract is within two weeks of expiration, in which case it will be measured by the futures contract that is the next month contract to expire (the "Benchmark Futures Contract"), plus interest earned on

the Fund's collateral holdings, less UNG's expenses. "Near month contract" means the next contract traded on the NYMEX due to expire. "Next month contract" means the first contract traded on the NYMEX due to expire after the near month contract.

UNG's investment objective is *not* for its NAV or market price of shares to equal, in dollar terms, the spot price of natural gas or any particular futures contract based on natural gas, *nor* is UNG's investment objective for the percentage change in its NAV to reflect the percentage change of the price of any particular futures contract as measured over a time period *greater than one day*. The general partner of UNG, United States Commodity Funds LLC ("USCF"), believes that it is not practical to manage the portfolio to achieve such an investment goal when investing in Natural Gas Futures Contracts (as defined below) and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments (as defined below).

UNG invests primarily in futures contracts for natural gas, crude oil, heating oil, gasoline and other petroleum-based fuels that are traded on the NYMEX, ICE Futures or other U.S. and foreign exchanges (collectively, "Natural Gas Futures Contracts") and to a lesser extent, in order to comply with regulatory requirements or in view of market conditions, other natural gas-related investments such as cash-settled options on Natural Gas Futures Contracts, forward contracts for natural gas, cleared swap contracts and OTC swaps that are based on the price of natural gas, crude oil and other petroleum-based fuels, Natural Gas Futures Contracts and indices based on the foregoing (collectively, "Other Natural Gas-Related Investments"). For convenience and unless otherwise specified, Natural Gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments collectively are referred to as "Natural Gas Interests" in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

USCF believes that market arbitrage opportunities will cause daily changes in UNG's share price on the NYSE Arca on a percentage basis to closely track daily changes in UNG's per share NAV on a percentage basis. USCF further believes that daily changes in prices of the Benchmark Futures Contract have historically closely tracked the daily changes in spot prices of natural gas. USCF believes that the net effect of these relationships will be that the daily changes in the price of UNG's shares on the NYSE Arca on a percentage basis will closely track the daily changes in the spot price of natural gas on a percentage basis, plus interest earned on the Fund's collateral holdings, less UNG's expenses.



UNG seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing so that the average daily percentage change in UNG's NAV for any period of 30 successive valuation days will be within plus/minus ten percent (10%) of the average daily percentage change in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract over the same period.

## Regulatory Disclosure

*Accountability Levels, Position Limits and Price Fluctuation Limits.* Designated contract markets, such as the NYMEX and ICE Futures, have established accountability levels and position limits on the maximum net long or net short futures contracts in commodity interests that any person or group of persons under common trading control (other than as a hedge, which an investment by UNG is not) may hold, own or control. These levels and position limits apply to the futures contracts that UNG invests in to meet its investment objective. In addition to accountability levels and position limits, the NYMEX and ICE Futures also set daily price fluctuation limits on futures contracts. The daily price fluctuation limit establishes the maximum amount that the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day's settlement price. Once the daily price fluctuation limit has been reached in a particular futures contract, no trades may be made at a price beyond that limit.

The accountability levels for the Benchmark Futures Contract and other Natural Gas Futures Contracts traded on U.S.-based futures exchanges, such as the NYMEX, are not a fixed ceiling, but rather a threshold above which the NYMEX may exercise greater scrutiny and control over an investor's positions. The current accountability level for investments for any one-month in the Benchmark Futures Contract is 6,000 net contracts. In addition, the NYMEX imposes an accountability level for all months of 12,000 net futures contracts for natural gas. In addition, the ICE Futures maintains accountability levels, position limits and monitoring authority for its Henry Hub natural gas contracts. If UNG and the Related Public Funds exceed these accountability levels for investments in the futures contracts for natural gas, the NYMEX and ICE Futures will monitor such exposure and may ask for further information on their activities including the total size of all positions, investment and trading strategy, and the extent of liquidity resources of UNG and the Related Public Funds. If deemed necessary by the NYMEX and/or ICE Futures, UNG could be ordered to reduce its aggregate net futures contracts back to the accountability level. As of September 30, 2017, UNG held 12,423 NYMEX Natural Gas Futures NG contracts and 20,000 Natural Gas Futures LD1 H Contracts traded on the ICE Futures US. UNG exceeded accountability levels of the NYMEX during the nine months ended September 30, 2017, when it held a maximum of 14,682 Natural Gas Futures NG Contracts. UNG exceeded accountability levels of ICE Futures during the nine months ended September 30, 2017, when it held a maximum of 20,000 Natural Gas Futures LD1 H Contracts, exceeding the "any" month limit. No action was taken by the NYMEX or ICE Futures and UNG did not reduce the number of Natural Gas Futures Contracts held as a result. UNG did not exceed accountability levels imposed by the ICE Futures during the nine months ended September 30, 2017.

Position limits differ from accountability levels in that they represent fixed limits on the maximum number of futures contracts that any person may hold and cannot allow such limits to be exceeded without express CFTC authority to do so. In addition to accountability levels and position limits that may apply at any time, the NYMEX and the ICE Futures impose position limits on contracts held in the last few days of trading in the near month contract to expire. It

is unlikely that UNG will run up against such position limits because UNG's investment strategy is to close out its positions and "roll" from the near month contract to expire to the next month contract during a four-day period beginning two weeks from expiration of the contract. For the nine months ended September 30, 2017, UNG did not exceed position limits imposed by the NYMEX and ICE Futures.

The regulation of commodity interest trading in the United States and other countries is an evolving area of the law. The various statements made in this summary are subject to modification by legislative action and changes in the rules and regulations of the SEC, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA"), CFTC, the National Futures Association (the "NFA"), the futures exchanges, clearing organizations and other regulatory bodies.

### *Futures Contracts and Position Limits*

The CFTC is generally prohibited by statute from regulating trading on non-U.S. futures exchanges and markets. The CFTC, however, has adopted regulations relating to the marketing of non-U.S. futures contracts in the United States. These regulations permit certain contracts on non-U.S. exchanges to be offered and sold in the United States.

The CFTC has proposed to adopt limits on speculative positions in 25 physical commodity futures and option contracts as well as swaps that are economically equivalent to such contracts in the agriculture, energy and metals markets (the "Position Limit Rules"). The Position Limit Rules would, among other things: identify which contracts are subject to speculative position limits; set thresholds that restrict the size of speculative positions that a person may hold in the spot month, other individual months, and all months combined; create an exemption for positions that constitute bona fide hedging transactions; impose responsibilities on designated contract markets ("DCMs") and swap execution facilities ("SEFs") to establish position limits or, in some cases, position accountability rules; and apply to both futures and swaps across four relevant venues: OTC, DCMs, SEFs as well as certain non-U.S. located platforms. The CFTC's first attempt at finalizing the Position Limit Rules, in 2011, was successfully challenged by market participants in 2012 and, since then, the CFTC has re-proposed them and solicited comments from market participants multiple times. At this time, it is unclear how the Position Limit Rules may affect UNG, but the effect may be substantial and adverse. By way of example, the Position Limit Rules may negatively impact the ability of UNG to meet its investment objectives through limits that may inhibit USCF's ability to sell additional Creation Baskets of UNG.

Until such time as the Position Limit Rules are adopted, the regulatory architecture in effect prior to the adoption of the Position Limit Rules will govern transactions in commodities and related derivatives (collectively, “Referenced Contracts”). Under that system, the CFTC enforces federal limits on speculation in agricultural products (e.g., corn, wheat and soy), while futures exchanges establish and enforce position limits and accountability levels for other agricultural and certain energy products (e.g., oil and natural gas). As a result, UNG may be limited with respect to the size of its investments in any commodities subject to these limits.

Under existing and recently adopted CFTC regulations, for the purpose of position limits, a market participant is generally required, subject to certain narrow exceptions, to aggregate all positions for which that participant controls the trading decisions with all positions for which the participant has a 10 percent or greater ownership interest in an account or position, as well as the positions of two or more persons acting pursuant to an express or implied agreement or understanding with that participant (the “Aggregation Rules”). The Aggregation Rules will also apply with respect to the Position Limit Rules if and when such Position Limit Rules are adopted.

### *“Swap” Transactions*

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) imposes regulatory requirements on certain “swap” transactions that UNG is authorized to engage in that may ultimately impact the ability of UNG to meet its investment objective. The term “swap” is broadly defined to include various types of OTC derivatives, including swaps and options.

CFTC regulations require that certain transactions ultimately falling within the definition of “swap” be executed on organized exchanges or “swap execution facilities” and cleared through regulated clearing organizations (“CCPs”). “Clearing” refers to the process by which a trade that is bilaterally executed by two parties is submitted to a CCP, via a clearing member (i.e., an “FCM”), and replaced by two mirror swaps, with the CCP becoming the counterparty to both of the initial parties to the swap. CCPs have several layers of protection against default including margin, member capital contributions and FCM guarantees of their customers’ transactions with the CCP. FCMs also pre-qualify the counterparties to all swaps that are sent to the CCP from a credit perspective, setting limits for each counterparty and collecting initial and variation margin daily from each counterparty for changes in the value of cleared swaps. The margin collected from both parties to the swap protects against credit risk in the event a counterparty defaults. The initial and variation margin requirements are set by and held for the benefit of the CCP. Additional initial margin may be required and held by the FCM.

Current rules and regulations require enhanced customer protections, risk management programs, internal monitoring and controls, capital and liquidity standards, customer disclosures and auditing and examination programs for FCMs. The rules are intended to afford greater assurances to market participants that customer segregated funds and secured amounts are protected, customers are provided with appropriate notice of the risks of futures trading and of the FCMs

with which they may choose to do business, FCMs are monitoring and managing risks in a robust manner, the capital and liquidity of FCMs are strengthened to safeguard the continued operations and the auditing and examination programs of the CFTC and the self-regulatory organizations are monitoring the activities of FCMs in a thorough manner.

Certain index-based credit default swaps and interest rate swaps are subject to mandatory clearing. If UNG enters into index-based credit default swaps or interest rate swaps that are subject to mandatory clearing, UNG will be required to centrally clear those swaps.

To the extent that a swap is required to be cleared, it must also be executed on a SEF or DCM if it is designated as “made available to trade” by a SEF or DCM. “Made available to trade” refers to the regulatory process by which the SEF or DCM execution requirement is implemented by the CFTC. To date, only certain of the index-based credit default swaps and interest rate swaps that are required to be cleared are made available to trade on a SEF. If UNG enters into index-based credit default swaps or interest rate swaps that are subject to mandatory clearing, UNG will be required to execute those swaps on a SEF if they are designated as made available to trade. In order to execute swaps on a SEF, UNG will have to be a member of a SEF or it may access the SEF through an intermediary. Members of a SEF are subject to additional requirements under CFTC regulations and are subject to the rules and jurisdiction of the relevant SEF.

Swaps that are not required to be cleared and executed on a SEF but that are executed bilaterally are also subject to various requirements pursuant to CFTC regulations, including, among others, reporting and recordkeeping requirements and, depending on the status of the counterparties, trading documentation requirements and dispute resolution requirements. In addition, U.S. regulators are in the process of adopting rules to impose initial and variation margin requirements that will apply to swap dealers and major swap participants and their counterparties. If UNG engages in non-cleared swap transactions it may be subject to some or all of these requirements.

### ***Derivatives Regulations in Non-U.S. Jurisdictions***

In addition to U.S. laws and regulations, UNG may be subject to non-U.S. derivatives laws and regulations if it engages in futures and/or swaps transactions with non-U.S. persons. For example, UNG may be impacted by European laws and regulations to the extent that it engages in futures transactions on European exchanges or derivatives transactions with European entities. Other jurisdictions impose requirements applicable to futures and derivatives that are similar to those imposed by the U.S., including position limits, margin, clearing and trade execution requirements.

### ***Money Market Reform***

The SEC adopted Rule 2a-7 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, which became effective in 2016, to reform money market funds (“MMFs”). While the new rule applies only to MMFs, it may indirectly affect institutional investors such as UNG. A portion of UNG’s assets that are not used for margin or collateral in the Futures Contracts currently are invested in government MMFs. UNG does not hold any non-government MMFs and, particularly in light of recent changes to the rule governing the operation of MMFs, does not anticipate investing in any non-government MMFs. However, if UNG invests in other types of MMFs besides government MMFs in the future, UNG could be negatively impacted by investing in an MMF that does not maintain a stable \$1.00 net asset value or that has the potential to impose redemption fees and gates (temporary suspension of redemptions).

### ***Price Movements***

Natural gas futures prices were volatile during the nine months ended September 30, 2017. The price of the Benchmark Futures Contract started the period at \$3.724 per million British thermal shares (“MMBtu”). The high for the period was the starting price when the price reached \$3.724 per MMBtu. The low of the period was on February 21, 2017 when the price dropped to \$2.691 per MMBtu. The period ended with the Benchmark Futures Contract at \$3.007 per MMBtu, a decrease of approximately (19.25)% over the period. UNG’s per share NAV began the period at \$9.29 and ended the period at \$6.54 on September 30, 2017, a decrease of approximately (29.60)% over the period. UNG’s per share NAV reached its high for the period on January 13, 2017 at \$8.53 and reached its low for the period on August 4, 2017 at \$6.22. The Benchmark Futures Contract prices listed above began with the February 2017 contracts and ended with the November 2017 Contracts. The decrease of approximately (19.25)% on the Benchmark Futures Contract listed above is a hypothetical return only and could not actually be achieved by an investor holding Natural Gas Futures Contracts. An investment in Natural Gas Futures Contracts would need to be rolled forward during the time period described in order to simulate such a result. Furthermore, the change in the nominal price of these differing Natural Gas Futures Contracts, measured from the start of the period to the end of the period, does not represent the actual benchmark results that UNG seeks to track, which are more fully described below in the section titled “*Tracking UNG’s Benchmark.*”

During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, the natural gas futures market was primarily in a state of contango. During periods of contango, the price of the near month Natural Gas Futures Contract was typically lower than the price of the next month Natural Gas Futures Contract, or contracts further away from expiration. On days when the market is in backwardation, the price of the near month Natural Gas Futures Contract is typically higher than the price of the next month Natural Gas Futures Contract or contracts further away from expiration. For a discussion of the impact of backwardation and contango on total returns, see “*Term Structure of Natural Gas Futures Prices and the Impact on Total Returns*” below.

### **Valuation of Futures Contracts and the Computation of the Per Share NAV**

The per share NAV of UNG’s shares is calculated once each NYSE Arca trading day. The per share NAV for a particular trading day is released after 4:00 p.m. New York time. Trading during the core trading session on the NYSE Arca typically closes at 4:00 p.m. New York time. UNG’s administrator uses the NYMEX closing price (determined at the earlier of the close of the NYMEX or 2:30 p.m. New York time) for the contracts held on the NYMEX, but calculates or determines the value of all other UNG investments, including, if any, cleared swaps or other futures contracts, as of the earlier of the close of the NYSE Arca or 4:00 p.m. New York time.

### **Results of Operations and the Natural Gas Market**

*Results of Operations.* On April 18, 2007, UNG listed its shares on the American Stock Exchange (the “AMEX”) under the ticker symbol “UNG.” On that day, UNG established its initial offering price at \$50.00 per share and issued 200,000 shares to the initial authorized purchaser in exchange for \$10,000,000 in cash. As a result of the acquisition of the AMEX by NYSE Euronext, UNG’s shares ceased trading on the AMEX and commenced trading on the NYSE Arca on November 25, 2008.

Since its initial offering of 30,000,000 shares, UNG has registered seven subsequent offerings of its shares: 50,000,000 shares which were registered with the SEC on November 21, 2007, 100,000,000 shares which were registered with the SEC on August 28, 2008, 300,000,000 shares which were registered with the SEC on May 6, 2009, 1,000,000,000 shares were registered with the SEC on August 12, 2009, 200,000,000 shares were registered with the SEC on March 12, 2014, 200,000,000 shares were registered on April 28, 2015 and 200,000,000 shares were registered on April 28, 2017.

Shares offered by UNG in the subsequent offerings were sold by it for cash at the shares' per share NAV as described in the applicable prospectus. On March 8, 2011, after the close of trading on the NYSE Arca, UNG effected a 2-for-1 reverse share split and post-split shares of UNG began trading on March 9, 2011. As a result of the reverse share split, every two pre-split shares of UNG were automatically exchanged for one post-split share. Immediately prior to the reverse share split, there were 447,200,000 shares of UNG issued and outstanding, representing a per share NAV of \$5.16. Immediately after the reverse share split, the number of issued and outstanding shares of UNG decreased to 223,600,000, not accounting for fractional shares, and the per share NAV increased to \$10.31. On February 21, 2012, after the close of trading on the NYSE Arca, UNG effected a 4-for-1 reverse share split and post-split shares of UNG began trading on February 22, 2012. As a result of the reverse share split, every four pre-split shares of UNG were automatically exchanged for one post-split share. Immediately prior to the reverse share split, there were 174,297,828 shares of UNG issued and outstanding, representing a per share NAV of \$5.51. Immediately after the reverse share split, the number of issued and outstanding shares of UNG decreased to 43,574,457, not accounting for fractional shares, and the per share NAV increased to \$22.04. As of September 30, 2017, UNG had issued 1,872,800,000 shares, 80,066,476 of which were outstanding. As of September 30, 2017, there were 207,200,000 shares registered but not yet issued.

More shares may have been issued by UNG than are outstanding due to the redemption of shares. Unlike funds that are registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, shares that have been redeemed by UNG cannot be resold by UNG. As a result, UNG contemplates that additional offerings of its shares will be registered with the SEC in the future in anticipation of additional issuances and redemptions.

As of September 30, 2017, UNG had the following Authorized Purchasers: ABN Amro, BNP Paribas Prime Brokerage, Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp., Citadel Securities LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Credit Suisse Securities USA LLC, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., Goldman Sachs & Company, Goldman Sachs Execution & Clearing LP, JP Morgan Securities Inc., Merrill Lynch Professional Clearing Corp., Morgan Stanley & Company Inc., Nomura Securities International Inc., RBC Capital Markets LLC, SG Americas Securities LLC and Virtu Financial BD LLC.

For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 Compared to the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016

Edgar Filing: United States Natural Gas Fund, LP - Form 10-Q

	For the nine months ended September 30, 2017	For the nine months ended September 30, 2016		
Average daily total net assets	\$ 467,542,841	\$ 527,356,434		
Dividend and interest income earned on Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents	\$ 2,579,172	\$ 1,248,616		
Annualized approximate yield based on average daily total net assets	0.74	% 0.32		%
Management fee	\$ 2,098,179	\$ 2,368,781		
Total fees and other expenses excluding management fees	\$ 2,377,073	\$ 2,131,576		
Fees and expenses related to the registration or offering of additional shares	\$ 163,361	\$ 303,041		
Total commissions accrued to brokers	\$ 1,204,240	\$ 1,526,497		
Total commissions as annualized percentage of average total net assets	0.34	% 0.39		%
Commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	\$ 998,598	\$ 1,444,429		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	82.92	% 94.62		%
Commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	\$ 205,642	\$ 82,068		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	17.08	% 5.38		%

*Portfolio Expenses.* UNG's expenses consist of investment management fees, brokerage fees and commissions, certain offering costs, licensing fees, the fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF and expenses relating to tax accounting and reporting requirements. The management fee that UNG pays to USCF is calculated as a percentage of the total net assets of UNG. The fee is accrued daily and paid monthly.

Average interest rates earned on short-term investments held by UNG, including cash, cash equivalents and Treasuries, were higher during the nine months ended September 30, 2017, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2016. As a result, the amount of income earned by UNG as a percentage of average daily total net assets was higher during the nine months ended September 30, 2017, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2016.

The increase in total fees and expenses excluding management fees for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2016, was primarily due to an increase in tax and reporting costs.

The decrease in the total commissions accrued to brokers by UNG for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2016, was due primarily to a lower number of futures contracts being held and traded as a result of UNG's smaller size in terms of average net assets.



For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2017 Compared to the Three Months Ended September 30, 2016

	For the three months ended September 30, 2017	For the three months ended September 30, 2016		
Average daily total net assets	\$ 461,444,818	\$ 545,759,861		
Dividend and interest income earned on Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents	\$ 1,118,749	\$ 504,694		
Annualized approximate yield based on average daily total net assets	0.96	% 0.37		%
Management fee	\$ 697,857	\$ 823,113		
Total fees and other expenses excluding management fees	\$ 667,470	\$ 625,970		
Fees and expenses related to the registration or offering of additional shares	\$ 41,637	\$ 101,751		
Total commissions accrued to brokers	\$ 403,584	\$ 440,975		
Total commissions as annualized percentage of average total net assets	0.35	% 0.32		%
Commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	\$ 351,595	\$ 414,167		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	87.12	% 93.92		%
Commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	\$ 51,989	\$ 26,808		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	12.88	% 6.08		%

*Portfolio Expenses.* UNG's expenses consist of investment management fees, brokerage fees and commissions, certain offering costs, licensing fees, the fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF and expenses relating to tax accounting and reporting requirements. The management fee that UNG pays to USCF is calculated as a percentage of the total net assets of UNG. The fee is accrued daily and paid monthly.

Average interest rates earned on short-term investments held by UNG, including cash, cash equivalents and Treasuries, were higher during the three months ended September 30, 2017, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2016. As a result, the amount of income earned by UNG as a percentage of average daily total net assets was higher during the three months ended September 30, 2017, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2016.

The increase in total fees and expenses excluding management fees for the three months ended September 30, 2017, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2016, was due primarily to UNG's increase in tax reporting costs.

The decrease in the total commissions accrued to brokers by UNG for the three months ended September 30, 2017, as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2016, was due primarily to a lower number of futures contracts being held and traded as a result of UNG's smaller size in terms of average net assets.

## Tracking UNG's Benchmark

USCF seeks to manage UNG's portfolio such that changes in its average daily per share NAV, on a percentage basis, closely track the daily changes in the average price of the Benchmark Futures Contract, also on a percentage basis. Specifically, USCF seeks to manage the portfolio such that over any rolling period of 30-valuation days, the average daily change in UNG's per share NAV is within a range of 90% to 110% (0.9 to 1.1) of the average daily change in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract. As an example, if the average daily movement of the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract for a particular 30-valuation day time period was 0.50% per day, USCF would attempt to manage the portfolio such that the average daily movement of the per share NAV during that same time period fell between 0.45% and 0.55% (i.e., between 0.9 and 1.1 of the benchmark's results). UNG's portfolio management goals do not include trying to make the nominal price of UNG's per share NAV equal to the nominal price of the current Benchmark Futures Contract or the spot price for natural gas. USCF believes that it is not practical to manage the portfolio to achieve such an investment goal when investing in Natural Gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments.

For the 30-valuation days ended September 30, 2017, the simple average daily change in the Benchmark Futures Contract was (0.002)%, while the simple average daily change in the per share NAV of UNG over the same time period was (0.003)%. The average daily difference was (0.0014)% (or (0.14) basis points, where 1 basis point equals 1/100 of 1%). As a percentage of the daily movement of the Benchmark Futures Contract, the average error in daily tracking by the per share NAV was (0.959)%, meaning that over this time period UNG's tracking error was/was not within the plus or minus 10% range established as its benchmark tracking goal.

Since the commencement of the offering of UNG's shares to the public on April 18, 2007 to September 30, 2017, the simple average daily change in the Benchmark Futures Contract was (0.116)%, while the simple average daily change in the per share NAV of UNG over the same time period was (0.117)%. The average daily difference was (0.001)% (or (0.1) basis points, where 1 basis point equals 1/100 of 1%). As a percentage of the daily movement of the Benchmark Futures Contract, the average error in daily tracking by the per share NAV was (0.423)%, meaning that over this time period UNG's tracking error was/was not within the plus or minus 10% range established as its benchmark tracking goal. The following two graphs demonstrate the correlation between the changes in UNG's NAV and the changes in the Benchmark Futures Contract. The first graph exhibits the daily changes for the last 30 valuation days ended September 30, 2017. The second graph measures monthly changes since September 30, 2012 through September 30, 2017.

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

An alternative tracking measurement of the return performance of UNG versus the return of its Benchmark Futures Contract can be calculated by comparing the actual return of UNG, measured by changes in its NAV, versus the expected changes in its per share NAV under the assumption that UNG's returns had been exactly the same as the daily changes in its Benchmark Futures Contract.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2017, the actual total return of UNG as measured by changes in its per share NAV was (29.60)%. This is based on an initial per share NAV of \$9.29 as of December 31, 2016 and an ending per share NAV as of September 30, 2017 of \$6.54. During this time period, UNG made no distributions to its shareholders. However, if UNG's daily changes in its per share NAV had instead exactly tracked the changes in the daily total return of the Benchmark Futures Contract, UNG would have had an estimated per share NAV of \$6.56 as of September 30, 2017, for a total return over the relevant time period of (29.39)%. The difference between the actual per share NAV total return of UNG of (29.60)% and the expected total return based on the Benchmark Futures Contract of (29.39)% was an error over the time period of (0.21)%, which is to say that UNG's actual total return underperformed the benchmark result. UNG incurs expenses primarily composed of the management fee, brokerage commissions for the buying and selling of futures contracts, and other expenses. The impact of these expenses, offset by interest and dividend income, and net of positive or negative execution, tends to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of UNG to track differently than daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract.

By comparison, for the nine months ended September 30, 2016, the actual total return of UNG as measured by changes in its per share NAV was (4.14)%. This was based on an initial per share NAV of \$8.69 as of December 31, 2015 and an ending per share NAV as of September 30, 2016 of \$8.33. During this time period, UNG made no distributions to its shareholders. However, if UNG's daily changes in its per share NAV had instead exactly tracked the changes in the daily total return of the Benchmark Futures Contract, UNG would have had an estimated per share NAV of \$8.39 as of September 30, 2016, for a total return over the relevant time period of (3.45)%. The difference between the actual per share NAV total return of UNG of (4.14)% and the expected total return based on the Benchmark Futures Contract of (3.45)% was an error over the time period of (0.69)%, which is to say that UNG's actual total return underperformed the benchmark result by that percentage. UNG incurred expenses primarily composed of the management fee, brokerage commissions for the buying and selling of futures contracts, and other expenses. The impact of these expenses tended to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of UNG to track slightly lower than daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract.

There are currently three factors that have impacted or are most likely to impact UNG's ability to accurately track its Benchmark Futures Contract.



First, UNG may buy or sell its holdings in the then current Benchmark Futures Contract at a price other than the closing settlement price of that contract on the day during which UNG executes the trade. In that case, UNG may pay a price that is higher, or lower, than that of the Benchmark Futures Contract, which could cause the changes in the daily per share NAV of UNG to either be too high or too low relative to the daily changes in the Benchmark Futures Contract. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, USCF attempted to minimize the effect of these transactions by seeking to execute its purchase or sale of the Benchmark Futures Contract at, or as close as possible to, the end of the day settlement price. However, it may not always be possible for UNG to obtain the closing settlement price and there is no assurance that failure to obtain the closing settlement price in the future will not adversely impact UNG's attempt to track the Benchmark Futures Contract over time.

Second, UNG incurs expenses primarily composed of the management fee, brokerage commissions for the buying and selling of futures contracts, and other expenses. The impact of these expenses tends to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of UNG to track slightly lower than daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract. At the same time, UNG earns dividend and interest income on its cash, cash equivalents and Treasuries. UNG is not required to distribute any portion of its income to its shareholders and did not make any distributions to shareholders during the nine months ended September 30, 2017. Interest payments, and any other income, were retained within the portfolio and added to UNG's NAV. When this income exceeds the level of UNG's expenses for its management fee, brokerage commissions and other expenses (including ongoing registration fees, licensing fees and the fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF), UNG will realize a net yield that will tend to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of UNG to track slightly higher than daily changes in the Benchmark Futures Contract. If short-term interest rates rise above the current levels, the level of deviation created by the yield would decrease. Conversely, if short-term interest rates were to decline, the amount of error created by the yield would increase. When short-term yields drop to a level lower than the combined expenses of the management fee and the brokerage commissions, then the tracking error becomes a negative number and would tend to cause the daily returns of the per share NAV to underperform the daily returns of the Benchmark Futures Contract. USCF anticipates that interest rates will continue to remain at historical lows and, therefore, it is anticipated that fees and expenses paid by UNG will continue to be higher than interest earned by UNG. As such, USCF anticipates that UNG will continue to underperform its benchmark until such a time when interest earned at least equals or exceeds the fees and expenses paid by UNG.

Third, UNG may hold Other Natural Gas-Related Investments in its portfolio that may fail to closely track the Benchmark Futures Contract's total return movements. In that case, the error in tracking the Benchmark Futures Contract could result in daily changes in the per share NAV of UNG that are either too high, or too low, relative to the daily changes in the Benchmark Futures Contract. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, UNG did not hold any Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. UNG also held investments in Natural Gas Futures Contracts traded on the ICE Futures US whose settlement price also tracks the settlement price of the Benchmark Futures Contract.

Finally, due to potential regulatory limitations, UNG may determine to hold greater amounts of cash and cash equivalents and lesser amounts of Natural Gas Interests, if it determines that will most appropriately satisfy UNG's investment objective. Holding more cash and cash equivalents and less Natural Gas Interests for some period of time may result in increased tracking error. There are additional Other Natural Gas-Related Investments that UNG is permitted to invest in whose price movements may not track the settlement price of the Benchmark Futures Contract.

*Term Structure of Natural Gas Futures Prices and the Impact on Total Returns.* Several factors determine the total return from investing in futures contracts. One factor arises from “rolling” futures contracts that will expire at the end of the current month (the “near” or “front” month contract) forward each month prior to expiration. For a strategy that entails holding the near month contract, the price relationship between that futures contract and the next month futures contract will impact returns. For example, if the price of the near month futures contract is higher than the next futures month contract (a situation referred to as “backwardation”), then absent any other change, the price of a next month futures contract tends to rise in value as it becomes the near month futures contract and approaches expiration. Conversely, if the price of a near month futures contract is lower than the next month futures contract (a situation referred to as “contango”), then absent any other change, the price of a next month futures contract tends to decline in value as it becomes the near month futures contract and approaches expiration.

As an example, assume that the price of natural gas for immediate delivery, is \$3 per MMBtu, and the value of a position in the near month futures contract is also \$3. Over time, the price of natural gas will fluctuate based on a number of market factors, including demand for natural gas relative to supply. The value of the near month futures contract will likewise fluctuate in reaction to a number of market factors. If an investor seeks to maintain a position in a near month futures contract and not take delivery of physical MMBtu of natural gas, the investor must sell the current near month futures contract as it approaches expiration and invest in the next month futures contract. In order to continue holding a position in the current near month futures contract, this “roll” forward of the futures contract must be executed every month.

Contango and backwardation are natural market forces that have impacted the total return on an investment in UNG’s shares during the past year relative to a hypothetical direct investment in natural gas. In the future, it is likely that the relationship between the market price of UNG’s shares and changes in the spot prices of natural gas will continue to be impacted by contango and backwardation. It is important to note that this comparison ignores the potential costs associated with physically owning and storing natural gas, which could be substantial.

If the futures market is in backwardation, e.g., when the price of the near month futures contract is higher than the price of the next month futures contract, the investor would buy a next month futures contract for a lower price than the current near month futures contract. Assuming the price of the next month futures contract was \$2.94 per MMBtu, or 2% cheaper than the \$3 near month futures contract, then, hypothetically, and assuming no other changes (e.g., to either prevailing natural gas prices or the price relationship between the spot price, the near month contract and the next month contract, and, ignoring the impact of commission costs and the income earned on cash and/or cash equivalents), the value of the \$2.94 next month futures contract would rise to \$3 as it approaches expiration. In this example, the value of an investment in the next month futures contract would tend to outperform the spot price of natural gas. As a result, it would be possible for the new near month futures contract to rise 12% while the spot price of natural gas may have risen a lower amount, e.g., only 10%. Similarly, the spot price of natural gas could have fallen 10% while the value of an investment in the futures contract might have fallen another amount, e.g., only 8%. Over time, if backwardation remained constant, this difference between the spot price and the futures contract price would continue to increase.

If the futures market is in contango, an investor would be buying a next month futures contract for a higher price than the current near month futures contract. Again, assuming the near month futures contract is \$3 per MMBtu, the price of the next month futures contract might be \$3.06 per MMBtu, or 2% more expensive than the front month futures contract. Hypothetically, and assuming no other changes, the value of the \$3.06 next month futures contract would fall to \$3 as it approaches expiration. In this example, the value of an investment in the second month would tend to underperform the spot price of natural gas. As a result, it would be possible for the new near month futures contract to rise only 10% while the spot price of natural gas may have risen a higher amount, e.g., 12%. Similarly, the spot price of natural gas could have fallen 10% while the value of an investment in the second month futures contract might have fallen another amount, e.g., 12%. Over time, if contango remained constant, this difference between the spot price and the futures contract price would continue to increase.



The chart below compares the daily price of the near month Natural Gas Futures Contracts contract to the price of 13<sup>th</sup> month Natural Gas Futures Contract (i.e., a contract one year forward) over the last 10 years. When the price of the near month futures contract is higher than the price of the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract, the market would be described as being in backwardation. When the price of the near month futures contract is lower than the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract, the market would be described as being in contango. Although the price of the near month futures contract and the price of the near 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract tend to move together, it can be seen that at times the near month futures contract prices are higher than the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract prices (backwardation) and, at other times, the near month futures contract prices are lower than the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract prices (contango).

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

An alternative way to view the same data is to subtract the dollar price of the 13<sup>th</sup> month Natural Gas Futures contract from the dollar price of the near month Natural Gas Futures contract, as shown in the chart below. When the difference is positive, the market is in backwardation. When the difference is negative, the market is in contango. The natural gas market spent time in both backwardation and contango during the last ten years. The chart below shows the results from subtracting the average dollar price of the near 12 month contracts from the near month price for the 10 year period between September 30, 2007 and September 30, 2017. Investors will note that the natural gas market spent time in both backwardation and contango.

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

An investment in a portfolio that owned only the near month Natural Gas Futures Contract would likely produce a different result than an investment in a portfolio that owned an equal number of each of the near 12 months' of Natural Gas Futures Contracts. Generally speaking, when the natural gas futures market is in backwardation, a portfolio of only the near month Natural Gas Futures Contract may tend to have a higher total return than a portfolio of 12 months' of the Natural Gas Futures Contract. Conversely, if the natural gas futures market was in contango, the portfolio containing only 12 months' of Natural Gas Futures Contracts may tend to outperform the portfolio holding only the near month crude Natural Gas Futures Contract.

Historically, the natural gas futures markets have experienced periods of contango and backwardation. Because natural gas demand is seasonal, it is possible for the price of Natural Gas Futures Contracts for delivery within one or two months to rapidly move from backwardation into contango and back again within the relatively short period of time of less than one year. While the investment objective of UNG is not to have the market price of its shares match, dollar for dollar, changes in the spot price of natural gas, contango impacted the total return on an investment in UNG shares during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 relative to a hypothetical direct investment in natural gas. For example, an investment in UNG shares made on December 31, 2016 and held to September 30, 2017 decreased, based upon the changes in the NAV for UNG shares on those days, by approximately (29.60)%, while the spot price of natural gas for immediate delivery (as represented by the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract) during the same period decreased by approximately (19.25)% (note: this comparison ignores the potential costs associated with physically owning and storing natural gas, which could be substantial). By comparison, an investment in UNG shares made on December 31, 2015 and held to September 30, 2016 decreased, based upon the changes in the NAV for UNG shares on those days, by approximately (4.14)%, while the spot price of natural gas for immediate delivery during the same period increased by approximately 24.35% (note: this comparison ignores the potential costs associated with physically owning and storing natural gas, which could be substantial).

Periods of contango or backwardation do not materially impact UNG's investment objective of having the daily percentage changes in its per share NAV track the daily percentage changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract since the impact of backwardation and contango tend to equally impact the daily percentage changes in price of both UNG's shares and the Benchmark Futures Contract. It is impossible to predict with any degree of certainty whether backwardation or contango will occur in the future. It is likely that both conditions will occur during different periods and, because of the seasonal nature of natural gas demand, both may occur within a single year's time.

*Natural Gas Market.* During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, natural gas prices in the United States were volatile during the first half of the year before settling into a tight trading range during the third quarter. Prices ended the period lower than the beginning of the year, although most of this change occurred with a large decline on the first trading day of the year. Storage levels followed normal seasonal patterns, but fell below prior-year levels for the first time since 2014 and declined to the lowest surplus over the five-year average in the last two years. As of September 30, 2017, the amount of natural gas in storage stood at 3,508 billion cubic feet, which was approximately 4.7% below 2016 levels. Increased U.S. exports of natural gas along with greater domestic demand have aided the call on natural gas. Should trends continue, as we enter the winter season with less in storage than last year, a cold winter could be very bullish for prices. Conversely, a warmer than normal weather could lead to storage builds and would likely put pressure on prices absent other factors.

*Natural Gas Price Movements in Comparison to Other Energy Commodities and Investment Categories.* USCF believes that investors frequently measure the degree to which prices or total returns of one investment or asset class move up or down in value in concert with another investment or asset class. Statistically, such a measure is usually done by measuring the correlation of the price movements of the two different investments or asset classes over some period of time. The correlation is scaled between 1 and -1, where 1 indicates that the two investment options move up or down in price or value together, known as “positive correlation,” and -1 indicates that they move in completely opposite directions, known as “negative correlation.” A correlation of 0 would mean that the movements of the two are neither positively nor negatively correlated, known as “non-correlation.” That is, the investment options sometimes move up and down together and other times move in opposite directions.

For the ten-year time period between September 30, 2007 and September 30, 2017, the table below compares the monthly movements of natural gas prices versus the monthly movements of the prices of several other energy commodities, such as crude oil, diesel-heating oil, and unleaded gasoline, as well as several major non-commodity investment asset classes, such as large cap U.S. equities, U.S. government bonds and global equities. It can be seen that over this particular time period, the movement of natural gas on a monthly basis was neither strongly correlated nor inversely correlated with the movements of large cap U.S. equities, U.S. Government bonds, global equities, crude oil, diesel-heating oil, or unleaded gasoline.

	Large Cap U.S. Equities (S&P 500)	U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)	Global Equities (FTSE World Index)	Crude Oil	Diesel- Heating Oil	Unleaded Gasoline	Natural Gas
Correlation Matrix September 30, 2007 – September 30, 2017*	1.000	(0.287 )	0.965	0.464	0.436	0.446	0.083
U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)		1.000	(0.257 )	(0.390)	(0.331 )	(0.349 )	(0.041 )
Global Equities (FTSE World Index)			1.000	0.514	0.476	0.484	0.121
Crude Oil				1.000	0.805	0.700	0.263
Diesel-Heating Oil					1.000	0.729	0.258
Unleaded Gasoline						1.000	0.154
Natural Gas							1.000

Source: Bloomberg, NYMEX

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

The table below covers a more recent, but much shorter, range of dates than the above table. Over the one year period ended September 30, 2017, the movement of natural gas remained neither strongly correlated nor inversely correlated with U.S. government bonds, crude oil or diesel-heating oil. Movement of natural gas was somewhat negatively correlated with large cap U.S. equities and global equities and somewhat correlated with unleaded gasoline.

U.S.  
Gov't.  
Bonds

Edgar Filing: United States Natural Gas Fund, LP - Form 10-Q

	Large Cap U.S. Equities (S&P 500)	(EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)	Global Equities (FTSE World Index)	Crude Oil	Diesel- Heating Oil	Unleaded Gasoline	Natural Gas
Correlation Matrix 12 Months ended September 30, 2017*	1.000	(0.229 )	0.768	0.620	0.326	(0.150 )	(0.331)
Large Cap U.S. Equities (S&P 500)							
U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)		1.000	0.288	(0.393)	(0.103 )	0.319	(0.271)
Global Equities (FTSE World Index)			1.000	0.515	0.223	(0.124 )	(0.516)
Crude Oil				1.000	0.676	(0.212 )	(0.119)
Diesel-Heating Oil					1.000	0.497	0.185
Unleaded Gasoline						1.000	0.408
Natural Gas							1.000

Source: Bloomberg, NYMEX

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

Investors are cautioned that the historical price relationships between natural gas and various other energy commodities, as well as other investment asset classes, as measured by correlation may not be reliable predictors of future price movements and correlation results. The results pictured above would have been different if a different range of dates had been selected. USCF believes that natural gas has historically not demonstrated a strong correlation with equities or bonds over long periods of time. However, USCF also believes that in the future it is possible that natural gas could have long-term correlation results that indicate prices of natural gas more closely track the movements of equities or bonds. In addition, USCF believes that, when measured over time periods shorter than ten years, there will always be some periods where the correlation of natural gas to equities and bonds will be either more strongly positively correlated or more strongly negatively correlated than the long term historical results suggest.

The correlations between natural gas, crude oil, diesel-heating oil and gasoline are relevant because USCF endeavors to invest UNG's assets in Natural Gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments so that daily changes in percentage terms in UNG's per share NAV correlate as closely as possible with daily changes in percentage terms in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract. If certain other fuel-based commodity futures contracts do not closely correlate with the Natural Gas Futures Contract, then their use could lead to greater tracking error. As noted above, USCF also believes that the changes in percentage terms in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract will closely correlate with changes in percentage terms in the spot price of natural gas.

### **Critical Accounting Policies**

Preparation of the condensed financial statements and related disclosures in compliance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the application of appropriate accounting rules and guidance, as well as the use of estimates. UNG's application of these policies involves judgments and actual results may differ from the estimates used.

USCF has evaluated the nature and types of estimates that it makes in preparing UNG's condensed financial statements and related disclosures and has determined that the valuation of its investments, which are not traded on a United States or internationally recognized futures exchange (such as forward contracts and OTC swaps) involves a critical accounting policy. The values which are used by UNG for its Natural Gas Futures Contracts are provided by its commodity broker who uses market prices when available, while OTC swaps are valued based on the present value of estimated future cash flows that would be received from or paid to a third party in settlement of these derivative contracts prior to their delivery date and valued on a daily basis. In addition, UNG estimates interest and dividend income on a daily basis using prevailing rates earned on its cash and cash equivalents. These estimates are adjusted to the actual amount received on a monthly basis and the difference, if any, is not considered material.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

UNG has not made, and does not anticipate making, use of borrowings or other lines of credit to meet its obligations. UNG has met, and it is anticipated that UNG will continue to meet, its liquidity needs in the normal course of business from the proceeds of the sale of its investments, or from the investments in Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents that it intends to hold at all times. UNG's liquidity needs include: redeeming shares, providing margin deposits for its existing Natural Gas Futures Contracts or the purchase of additional Natural Gas Futures Contracts and to the extent it invests in OTC swaps, if applicable, posting collateral for its OTC swaps and payment of its expenses, summarized below under "*Contractual Obligations*."

UNG currently generates cash primarily from: (i) the sale of baskets consisting of 100,000 shares ("Creation Baskets") and (ii) income earned on investments in Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents. UNG has allocated substantially all of its net assets to trading in Natural Gas Interests. UNG invests in Natural Gas Interests to the fullest extent possible without being leveraged or unable to satisfy its current or potential margin or collateral obligations with respect to its investments in Natural Gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. A significant portion of UNG's NAV is held in cash and cash equivalents that are used as margin and as collateral for its trading in Natural Gas Interests. The balance of the assets is held in UNG's account at its custodian bank and in investments in Treasuries at the FCM. Income received from UNG's investments in money market funds and Treasuries is paid to UNG. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, UNG's expenses exceeded the income UNG earned and the cash earned from the sale of Creation Baskets and the redemption of Redemption Baskets. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, UNG used other assets to pay expenses, which could cause a decrease in UNG's NAV over time. To the extent expenses exceed income, UNG's NAV will be negatively impacted.

UNG's investments in Natural Gas Interests may be subject to periods of illiquidity because of market conditions, regulatory considerations and other reasons. For example, most commodity exchanges limit the fluctuations in futures contracts prices during a single day by regulations referred to as "daily limits." During a single day, no trades may be executed at prices beyond the daily limit. Once the price of a futures contract has increased or decreased by an amount equal to the daily limit, positions in the contracts can neither be taken nor liquidated unless the traders are willing to effect trades at or within the specified daily limit. In addition, when UNG is invested in OTC swaps, those OTC swaps have very limited liquidity since they are negotiated agreements that are not transferable by UNG except with the consent of its counterparty, and even if consent were granted, there may not be an available transferee. If UNG invests in OTC swaps in the future, such market conditions or contractual limits could prevent UNG from promptly liquidating its positions in Natural Gas Interests. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, UNG did not own any OTC swaps. In addition, during the six months ended September 30, 2017, UNG did not purchase or liquidate any of its positions in futures contracts while daily limits were in effect; however, UNG cannot predict whether it may have to purchase or liquidate positions in the future.



Since the initial offering of shares, UNG has been responsible for expenses relating to: (i) management fees, (ii) brokerage fees and commissions and fees associated with its OTC swaps (iii) licensing fees for the use of intellectual property, (iv) ongoing registration expenses in connection with offers and sales of its shares subsequent to the initial offering, (v) other expenses, including tax reporting costs, (vi) fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF and (vii) other extraordinary expenses not in the ordinary course of business, while USCF has been responsible for expenses relating to the fees of UNG's Marketing Agent, Administrator and Custodian and registration expenses relating to the initial offering of shares. If USCF and UNG are unsuccessful in raising sufficient funds to cover these respective expenses or in locating any other source of funding, UNG will terminate and investors may lose all or part of their investment.

### **Market Risk**

Trading in Natural Gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, such as forwards, involves UNG entering into contractual commitments to purchase or sell natural gas at a specified date in the future. The aggregate market value of the contracts will significantly exceed UNG's future cash requirements since UNG intends to close out its open positions prior to settlement. As a result, UNG is generally only subject to the risk of loss arising from the change in value of the contracts. UNG considers the "fair value" of its derivative instruments to be the unrealized gain or loss on the contracts. The market risk associated with UNG's commitments to purchase natural gas is limited to the aggregate market value of the contracts held. However, should UNG enter into a contractual commitment to sell natural gas, it would be required to make delivery of the natural gas at the contract price, repurchase the contract at prevailing prices or settle in cash. Since there are no limits on the future price of natural gas, the market risk to UNG could be unlimited.

UNG's exposure to market risk depends on a number of factors, including the markets for natural gas, the volatility of interest rates and foreign exchange rates, the liquidity of the Natural Gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments markets and the relationships among the contracts held by UNG. Drastic market occurrences could ultimately lead to the loss of all or substantially all of an investor's capital.

### **Credit Risk**

When UNG enters into Natural Gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, it is exposed to the credit risk that the counterparty will not be able to meet its obligations. The counterparty for the Natural Gas Futures Contracts traded on the NYMEX and on most other futures exchanges is the clearinghouse associated with the particular exchange. In general, in addition to margin required to be posted by the clearinghouse in connection with cleared trades, clearinghouses are backed by their members who may be required to share in the financial burden resulting from the nonperformance of one of their members and, therefore, this additional member support should significantly reduce credit risk. UNG is not currently a member of any clearinghouse. Some foreign exchanges are not

backed by their clearinghouse members but may be backed by a consortium of banks or other financial institutions. There can be no assurance that any counterparty, clearinghouse, or their members or their financial backers will satisfy their obligations to UNG in such circumstances.

In the future, UNG may purchase OTC swaps, see “*Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk*” in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q for a discussion of OTC swaps.

USCF attempts to manage the credit risk of UNG by following various trading limitations and policies. In particular, UNG generally posts margin and/or holds liquid assets that are approximately equal to the market value of its obligations to counterparties under the Natural Gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments it holds. USCF has implemented procedures that include, but are not limited to, executing and clearing trades only with creditworthy parties and/or requiring the posting of collateral or margin by such parties for the benefit of UNG to limit its credit exposure. An FCM, when acting on behalf of UNG in accepting orders to purchase or sell Natural Gas Futures Contracts on United States exchanges, is required by CFTC regulations to separately account for and segregate as belonging to UNG, all assets of UNG relating to domestic Natural Gas Futures Contracts trading. These FCMs are not allowed to commingle UNG’s assets with their other assets. In addition, the CFTC requires commodity brokers to hold in a secure account UNG’s assets related to foreign Natural Gas Futures Contracts trading and, in some cases, to cleared swaps executed through the FCM. Similarly, under its current OTC agreements, UNG requires that collateral it posts or receives be posted with its custodian and, under agreements among the custodian, UNG and its counterparties, such collateral is segregated.

As of September 30, 2017, UNG held cash deposits and investments in Treasuries and money market funds in the amount of \$530,609,558 with the custodian and FCM. Some or all of these amounts held by a custodian or an FCM, as applicable, may be subject to loss should UNG’s custodian or FCM, as applicable, cease operations.

### **Off Balance Sheet Financing**

As of September 30, 2017, UNG had no loan guarantee, credit support or other off-balance sheet arrangements of any kind other than agreements entered into in the normal course of business, which may include indemnification provisions relating to certain risks that service providers undertake in performing services which are in the best interests of UNG. While UNG's exposure under these indemnification provisions cannot be estimated, they are not expected to have a material impact on UNG's financial position.

### **European Sovereign Debt**

UNG had no direct exposure to European sovereign debt as of September 30, 2017 and has no direct exposure to European sovereign debt as of the filing of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

### **Redemption Basket Obligation**

In order to meet its investment objective and pay its contractual obligations described below, UNG requires liquidity to redeem shares, which redemptions must be in blocks of 100,000 shares called "Redemption Baskets." UNG has to date satisfied this obligation by paying from the cash or cash equivalents it holds or through the sale of its Treasuries in an amount proportionate to the number of shares being redeemed.

### **Contractual Obligations**

UNG's primary contractual obligations are with USCF. In return for its services, USCF is entitled to a management fee calculated daily and paid monthly as a fixed percentage of UNG's NAV, currently 0.60% for a NAV of \$1 billion or less, and thereafter 0.50% for a NAV above \$1 billion.

USCF agreed to pay the start-up costs associated with the formation of UNG, primarily its legal, accounting and other costs in connection with USCF's registration with the CFTC as a CPO and the registration and listing of UNG and its shares with the SEC, FINRA and NYSE Arca (formerly, AMEX), respectively. However, since UNG's initial offering of shares, offering costs incurred in connection with registering and listing additional shares of UNG have been directly borne on an ongoing basis by UNG, and not by USCF.

USCF pays the fees of the Marketing Agent and the fees of BBH&Co., as well as BBH&Co.'s fees for performing administrative services, including those in connection with the preparation of UNG's condensed financial statements and its SEC, NFA and CFTC reports. USCF and UNG have also entered into a licensing agreement with the NYMEX pursuant to which UNG and the Related Public Funds, other than BNO, USCI, CPER and USAG, pay a licensing fee to the NYMEX. UNG also pays the fees and expenses associated with its tax accounting and reporting requirements.

In addition to USCF's management fee, UNG pays its brokerage fees (including fees to an FCM), OTC dealer spreads and up-front fees if it holds OTC swaps, any licensing fees for the use of intellectual property, and, subsequent to the initial offering, registration and other fees paid to the SEC, FINRA, or other regulatory agencies in connection with the offer and sale of shares, as well as legal, printing, accounting and other expenses associated therewith, and extraordinary expenses. The latter are expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of UNG's business, including expenses relating to the indemnification of any person against liabilities and obligations to the extent permitted by law and under the LP Agreement, the bringing or defending of actions in law or in equity or otherwise conducting litigation and incurring legal expenses and the settlement of claims and litigation. Commission payments to an FCM are on a contract-by-contract, or round turn, basis. UNG also pays a portion of the fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF. See *Note 3* to the *Notes to Condensed Financial Statements (Unaudited)* in *Item 1* of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

The parties cannot anticipate the amount of payments that will be required under these arrangements for future periods, as UNG's per share NAVs and trading levels to meet its investment objective will not be known until a future date. These agreements are effective for a specific term agreed upon by the parties with an option to renew, or, in some cases, are in effect for the duration of UNG's existence. Either party may terminate these agreements earlier for certain reasons described in the agreements.

As of September 30, 2017, UNG's portfolio consisted of 12,423 Natural Gas Futures NG November 2017 Contracts traded on the NYMEX and 20,000 Natural Gas Futures LD1 H November 2017 Contracts traded on the ICE Futures. For a list of UNG's current holdings, please see UNG's website at [www.uscfinvestments.com](http://www.uscfinvestments.com).

### **Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.**

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

UNG is exposed to commodity price risk. In particular, UNG is exposed to natural gas price risk through its holdings of Natural Gas Futures Contracts together with any other derivatives in which it may invest, which are discussed below. As a result, fluctuations in the value of the Natural Gas Futures Contracts that UNG holds in its portfolio, as described in “*Contractual Obligations*” under “*Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*”, are expected to directly affect the value of UNG’s shares.

#### ***OTC Contract Risk***

***Currently, OTC transactions are subject to changing regulation.***

UNG may purchase OTC contracts such as forward contracts or swap or spot contracts. Unlike most exchange-traded futures contracts, cleared swaps or exchange-traded options on such futures, each party to an OTC swap bears the credit risk that the other party may not be able to perform its obligations under its contract.

UNG may enter into certain transactions where an OTC component is exchanged for a corresponding futures contract (“Exchange for Related Position” or “EFRP” transactions). In the most common type of EFRP transaction entered into by UNG, the OTC component is the purchase or sale of one or more baskets of UNG shares. These EFRP transactions may expose UNG to counterparty risk during the interim period between the execution of the OTC component and the exchange for a corresponding futures contract. Generally, the counterparty risk from the EFRP transaction will exist only on the day of execution.

Swap transactions, like other financial transactions, involve a variety of significant risks. The specific risks presented by a particular swap transaction necessarily depend upon the terms and circumstances of the transaction. In general, however, all swap transactions involve some combination of market risk, credit risk, counterparty credit risk, funding risk, liquidity risk and operational risk.

Highly customized swap transactions in particular may increase liquidity risk, which may result in a suspension of redemptions. Highly leveraged transactions may experience substantial gains or losses in value as a result of relatively

small changes in the value or level of an underlying or related market factor.

In evaluating the risks and contractual obligations associated with a particular swap transaction, it is important to consider that a swap transaction may be modified or terminated only by mutual consent of the original parties and subject to agreement on individually negotiated terms. Therefore, it may not be possible for USCF to modify, terminate or offset UNG's obligations or its exposure to the risks associated with a transaction prior to its scheduled termination date.

To reduce the credit risk that arises in connection with such contracts, UNG will generally enter into an agreement with each counterparty based on the Master Agreement published by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association that provides for the netting of its overall exposure to its counterparty, if the counterparty is unable to meet its obligations to UNG due to the occurrence of a specified event, such as the insolvency of the counterparty.

USCF assesses or reviews, as appropriate, the creditworthiness of each potential or existing counterparty to an OTC swap pursuant to guidelines approved by USCF's board of directors (the "Board"). Furthermore, USCF on behalf of UNG only enters into OTC swaps with counterparties who are, or are affiliates of, (a) banks regulated by a United States federal bank regulator, (b) broker-dealers regulated by the SEC, (c) insurance companies domiciled in the United States, or (d) producers, users or traders of energy, whether or not regulated by the CFTC. Any entity acting as a counterparty shall be regulated in either the United States or the United Kingdom unless otherwise approved by the Board after consultation with its legal counsel. Existing counterparties are also reviewed periodically by USCF. UNG will also require that the counterparty be highly rated and/or provide collateral or other credit support. Even if collateral is used to reduce counterparty credit risk, sudden changes in the value of OTC transactions may leave a party open to financial risk due to a counterparty default since the collateral held may not cover a party's exposure on the transaction in such situations.

In general, valuing OTC derivatives is less certain than valuing actively traded financial instruments such as exchange-traded futures contracts and securities or cleared swaps because the price and terms on which such OTC derivatives are entered into or can be terminated are individually negotiated, and those prices and terms may not reflect the best price or terms available from other sources. In addition, while market makers and dealers generally quote indicative prices or terms for entering into or terminating OTC swaps, they typically are not contractually obligated to do so, particularly if they are not a party to the transaction. As a result, it may be difficult to obtain an independent value for an outstanding OTC derivatives transaction.

During the nine months reporting period ended September 30, 2017, UNG limited its OTC activities to EFRP transactions.

UNG maintains, in conjunction with its counterparties, collateral in the form of both cash and investments in Treasuries, depending on the specific arrangements with each counterparty. UNG is required to post an independent amount based on a percentage of the initial notional amount of each position at the inception of each OTC contract. In addition, between reset periods, UNG posts collateral for the benefit of its counterparties that approximately corresponds to any unrealized loss that would be realized by UNG if the OTC contract were closed on any given valuation date. Likewise, UNG's counterparties post collateral for UNG's benefit that approximately corresponds to any unrealized gain that would be realized by UNG if the OTC contract were to be closed on any given valuation date. At each reset date, UNG will make or receive settlement payments to or from its counterparties, and collateral posted by or for UNG will be returned to the appropriate party to offset the settlement payment made. Collateral is held by an independent third party and governed by tri-party agreements between UNG, its custodian, BBH&Co, and each counterparty.

UNG anticipates that the use of Other Natural Gas-Related Investments together with its investments in Natural Gas Futures Contracts will produce price and total return results that closely track the investment goals of UNG. However, there can be no assurance of this. OTC swaps may result in higher transaction-related expenses than the brokerage commissions paid in connection with the purchase of Natural Gas Futures Contracts, which may impact UNG's ability to successfully track the Benchmark Futures Contract.

#### **Item 4. Controls and Procedures.**

##### **Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

UNG maintains disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in UNG's periodic reports filed or submitted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time period specified in the SEC's rules and forms.

The duly appointed officers of USCF, including its chief executive officer and chief financial officer, who perform functions equivalent to those of a principal executive officer and principal financial officer of UNG if UNG had any officers, have evaluated the effectiveness of UNG's disclosure controls and procedures and have concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures of UNG have been effective as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

##### **Change in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in UNG's internal control over financial reporting during UNG's last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, UNG's internal control over financial reporting.

## **Part II. OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Item 1. Legal Proceedings.**

Not applicable.

### **Item 1A. Risk Factors.**

There have been no material changes to the risk factors previously disclosed in UNG's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, filed on February 24, 2017.

### **Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.**

(a) None.

(b) Not applicable.

UNG does not purchase shares directly from its shareholders. In connection with its redemption of baskets held by Authorized Participants, UNG redeemed 318 baskets (comprising 31,800,000 shares) during the third quarter of the year ended December 31, 2017. The following table summarizes the redemptions by Authorized Participants during the three months ended September 30, 2017:



**Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

Period	Total Number of Shares Redeemed	Average Price Per Share
7/1/17 to 7/31/17	5,100,000	\$ 6.76
8/1/17 to 8/31/17	18,200,000	\$ 6.43
9/1/17 to 9/30/17	8,500,000	\$ 6.71
Total	31,800,000	

**Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.**

Not applicable.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.**

Not applicable.

**Item 5. Other Information.**

Not applicable.

**Item 6. Exhibits.**

Listed below are the exhibits, which are filed as part of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q (according to the number assigned to them in Item 601 of Regulation S-K):

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
<b><u>31.1(1)</u></b>	<u>Certification by Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
<b><u>31.2(1)</u></b>	

Certification by Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

**32.1(1)**

Certification by Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

**32.2(1)**

Certification by Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

**101.INS**

XBRL Instance Document.

**101.SCH**

XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema.

**101.CAL**

XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase.

**101.DEF**

XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase.

**101.LAB**

XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase.

**101.PRE**

XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase.

(1) Filed herewith.

**SIGNATURES**

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

**United States Natural Gas Fund, LP (Registrant)**

By: United States Commodity Funds LLC, its general partner

By: /s/ John P. Love  
John P. Love  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal executive officer)

Date: November 6, 2017

By: /s/ Stuart P. Crumbaugh  
Stuart P. Crumbaugh  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal financial and accounting officer)

Date: November 6, 2017