

PETROHAWK ENERGY CORP
Form S-3ASR
September 15, 2006
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 15, 2006

Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

PETROHAWK ENERGY CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
*(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)*

1100 Louisiana, Suite 4400

Houston, Texas 77002

(832) 204-2700

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

86-0876964
*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

Floyd C. Wilson

President and Chief Executive Officer

1100 Louisiana, Suite 4400

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Houston, Texas 77002

(832) 204-2700

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

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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after this registration statement becomes effective.

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 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.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	Amount of Registration Fee(2)
Securities to be Registered				
Common Stock, \$.001 par value				
Preferred Stock, \$.001 par value				
Warrants				

(1) This registration statement registers an indeterminate amount of securities of each identified class. The proposed maximum offering price per unit and the proposed maximum aggregate offering price will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the offering of the securities hereunder. Any registered securities may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered under this registration statement.

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- (2) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the registrant is deferring payment of the registration fee. In accordance with Rule 457(p), due to the withdrawal of Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-124899) filed on May 13, 2005 with the Securities and Exchange Commission by the registrant, we will use the aggregate total dollar amount of the filing fee associated with the unsold securities under Registration Statement No. 333-124899 (such dollar amount being equal to \$29,425) to offset against the total filing fee due under this registration statement.
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PROSPECTUS

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Warrants

Petrohawk Energy Corporation may offer, from time to time:

common stock

preferred stock

warrants, or

a combination thereof.

In addition, selling stockholders to be named in a prospectus supplement may offer, from time to time, shares of our common stock. We will provide the specific terms of any offering and the offered securities in supplements to this prospectus. Any prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement which will describe the method and terms of the offering.

Our common stock is quoted on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol **HAWK**. None of the other securities offered by this prospectus are currently publicly traded.

We may sell the securities to or through underwriters, to other purchasers, through agents, or through a combination of these methods. The names of any underwriters will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Investing in our securities involves risks. Please read carefully the information under the headings Risk Factors beginning on page 4 and Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements on page ii of this prospectus before you invest in our securities. This information may also be included in any supplement and/or may be incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

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

The date of this prospectus is September 15, 2006.

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You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should read the entire prospectus and any prospectus supplement, as well as the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement, before making an investment decision. We do not imply or represent by delivering this prospectus that Petrohawk Energy Corporation, or its business, is unchanged after the date on the front of this prospectus or that the information in this prospectus is correct as of any time after such date.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) utilizing a shelf registration process or continuous registration process. Using this process, we may, from time to time, offer any combination of securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings and selling stockholders to be named in a prospectus supplement may, from time to time, sell common stock in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that may be offered. Each time securities are sold, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that particular offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information starting on page 18 of this prospectus.

When used in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, the terms Petrohawk, we, our, us and the Company refer to Petrohawk Energy Corporation and its subsidiaries.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information discussed in this prospectus, our filings with the SEC and our public releases include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, referred to as the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, referred to as the Exchange Act. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included herein concerning, among other things, planned capital expenditures, increases in oil and gas production, the number of anticipated wells to be drilled after the date hereof, future cash flows and borrowings, pursuit of potential acquisition opportunities, our financial position, business strategy and other plans and objectives for future operations, are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are identified by their use of terms and phrases such as may, expect, estimate, project, plan, believe, achievable, anticipate and similar terms and phrases. Although we believe our expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, they do involve certain assumptions, risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including, among others:

the possibility that problems may arise in successfully integrating the businesses of Petrohawk and KCS Energy, Inc. (KCS), due to the merger of KCS with and into Petrohawk;

the possibility that the combined company may be unable to achieve cost-cutting synergies;

the possibility that the industry may be subject to future regulatory or legislative actions (including any additional taxes);

the volatility in commodity prices for oil and natural gas and in the supply of and demand for oil and natural gas;

the presence or recoverability of estimated oil and natural gas reserves and the actual future production rates and associated costs;

the ability to replace oil and natural gas reserves;

environmental risks;

drilling and operating risks;

exploration and development risks;

competition;

the ability of the Company's management to execute its plans to meet its goals;

the ability of the Company to retain key members of its senior management and key employees;

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general economic conditions, whether internationally, nationally or in the regional and local market areas in which Petrohawk is doing business, may be less favorable than expected;

continued hostilities in the Middle East and other sustained military campaigns or acts of terrorism or sabotage; and

other economic, competitive, governmental, legislative, regulatory, geopolitical and technological factors may negatively impact our businesses, operations or pricing.

Finally, our future results will depend upon various other risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, those detailed in our other filings with the SEC that are incorporated by reference herein and in the section entitled "Risk Factors" included elsewhere in this prospectus. For additional information regarding risks and uncertainties, please read our other filings with the SEC under the Exchange Act and the Securities Act, including our annual report on Form 10-K, as amended, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 and our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2006 and June 30, 2006. All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements in this paragraph and elsewhere in this prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference. Other than as required under the securities laws, we do not assume a duty to update these forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, subsequent events or circumstances, changes in expectations or otherwise.

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The following highlights information about us and our business contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. It is not complete and does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our securities. To fully understand our business you should carefully read this prospectus together with the more detailed information incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

THE COMPANY

We are an independent oil and gas company engaged in the acquisition, development, production and exploration of oil and gas properties located in North America. Our properties are concentrated in the East Texas/North Louisiana, Gulf Coast, Permian Basin, and Anadarko/Arkoma regions. We focus on maintaining a balanced, geographically diverse portfolio of long-lived, lower risk reserves along with shorter lived, higher margin reserves. We believe that this balanced reserve mix provides a diversified cash flow foundation to fund our development and exploration drilling program.

As of December 31, 2005, pro forma for our recent merger with KCS Energy, Inc., hereinafter KCS, described below, our estimated proved reserves were approximately 980 Bcfe, of which 77% were natural gas, 68% were proved developed and 74% were operated. In the first six months of 2006, we produced approximately 24.0 Bcfe.

Corporate Information

Petrohawk is a Delaware corporation originally organized in Nevada in June 1997 as Beta Oil & Gas, Inc. and reincorporated in Delaware during 2004. Our principal offices are located at 1100 Louisiana Street, Suite 4400, Houston, Texas 77002, telephone number (832) 204-2700, fax number (832) 204-2800, and our website can be found at www.petrohawk.com. Unless specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus, information that you may find on our website is not part of this prospectus.

Recent Developments

We have recently completed several transactions:

Merger with KCS Energy, Inc.

On July 12, 2006, we completed the merger of KCS with and into us. In the merger, we issued approximately 83.8 million shares of our common stock and paid approximately \$450.3 million cash as consideration to the former stockholders of KCS. In connection with the merger, we assumed or refinanced all outstanding debt of KCS, including \$275.0 million in principal amount of 7 1/8% senior notes due 2012, hereinafter referred to as the 2012 Notes. Pro forma for the Terryville Acquisition (as described below), as of December 31, 2005, KCS estimated proved reserves were approximately 463 Bcfe, of which approximately 88% was natural gas and approximately 73% was classified as proved developed.

Terryville Acquisition

On April 19, 2006, KCS completed an acquisition of oil and gas properties located in the Terryville field in North Louisiana for \$26.2 million, hereinafter referred to as the Terryville Acquisition. The Terryville Acquisition included approximately 10,300 acres located in Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, and proved reserves internally estimated at approximately 11.2 Bcfe.

Issuance of Senior Notes Due 2013

On July 12, 2006, in connection with the merger with KCS and pursuant to a purchase agreement dated June 23, 2006, among us and certain financial institutions, as initial purchasers, we issued and sold under an

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indenture an aggregate principal amount of \$650.0 million of 9 1/8% senior notes due 2013, hereinafter referred to as the 2013 Notes, in accordance with a private placement conducted pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act. The initial purchasers purchased the 2013 Notes at a purchase price of 97.617% of the aggregate principal amount of the 2013 Notes. The 2013 Notes are guaranteed by certain of our subsidiaries.

On July 24, 2006, we issued an additional \$125.0 million of our 2013 Notes, hereinafter referred to as the additional notes. The additional notes were issued at 101.125% of the face amount for gross proceeds of approximately \$140.6 million, before estimated offering expenses and the initial purchasers' discount. The additional notes were issued as additional debt securities under the indenture pursuant to which we had previously issued \$650 million in aggregate principal amount of our 9 1/8% senior notes due 2013. The 2013 Notes and the additional notes constitute a single class of securities under the indenture pursuant to which they were issued.

On September 1, 2006, we filed a registration statement on Form S-4 in connection with the exchange of the 2013 Notes for similar notes registered under the Securities Act.

Tender Offer for Outstanding 9 7/8% Senior Notes due 2011

On July 12, 2006, we accepted for purchase \$124.2 million principal amount of our 9 7/8% senior notes due 2011, hereinafter referred to as the 2011 Notes, for aggregate cash consideration of \$139.1 million, which we (as successor by way of merger to Mission Resources Corporation on July 28, 2005) issued in April 2004. Following acceptance, we, the parties named therein as subsidiary guarantors, and The Bank of New York Trust Company, NA., as trustee, entered into a supplemental indenture that supplements and amends the indenture that governs the terms of the 2011 Notes, to eliminate substantially all of the restrictive covenants contained in the indenture and the 2011 Notes, eliminate certain events of default, and modify certain other covenants and provisions contained in the indenture and the 2011 Notes. As of September 13, 2006, a total of \$254,000 principal amount of 2011 Notes remains outstanding.

Amendment to Revolving Credit Facility

On July 12, 2006, we entered into a Second Amended and Restated Senior Revolving Credit Agreement, hereinafter referred to as the revolving credit facility, which amended and restated our \$600.0 million amended and restated senior revolving credit agreement dated July 28, 2005. The revolving credit facility provides for a \$1 billion facility with an initial borrowing base of \$700.0 million that will be redetermined on a semi-annual basis, with us and the lenders each having the right to one annual interim unscheduled redetermination, and adjusted based on our oil and gas properties, reserves, other indebtedness, and other relevant factors. Amounts outstanding under the revolving credit facility bear interest at specified margins over the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) of 1.00% to 1.75% for Eurodollar loans or at specified margins over the Alternate Base Rate (ABR) of 0.00% to 0.50% for ABR loans. Such margins will fluctuate based on the utilization of the facility. Borrowings under the revolving credit facility will be secured by first priority liens on substantially all of our assets, including pursuant to the terms of the Second Amended and Restated Guarantee and Collateral Agreement, all of the assets of, and equity interest in, our subsidiaries. Amounts drawn on the revolving credit facility will mature on July 12, 2010.

The revolving credit facility contains customary financial and other covenants, including minimum working capital levels, minimum coverage of interest expenses, and a maximum leverage ratio. In addition, we are subject to covenants limiting dividends and other restricted payments, transactions with affiliates, incurrence of debt, changes of control, asset sales, and liens on properties.

Gulf of Mexico Divestiture

On March 21, 2006, we sold substantially all of our Gulf of Mexico properties for \$52.5 million in cash. These properties had estimated proved reserves as of December 31, 2005 of approximately 25 Bcfe, were

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approximately 70% gas, 59% proved developed and 27% operated. Production at closing was estimated to be approximately 10 MMcfe per day.

The North Louisiana Acquisitions

On January 27, 2006, we completed the acquisition of all of the issued and outstanding common stock of Winwell Resources, Inc., hereinafter referred to as Winwell. The aggregate consideration paid was approximately \$208 million in cash after certain closing adjustments. Also on January 27, 2006, we completed an acquisition of assets from Redley Company, hereinafter referred to as Redley. The aggregate consideration paid was approximately \$86 million in cash after certain closing adjustments. Through the Winwell and Redley transactions (collectively, hereinafter referred to as the North Louisiana Acquisitions), we acquired oil and gas properties in the Elm Grove and Caspiana fields in North Louisiana. These properties have internally estimated proved reserves as of December 31, 2005 of approximately 106 Bcfe, are approximately 98% gas, 29% proved developed and 80% operated.

Mission Resources Corporation Acquisition

We acquired Mission Resources Corporation, hereinafter referred to as Mission, by merger on July 28, 2005. We issued approximately 19.6 million shares of common stock and paid approximately \$139.5 million in cash to the former stockholders of Mission. In addition, all outstanding options to purchase Mission common stock were converted into options to purchase our common stock using an exchange ratio of 0.7641 shares of Petrohawk common stock per share of Mission common stock underlying each option. We also assumed Mission's long-term debt of approximately \$184 million, including the 2011 Notes. At December 31, 2004, Mission's estimated net proved reserves were approximately 226 Bcfe.

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RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information set forth elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the following risks relating to us and our securities should be considered carefully before making an investment decision. The following should be read in conjunction with our risk factors described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005, as amended, which are specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus and which are modified to the extent so modified below, and any risks that may be described in other filings that we make with the SEC or in the prospectus supplements relating to specific offerings of securities.

Risk Factors Relating to Our Business

Oil and natural gas prices are volatile, and low prices could have a material adverse impact on our business.

Our revenues, profitability and future growth and the carrying value of our properties depend substantially on prevailing oil and natural gas prices. Prices also affect the amount of cash flow available for capital expenditures and our ability to borrow and raise additional capital. The amount we will be able to borrow under our revolving credit facility will be subject to periodic redetermination based in part on changing expectations of future prices. Lower prices may also reduce the amount of oil and natural gas that we can economically produce and have an adverse effect on the value of our properties.

Historically, the markets for oil and natural gas have been volatile, and they are likely to continue to be volatile in the future. Among the factors that can cause volatility are:

the domestic and foreign supply of oil and natural gas;

the ability of members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other producing countries to agree upon and maintain oil prices and production levels;

political instability, armed conflict or terrorist attacks, whether or not in oil or natural gas producing regions;

the level of consumer product demand;

the growth of consumer product demand in emerging markets, such as China;

labor unrest in oil and natural gas producing regions;

weather conditions, including hurricanes;

the price and availability of alternative fuels;

the price of foreign imports;

worldwide economic conditions; and

the availability of liquid natural gas imports.

These external factors and the volatile nature of the energy markets make it difficult to estimate future prices of oil and natural gas. The spot prices for crude oil and natural gas at the close of business on December 31, 2005 were \$57.75 per Bbl and \$10.075 per MMBtu and on September 13, 2006 were \$64.32 per Bbl and \$5.42 per MMBtu.

Unless we replace our reserves, our reserves and production will decline, which would adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

In general, the volume of production from oil and natural gas properties declines as reserves are depleted. Our reserves will decline as they are produced unless we acquire properties with proved reserves or conduct successful development and exploration activities. Thus, our future oil and natural gas production and, therefore, our cash flow and income are highly dependent upon our level of success in finding or acquiring additional

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reserves. However, we cannot assure you that our future acquisition, development and exploration activities will result in any specific amount of additional proved reserves or that we will be able to drill productive wells at acceptable costs.

The successful acquisition of producing properties requires an assessment of a number of factors. These factors include recoverable reserves, future oil and natural gas prices, operating costs and potential environmental and other liabilities, title issues and other factors. Such assessments are inexact and their accuracy is inherently uncertain. In connection with such assessments, we perform a review of the subject properties that we believe is thorough. However, there is no assurance that such a review will reveal all existing or potential problems or allow us to fully assess the deficiencies and capabilities of such properties. We cannot assure you that we will be able to acquire properties at acceptable prices because the competition for producing oil and natural gas properties is particularly intense at this time and many of our competitors have financial and other resources which are substantially greater than those available to us.

Our bank lenders can limit our borrowing capabilities, which may materially impact our operations.

As of June 30, 2006, on a pro forma basis, after giving effect to our issuance of the 2013 Notes and the application of the net proceeds to fund a portion of our payment of cash to KCS stockholders, our repayment of KCS debt and transaction expenses incurred in connection with our merger with KCS, our repurchase of our 2011 Notes and repayment in full of our second lien term facility, our revolving credit facility balance was \$325.5 million, and we have \$374.5 million of additional available borrowing capacity under our \$1 billion revolving credit facility, assuming a borrowing base of \$700 million. The borrowing base limitation under our revolving credit facility is semi-annually redetermined. Redeterminations are based upon a number of factors, including commodity prices and reserve levels. The next redetermination date is expected to occur in the fourth quarter of 2006. Upon a redetermination, our borrowing base could be substantially reduced. We intend to finance our development, acquisition and exploration activities with cash flow from operations, bank borrowings and other financing activities. A reduction in our borrowing base could limit our activity in this regard. In addition, we may significantly alter our capitalization in order to make future acquisitions or develop our properties. These changes in capitalization may significantly increase our level of debt. If we incur additional debt for these or other purposes, the related risks that we now face could intensify. A higher level of debt also increases the risk that we may default on our debt obligations. Our ability to meet our debt obligations and to reduce our level of debt depends on our future performance which is affected by general economic conditions and financial, business and other factors. Many of these factors are beyond our control. Our level of debt affects our operations in several important ways, including the following:

a portion of our cash flow from operations is used to pay interest on borrowings;

the covenants contained in the agreements governing our debt limit our ability to borrow additional funds, pay dividends, dispose of assets or issue shares of preferred stock and otherwise may affect our flexibility in planning for, and reacting to, changes in business conditions;

a high level of debt may impair our ability to obtain additional financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, general corporate or other purposes;

a leveraged financial position would make us more vulnerable to economic downturns and could limit our ability to withstand competitive pressures; and

any debt that we incur under our revolving credit facility will be at variable rates which makes us vulnerable to increases in interest rates.

Our ability to finance our business activities will require us to generate substantial cash flow.

Our business activities require substantial capital. We have budgeted 2006 drilling expenditures of approximately \$600 million pro forma for the combined companies for the entire year. We intend to finance our capital expenditures in the future primarily from cash flow from operations. We cannot be sure that our business

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will continue to generate cash flow at or above current levels. Future cash flows and the availability of financing will be subject to a number of variables, such as:

the level of production from existing wells;

prices of oil and natural gas;

our results in locating and producing new reserves;

the success and timing of development of proved undeveloped reserves; and

general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors beyond our control.

If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow from operations to service our debt, we may have to obtain additional financing through the issuance of debt and/or equity. We cannot be sure that any additional financing will be available to us on acceptable terms. The level of our debt financing could also materially affect our operations.

If our revenues were to decrease due to lower oil and natural gas prices, decreased production or other reasons, and if we could not obtain capital through our revolving credit facility or otherwise, our ability to execute our development and acquisition plans, replace our reserves or maintain production levels could be greatly limited.

Drilling wells is speculative, often involves significant costs and may not result in additions to our production or reserves.

Developing and exploring for oil and natural gas reserves involves a high degree of operating and financial risk. The actual costs of drilling, completing and operating wells often exceed our budget for such costs and can increase significantly when drilling costs rise due to a tightening in the supply of various types of oilfield equipment and related services. Drilling may be unsuccessful for many reasons, including title problems, cost overruns, equipment shortages, mechanical difficulties, and faulty assumptions about geological features. Moreover, the drilling of a productive oil or natural gas well does not ensure a profitable investment. Exploratory wells bear a much greater risk of loss than development wells. A variety of factors, including geological and market-related, can cause a well to become uneconomical or only marginally economic. In addition to their cost, unsuccessful wells can hurt our efforts to replace reserves.

Estimates of oil and gas reserves are uncertain and any material inaccuracies in these reserve estimates will materially affect the quantities and the value of our reserves.

This prospectus and the information incorporated by reference contain estimates of our proved oil and natural gas reserves. These estimates are based upon various assumptions, including assumptions required by the SEC relating to oil and natural gas prices, drilling and operating expenses, capital expenditures, taxes and availability of funds. The process of estimating oil and natural gas reserves is complex. This process requires significant decisions and assumptions in the evaluation of available geological, geophysical, engineering and economic data for each reservoir. Therefore, these estimates are inherently imprecise.

Actual future production, oil and natural gas prices, revenues, taxes, development expenditures, operating expenses and quantities of recoverable oil and natural gas reserves will vary from those estimated. Any significant variance could materially affect the estimated quantities and the value of our reserves. Our properties may also be susceptible to hydrocarbon drainage from production by other operators on adjacent properties. In addition, we may adjust estimates of proved reserves to reflect production history, results of exploration and development, prevailing oil and natural gas prices and other factors, many of which are beyond our control.

At December 31, 2005, approximately 32% of our estimated pro forma proved reserves were undeveloped. Estimates of undeveloped reserves are less certain than estimates of developed reserves. Recovery of undeveloped reserves requires significant capital expenditures and successful drilling operations. The reserve data assumes that we will make significant capital expenditures to develop our reserves. Although we have

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prepared estimates of these oil and natural gas reserves and the costs associated with development of these reserves in accordance with SEC regulations, we cannot assure you that the estimated costs or estimated reserves are accurate, that development will occur as scheduled or that the actual results will be as estimated.

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We depend substantially on the continued presence of key personnel for critical management decisions and industry contacts.

Our success depends upon the continued contributions of our executive officers and key employees, particularly with respect to providing the critical management decisions and contacts necessary to manage and maintain growth within a highly competitive industry. Competition for qualified personnel can be intense, particularly in the oil and natural gas industry, and there are a limited number of people with the requisite knowledge and experience. Under these conditions, we could be unable to attract and retain these personnel. The loss of the services of any of our executive officers or other key employees for any reason could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, financial condition and cash flows.

Our business is highly competitive.

The oil and natural gas industry is highly competitive in many respects, including identification of attractive oil and natural gas properties for acquisition, drilling and development, securing financing for such activities and obtaining the necessary equipment and personnel to conduct such operations and activities. In seeking suitable opportunities, we compete with a number of other companies, including large oil and natural gas companies and other independent operators with greater financial resources, larger numbers of personnel and facilities, and, in some cases, with more expertise. There can be no assurance that we will be able to compete effectively with these entities.

Hedging transactions may limit our potential gains and increase our potential losses.

In order to manage our exposure to price risks in the marketing of our oil and natural gas production, we have entered into oil and natural gas price hedging arrangements with respect to a portion of our expected production. We will most likely enter into additional hedging transactions in the future. While intended to reduce the effects of volatile oil and natural gas prices, such transactions may limit our potential gains and increase our potential losses if oil and natural gas prices were to rise substantially over the price established by the hedge. In addition, such transactions may expose us to the risk of loss in certain circumstances, including instances in which:

our production is less than expected;

there is a widening of price differentials between delivery points for our production and the delivery point assumed in the hedge arrangement; or

the counterparties to our hedging agreements fail to perform under the contracts.

Our oil and natural gas activities are subject to various risks which are beyond our control.

Our operations are subject to many risks and hazards incident to exploring and drilling for, producing, transporting, marketing and selling oil and natural gas. Although we may take precautionary measures, many of these risks and hazards are beyond our control and unavoidable under the circumstances. Many of these risks or hazards could materially and adversely affect our revenues and expenses, the ability of certain of our wells to produce oil and natural gas in commercial quantities, the rate of production and the economics of the development of, and our investment in the prospects in which we have or will acquire an interest. Any of these risks and hazards could materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Such risks and hazards include:

human error, accidents, labor force and other factors beyond our control that may cause personal injuries or death to persons and destruction or damage to equipment and facilities;

blowouts, fires, hurricanes, pollution and equipment failures that may result in damage to or destruction of wells, producing formations, production facilities and equipment;

unavailability of materials and equipment;

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engineering and construction delays;

unanticipated transportation costs and delays;

unfavorable weather conditions;

hazards resulting from unusual or unexpected geological or environmental conditions;

environmental regulations and requirements;

accidental leakage of toxic or hazardous materials, such as petroleum liquids or drilling fluids, into the environment;

changes in laws and regulations, including laws and regulations applicable to oil and natural gas activities or markets for the oil and natural gas produced;

fluctuations in supply and demand for oil and natural gas causing variations of the prices we receive for our oil and natural gas production; and

the internal and political decisions of OPEC and oil and natural gas producing nations and their impact upon oil and natural gas prices. As a result of these risks, expenditures, quantities and rates of production, revenues and cash operating costs may be materially adversely affected and may differ materially from those anticipated by us.

Governmental and environmental regulations could adversely affect our business.

Our business is subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations on taxation, the exploration for and development, production and marketing of oil and natural gas and safety matters. Many laws and regulations require drilling permits and govern the spacing of wells, rates of production, prevention of waste, unitization and pooling of properties and other matters. These laws and regulations have increased the costs of planning, designing, drilling, installing, operating and abandoning our oil and natural gas wells and other facilities. In addition, these laws and regulations, and any others that are passed by the jurisdictions where we have production, could limit the total number of wells drilled or the allowable production from successful wells, which could limit our revenues.

Our operations are also subject to complex environmental laws and regulations adopted by the various jurisdictions in which we have or expect to have oil and natural gas operations. We could incur liability to governments or third parties for any unlawful discharge of oil, natural gas or other pollutants into the air, soil or water, including responsibility for remedial costs. We could potentially discharge these materials into the environment in any of the following ways:

from a well or drilling equipment at a drill site;

from gathering systems, pipelines, transportation facilities and storage tanks;

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damage to oil and natural gas wells resulting from accidents during normal operations; and

blowouts, hurricanes, cratering and explosions.

Because the requirements imposed by laws and regulations are frequently changed, we cannot assure you that laws and regulations enacted in the future, including changes to existing laws and regulations, will not adversely affect our business. In addition, because we acquire interests in properties that have been operated in the past by others, we may be liable for environmental damage caused by the former operators.

We cannot be certain that the insurance coverage maintained by us will be adequate to cover all losses which may be sustained in connection with all oil and natural gas activities.

We maintain general and excess liability policies, which we consider to be reasonable and consistent with industry standards. These policies generally cover:

personal injury;

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bodily injury;

third party property damage;

medical expenses;

legal defense costs;

pollution in some cases;

well blowouts in some cases; and

workers compensation.

There can be no assurance that this insurance coverage will be sufficient to cover every claim made against us in the future. A loss in connection with our oil and natural gas properties could have a materially adverse effect on our financial position and results of operations to the extent that the insurance coverage provided under our policies cover only a portion of any such loss.

Title to the properties in which we have an interest may be impaired by title defects.

We generally obtain title opinions on significant properties that we drill or acquire. However, there is no assurance that we will not suffer a monetary loss from title defects or title failure. Generally, under the terms of the operating agreements affecting our properties, any monetary loss is to be borne by all parties to any such agreement in proportion to their interests in such property. If there are any title defects or defects in assignment of leasehold rights in properties in which we hold an interest, we will suffer a financial loss.

We may not be able to successfully integrate the businesses of Petrohawk and KCS following the merger with KCS.

The success of the merger with KCS depends in large part upon our ability to integrate our organizations, operations, systems and personnel. The integration of two previously independent companies is a challenging, time-consuming and costly process. We have grown rapidly through recent acquisitions and will be required to integrate our recent acquisitions with KCS. It is possible that the integration process could result in the loss of key employees, the disruption of each company's ongoing businesses or inconsistencies in standards, controls, procedures and policies that adversely affect our ability to maintain relationships with suppliers, customers and employees or to achieve the anticipated benefits of the merger with KCS. In addition, successful integration of the companies will require the dedication of significant management resources, which will temporarily detract attention from the day-to-day businesses of the combined company. If we are not able to integrate our organizations, operations, systems and personnel in a timely and efficient manner, the anticipated benefits of the merger with KCS may not be realized fully or at all or may take longer to realize than expected.

We may be required to take non-cash asset writedowns if oil and natural gas prices decline.

We may be required under full cost accounting rules to write down the carrying value of oil and natural gas properties if oil and natural gas prices decline or if there are substantial downward adjustments to our estimated proved reserves, increases in our estimates of development costs or deterioration in our exploration results.

We utilize the full cost method of accounting for oil and natural gas exploration and development activities. Under full cost accounting, we are required by SEC regulations to perform a ceiling test each quarter. The ceiling test is an impairment test and generally establishes a maximum, or ceiling, of the book value of oil and natural gas properties that is equal to the expected after tax present value (discounted at 10%) of the future net cash flows from proved reserves, including the effect of cash flow hedges, calculated using prevailing oil and natural gas prices on the last day of the period. If the net book value of oil and natural gas properties (reduced by any related net deferred income tax liability and asset retirement obligation) exceeds the ceiling limitation, SEC regulations require us to impair or writedown the book value of our oil and natural gas

properties. Depending on the magnitude, a ceiling test writedown could significantly reduce income, or produce a loss. As ceiling test

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computations involve the prevailing oil and natural gas prices on the last day of the quarter, it is impossible to predict the likelihood, timing and magnitude of any future impairments. The book value of our proved oil and natural gas properties increased in 2005 as a function of higher acquisition, exploration and development costs for the year and the increase in future development costs associated with reserves added during the year. To the extent finding and development costs continue to increase, we will become more susceptible to ceiling test writedowns in lower price environments.

Our results of operations could be adversely affected as a result of non-cash goodwill impairments.

We expect to record, in connection with the merger with KCS, approximately \$867 million in goodwill. In addition, we have booked goodwill in connection with other acquisitions we have made. Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price paid by us for various acquisitions plus liabilities assumed, including deferred taxes recorded in connection with the acquisitions, over the estimated fair market value of the tangible net assets acquired.

Goodwill is not amortized, but instead must be tested at least annually for impairment by applying a fair value based test. Goodwill is deemed impaired to the extent of any excess of its carrying amount over the residual fair value of the business. Such non-cash impairment could significantly reduce earnings during the period in which the impairment occurs, and would result in a corresponding reduction to goodwill and stockholders' equity.

Risks Relating to Common Stock

We have not paid, and do not anticipate paying, any dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future.

We have never paid any cash dividends on our common stock. We do not expect to declare or pay any cash or other dividends in the foreseeable future on our common stock. Our revolving credit facility restricts our ability to pay cash dividends on our capital stock, and we may also enter into credit agreements or other borrowing arrangements in the future that restrict our ability to declare cash dividends on our preferred stock and common stock.

The trading price of our common stock may be volatile.

The trading price of our shares of common stock has from time to time fluctuated widely and in the future may be subject to similar fluctuations. The trading price may be affected by a number of factors including the risk factors set forth herein as well as our operating results, financial condition, drilling activities and general conditions in the oil and natural gas exploration and development industry, the economy, the securities markets and other events. In recent years broad stock market indices, in general, and smaller capitalization companies, in particular, have experienced substantial price fluctuations. In a volatile market, we may experience wide fluctuations in the market price of our common stock. These fluctuations may have an extremely negative effect on the market price of our common stock.

Provisions in our organizational documents and under Delaware law could delay or prevent a change in control of our company, which could adversely affect the price of our common stock.

The existence of some provisions in our organizational documents and under Delaware law could delay or prevent a change in control of our company, which could adversely affect the price of our common stock. The provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws that could delay or prevent an unsolicited change in control of our company include a staggered board of directors, board authority to issue preferred stock, and advance notice provisions for director nominations or business to be considered at a stockholder meeting. In addition, Delaware law imposes restrictions on mergers and other business combinations between us and any holder of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as otherwise described in an applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for one or more of the following purposes:

refinance, in whole or in part, existing indebtedness;

finance, in whole or in part, the cost of acquisitions;

finance capital expenditures and capacity expansion; and/or

general corporate purposes and working capital.

Until we apply the proceeds from a sale of securities to their intended purposes, we may invest these proceeds in short-term investments.

The specific allocations of the proceeds we receive from the sale of our securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will not receive proceeds from sale of our common stock by selling stockholders except as may otherwise be stated in an applicable prospectus supplement.

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DESCRIPTION OF PETROHAWK CAPITAL STOCK

Set forth below is a description of the material terms of our capital stock. This description, however, is not complete and is qualified by reference to our certificate of incorporation (including our certificates of designation, if any) and bylaws. Copies of our certificate of incorporation (including our certificates of designation, if any) and bylaws have been filed with the SEC and are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Please read *Where You Can Find More Information*. You should also be aware that the summary below does not give full effect to the provisions of statutory or common law which may affect your rights as a stockholder.

Authorized Capital Stock

Our authorized capital stock consists of 300 million shares of common stock, par value of \$0.001 per share, and 5 million shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share, 1.5 million shares of which had been designated 8% cumulative convertible preferred stock. Effective July 10, 2006, we redeemed all of our outstanding 8% cumulative convertible preferred stock. Currently, no shares of 8% cumulative convertible preferred stock are outstanding, and as a result of the redemption, the shares of 8% cumulative convertible preferred stock were deemed to be retired, and currently have the status of authorized and unissued shares of preferred stock, undesignated as to series, and are subject to later designation and issuance by us in accordance with our certificate of incorporation. As a result, as of the date of this prospectus, the authorized shares of our preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share, are undesignated as to series. We do not have any current plans to designate and issue shares of 8% cumulative convertible preferred stock in the future.

Selected provisions of our organizational documents are summarized below; however, you should read the organizational documents, which are filed as exhibits to our periodic filings with the SEC and incorporated herein by reference, for other provisions that may be important to you. In addition, you should be aware that the summary below does not give full effect to the terms of the provisions of statutory or common law which may affect your rights as a stockholder.

Common Stock

We may, from time to time, issue an indeterminate amount of shares of common stock. As of September 13, 2006, there were 168,260,069 shares issued and outstanding. Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol *HAWK*.

Voting rights. Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. The vote of the holders of a majority of the stock represented at a meeting at which a quorum is present is generally required to take stockholder action, unless a greater vote is required by law. The holders are not entitled to cumulative voting in the election of directors. Directors are elected by plurality vote. Accordingly, the holder or holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock will be able to elect our entire board of directors.

Dividends, distributions and stock splits. Holders of common stock are entitled to receive dividends if, as and when such dividends are declared by the board of directors out of assets legally available therefore after payment of dividends required to be paid on shares of preferred stock, if any. Our existing debt arrangements restrict our ability to pay cash dividends.

Liquidation. In the event of any dissolution, liquidation, or winding up of our affairs, whether voluntary or involuntary, after payment of debts and other liabilities and making provision for any holders of its preferred stock who have a liquidation preference, our remaining assets will be distributed ratably among the holders of common stock.

Fully paid. All shares of common stock outstanding are fully paid and nonassessable.

Other rights. Holders of common stock have no redemption or conversion rights and no preemptive or other rights to subscribe for our securities.

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Preferred Stock

Our board of directors has the authority to issue 5,000,000 shares of undesignated preferred stock. As of the date of this prospectus, no shares of preferred stock are outstanding. We may issue preferred stock from time to time in one or more series, without stockholder approval, when authorized by our board of directors.

Each series of preferred stock will have specific financial and other terms that we will describe in a prospectus supplement. Any or all of the rights of our preferred stock may be greater than the rights of our common stock.

Upon issuance of a particular series of