

PDC ENERGY, INC.  
Form S-3ASR  
March 18, 2015  
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 18, 2015

Registration No. 333-

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

**Form S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
***UNDER***  
***THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933***

**PDC ENERGY, INC.**  
**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

Nevada

95-2636730

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)  
1775 Sherman Street, Suite 3000

Denver, Colorado 80203

(303) 860-5800

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Daniel W. Amidon, Esq.

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

PDC Energy, Inc.

1775 Sherman Street, Suite 3000

Denver, Colorado 80203

(303) 860-5800

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

*Copies to:*

John A. Elofson, Esq.

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

1550 Seventeenth Street, Suite 500

Denver, Colorado 80202

(303) 892-9400

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement as determined by the registrant.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

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

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

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Table of Contents**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

| Title of Each Class of<br>Securities to be Registered | Amount<br>to be<br>Registered (1) | Proposed<br>Maximum<br>Offering Price<br>Per Unit (1) | Proposed<br>Maximum<br>Aggregate<br>Offering Price (1) | Amount of<br>Registration Fee |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share<br>(2)       | (3)                               | (3)   | (3)  | (3)                           |
| Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share           | (3)                               | (3)   | (3)  | (3)                           |
| Depository Shares (4)                                 | (3)                               | (3)   | (3)  | (3)                           |
| Warrants  | (3)                               | (3)   | (3)  | (3)                           |
| Debt Securities (5)                                   | (3)                               | (3)   | (3)  | (3)                           |
| Purchase Contracts                                    | (3)                               | (3)   | (3)  | (3)                           |
| Units (6)   | (3)                               | (3)   | (3)  | (3)                           |

- (1) Securities registered by this registration statement may be sold separately, together or as units with other securities registered hereunder. This registration statement also registers an indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, or of depository shares, warrants, debt securities, purchase contracts and units of the registrant as may from time to time be issued at currently indeterminable prices and as may be issuable upon conversion, redemption, repurchase, exchange or exercise of any securities registered hereunder, including under any applicable anti-dilution provisions. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable on exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities.
- (2) Each share of common stock registered by this registration statement includes one associated right to purchase shares of common stock (collectively, the Rights ) described under Description of Capital Stock Stockholder Rights Agreement in the prospectus forming a part of this registration statement. Until the occurrence of certain prescribed events, the Rights are not exercisable, will be evidenced by the certificates for the common stock and will be transferred along with and only with the common stock. Upon the occurrence of such events, the Rights will separate from the common stock and separate certificates representing the Rights will be distributed to the holders of the common stock.
- (3) Omitted pursuant to General Instruction II.E. of Form S-3. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.
- (4) Each depository share will be issued under a deposit agreement, will represent an interest in a fractional share or multiple shares of preferred stock and will be evidenced by a depository receipt.
- (5) The debt securities may be senior, senior subordinated or subordinated and may be secured or unsecured. After the date of this registration statement, direct and indirect domestic subsidiaries of the registrant may become guarantors of some or all of the debt securities registered hereunder.
- (6) Each unit will be issued under a unit agreement or indenture and will represent an interest in a combination of any two or more of the securities being registered by this registration statement or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities.



**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS**

**PDC Energy, Inc.**

**Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Depository Shares**

**Warrants**

**Debt Securities**

**Purchase Contracts**

**Units**

We may offer from time to time to sell common stock, preferred stock, either separately or represented by depository shares, warrants, debt securities, and purchase contracts, as well as units that include any of these securities or securities of other entities. The debt securities may be senior, senior subordinated or subordinated and may be secured or unsecured. The debt securities, preferred stock, warrants and purchase contracts may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock or preferred stock or other of our securities or securities of one or more other entities. The securities covered by this prospectus may be offered and sold by us in one or more offerings.

We may offer these securities from time to time, in amounts, on terms and at prices that will be determined at the time of offering. We will provide specific terms of these securities, including their offering prices, in prospectus supplements to this prospectus. The prospectus supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, or through a combination of these methods, on a continuous or delayed basis. The applicable prospectus supplement will provide the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents, the specific terms of the plan of distribution, any over-allotment option and any applicable underwriting discounts and commissions.

Our common stock is listed for trading on The NASDAQ Global Select Market<sup>®</sup> under the symbol PDCE. We have not yet determined whether any of the other securities that may be offered by this prospectus will be listed on any exchange, inter-dealer quotation system or over-the-counter market. If we decide to seek the listing of any such securities upon issuance, the prospectus supplement relating to those securities will disclose the exchange, quotation system or market on which the securities will be listed.

**Investing in these securities involves risks. See Special Note on Forward-Looking Statements beginning on page 2 of this prospectus and Risk Factors beginning on page 18 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and Risk Factors in any prospectus supplement.**

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

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information other than that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus prepared by us or on our behalf or to which we have referred you. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you.

We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus. The terms PDC, the Company, we, us, and our refer to PDC Energy, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries. Unless the context otherwise requires, including means including without limitation.

**The date of this prospectus is March 18, 2015.**

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u>                      | 1  |
| <u>Our Company</u>                                | 1  |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>        | 1  |
| <u>Incorporation By Reference</u>                 | 1  |
| <u>Special Note on Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 2  |
| <u>Description of Debt Securities</u>             | 4  |
| <u>Description of Capital Stock</u>               | 12 |
| <u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>           | 16 |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u>                    | 16 |
| <u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>          | 17 |
| <u>Description of Units</u>                       | 17 |
| <u>Selected Financial Data</u>                    | 18 |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>         | 19 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u>                            | 19 |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u>                       | 19 |
| <u>Certain Legal Matters</u>                      | 23 |
| <u>Experts</u>                                    | 23 |
| <u>Independent Petroleum Consultants</u>          | 23 |

The registration statement containing this prospectus, including the exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement, including the exhibits and the documents incorporated herein by reference, can be read on the website or at the offices of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) mentioned under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.



**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update, or change information contained in this prospectus. To the extent that information in any prospectus supplement or the information incorporated by reference in any prospectus supplement is inconsistent with information contained in this prospectus, the information in such prospectus supplement or the information incorporated by reference into such prospectus supplement shall govern. We urge you to read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 1.

We are responsible only for the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement or included elsewhere in the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer to sell or soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction in which the offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making the offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make the offer or solicitation. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front page of the document.

**OUR COMPANY**

PDC Energy, Inc. is a domestic independent exploration and production company that produces, develops, acquires and explores for crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids with primary operations in the Wattenberg Field in Colorado and the Utica Shale in southeastern Ohio. As of December 31, 2014, we owned an interest in approximately 2,900 gross producing wells, of which approximately 350 are horizontal.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public from the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) or from our website at [www.pdce.com](http://www.pdce.com). You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C., located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Information about us is also available at our website at [www.pdce.com](http://www.pdce.com). However, the information on our website is not part of this prospectus.

**INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference in this prospectus the information in the documents that we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus. We expect to file additional documents with the SEC in the future that will, when filed, update the current information included in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Any information that is part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement that speaks as of a later date than any other information that is part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement updates or supersedes such other information. You should consider any statement which is so modified or superseded to be a part of this prospectus only as so modified or superseded.



**Table of Contents**

We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the documents listed below and any documents or portions thereof that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ( Exchange Act ) (excluding, in each case, any portion of such document that may have been furnished but not filed for purposes of the Exchange Act) until we sell, or otherwise terminate the offering of, all of the securities that may be offered by this prospectus. We do not, however, incorporate by reference in this prospectus any documents or portions thereof, or any other information, that we furnish or are deemed to furnish, and not file, with the SEC in accordance with the SEC rules. The following documents have been filed by us with the SEC (File No. 000-07246) and are incorporated by reference into this prospectus:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014;

The description of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, as set forth under the caption Description of Capital Stock presented on pages 43-44 in the prospectus portion of our Registration Statement on Form S-2 (SEC File No. 333-36369), filed with the SEC on October 31, 1997 as amended and superseded by the disclosure set forth in Description of Capital Stock in our Prospectus filed under Rule 424(b) on August 5, 2013; and

The description of our rights to purchase shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on September 14, 2007, including any amendments thereto. You may obtain, free of charge, a copy of any of these documents (other than exhibits to these documents unless the exhibits specifically are incorporated by reference into these documents or referred to in this prospectus) by writing or calling us at the following address and telephone number:

Investor Relations Department

PDC Energy, Inc.

1775 Sherman Street, Suite 3000

Denver, Colorado 80203

(303) 860-5800

**SPECIAL NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 ( Securities Act ) and Section 21E of the Exchange Act regarding our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects. All statements other than statements of historical facts included in and incorporated by reference into this report are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Words such as expects, anticipates, intends, plans, believes, seeks, estimates and similar expressions or variations of such words are intended to identify forward-looking statements herein. These statements relate to, among other things: estimated future production (including the components of such production), sales, expenses, cash flows and liquidity; estimated crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids ( NGLs ) reserves; the impact of prolonged depressed commodity prices; anticipated 2015 capital projects, expenditures and

opportunities; expected timing of additional drilling rigs; availability of sufficient funding for our 2015 capital program and sources of that funding; expected 2015 capital budget allocations; future exploration, drilling and development activities, including the number of drilling rigs we expect to run during 2015 and number of locations; capital efficiencies and per well reserves expected to be realized through drilling of extended length laterals, tighter frac spacing and cost reductions; our evaluation method of our customers and derivative counterparties credit risk; effectiveness of our derivative program in providing a degree of price stability; future horizontal drilling projects that are economically producible at certain commodity prices and costs; anticipated reductions in our 2015 cost structure; potential for future impairments; potential acquisitions of additional acreage and other future transactions; electronic, cyber or physical security breaches; the impact of high line pressures and the timing, availability, cost

**Table of Contents**

and effect of additional midstream facilities and services going forward; the expected NYMEX differential at our two primary sales hubs; compliance with debt covenants; expected funding sources for conversion of our 3.25% convertible senior notes due 2016; compliance with government regulations; impact of the Colorado task force on oil and gas regulation and potential future ballot initiatives and legislation; the borrowing base under our credit facility; impact of litigation on our results of operations and financial position; the adequacy of existing insurance to cover operating hazards and the availability of such insurance on a cost effective basis in the future; that we hold good and defensible title to our leasehold; that we do not expect to pay dividends in the foreseeable future; and our future strategies, plans and objectives.

The above statements are not the exclusive means of identifying forward-looking statements herein. Although forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus reflect our good faith judgment, such statements can only be based on facts and factors currently known to us. Consequently, forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, including known and unknown risks and uncertainties incidental to the exploration for, and the acquisition, development, production and marketing of, crude oil, natural gas and NGLs, and actual outcomes may differ materially from the results and outcomes discussed in the forward-looking statements.

Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

changes in worldwide production volumes and demand, including economic conditions that might impact demand;

volatility of commodity prices for crude oil, natural gas and NGLs and the risk of an extended period of depressed prices;

impact of governmental policies and/or regulations, including changes in environmental and other laws, the interpretation and enforcement related to those laws and regulations, liabilities arising thereunder and the costs to comply with those laws and regulations;

potential declines in the value of our crude oil, natural gas and NGLs properties resulting in impairments;

changes in estimates of proved reserves;

inaccuracy of reserve estimates and expected production rates;

potential for production decline rates from our wells being greater than expected;

timing and extent of our success in discovering, acquiring, developing and producing reserves;

our ability to secure leases, drilling rigs, supplies and services at reasonable prices;

availability of sufficient pipeline, gathering and other transportation facilities and related infrastructure to process and transport our production and the impact of these facilities and regional capacity on the prices we receive for our production;

timing and receipt of necessary regulatory permits;

risks incidental to the drilling and operation of crude oil and natural gas wells;

our future cash flows, liquidity and financial condition;

competition within the oil and gas industry;

availability and cost of capital;

reductions in the borrowing base under our revolving credit facility;

our success in marketing crude oil, natural gas and NGLs;

**Table of Contents**

effect of crude oil and natural gas derivatives activities;

impact of environmental events, governmental and other third-party responses to such events, and our ability to insure adequately against such events;

cost of pending or future litigation;

effect that acquisitions we may pursue have on our capital expenditures;

our ability to retain or attract senior management and key technical employees; and

success of strategic plans, expectations and objectives for our future operations.

Further, we urge you to carefully review and consider the cautionary statements and disclosures, specifically those under the heading Risk Factors, made in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the SEC on February 19, 2015, and our other filings with the SEC for further information on risks and uncertainties that could affect the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein. We caution you not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus. **We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements in order to reflect any event or circumstance occurring after the date hereof or currently unknown facts or conditions or the occurrence of unanticipated events.** All forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement.

This list of factors is not exhaustive, and new factors may emerge or changes to these factors, which would have an impact on our business, may occur. Additional information regarding these and other factors may be contained in our filings with the SEC, especially on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K. All such factors are difficult to predict and may be beyond our control.

**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

**General**

The debt securities that we may offer by this prospectus consist of notes, debentures, or other evidences of our indebtedness, which we refer to collectively as debt securities. This prospectus describes certain general terms and provisions of the debt securities. When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms for the debt securities in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will also indicate whether the general terms and provisions described in this prospectus apply to a particular series of debt securities. The debt securities will be issued under an indenture between us and a trustee named in the prospectus supplement. We have summarized select portions of the form of the indenture below. The summary is not complete. The form of the indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, and you should read the indenture for provisions that may be important to you.

In this description, the words PDC, we, us, and our refer only to PDC Energy, Inc., and not to any of our subsidiaries or affiliates. Additional or different provisions that are applicable to a particular series of debt securities will, if

material, be described in a prospectus supplement relating to the offering of debt securities of that series. These provisions may include, among other things and to the extent applicable, the following:

the title of the debt securities;

the extent, if any, to which the debt securities are subordinated in right of payment to our other indebtedness;

any provisions relating to any security provided for the debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;



**Table of Contents**

any guarantees applicable to the debt securities, and any subordination provisions or other limitations applicable to any such guarantees;

the persons to whom any interest on the debt securities will be payable, if other than the registered holders thereof on the regular record date therefor;

the date or dates on which the principal of the debt securities will be payable;

the rate or rates at which the debt securities will bear interest, if any, and the date or dates from which interest will accrue;

the dates on which interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates;

the place or places where the principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities will be payable;

the period or periods, if any, within which, and the price or prices at which, the debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;

our obligation, if any, to redeem or purchase the debt securities pursuant to sinking fund or similar provisions and the terms and conditions of any such redemption or purchase;

the denominations in which the debt securities will be issuable, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

the currency, currencies or currency units, if other than currency of the United States of America, in which payment of the principal of and any premium or interest on the debt securities will be payable, and the terms and conditions of any elections that may be made available with respect thereto;

any index or formula used to determine the amount of payments of principal of and any premium or interest on the debt securities;

whether the debt securities are to be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities and, if so, the identity of the depositary, if any, for the global securities;

the terms and conditions, if any, pursuant to which the debt securities are convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or other securities of us or any other person;

the principal amount (or any portion of the principal amount) of the debt securities which will be payable upon any declaration of acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities pursuant to an event of default; and

the applicability to the debt securities of the provisions described in -Defeasance below.

We may issue debt securities at a discount from their stated principal amount. Federal income tax considerations and other special considerations applicable to any debt security issued with original issue discount (an original issue discount security ) may be described in an applicable prospectus supplement.

If the purchase price of any series of the debt securities is payable in a foreign currency or currency unit or if the principal of or any premium or interest on any series of the debt securities is payable in a foreign currency or currency unit, the restrictions, elections, general tax considerations, specific terms, and other information with respect to the debt securities and the applicable foreign currency or currency unit will be set forth in an applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise indicated in an applicable prospectus supplement:

the debt securities will be issued only in fully registered form (without coupons) in denominations of \$1,000 or integral multiples thereof; and

**Table of Contents**

payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities will be payable, and the exchange, conversion, and transfer of debt securities will be registrable, at our office or agency maintained for those purposes and at any other office or agency maintained for those purposes. No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of the debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge imposed in connection therewith.

**Global Securities**

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository or its nominee identified in an applicable prospectus supplement. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities in registered form, a global security may not be registered for transfer or exchange except:

by the depository to a nominee of the depository;

by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee of the depository;

by the depository or any nominee of the depository to a successor depository or a nominee of the successor depository; or

in any other circumstances described in an applicable prospectus supplement.

The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any debt securities to be represented by a global security will be described in an applicable prospectus supplement. We expect that the following provisions will apply to depository arrangements.

Unless otherwise specified in an applicable prospectus supplement, any global security that represents debt securities will be registered in the name of the depository or its nominee. Upon the deposit of a global security with or on behalf of the depository for the global security, the depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of the debt securities represented by the global security to the accounts of institutions that are participants in such system. The accounts to be credited will be designated by the underwriters or agents of the debt securities or by us, if the debt securities are offered and sold directly by us.

Ownership of beneficial interests in debt securities represented by a global security will be limited to participants in the book-entry registration and transfer system of the applicable depository or persons that may hold interests through those participants. Ownership of those beneficial interests by participants will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository or its nominee for such global security. Ownership of such beneficial interests by persons that hold through such participants will be shown on, and the transfer of such ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by the participants. The laws of some jurisdictions require that specified purchasers of securities take physical delivery of their securities in definitive form. These laws may impair your ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

So long as the depository for a global security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of the global security, the depository or the nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture. Unless otherwise specified in an

applicable prospectus supplement, owners of beneficial interests in the global security will not be entitled to have any of the debt securities represented by the global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any such debt securities in certificated form, and will not be considered the owners or holders of the debt securities for any purpose under the applicable indenture. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in debt securities represented by a global security must rely on the procedures of the applicable depository and, if the person is not a participant in the book-entry registration and transfer system of the applicable depository, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of an owner or holder of debt securities under the applicable indenture.

## **Table of Contents**

We understand that, under existing industry practices, if an owner of a beneficial interest in debt securities represented by a global security desires to give any notice or take any action that an owner or holder of debt securities is entitled to give or take under the applicable indenture:

the applicable depository would authorize its participants to give the notice or take the action; and

the participants would authorize persons owning the beneficial interests through the participants to give the notice or take the action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of the persons owning the beneficial interests.

Principal of and any premium and interest on debt securities represented by a global security will be payable in the manner described in an applicable prospectus supplement. Payment of principal of, and any premium or interest on, debt securities represented by a global security will be made to the applicable depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner or the holder of the global security. None of us, the trustee, any paying agent, or the registrar for debt securities represented by a global security will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in those debt securities or for maintaining, supervising, or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

## **Certain Covenants**

*Maintenance of Office or Agency.* We will be required to maintain an office or agency in each place of payment for each series of debt securities for notice and demand purposes and for the purposes of presenting or surrendering debt securities for payment, registration of transfer, or exchange.

*Paying Agents, Etc.* If we act as our own paying agent with respect to any series of debt securities, on or before each due date of the principal of or interest on any of the debt securities of that series, we will be required to segregate and hold in trust for the benefit of the persons entitled to payment a sum sufficient to pay the amount due and to notify the trustee promptly of our action or failure to act. If we have one or more paying agents for any series of debt securities, prior to each due date of the principal of or interest on any debt securities of that series, we will be required to deposit with a paying agent a sum sufficient to pay the amount due and, unless the paying agent is the trustee, to promptly notify the trustee of our action or failure to act. All moneys paid by us to a paying agent for the payment of principal of or interest on any debt securities that remain unclaimed for two years after the principal or interest has become due and payable may be repaid to us, and thereafter the holder of those debt securities may look only to us for payment thereof.

*Existence.* We will be required to, and will be required to cause our subsidiaries to, preserve and keep in full force and effect our and their existence, charter rights, statutory rights, and franchises, except to the extent that our board of directors determines that the preservation thereof no longer is desirable in the conduct of our business.

*Restrictive Covenants.* Any restrictive covenants applicable to any series of debt securities will be described in an applicable prospectus supplement.

## **Events of Default**

When we use the term *Event of Default* with respect to debt securities of any series, we generally mean:

1. We default in the payment of any interest on any debt security of that series when due, which default continues for 30 days;
2. We default in the payment when due of the principal of or premium, if any, on any debt security of that series when due;
3. We default in the deposit of any sinking fund payment when due, if applicable;

**Table of Contents**

4. We default in the performance, or breach, of certain of our covenants set forth in the applicable indenture, such as covenants relating to:

the requirement that we maintain an office in the United States where debt securities of that series may be presented or surrendered for payment and registration of transfer or exchange and where notices and demands may be served upon us in respect of debt securities of that series and the applicable indenture,

the requirement to hold in trust funds for payments with respect to debt securities of that series if we act as paying agent with respect to debt securities of that series, and

the requirement that PDC and any guarantor deliver to the trustee an officer's certificate relating to compliance with conditions and covenants of the indenture (other than a covenant included in the indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than that series), which default or breach continues for 90 days after written notice thereof has been given to us as provided in the indenture;

5. We default in the performance, or breach, of any other of our covenants in the applicable indenture (other than a covenant included in such indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than that series), which default or breach continues for 180 days after written notice thereof has been given to us as provided in the applicable indenture;
6. Specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization involving us or certain of our subsidiaries; and
7. Any other Event of Default provided with respect to debt securities of that series issued under the applicable indenture.

Pursuant to the Trust Indenture Act, the trustee is required, within 90 calendar days after the occurrence of a default in respect of any series of debt securities, to give to the holders of the debt securities of that series notice of all uncured defaults known to it, except that other than in the case of a default of the character contemplated in clause (1) or (2) above, the trustee may withhold notice if and so long as it in good faith determines that the withholding of notice is in the interests of the holders of the debt securities of that series.

If an Event of Default described in clause (6) above occurs, the principal of, premium, if any, and accrued interest on the debt securities of that series will become immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the trustee or any holder of the debt securities of that series. If any other Event of Default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of that series may declare the principal amount of all debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. However, at any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to debt securities of any series has been made, but before a judgment or decree based on such acceleration has been obtained, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of that series may, under specified circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration. See [-Modification and Waiver](#) below.

Subject to the duty of the trustee to act with the required standard of care during an Event of Default, the trustee will have no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the applicable indenture at the request or direction of

the holders of debt securities, unless holders of debt securities shall have furnished to the trustee reasonable security or indemnity. Subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture, including those requiring security or indemnification of the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method, and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series.

No holder of a debt security of any series will have any right to institute any proceeding with respect to the applicable indenture or for any remedy thereunder unless:

the holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing Event of Default;

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the same series have requested the trustee to institute a proceeding in respect of the Event of Default;



**Table of Contents**

the holder or holders have furnished reasonable indemnity to the trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee;

the trustee has not received from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the same series a direction inconsistent with the request; and

the trustee has failed to institute the proceeding within 60 calendar days.

However, the limitations described above do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of a debt security for enforcement of payment of the principal of and interest on such debt security on or after the applicable due dates for the payment of such principal and interest.

We may be required to furnish to the trustee annually a statement as to our performance of our obligations under the applicable indenture and as to any default in our performance.

Any additional Events of Default with respect to any series of debt securities, and any variations from the foregoing Events of Default applicable to any series of debt securities, will be described in an applicable prospectus supplement.

**Modification and Waiver**

In general, modifications and amendments of an indenture may be made by us and the trustee with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of each series affected thereby. However, no modification or amendment of an indenture may, without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected thereby:

change the stated maturity of, or any installment of principal of, or interest on, any debt security;

reduce the principal amount of, the rate of interest on, or the premium, if any, payable upon the redemption of, any debt security;

reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount security payable upon acceleration of the maturity thereof;

change the place or currency of payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on any debt security;

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to any debt security on or after the stated maturity or prepayment date thereof; or

reduce the percentage in principal amount of debt securities of any series required for modification or amendment of applicable indenture or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the applicable indenture or for waiver of certain defaults.

Edgar Filing: PDC ENERGY, INC. - Form S-3ASR

The holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, waive our compliance with specified covenants of the indenture. The holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, waive any past default under the indenture with respect to that series, except:

a default in the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, any debt security of that series; or

a default of a provision of the indenture that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each debt security of that series.

## Table of Contents

### **Defeasance**

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities and except as described below, upon compliance with the applicable requirements described below, we:

1. will be deemed to have been discharged from our obligations with respect to the debt securities of that series; or
2. will be released from our obligations to comply with certain covenants described under -Certain Covenants above with respect to the debt securities of that series, and the occurrence of an event described in any of clauses (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) under -Events of Default above will no longer be an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of that series except to the limited extent described below.

Following any defeasance described in clause (1) or (2) above, we will continue to have specified obligations under the indentures, including obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the applicable series; replace destroyed, stolen, lost, or mutilated debt securities of the applicable series; maintain an office or agency in respect of the debt securities of the applicable series; and hold funds for payment to holders of debt securities of the applicable series in trust. In the case of any defeasance described in clause (2) above, any failure by us to comply with our continuing obligations may constitute an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of the applicable series as described in clause (5) under -Events of Defaults above.

In order to effect any defeasance described in clause (1) or (2) above, we must irrevocably deposit with the trustee, in trust, money or specified government obligations (or depository receipts therefor) that through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay all of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities of such series on the dates such payments are due in accordance with the terms of such debt securities. In addition:

no Event of Default or event which with the giving of notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an Event of Default under an indenture shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit;

no Event of Default described in clause (7) under -Events of Default above or event that with the giving of notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an Event of Default described in such clause (7) shall have occurred and be continuing at any time on or prior to the 90<sup>th</sup> calendar day following the date of deposit;

in the event of any defeasance described in clause (1) above, we shall have delivered an opinion of counsel, stating that (a) we have received from, or there has been published by, the IRS a ruling or (b) there has been a change in applicable federal law, in either case to the effect that, among other things, the holders of the debt securities of such series will not recognize gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit or defeasance and will be subject to United States federal income tax in the same manner as if such defeasance had not occurred; and

in the event of any defeasance described in clause (2) above, we shall have delivered an opinion of counsel to the effect that, among other things, the holders of the debt securities of such series will not recognize gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit or defeasance and will be subject to United States federal income tax in the same manner as if such defeasance had not occurred.

If we fail to comply with our remaining obligations under an indenture with respect to the debt securities of the applicable series following a defeasance described in clause (2) above and the debt securities of that series are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any undefeased Event of Default, the amount of money and government obligations on deposit with the trustee may be insufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of the acceleration resulting from such Event of Default. However, we will remain liable in respect of such payments.

**Table of Contents**

**Satisfaction and Discharge**

We, at our option, may satisfy and discharge an indenture (except for specified obligations of us and the trustee, including, among others, the obligations to apply money held in trust) when:

either:

1. all of our debt securities previously authenticated and delivered under the applicable indenture (subject to specified exceptions relating to debt securities that have otherwise been satisfied or provided for) have been delivered to the trustee for cancellation; or
2. all of our debt securities not previously delivered to the trustee for cancellation have become due and payable, will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year, or are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the trustee for the giving of notice of redemption by the trustee, and we have deposited or caused to be deposited with the trustee as trust funds for such purpose an amount sufficient to pay and discharge the entire indebtedness on such debt securities, for principal and any premium and interest to the date of such deposit (in the case of debt securities which have become due and payable) or to the stated maturity or redemption date, as the case may be;

we have paid or caused to be paid all other sums payable by us under the applicable indenture; and

we have delivered to the trustee an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel, each to the effect that all conditions precedent relating to the satisfaction and discharge of the applicable indenture have been satisfied.

**Limitations on Merger and Other Transactions**

Prior to the satisfaction and discharge of an indenture, we may not consolidate with or merge with or into any other person, or transfer all or substantially all of our properties and assets to another person unless:

either:

1. we are the continuing or surviving person in the consolidation or merger; or
2. the person (if other than us) formed by the consolidation or into which we are merged or to which all or substantially all of our properties and assets are transferred is a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, business trust, trust or other legal entity organized and validly existing under the laws of the United States, any State thereof, or the District of Columbia, and expressly assumes, by a supplemental indenture, all of our obligations under the debt securities and the applicable indenture;

immediately after the transaction and the incurrence or anticipated incurrence of any indebtedness to be incurred in connection therewith, no Event of Default exists; and

an officer's certificate is delivered to the trustee to the effect that both of the conditions set forth above have been satisfied and an opinion of outside counsel has been delivered to the trustee to the effect that the first condition set forth above has been satisfied.

The continuing, surviving, or successor person will succeed to and be substituted for us with the same effect as if it had been named in the indenture as a party thereto, and thereafter the predecessor person will be relieved of all obligations and covenants under the indenture and the debt securities.

### **Governing Law**

The indenture, and the debt securities issued thereunder will be, governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Regarding the Trustee**

The indenture contains specified limitations on the rights of the trustee, should it become our creditor within three months of, or subsequent to, a default by us to make payment in full of principal of or interest on any series of debt securities issued pursuant to the applicable indenture when and as the same becomes due and payable, to obtain payment of claims, or to realize for its own account on property received in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise, unless and until such default is cured. However, the trustee's rights as our creditor will not be limited if the creditor relationship arises from, among other things:

the ownership or acquisition of securities issued under any indenture or having a maturity of one year or more at the time of acquisition by the trustee;

specified advances authorized by a receivership or bankruptcy court of competent jurisdiction or by the indenture;

disbursements made in the ordinary course of business in its capacity as indenture trustee, transfer agent, registrar, custodian, or paying agent or in any other similar capacity;

indebtedness created as a result of goods or securities sold in a cash transaction or services rendered or premises rented; or

the acquisition, ownership, acceptance, or negotiation of specified drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances, or other obligations.

The indenture does not prohibit the trustee from serving as trustee under any other indenture to which we may be a party from time to time or from engaging in other transactions with us. If the trustee acquires any conflicting interest within the meaning of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 and there is an Event of Default with respect to any series of debt securities, the trustee must eliminate the conflict or resign.

### **DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

Our authorized capital stock consists of 150,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

#### **Common Stock**

Subject to the restrictions described below, the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends from funds legally available when, as and if declared by our board of directors, and are entitled upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up to receive pro rata our net assets after satisfaction in full of the prior rights of our creditors and holders of any preferred stock.

Except as otherwise provided by law and subject to the voting rights of our preferred stock of any series that may be outstanding from time to time, the holders of common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held on all matters

as to which stockholders are entitled to vote. The holders of common stock do not have cumulative voting rights. The holders of common stock do not have any preferential, subscription or preemptive rights to subscribe to or purchase any new or additional issue of shares of any class of stock or of securities convertible into our stock or any conversion rights with respect to any of our securities. Our common stock is not subject to redemption. All of our issued and outstanding common stock is fully paid and non-assessable.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Preferred Stock**

Our articles of incorporation authorize our board of directors to establish one or more series of preferred stock and to determine, with respect to any series of preferred stock, the terms and rights of the series, including the following:

the designation of the series;

the rate and time of, and conditions and preferences with respect to, dividends, and whether the dividends will be cumulative;

the voting rights, if any, of shares of the series;

the price, timing and conditions regarding the redemption of shares of the series and whether a sinking fund should be established for the series;

the rights and preferences of shares of the series in the event of voluntary or involuntary dissolution, liquidation or winding up of our affairs; and

the right, if any, to convert or exchange shares of the series into or for stock or securities of any other series or class.

Our board of directors has adopted a policy requiring that, unless approved by a vote of the stockholders, any designation of preferred stock in connection with the adoption of a stockholder rights plan include provisions effecting the termination of that plan within one year. The policy also requires that other uses of preferred stock be limited to bona fide capital raising or business acquisition transactions. We currently do not have a stockholders rights plan utilizing preferred stock and have not issued any shares of preferred stock. However, as described under -Stockholder Rights Agreement, we currently have a stockholder rights plan that provides for the issuance of common stock in certain circumstances.

### **Purposes and Effects of Certain Provisions of Our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws**

#### ***General***

Our articles of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that could make more difficult the acquisition of control of our company by means of a tender offer, open market purchases, a proxy contest or otherwise. A description of these provisions is set forth below.

#### ***Preferred Stock***

We believe that the availability of the preferred stock under our articles of incorporation will provide us with flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other corporate needs which might arise. Having these authorized shares available for issuance will allow us to issue shares of preferred stock without the

expense and delay of a special stockholders meeting. The authorized shares of preferred stock, as well as shares of common stock, will be available for issuance without further action by our stockholders, unless action is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange on which our securities may be listed. Our board of directors has the power, subject to applicable law, to issue series of preferred stock that could, depending on the terms of the series, impede the completion of a merger, tender offer or other takeover attempt. For instance, a series of preferred stock might impede a business combination by including class voting rights which would enable the holder or holders of such series to block a proposed transaction. Our board of directors will make any determination to issue shares based on its judgment as to our and our stockholders best interests. In so acting, our board of directors could issue preferred stock having terms which could discourage an acquisition attempt or other transaction that some, or a majority, of the stockholders might believe to be in their best interests or in which stockholders might receive a premium for their stock over the then prevailing market price of the stock.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Classified Board of Directors; Removal of Directors***

Our bylaws divide our board of directors into three classes of directors, with each class serving staggered, three-year terms. In addition, Nevada law provides that our directors may be removed from office by a vote of at least 66-2/3% in voting power of the then-outstanding shares of our voting stock entitled to vote in the election of directors, voting together as a single group. The classification of our board of directors means that, unless directors are removed by stockholders, it could require at least two annual meetings of stockholders for a majority of stockholders to make a change of control of the board of directors, because only a portion of the directors will be elected at each meeting. A significant effect of a classified board of directors may be to deter hostile takeover attempts, because an acquirer could experience delay in replacing a majority of the directors. A classified board of directors also makes it more difficult for stockholders to effect a change of control of the board of directors, even if such a change of control were to be sought due to dissatisfaction with the performance of our company's directors.

### ***Limitation of Director and Officer Liability***

Our articles of incorporation limit the liability of directors and officers to our company and our stockholders to the fullest extent permitted by Nevada law. Specifically, a director or officer will not be personally liable for monetary damages for breach of his or her fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability for:

acts or omissions which involve intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of law;

violations under Section 78.300 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, which relates to unlawful distributions to stockholders or unlawful stock repurchases or redemptions; or

any act, omission to act or breach of duty as to which any other applicable statute, rule or regulation provides that the liability of directors or officers may not be eliminated or limited.

These provisions in our articles of incorporation may have the effect of reducing the likelihood of derivative litigation against our directors and officers and may discourage or deter stockholders or management from bringing a lawsuit against our directors or officers for breach of their duty of care, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise have benefited our company and its stockholders. These provisions do not limit or affect a stockholder's ability to seek and obtain relief under federal securities laws.

### ***Special Meetings of Stockholders***

Our bylaws provide that special meetings of stockholders may be called only by our board of directors, our chairman of the board, our president or by one or more stockholders holding shares which, in the aggregate, entitle them to cast not less than 10% of the votes at the meeting.

### ***Stockholder Rights Agreement***

On September 11, 2007, our board of directors adopted a Rights Agreement, which we call the stockholder rights agreement, between us and Transfer Online, Inc., as rights agent, and declared a dividend, paid on September 14, 2007, of one right to purchase one whole share of our common stock for each outstanding share of our common stock. Each Right entitles the registered holder, after the occurrence of a Distribution Date as defined in the Rights

Agreement and described below, to exercise the right to purchase from us one share of common stock at an exercise price of \$240, subject to adjustment.

The rights are not exercisable until the earlier of:

the tenth day after a person or group of affiliated or associated persons (which we refer to as an acquiring person) publicly announces that it has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, beneficial ownership of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock; or

## **Table of Contents**

10 days, or such later date as our board of directors may determine, following the commencement of, or first public announcement of an intention to make, a tender offer or exchange offer, the consummation of which would result in a person or group becoming an acquiring person.

We are entitled to redeem the rights in exchange for a payment (currently \$0.01 per right, but subject to possible adjustment) at any time prior to the earlier to occur of:

a person becoming an acquiring person; or

the expiration of the rights.

If the rights become exercisable, a holder of rights (other than rights beneficially owned by an acquiring person, which rights would be void), would be entitled to buy a number of shares of our common stock or, if certain transactions involving an acquisition of our company or its assets have occurred, the common stock of the acquiring company, having a market value of twice the exercise price of each right (currently \$480, but subject to possible adjustment). Holders of shares of our common stock who do not exercise their rights in such circumstances will experience dilution of their investment in the company. The rights under the stockholder rights agreement expire on September 11, 2017, unless earlier redeemed or exchanged. Until a right is exercised, the holder has no rights as a stockholder including, without limitation, the right to vote as a stockholder or to receive dividends.

We are entitled to amend the rights, without restriction and without the approval of any holders of shares of our common stock, at any time or from time to time prior to the rights becoming exercisable. After the rights become exercisable, our ability to amend the rights is subject to specified restrictions.

## **Nevada Anti-Takeover Laws**

The Nevada Revised Statutes include acquisition of controlling interest provisions pursuant to which any person acquiring certain statutorily defined control percentages of a corporation's outstanding shares in the secondary market are prohibited from voting those control shares unless a majority of the other stockholders elect to restore such voting rights in whole or in part. The Nevada Revised Statutes also include provisions limiting the ability of a Nevada corporation to engage in a merger or other combination transaction with an interested stockholder, a term that includes certain holders of 10% or more of the corporation's outstanding voting stock. These provisions generally will not apply to a corporation that does not have a specified number of record stockholders or does not meet other specified criteria. Accordingly, the application of these statutes to us may vary over time. To the extent they are applicable, they may discourage persons interested in acquiring a significant interest in the Company, regardless of whether such acquisition may be in the interest of the Company or our stockholders.

## **Other**

We are considering proposing to our stockholders at the 2015 annual stockholders meeting a reincorporation of our Company from Nevada to Delaware.

## **Transfer Agent**

The transfer agent for our common stock is Computershare Limited.



**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES**

We may offer depositary shares (either separately or together with other securities) representing fractional shares of preferred stock of any series. In connection with the issuance of any depositary shares, we will enter into a deposit agreement with a bank or trust company, as depositary, which will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the related deposit agreement. Immediately following our issuance of the security related to the depositary shares, we will deposit the shares of preferred stock with the relevant depositary and will cause the depositary to issue, on our behalf, the related depositary receipts. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary receipt will be entitled, in proportion to the fraction of a share of preferred stock represented by the related depositary share, to all the rights, preferences and privileges of, and will be subject to all of the limitations and restrictions on, the preferred stock represented by the depositary receipt (including, if applicable, dividend, voting, conversion, exchange, redemption, sinking fund, repayment at maturity, subscription and liquidation rights).

**DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

We may issue warrants for the purchase of debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, or any combination thereof. We may issue warrants independently or together with any other securities offered by a prospectus supplement. Warrants may be attached to or separate from such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement we will enter into with a warrant agent specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants of a particular series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, including, to the extent applicable, the following:

the title of the warrants;

the aggregate number of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the designation, number or principal amount and terms of the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, and/or depositary shares purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

the designation and terms of the other securities, if any, with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each security;

the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the related underlying securities will be separately transferable;

whether the warrants will be issued in registered form or bearer form;

the price at which each underlying security purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which that right will expire;

the identity of the warrant agent;

the maximum or minimum number of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

a discussion of any material federal income tax considerations; and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures, and limitations relating to the transferability, exchange, and exercise of the warrants.



**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS**

We may issue purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and for us to sell to holders, a specific or varying number of debt securities, shares of our common stock or preferred stock, depository shares, warrants or securities of an entity unaffiliated with us, or any combination of the above, at a future date or dates. Alternatively, the purchase contracts may obligate us to purchase from holders, and obligate holders to sell to us, a specific or varying number or amount of debt securities, shares of our common stock or preferred stock, depository shares, warrants or other property. The price per share of preferred stock or common stock or price of other securities may be fixed at the time the purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula described in the purchase contracts. We may issue purchase contracts separately or as a part of units each consisting of a purchase contract and debt securities, preferred securities, common securities, warrants or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities, securing the holder's obligations under the purchase contract. The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to holders, or may require holders to make periodic payments to us, and the payments may be unsecured or pre-funded on some basis. The purchase contracts may require holders to secure the holder's obligations in a specified manner that we will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement which we file with the SEC in connection with a public offering relating to the purchase contracts.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any purchase contracts in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, including, to the extent applicable, the following:

whether the purchase contracts obligate the holder or us to purchase or sell, or both purchase and sell the securities subject to purchase under the purchase contract, and the nature and amount of each of those securities, or the method of determining those amounts;

whether the purchase contracts are to be prepaid or not;

whether the purchase contracts are to be settled by delivery, or by reference or linkage to the value, performance or level of the securities subject to purchase under the purchase contract;

any acceleration, cancellation, termination or other provisions relating to the settlement of the purchase contracts; and

whether the purchase contracts will be issued in fully registered or global form.

**DESCRIPTION OF UNITS**

We may issue units comprising one or more securities described in this prospectus in any combination. Units may also include debt obligations of third parties, such as U.S. Treasury securities. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit also is the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of each unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately at any time or at any time before a specified date.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any units in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, including, to the extent applicable, the following:

the designation and terms of the units and the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;

any provision for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units; and

whether the units will be issued in fully registered or global form.

**Table of Contents****SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

|  | Year Ended/As of December 31,                            |            |            |            |            |
|--|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|  | 2014   | 2013       | 2012       | 2011       | 2010       |
|  | <i>(in millions, except per share data and as noted)</i> |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Statement of Operations (From Continuing Operations):</b>                         |  |            |            |            |            |
| Crude oil, natural gas and NGLs sales  | \$ 471.4   | \$ 340.8   | \$ 228.0   | \$ 216.1   | \$ 144.8   |
| Commodity price risk management gain (loss), net                                     | 310.3  | \$ (23.9)  | 29.3       | 39.4       | 59.4       |
| Total revenues   | 856.2  | 392.7      | 307.1      | 323.3      | 274.8      |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations   | 107.3  | (21.1)     | (19.4)     | 23.2       | 23.8       |
| Earnings per share from continuing operations:                                       |  |            |            |            |            |
| Basic  | \$ 3.00  | \$ (0.65)  | \$ (0.70)  | \$ 0.98    | \$ 1.23    |
| Diluted  | 2.93   | (0.65)     | (0.70)     | 0.97       | 1.21       |
| <b>Statement of Cash Flows:</b>  |  |            |            |            |            |
| Net cash from:   |  |            |            |            |            |
| Operating activities   | \$ 236.7   | \$ 159.2   | \$ 174.7   | \$ 166.8   | \$ 151.8   |
| Investing activities   | (474.1)  | (217.1)    | (451.9)    | (456.4)    | (300.9)    |
| Financing activities   | 60.3   | 248.7      | 271.4      | 243.4      | 171.5      |
| Capital expenditures   | 628.6  | 394.9      | 347.7      | 334.5      | 162.7      |
| Acquisitions of crude oil and natural gas properties                                 |  | 9.7        | 312.2      | 145.9      | 158.1      |
| <b>Balance Sheet:</b>  |  |            |            |            |            |
| Total assets   | \$ 2,340.6   | \$ 2,025.2 | \$ 1,826.8 | \$ 1,698.0 | \$ 1,389.0 |
| Working capital  | 30.3   | 112.4      | (31.4)     | (22.0)     | 16.2       |
| Long-term debt   | 664.9  | 605.0      | 676.6      | 532.2      | 295.7      |
| Total equity   | 1,137.4  | 967.6      | 703.2      | 664.1      | 642.2      |
| <b>Pricing and Lease Operating Expenses From to Continuing Operations (per Boe):</b> |  |            |            |            |            |
| Average sales price (excluding net settlements on derivatives)                       | \$ 50.72   | \$ 52.23   | \$ 46.85   | \$ 49.97   | \$ 43.38   |
| Average lease operating expenses   | 4.36   | 4.78       | 4.57       | 4.56       | 3.97       |
| <b>Production (MBoe):</b>  |  |            |            |            |            |
| Production from continuing operations  | 9,294.4  | 6,524.7    | 4,866.5    | 4,324.4    | 3,336.6    |
| Production from discontinued operations  | 1,093.0  | 2,032.6    | 3,458.7    | 3,596.3    | 3,102.8    |
| Total production   | 10,387.4   | 8,557.3    | 8,325.2    | 7,920.7    | 6,439.4    |
| Total proved reserves (MMBoe) (1)(2)(3)  | 250.1  | 265.8      | 192.8      | 169.3      | 143.4      |

(1)

*Includes total proved reserves related to our Marcellus Shale and shallow Upper Devonian Appalachian Basin assets of 40 MMBoe, 30 MMBoe, 22 MMBoe and 11MMBoe as of December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.*

- (2) Includes total proved reserves related to our Piceance Basin and NECO assets of 14 MMBoe, 59 MMBoe, and 76 MMBoe as of December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.*
- (3) Includes total proved reserves related to our Permian Basin assets of 11 MMBoe and 5 MMBoe as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.*

**Table of Contents****RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table shows our historical ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the five years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010. For the purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings represents income from continuing operations before income taxes minus income from equity investees plus distributed earnings from equity investees and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, including amortization of debt issuance costs and that portion of rental expense considered to be a reasonable approximation of interest.

|                                    | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |             |             |             |             |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                    | <b>2014</b>                    | <b>2013</b> | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010</b> |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges | 4.3x                           | 0.4x(a)     | 0.4x(a)     | 1.9x        | 2.0x        |

- a. *For the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, earnings were insufficient to cover total fixed charges by \$33.6 million and \$30.7 million, respectively.*

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We intend to use the net proceeds from the securities offered by this prospectus for general corporate purposes, which may include the acquisition of producing properties and other assets, the repayment of our outstanding indebtedness, working capital, or for any other purposes as may be described in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell the securities offered by this prospectus from time to time in one or more transactions, including without limitation:

directly to purchasers;

through agents;

to or through underwriters or dealers;

through a combination of these methods; or

in any other manner permitted by law.

Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will name any underwriter, dealer or agent involved in the offer and sale of the securities. The prospectus supplement will also set forth the terms of the offering, including the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds to the issuer(s) from the sale of the securities, any underwriting discounts and other items constituting underwriters' compensation and any discounts or concessions

allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers and any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed. Each time we sell securities, we will describe the method of distribution of the securities in the prospectus supplement relating to the transaction.

A distribution of the securities offered by this prospectus may also be effected through the issuance of derivative securities, including without limitation, warrants, exchangeable securities, forward delivery contracts and the writing of options.

**Table of Contents**

In addition, the manner in which we may sell some or all of the securities covered by this prospectus includes, without limitation, through:

a block trade in which a broker-dealer will attempt to sell as agent, but may position or resell a portion of the block, as principal, in order to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer, as principal, and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker solicits purchasers; or

privately negotiated transactions.

We may also enter into hedging transactions. For example, we may:

enter into transactions with a broker-dealer or affiliate thereof in connection with which such broker-dealer or affiliate will engage in short sales of the common stock pursuant to this prospectus, in which case such broker-dealer or affiliate may use shares of common stock received from us to close out its short positions;

sell securities short and redeliver such shares to close out our short positions;

enter into option or other types of transactions that require us to deliver common stock to a broker-dealer or an affiliate thereof, who will then resell or transfer the common stock under this prospectus;

loan or pledge the common stock to a broker-dealer or an affiliate thereof, who may sell the loaned shares or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged shares pursuant to this prospectus.

In addition, we may enter into derivative or hedging transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. In connection with such a transaction, the third parties may sell securities covered by and pursuant to this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be. If so, the third party may use securities borrowed from us or others to settle such sales and may use securities received from us to close out any related short positions. We may also loan or pledge securities covered by this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement to third parties, who may sell the loaned securities or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged securities pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

A prospectus supplement with respect to each series of securities will state the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the terms of the offering;

the name or names of any underwriters or agents and the amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by each of them, if any;

the public offering price or purchase price of the securities and the net proceeds to be received by us from the sale;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any initial public offering price;

any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters or agents compensation;

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

any securities exchange on which the securities may be listed.



## **Table of Contents**

The offer and sale of the securities described in this prospectus by us, the underwriters or the third parties described above may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions, including privately negotiated transactions, either:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to the prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

## **General**

Any public offering price and any discounts, commissions, concessions or other items constituting compensation allowed or reallocated or paid to underwriters, dealers, agents or remarketing firms may be changed from time to time. Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms that participate in the distribution of the offered securities may be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act. Any discounts or commissions they receive from us and any profits they receive on the resale of the offered securities may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. We will identify any underwriters, agents or dealers and describe their commissions, fees or discounts in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

## **Underwriters and Agents**

If underwriters are used in a sale, they will acquire the offered securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the offered securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions. These sales may be made at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of the sale, at prices related to such prevailing market price or at negotiated prices. We may offer the securities to the public through an underwriting syndicate or through a single underwriter. The underwriters in any particular offering will be mentioned in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

Unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the offered securities will be subject to certain conditions contained in an underwriting agreement that we will enter into with the underwriters at the time of the sale to them. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities of the series offered if any of the securities are purchased, unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed, reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

We may designate agents to sell the offered securities. Unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities, the agents will agree to use their best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment. We may also sell the offered securities to one or more remarketing firms, acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for us. These firms will remarket the offered securities upon purchasing them in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to the terms of the offered securities. A prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be will identify any remarketing firm and will describe the terms of its agreement, if any,

with us and its compensation.

In connection with offerings made through underwriters or agents, we may enter into agreements with such underwriters or agents pursuant to which we receive our outstanding securities in consideration for the securities being offered to the public for cash. In connection with these arrangements, the underwriters or agents may also sell securities covered by this prospectus to hedge their positions in these outstanding securities, including in short sale transactions. If so, the underwriters or agents may use the securities received from us under these arrangements to close out any related open borrowings of securities.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Dealers**

We may sell the offered securities to dealers as principals. We may negotiate and pay dealers commissions, discounts or concessions for their services. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public either at varying prices to be determined by the dealer or at a fixed offering price agreed to with us at the time of resale. Dealers engaged by us may allow other dealers to participate in resales.

### **Direct Sales**

We may choose to sell the offered securities directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved.

### **Institutional Purchasers**

We may authorize agents, dealers or underwriters to solicit certain institutional investors to purchase offered securities on a delayed delivery basis pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified future date. The applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be will provide the details of any such arrangement, including the offering price and commissions payable on the solicitations.

We will enter into such delayed contracts only with institutional purchasers that we approve. These institutions may include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies and educational and charitable institutions.

### **Indemnification; Other Relationships**

We may have agreements with agents, underwriters, dealers and remarketing firms to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Agents, underwriters, dealers and remarketing firms, and their affiliates, may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business. This includes commercial banking and investment banking transactions.

### **Market Making, Stabilization and Other Transactions**

There is currently no market for any of the offered securities, other than our common stock which is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market. If the offered securities are traded after their initial issuance, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering price, depending upon prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities and other factors. While it is possible that an underwriter could inform us that it intended to make a market in the offered securities, such underwriter would not be obligated to do so, and any such market making could be discontinued at any time without notice. Therefore, no assurance can be given as to whether an active trading market will develop for the offered securities. We have no current plans for listing of the debt securities, preferred stock or warrants on any securities exchange or on the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. automated quotation system; any such listing with respect to any particular debt securities, preferred stock or warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

In connection with any offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell shares of common stock in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Short sales involve syndicate sales of common stock in excess of the number of shares to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Covered short sales are sales of shares made in an amount up to the number of shares represented by the underwriters over-allotment option. In determining the source of shares to close out the covered syndicate short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares

available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through the over-allotment option. Transactions to close out the covered

## **Table of Contents**

syndicate short involve either purchases of the common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed or the exercise of the over-allotment option. The underwriters may also make naked short sales of shares in excess of the over-allotment option. The underwriters must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares of common stock in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of bids for or purchases of shares in the open market while the offering is in progress for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the securities.

In connection with any offering, the underwriters may also engage in penalty bids. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the securities originally sold by the syndicate member are purchased in a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would be in the absence of the transactions. The underwriters may, if they commence these transactions, discontinue them at any time.

## **Fees and Commissions**

If more than 5% of the net proceeds of any offering of securities made under this prospectus will be received by members of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, participating in the offering or affiliates or associated persons of such FINRA members, the offering will be conducted in accordance with applicable FINRA Rules.

## **CERTAIN LEGAL MATTERS**

In connection with particular offerings of the securities in the future, and if stated in the applicable prospectus supplements, the validity of those securities may be passed upon for us by Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, and for any underwriters or agents by counsel named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## **EXPERTS**

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

## **INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS**

Certain information contained in the documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus with respect to the natural gas and oil reserves associated with our natural gas and oil prospects is derived from the reports of Ryder Scott Company, LP, an independent petroleum and natural gas consulting firm, and has been incorporated by reference in this prospectus upon the authority of said firm as experts with respect to the matters covered by such reports and in giving such reports.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The following table sets forth the expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities registered by this registration statement, other than any underwriting discounts and commissions. All of the expenses will be borne by us.

|                                 |    |           |
|---------------------------------|----|-----------|
| SEC registration fee            | \$ | *         |
| Legal fees and expenses         |    | **        |
| Accounting fees and expenses    |    | **        |
| Printing and engraving expenses |    | **        |
| Trustee s fees and expenses     |    | **        |
| Miscellaneous expenses          |    | **        |
| <b>Total</b>                    |    | <b>**</b> |

\* Deferred in reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r), because an indeterminate amount of securities is covered by this registration statement.

\*\* These fees and expenses will be determined based on the number of issuances and amount and type of securities issued. Accordingly, they cannot be estimated at this time.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

PDC s bylaws contain provisions providing that PDC shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer, employee or other agent of PDC, or is or was serving at the request of PDC as a director, officer, employee, or other agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with that proceeding, if that person acted in good faith and in a manner that person reasonably believed to be in the best interests of PDC, and in actions by PDC with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances, and, in the case of a criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct of that person was unlawful.

To the extent that any director, officer, employee or other agent of PDC has been successful on the merits in defense of any proceeding referred to in the bylaws, that person shall be indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by that person in connection with that proceeding. Except as provided in the preceding sentence, any indemnification may be made by PDC only if authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, employee or other agent is proper in the circumstances because that person has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in the bylaws by (a) a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who are not parties to the proceeding; (b) approval by the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of PDC

represented and voting at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is present (which shares voting affirmatively also constitute at least a majority of the required quorum); or (c) the court in which the proceeding is or was pending, upon application made by PDC or the subject person or the attorney or other person rendering the services in connection with the defense, whether or not the application by the subject person, attorney or other person is opposed by PDC.

Expenses incurred in defending any proceeding may be advanced by PDC before the final disposition of the proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, officer, employee or other agent of PDC to repay the amount of the advance unless it shall be determined ultimately that the subject person is entitled to be indemnified as authorized by the bylaws.

II-1

**Table of Contents**

PDC's Articles of Incorporation provide that no director or officer of PDC shall be personally liable to PDC or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director or officer, except for liability for (i) an act or omission that involves intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of the law; (ii) an act or omission for which the liability of a director or officer is expressly provided for by an applicable statute, including the liability for payment of distributions in violation of Section 78.300 of the Nevada Revised Statutes; and (iii) any other act, omission, transaction or breach of duty as to which any applicable statute, rule or regulation provides that the liability of directors or officers may not be eliminated or limited.

**Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules.**

The Exhibits to this registration statement are listed in the Exhibit Index on page II-6 and are incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

**Item 17. Undertakings.**

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

1. To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
  - i. To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
  - ii. To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and
  - iii. To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement; *provided, however,* that paragraphs (1)(i), (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.



2. That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
3. To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
4. That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:
  - i. Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
  - ii. Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the

---

**Table of Contents**

Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

5. That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:
  - i. Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
  - ii. Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
  - iii. The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
  - iv. Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.
6. That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
7. To file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

8. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted against the registrant by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question of whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

**Table of Contents**

9. To supplement the prospectus, after the expiration of the subscription period, to set forth the results of the subscription offer, the transactions by the underwriters during the subscription period, the amount of unsubscribed securities to be purchased by the underwriters, and the terms of any subsequent reoffering thereof. If any public offering by the underwriters is to be made on terms differing from those set forth on the cover page of the prospectus, a post-effective amendment will be filed to set forth the terms of such offering.

II-4

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the undersigned registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Denver, State of Colorado, on March 18, 2015.

**PDC ENERGY, INC.**

By: /s/ Barton R. Brookman  
Barton R. Brookman

President and Chief Executive Officer

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

The undersigned directors and officers of PDC Energy, Inc. hereby constitute and appoint Barton R. Brookman, Gysle R. Shellum and Daniel W. Amidon, and each of them, each with full power to act and with full power of substitution and resubstitution, our true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power to execute in our name and behalf in the capacities indicated below any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement and to file the same, with all exhibits and other documents relating thereto with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and hereby ratify and confirm all that such attorney-in-fact or his or her substitute shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| <b>Signature</b>  | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Date</b>    |
|---|--|----------------|
| /s/ BARTON R. BROOKMAN<br><br><b>Barton R. Brookman</b>     | President and Chief Executive Officer<br>and Director (principal executive<br>officer) | March 18, 2015 |
| /s/ GYSLE R. SHELLUM<br><br><b>Gysle R. Shellum</b>         | Chief Financial Officer<br><br>(principal financial officer)                           | March 18, 2015 |
| /s/ R. SCOTT MEYERS<br><br><b>R. Scott Meyers</b>           | Chief Accounting Officer (principal<br>accounting officer)                             | March 18, 2015 |
| /s/ JEFFREY C. SVOVELAND<br><br><b>Jeffrey C. Swoveland</b> | Chairman of the Board of Directors   | March 18, 2015 |
| /s/ JOSEPH E. CASABONA                                      | Director   | March 18, 2015 |

|                            |          |                |
|----------------------------|----------|----------------|
| <b>Joseph E. Casabona</b>  |          |                |
| /s/ ANTHONY J. CRISAFIO    | Director | March 18, 2015 |
| <b>Anthony J. Crisafio</b> |          |                |
| /s/ LARRY F. MAZZA         | Director | March 18, 2015 |
| <b>Larry F. Mazza</b>      |          |                |
| /s/ DAVID C. PARKE         | Director | March 18, 2015 |
| <b>David C. Parke</b>      |          |                |
| /s/ JAMES M. TRIMBLE       | Director | March 18, 2015 |
| <b>James M. Trimble</b>    |          |                |
| /s/ KIMBERLY LUFF WAKIM    | Director | March 18, 2015 |
| <b>Kimberly Luff Wakim</b> |          |                |

**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT INDEX**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>No.</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|------------------------|---|
| 4.1                    | Fourth Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of PDC Energy, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 10, 2014).  |
| 4.2                    | By-laws of the Company (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on August 2, 2012).   |
| 4.3                    | Rights Agreement by and between the Company and Transfer Online, Inc., as Rights Agent, dated as of September 11, 2007, including the forms of Rights Certificates and Summary of Stockholder Rights Plan attached thereto as Exhibits A and B, respectively. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on September 17, 2007). |
| 4.4                    | Indenture, dated November 23, 2010, between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon, including the form of 3.25% Convertible Senior Note due 2016. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2010).   |
| 4.5                    | Indenture, dated as of October 3, 2012, by and between the Company and U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee, including the form of 7.75% Senior Notes due 2022. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 3, 2012).  |
| 4.6                    | Form of indenture.  |
| *4.7                   | Form of certificate of designations for preferred stock.  |
| *4.8                   | Form of depositary receipt.   |
| *4.9                   | Form of depositary agreement.   |
| *4.10                  | Form of warrant.  |
| *4.11                  | Form of warrant agreement.  |
| *4.12                  | Form of purchase contract.  |
| *4.13                  | Form of unit certificate.   |
| *4.14                  | Form of unit agreement.   |
| 5.1                    | Opinion of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP.   |
| 12.1                   | Statement regarding computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 12.1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on February 19, 2015).  |
| 23.1                   | Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.  |
| 23.2                   | Consent of Ryder Scott Company, LP.   |
| 23.3                   | Consent of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).   |
| 24.1                   | Power of Attorney (included on the signature page hereto for PDC Energy, Inc.).   |
| **25.1                 | Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee for the Indenture.   |

- \* To be filed by an amendment or as an exhibit to a document filed under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, or otherwise filed, and incorporated by reference herein.
- \*\* To be incorporated herein by reference from a subsequent filing in accordance with section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.