

WHITING PETROLEUM CORP
Form 10-Q
July 30, 2009

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2009

or

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number: 001-31899
WHITING PETROLEUM CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its
charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

20-0098515
(I.R.S. Employer Identification
No.)

1700 Broadway, Suite 2300
Denver, Colorado
(Address of principal executive
offices)

80290-2300
(Zip code)

(303) 837-1661
(Registrant's telephone number, including area
code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T

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(§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer
Smaller reporting company

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

Number of shares of the registrant’s common stock outstanding at July 15, 2009: 50,841,572 shares.

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CERTAIN DEFINITIONS

Unless the context otherwise requires, the terms “we,” “us,” “our” or “ours” when used in this report refer to Whiting Petroleum Corporation, together with its consolidated subsidiaries. When the context requires, we refer to these entities separately.

We have included below the definitions for certain terms used in this report:

“Bbl” - One stock tank barrel, or 42 U.S. gallons liquid volume, used in this report in reference to oil and other liquid hydrocarbons.

“Bcf” - One billion cubic feet of natural gas.

“BOE” - One stock tank barrel equivalent of oil, calculated by converting natural gas volumes to equivalent oil barrels at a ratio of six Mcf to one Bbl of oil.

“GAAP” - Generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.

“MBbl” - One thousand barrels of oil or other liquid hydrocarbons.

“MBOE” - One thousand BOE.

“MBOE/d” - One thousand BOE per day.

“Mcf” - One thousand cubic feet of natural gas.

“MMBbl” - One million barrels of oil or other liquid hydrocarbons.

“MMBOE” - One million BOE.

“MMBtu” - One million British Thermal Units.

“MMcf” - One million cubic feet of natural gas.

“MMcf/d” - One MMcf of natural gas per day.

“plugging and abandonment” - Refers to the sealing off of fluids in the strata penetrated by a well so that the fluids from one stratum will not escape into another or to the surface. Regulations of many states require plugging of abandoned wells.

“working interest” - The interest in a crude oil and natural gas property (normally a leasehold interest) that gives the owner the right to drill, produce and conduct operations on the property; to share in production, subject to all royalties, overriding royalties and other burdens; and to share in all costs of exploration, development, operations and all risks in connection therewith.

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PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Consolidated Financial Statements

WHITING PETROLEUM CORPORATION
 CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Unaudited)
 (In thousands)

	June 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 13,178	\$ 9,624
Accounts receivable trade, net	106,880	123,386
Derivative assets	8,714	46,780
Prepaid expenses and other	10,978	37,284
Total current assets	139,750	217,074
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:		
Oil and gas properties, successful efforts method:		
Proved properties	4,632,721	4,423,197
Unproved properties	99,773	106,436
Other property and equipment	125,534	91,099
Total property and equipment	4,858,028	4,620,732
Less accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	(1,081,323)	(886,065)
Total property and equipment, net	3,776,705	3,734,667
DEBT ISSUANCE COSTS	29,708	10,779
DERIVATIVE ASSETS	13,520	38,104
OTHER LONG-TERM ASSETS	26,273	28,457
TOTAL	\$ 3,985,956	\$ 4,029,081

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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WHITING PETROLEUM CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Unaudited)
(In thousands, except share and per share data)

	June 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 25,359	\$ 64,610
Accrued capital expenditures	22,462	84,960
Accrued liabilities	63,879	45,359
Accrued interest	11,101	9,673
Oil and gas sales payable	30,579	35,106
Accrued employee compensation and benefits	9,566	41,911
Production taxes payable	17,755	20,038
Deferred gain on sale	13,543	14,650
Derivative liabilities	34,362	17,354
Deferred income taxes	13,115	15,395
Tax sharing liability	2,112	2,112
Total current liabilities	243,833	351,168
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Long-term debt	839,565	1,239,751
Deferred income taxes	325,002	390,902
Deferred gain on sale	66,028	73,216
Production Participation Plan liability	69,846	66,166
Asset retirement obligations	60,898	47,892
Derivative liabilities	97,894	28,131
Tax sharing liability	22,393	21,575
Other long-term liabilities	3,217	1,489
Total non-current liabilities	1,484,843	1,869,122
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value, 5,000,000 shares authorized;		
6.25% convertible perpetual preferred stock, 3,450,000 and 0 shares issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, aggregate liquidation preference of \$345,000,000	3	-
Common stock, \$0.001 par value, 75,000,000 shares authorized;		
51,365,790 issued and 50,843,532 outstanding as of June 30, 2009 and 42,582,100 issued and 42,323,336 outstanding as of December 31, 2008	51	43
Additional paid-in capital	1,542,022	971,310
Accumulated other comprehensive income	31,959	17,271
Retained earnings	683,245	820,167

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Total stockholders' equity		2,257,280		1,808,791
TOTAL	\$	3,985,956	\$	4,029,081

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

(Concluded)

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WHITING PETROLEUM CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (Unaudited)
(In thousands, except per share data)

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
REVENUES AND OTHER INCOME:				
Oil and natural gas sales	\$ 214,303	\$ 390,536	\$ 360,478	\$ 677,267
Gain (loss) on oil hedging activities	6,848	(48,111)	20,298	(71,023)
Amortization of deferred gain on sale	4,274	2,957	8,373	2,957
Gain on sale of properties	4,608	-	4,608	-
Interest income and other	125	393	240	624
Total revenues and other income	230,158	345,775	393,997	609,825
COSTS AND EXPENSES:				
Lease operating	57,582	57,470	118,536	113,176
Production taxes	14,914	26,057	24,433	43,743
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	100,315	54,811	200,349	105,322
Exploration and impairment	9,792	8,643	27,106	19,627
General and administrative	10,282	23,007	19,262	34,622
Interest expense	18,693	15,671	33,373	31,217
Change in Production Participation Plan liability	3,284	11,690	3,680	17,847
Loss on mark-to-market derivatives	160,532	20,562	182,297	17,625
Total costs and expenses	375,394	217,911	609,036	383,179
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES	(145,236)	127,864	(215,039)	226,646
INCOME TAX EXPENSE (BENEFIT):				
Current	-	(837)	(539)	872
Deferred	(52,073)	48,252	(77,578)	83,011
Total income tax expense (benefit)	(52,073)	47,415	(78,117)	83,883
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(93,163)	80,449	(136,922)	142,763
Preferred stock dividends	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME (LOSS) AVAILABLE (APPLICABLE) TO COMMON SHAREHOLDERS				
	\$ (93,163)	\$ 80,449	\$ (136,922)	\$ 142,763
	\$ (1.83)	\$ 1.90	\$ (2.78)	\$ 3.38

NET INCOME (LOSS) PER
COMMON SHARE, BASIC

NET INCOME (LOSS) PER COMMON SHARE, DILUTED	\$	(1.83)	\$	1.90	\$	(2.78)	\$	3.37
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WEIGHTED AVERAGE
SHARES OUTSTANDING,
BASIC

	50,842	42,320	49,230	42,296
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WEIGHTED AVERAGE
SHARES OUTSTANDING,
DILUTED

	50,842	42,446	49,230	42,416
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See notes to consolidated financial
statements.

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WHITING PETROLEUM CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Unaudited)
(In thousands)

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income (loss)	\$ (136,922)	\$ 142,763
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	200,349	105,322
Deferred income tax (benefit) expense	(77,578)	83,011
Amortization of debt issuance costs and debt discount	4,355	2,423
Accretion of tax sharing liability	819	623
Stock-based compensation	2,577	3,245
Amortization of deferred gain on sale	(8,373)	(2,957)
Gain on sale of properties	(4,608)	-
Undeveloped leasehold and oil and gas property impairments	8,295	5,400
Change in Production Participation Plan liability	3,680	17,847
Unrealized loss on derivative contracts	172,991	17,625
Other non-current	(2,754)	(11,757)
Changes in current assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable trade	17,866	(80,853)
Prepaid expenses and other	26,306	(24,472)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(24,321)	43,060
Accrued interest	1,428	(607)
Other current liabilities	(39,808)	28,418
Net cash provided by operating activities	144,302	329,091
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash acquisition capital expenditures	(38,691)	(388,457)
Drilling and development capital expenditures	(327,840)	(376,410)
Proceeds from sale of oil and gas properties	79,609	311
Proceeds from sale of marketable securities	-	764
Net proceeds from sale of 11,677,500 units in Whiting USA Trust I	-	195,128
Net cash used in investing activities	(286,922)	(568,664)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Issuance of 6.25% convertible perpetual preferred stock	334,562	-
Issuance of common stock	234,753	-
Long-term borrowings under credit agreement	260,000	735,000
Repayments of long-term borrowings under credit agreement	(660,000)	(485,000)
Debt issuance costs	(23,141)	-
Net cash provided by financing activities	146,174	250,000
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	3,554	10,427
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS:		
Beginning of period	9,624	14,778
End of period	\$ 13,178	\$ 25,205
SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW DISCLOSURES:		
Cash paid (refunded) for income taxes	\$ (2,484)	\$ 832
Cash paid for interest	\$ 26,771	\$ 28,778
NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		

Accrued capital expenditures during the period	\$	22,462	\$	73,658
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See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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WHITING PETROLEUM CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (Unaudited)
(In thousands)

	Preferred Stock	Common Stock	Additional Paid-in Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Retained Earnings	Total Stockholders' Equity	Comprehensive Income (Loss)		
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount	Capital	(Loss)	Earnings	Equity	(Loss)
BALANCES-January 1, 2008	-	\$ -	42,480	\$ 42	\$ 968,876	\$ (46,116)	\$ 568,024	\$ 1,490,826	
Net income	-	-	-	-	-	-	142,763	142,763	\$ 142,763
Change in derivative fair values, net of taxes of \$46,279	-	-	-	-	-	(79,993)	-	(79,993)	(79,993)
Realized loss on settled derivative contracts, net of taxes of \$26,021	-	-	-	-	-	44,978	-	44,978	44,978
Total comprehensive income									\$ 107,748
Restricted stock issued	-	-	139	1	-	-	-	1	
Restricted stock forfeited	-	-	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	
Restricted stock used for tax withholdings	-	-	(30)	-	(1,734)	-	-	(1,734)	
Stock-based compensation	-	-	-	-	3,245	-	-	3,245	
BALANCES-June 30, 2008	-	-	42,586	\$ 43	\$ 970,387	\$ (81,131)	\$ 710,787	\$ 1,600,086	
BALANCES-December 31, 2008	-	\$ -	42,582	\$ 43	\$ 971,310	\$ 17,271	\$ 820,167	\$ 1,808,791	
Net loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	(136,922)	(136,922)	\$ (136,922)
Change in derivative fair values, net of taxes of \$7,706	-	-	-	-	-	13,302	-	13,302	13,302
Realized gain on settled derivatives, net of taxes of \$4,933	-	-	-	-	-	(8,517)	-	(8,517)	(8,517)
Ineffectiveness loss on hedging activities, net of taxes of \$8,387	-	-	-	-	-	14,479	-	14,479	14,479
OCI amortization on de-designated hedges, net of taxes of \$2,272	-	-	-	-	-	(4,576)	-	(4,576)	(4,576)
Total comprehensive loss									\$ (122,234)

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Issuance of 6.25% convertible perpetual preferred stock	3,450	3	-	-	334,559	-	-	334,562
Issuance of stock, secondary offering	-	-	8,450	8	234,745	-	-	234,753
Restricted stock issued	-	-	364	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted stock forfeited	-	-	(3)	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted stock used for tax withholdings	-	-	(27)	-	(654)	-	-	(654)
Tax effect from restricted stock vesting	-	-	-	-	(515)	-	-	(515)
Stock-based compensation	-	-	-	-	2,577	-	-	2,577
BALANCES-June 30, 2009	3,450	\$ 3	51,366	\$ 51	\$ 1,542,022	\$ 31,959	\$ 683,245	\$ 2,257,280

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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WHITING PETROLEUM CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Description of Operations—Whiting Petroleum Corporation, a Delaware corporation, is an independent oil and gas company that acquires, exploits, develops and explores for crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids primarily in the Permian Basin, Rocky Mountains, Mid-Continent, Gulf Coast and Michigan regions of the United States. Unless otherwise specified or the context otherwise requires, all references in these notes to “Whiting” or the “Company” are to Whiting Petroleum Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Consolidated Financial Statements—The unaudited consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Whiting Petroleum Corporation, its consolidated subsidiaries, all of which are wholly owned, and Whiting’s pro rata share of the accounts of Whiting USA Trust I pursuant to Whiting’s 15.8% ownership interest. Investments in entities which give Whiting significant influence, but not control, over the investee are accounted for using the equity method. Under the equity method, investments are stated at cost plus the Company’s equity in undistributed earnings and losses. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated upon consolidation. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with GAAP for interim financial reporting. In the opinion of management, the accompanying financial statements include all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals and adjustments) necessary to present fairly, in all material respects, the Company’s interim results. Whiting’s 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K includes certain definitions and a summary of significant accounting policies and should be read in conjunction with this Form 10-Q. Except as disclosed herein, there has been no material change to the information disclosed in the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in Whiting’s 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Operating results for the periods presented are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the full year.

Earnings Per Share—Basic net income per common share is calculated by dividing net income available to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during each period. Diluted net income per common share is calculated by dividing adjusted net income by the weighted average number of diluted common shares outstanding, which includes the effect of potentially dilutive securities. Potentially dilutive securities for the diluted earnings per share calculations consist of unvested restricted stock awards and outstanding stock options using the treasury method, and convertible perpetual preferred stock using the if-converted method. All potentially dilutive securities are anti-dilutive when a loss from continuing operations exists and are excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share accordingly.

Subsequent Events—The Company has evaluated subsequent events through the date the financial statements were issued and has no material subsequent events to report.

2. ACQUISITIONS AND DIVESTITURES

2009 Acquisitions

There were no significant acquisitions during the first half of 2009.

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2009 Participation Agreement

On June 4, 2009, Whiting entered into a participation agreement with a privately held independent oil company covering twenty-five 1,280-acre units and one 640-acre unit located primarily in the western portion of the Sanish field in Mountrail County, North Dakota. Under the terms of the agreement, the private company agreed to pay 65% of Whiting's net drilling and well completion costs to receive 50% of Whiting's working interest and net revenue interest in the first and second wells planned for each of the units. Pursuant to the agreement, Whiting will remain the operator for each unit.

As of June 4, 2009, there were 18 wells drilled or in the process of being drilled on the 26 units covered by the agreement and 12 more wells planned in 2009 on these units. At the closing of the agreement, the private company paid Whiting \$107.3 million, representing \$6.4 million for acreage costs, \$65.8 million for 65% of Whiting's cost in the 18 wells drilled or drilling and \$35.1 million for a 50% interest in Whiting's Robinson Lake gas plant and oil and gas gathering system. Whiting used these proceeds to repay a portion of the debt outstanding under its credit agreement. Estimated proved reserves of 2.8 MMBOE, as of June 1, 2009, were sold by the Company as a result of this divestiture.

2008 Acquisition

Flat Rock Natural Gas Field—On May 30, 2008, Whiting acquired interests in 31 producing gas wells, development acreage and gas gathering and processing facilities on 22,000 gross (11,500 net) acres in the Flat Rock field in Uintah County, Utah for an aggregate acquisition price of \$365.0 million.

This acquisition was recorded using the purchase method of accounting. The table below summarizes the allocation of the \$359.4 million adjusted purchase price, based on the acquisition date fair value of the assets acquired and the liabilities assumed (in thousands).

	Flat Rock
Purchase price	\$ 359,380
Allocation of purchase price:	
Proved properties	\$ 251,895
Unproved properties	79,498
Gas gathering and processing facilities	35,736
Liabilities assumed	(7,749)
Total	\$ 359,380

Acquisition Pro Forma—In the Company's consolidated statements of income for the year ended December 31, 2008, Flat Rock's results of operations are included with the Company's results beginning May 31, 2008. The following table, however, reflects the unaudited pro forma results of operations for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008, as though the Flat Rock acquisition had occurred on the first day of each period. The pro forma information below includes numerous assumptions and is not necessarily indicative of what historical results would have been or what future results of operations will be.

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	Pro Forma		
	Whiting (As reported)	Flat Rock	Consolidated
Three months ended June 30, 2008:			
Total revenues	\$ 345,775	\$ 7,879	\$ 353,654
Net income	80,449	850	81,299
Net income per common share – basic and diluted	\$ 1.90	\$ 0.02	\$ 1.92
Six months ended June 30, 2008:			
Total revenues	\$ 609,825	\$ 17,761	\$ 627,586
Net income	142,763	1,144	143,907
Net income per common share – basic	\$ 3.38	\$ 0.02	\$ 3.40
Net income per common share – diluted	\$ 3.37	\$ 0.02	\$ 3.39

2008 Divestiture

Whiting USA Trust I—On April 30, 2008, the Company completed an initial public offering of units of beneficial interest in Whiting USA Trust I (the “Trust”), selling 11,677,500 Trust units at \$20.00 per Trust unit, providing net proceeds of \$193.8 million after underwriters’ fees, offering expenses, and post-close adjustments. The Company used the net offering proceeds to reduce a portion of the debt outstanding under its credit agreement. The net proceeds from the sale of Trust units to the public resulted in a deferred gain on sale of \$100.1 million. Immediately prior to the closing of the offering, Whiting conveyed a term net profits interest in certain of its oil and gas properties to the Trust in exchange for 13,863,889 Trust units. The Company has retained 15.8%, or 2,186,389 Trust units, of the total Trust units issued and outstanding.

The net profits interest entitles the Trust to receive 90% of the net proceeds from the sale of oil and natural gas production from the underlying properties. The net profits interest will terminate at the time when 9.11 MMBOE have been produced and sold from the underlying properties. This is the equivalent of 8.2 MMBOE in respect of the Trust’s right to receive 90% of the net proceeds from such production pursuant to the net profits interest, and these reserve quantities are projected to be produced by December 31, 2021, based on the reserve report for the underlying properties as of December 31, 2008.

3. LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt consisted of the following at June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 (in thousands):

	June 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
Credit Agreement	\$ 220,000	\$ 620,000
7% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2014	250,000	250,000
7.25% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2013, net of unamortized debt discount of \$1,341 and \$1,541, respectively	218,659	218,459
7.25% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2012, net of unamortized debt discount of \$331 and \$397, respectively	150,906	151,292
Total debt	\$ 839,565	\$ 1,239,751

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Credit Agreement—As of June 30, 2009, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation (“Whiting Oil and Gas”), the Company’s wholly-owned subsidiary, had a credit agreement with a syndicate of banks that had a borrowing base of \$1.1 billion with \$877.2 million of available borrowing capacity, which is net of \$220.0 million in borrowings and \$2.8 million in letters of credit outstanding. The credit agreement provides for interest only payments until April 2012, when the entire amount is due. In April 2009, Whiting Oil and Gas entered into a Fourth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement with its bank syndicate, which replaced the existing credit agreement. This amended credit agreement increased the Company’s borrowing base under the facility from \$900.0 million to \$1.1 billion and extended the principal repayment date from August 2010 to April 2012.

The borrowing base under the renewed credit agreement is determined at the discretion of the lenders, based on the collateral value of the proved reserves that have been mortgaged to the lenders, and is subject to regular redeterminations on May 1 and November 1 of each year, as well as special redeterminations described in the credit agreement, in each case which may reduce the amount of the borrowing base. Whiting Oil and Gas may, throughout the term of the credit agreement, borrow, repay and reborrow up to the borrowing base in effect at any given time. A portion of the revolving credit agreement in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$50.0 million may be used to issue letters of credit for the account of Whiting Oil and Gas or other designated subsidiaries of the Company. As of June 30, 2009, \$47.2 million was available for additional letters of credit under the agreement.

Interest accrues at the Company’s option at either (i) a base rate for a base rate loan plus the margin in the table below, where the base rate is defined as the greatest of the prime rate, the federal funds rate plus 0.50% or an adjusted LIBOR rate plus 1.00%, or (ii) an adjusted LIBOR rate for a Eurodollar loan plus the margin in the table below. The Company also incurs commitment fees of 0.50% on the unused portion of the lesser of the aggregate commitments of the lenders or the borrowing base, and are included as a component of interest expense. At June 30, 2009, the weighted average interest rate on the outstanding principal balance under the credit agreement was 2.3%.

Ratio of Outstanding Borrowings to Borrowing Base	Applicable Margin for Base Rate Loans	Applicable Margin for Eurodollar Loans
Less than 0.25 to 1.0	1.1250%	2.00%
Greater than or equal to 0.25 to 1.0 but less than 0.50 to 1.0	1.1375%	2.25%
Greater than or equal to 0.50 to 1.0 but less than 0.75 to 1.0	1.6250%	2.50%
Greater than or equal to 0.75 to 1.0 but less than 0.90 to 1.0	1.8750%	2.75%
Greater than or equal to 0.90 to 1.0	2.1250%	3.00%

The credit agreement contains restrictive covenants that may limit the Company’s ability to, among other things, incur additional indebtedness, sell assets, make loans to others, make investments, enter into mergers, enter into hedging contracts, incur liens and engage in certain other transactions without the prior consent of its lenders. The credit agreement requires the Company, as of the last day of any quarter, (i) to not exceed a total debt to EBITDAX ratio (as defined in the credit agreement) for the last four quarters of 4.5 to 1.0 for quarters ending prior to and on September 30, 2010, 4.25 to 1.0 for quarters ending December 31, 2010 to June 30, 2011 and 4.0 to 1.0 for quarters ending September 30, 2011 and thereafter, (ii) to have a consolidated current assets to consolidated current liabilities ratio (as defined in the credit agreement and which includes an add back of the available borrowing capacity under the credit agreement) of not less than 1.0 to 1.0 and (iii) to not exceed a senior secured debt to EBITDAX ratio (as defined in the credit agreement) for the last four quarters of 2.75 to 1.0 for quarters ending prior to and on December 31, 2009 and 2.5 to 1.0 for quarters ending March 31, 2010 and thereafter. Except for limited exceptions, which include the payment of dividends on the Company’s 6.25% convertible perpetual preferred stock, the credit agreement restricts its ability to make any dividends or distributions on its common stock or principal payments on its senior notes. The

Company was in compliance with its covenants under the credit agreement as of June 30, 2009.

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The obligations of Whiting Oil and Gas under the credit agreement are secured by a first lien on substantially all of Whiting Oil and Gas' properties included in the borrowing base for the credit agreement. Whiting Petroleum Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Equity Oil Company, have guaranteed the obligations of Whiting Oil and Gas under the credit agreement. Whiting Petroleum Corporation has pledged the stock of Whiting Oil and Gas and Equity Oil Company as security for its guarantee, and Equity Oil Company has mortgaged substantially all of its properties included in the borrowing base for the credit agreement as security for its guarantee.

Senior Subordinated Notes—In October 2005, the Company issued at par \$250.0 million of 7% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2014. The estimated fair value of these notes was \$230.0 million as of June 30, 2009, based on quoted market prices for these same debt securities.

In April 2005, the Company issued \$220.0 million of 7.25% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2013. These notes were issued at 98.507% of par, and the associated discount of \$3.3 million is being amortized to interest expense over the term of these notes, yielding an effective interest rate of 7.4%. The estimated fair value of these notes was \$207.9 million as of June 30, 2009, based on quoted market prices for these same debt securities.

In May 2004, the Company issued \$150.0 million of 7.25% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2012. These notes were issued at 99.26% of par, and the associated discount of \$1.1 million is being amortized to interest expense over the term of these notes, yielding an effective interest rate of 7.3%. The estimated fair value of these notes was \$143.3 million as of June 30, 2009, based on quoted market prices for these same debt securities.

The notes are unsecured obligations of Whiting Petroleum Corporation and are subordinated to all of the Company's senior debt, which currently consists of Whiting Oil and Gas' credit agreement. The Company's obligations under the notes are fully, unconditionally, jointly and severally guaranteed by all of the Company's wholly-owned operating subsidiaries, Whiting Oil and Gas, Whiting Programs, Inc. and Equity Oil Company (the "Guarantors"). Any subsidiaries other than the Guarantors are minor subsidiaries as defined by Rule 3-10(h)(6) of Regulation S-X of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Whiting Petroleum Corporation has no assets or operations independent of this debt and its investments in guarantor subsidiaries.

Interest Rate Swap—In August 2004, the Company entered into an interest rate swap contract to hedge the fair value of \$75.0 million of its 7.25% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2012. The interest rate swap was a fixed for floating swap in that the Company received the fixed rate of 7.25% and paid the floating rate. In March 2009, the counterparty exercised its option to cancel the swap contract effective May 1, 2009, resulting in a cancellation fee of \$1.4 million paid to the Company.

4. ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS

The Company's asset retirement obligations represent the estimated future costs associated with the plugging and abandonment of oil and gas wells, removal of equipment and facilities from leased acreage, and land restoration (including removal of certain onshore and offshore facilities in California), in accordance with applicable local, state and federal laws. The Company determines asset retirement obligations by calculating the present value of estimated cash flows related to plug and abandonment obligations. The current portions at June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 were \$10.0 million and \$6.5 million, respectively, and were recorded in accrued liabilities.

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The following table provides a reconciliation of the Company's asset retirement obligations for the six months ended June 30, 2009 (in thousands):

Asset retirement obligation, January 1, 2009	\$ 54,348
Additional liability incurred	334
Revisions in estimated cash flows	16,195
Accretion expense	3,757
Obligations on sold properties	(94)
Liabilities settled	(3,596)
Asset retirement obligation, June 30, 2009	\$ 70,944

5. DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Company is exposed to certain risks relating to its ongoing business operations. The risks managed by using derivative instruments are commodity price risk and interest rate risk.

Commodity derivative contracts—Historically, prices received for crude oil and natural gas production have been volatile because of seasonal weather patterns, supply and demand factors, worldwide political factors and general economic conditions. Whiting enters into derivative contracts, primarily costless collars, to achieve a more predictable cash flow by reducing its exposure to commodity price volatility. Commodity derivative contracts are also used to ensure adequate cash flow to fund our capital programs and manage price risks and returns on acquisitions and drilling programs. Costless collars are designed to establish floor and ceiling prices on anticipated future oil and gas production. While the use of these derivative instruments limits the downside risk of adverse price movements, they may also limit future revenues from favorable price movements. The Company does not enter into derivative contracts for speculative or trading purposes.

Whiting derivatives—The table below details the Company's costless collar derivatives, including its proportionate share of Trust hedges, entered into to hedge forecasted crude oil and natural gas production revenues, as of July 7, 2009.

Period	Whiting Petroleum Corporation			
	Contracted Volumes		NYMEX Price Collar Ranges	
	Crude Oil (Bbl)	Natural Gas (Mcf)	Crude Oil (per Bbl)	Natural Gas (per Mcf)
Jul – Dec 2009	2,990,063	274,646	\$ 60.53 - \$ 77.78	\$ 6.49 - \$ 15.23
Jan – Dec 2010	5,046,289	495,390	\$ 62.34 - \$ 83.00	\$ 6.50 - \$ 15.06
Jan – Dec 2011	4,435,039	436,510	\$ 58.01 - \$ 89.37	\$ 6.50 - \$ 14.62
Jan – Dec 2012	4,065,091	384,002	\$ 57.70 - \$ 91.02	\$ 6.50 - \$ 14.27
Jan – Nov 2013	3,090,000	-	\$ 55.30 - \$ 85.68	n/a
Total	19,626,482	1,590,548		

Derivatives conveyed to Whiting USA Trust I—In connection with the Company's conveyance on April 30, 2008 of a term net profits interest to the Trust and related sale of 11,677,500 Trust units to the public (as further explained in the note on Acquisitions and Divestitures), the right to any future hedge payments made or received by Whiting on certain of its derivative contracts have been conveyed to the Trust, and therefore such payments will be included in the Trust's

calculation of net proceeds. Under the terms of the aforementioned conveyance, Whiting retains 10% of the net proceeds from the underlying properties. Whiting's retention of 10% of these net proceeds, combined with its ownership of 2,186,389 Trust units, results in third-party public holders of Trust units receiving 75.8%, and Whiting retaining 24.2%, of the future economic results of commodity derivative contracts conveyed to the Trust. The relative ownership of the future economic results of such commodity derivatives is reflected in the tables below. No additional hedges are allowed to be placed on Trust assets.

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The 24.2% portion of Trust derivatives that Whiting has retained the economic rights to (and which are also included in the table above) are as follows:

Period	Whiting Petroleum Corporation Contracted Volumes		NYMEX Price Collar Ranges	
	Crude Oil (Bbl)	Natural Gas (Mcf)	Crude Oil (per Bbl)	Natural Gas (per Mcf)
Jul – Dec 2009	68,063	274,646	\$ 76.00 - \$ 136.07	\$ 6.49 - \$ 15.23
Jan – Dec 2010	126,289	495,390	\$ 76.00 - \$ 134.98	\$ 6.50 - \$ 15.06
Jan – Dec 2011	115,039	436,510	\$ 74.00 - \$ 140.15	\$ 6.50 - \$ 14.62
Jan – Dec 2012	105,091	384,002	\$ 74.00 - \$ 141.72	\$ 6.50 - \$ 14.27
Total	414,482	1,590,548		

The 75.8% portion of Trust derivative contracts for which Whiting has transferred the economic rights to third-party public holders of Trust units (and which have not been reflected in the above tables) are as follows:

Period	Third-party Public Holders of Trust Units Contracted Volumes		NYMEX Price Collar Ranges	
	Crude Oil (Bbl)	Natural Gas (Mcf)	Crude Oil (per Bbl)	Natural Gas (per Mcf)
Jul – Dec 2009	213,188	860,254	\$ 76.00 - \$ 136.07	\$ 6.49 - \$ 15.23
Jan – Dec 2010	395,567	1,551,678	\$ 76.00 - \$ 134.98	\$ 6.50 - \$ 15.06
Jan – Dec 2011	360,329	1,367,249	\$ 74.00 - \$ 140.15	\$ 6.50 - \$ 14.62
Jan – Dec 2012	329,171	1,202,785	\$ 74.00 - \$ 141.72	\$ 6.50 - \$ 14.27
Total	1,298,255	4,981,966		

Discontinuance of cash flow hedge accounting—Prior to April 1, 2009, the Company designated a portion of its commodity derivative contracts as cash flow hedges, whose unrealized fair value gains and losses were recorded to other comprehensive income, while the Company's remaining commodity derivative contracts were not designated as hedges, with gains and losses from changes in fair value recognized immediately in earnings. Effective April 1, 2009, however, the Company elected to de-designate all of its commodity derivative contracts that had been previously designated as cash flow hedges as of March 31, 2009 and has elected to discontinue hedge accounting prospectively. As a result, subsequent to March 31, 2009 the Company recognizes all gains and losses from prospective changes in commodity derivative fair values immediately in earnings rather than deferring any such amounts in accumulated other comprehensive income.

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At March 31, 2009, accumulated other comprehensive income consisted of \$59.8 million (\$36.5 million after tax) of unrealized gains, representing the mark-to-market value of the Company's open commodity contracts designated as cash flow hedges as of that balance sheet date, less any ineffectiveness recognized. As a result of discontinuing hedge accounting on April 1, 2009, such mark-to-market values at March 31, 2009 are frozen in accumulated other comprehensive income as of the de-designation date and reclassified into earnings as the original hedged transactions affect income. During the three and six months ended June 30, 2009, \$6.8 million (\$4.6 million net of tax) of derivative gains were reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income into earnings relating to de-designated commodity hedges. As of June 30, 2009, accumulated other comprehensive income amounted to \$50.6 million (\$32.0 million net of tax), which consisted entirely of unrealized deferred gains on commodity derivative contracts that had been previously designated as cash flow hedges. The Company expects to reclassify into earnings from accumulated other comprehensive income net after-tax gains of \$21.2 million related to de-designated commodity hedges during the next twelve months.

Interest rate derivative contract—In August 2004, the Company entered into an interest rate swap agreement to manage its exposure to interest rate risk on a portion of its fixed-rate borrowings. The interest rate swap effectively modified the Company's exposure to interest rate risk by converting the fixed rate on \$75.0 million of the Company's Senior Subordinated Notes due 2012 to a floating rate. This agreement involved the receipt of fixed rate amounts in exchange for floating rate interest payments over the life of the agreement without an exchange of the underlying notional amount. The interest rate swap was designated as a fair value hedge. In March 2009, the counterparty exercised its option to cancel the swap contract effective May 1, 2009, resulting in a cancellation fee of \$1.4 million paid to the Company.

SFAS 161—Effective January 1, 2009, the Company adopted Financial Accounting Standard Board ("FASB") Statement No. 161, Disclosure about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities – an amendment to FASB Statement No. 133 ("SFAS 161"). SFAS 161 expands interim and annual disclosures about derivative and hedging activities that are intended to better convey the purpose of derivative use and the risks managed. The adoption of SFAS 161 did not have an impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements, other than additional disclosures which are set forth below.

All derivative instruments are recorded on the consolidated balance sheet at fair value. The following tables summarize the location and fair value amounts of all derivative instruments in the consolidated balance sheets (in thousands).

Designated as SFAS 133 Hedges	Balance Sheet Classification	Fair Value	
		June 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
Derivative assets			
Commodity contracts	Current derivative assets	\$ -	\$ 30,198
Commodity contracts	Non-current derivative assets	-	13,163
Interest rate swap contract	Other long-term assets	-	1,690
Total derivative assets		\$ -	\$ 45,051
Derivative liabilities			
Commodity contracts	Current derivative liabilities	\$ -	\$ 4,784
Commodity contracts	Non-current derivative liabilities	-	9,224
Total derivative liabilities		\$ -	\$ 14,008

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Not Designated as SFAS 133 Hedges		Balance Sheet Classification	Fair Value	
			June 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
Derivative assets				
Commodity contracts	Current derivative assets	\$	8,714	\$ 16,582
Commodity contracts	Non-current derivative assets		13,520	24,941
Total derivative assets			22,234	41,523
Derivative liabilities				
Commodity contracts	Current derivative liabilities	\$	34,362	\$ 12,570
Commodity contracts	Non-current derivative liabilities		97,894	18,907
Total derivative liabilities		\$	132,256	\$ 31,477

Commodity derivative contracts—The following tables summarize the effects of commodity derivatives instruments on the consolidated statements of income for the three and six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008 (in thousands).

SFAS 133 Cash Flow Hedging Relationships	Location of Gain (Loss) Not Recognized in Income	Gain (Loss) Recognized in OCI (Effective Portion) Six Months Ended June 30,	
		2009	2008
Commodity contracts	Other comprehensive income	\$ 21,008	\$ (126,272)

		Three Months Ended June 30,	
		2009	2008
Commodity contracts	Other comprehensive income	\$ -	\$ (104,895)

SFAS 133 Cash Flow Hedging Relationships	Income Statement Classification	Gain (Loss) Reclassified from AOCI into Income (Effective Portion) Six Months Ended June 30,	
		2009	2008
Commodity contracts	Gain (loss) on oil hedging activities	\$ 20,298	\$ (71,023)

		Three Months Ended June 30,	
		2009	2008
Commodity contracts	Gain (loss) on oil hedging activities	\$ 6,848	\$ (48,111)

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SFAS 133 Cash Flow Hedging Relationships		(Gain) Loss Recognized in Income (Ineffective Portion) Six Months Ended June 30,	
		2009	2008
	Income Statement Classification		
	Loss on mark-to-market derivatives	\$ 22,866	\$ -
		Three Months Ended June 30, 2009	2008
	Loss on mark-to-market derivatives	\$ -	\$ -

Not Designated as SFAS 133 Hedges		(Gain) Loss Recognized in Income Six Months Ended June 30,	
		2009	2008
	Income Statement Classification		
	Loss on mark-to-market derivatives	\$ 159,431	\$ 17,625
		Three Months Ended June 30, 2009	2008
	Loss on mark-to-market derivatives	\$ 160,532	\$ 20,562

Fair value hedge—In March 2009, the Company's derivative counterparty exercised its option to cancel the Company's interest rate swap contract effective May 1, 2009. Prior to the cancellation, the gain or loss on the hedged item (\$75.0 million of fixed-rate borrowings under the Company's Senior Subordinated Notes due 2012) attributable to the hedged benchmark interest rate risk (risk of changes in the LIBOR swap rate) and the offsetting gain or loss on the related interest rate swap for the three and six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008 were as follows (in thousands):

Income Statement Classification	Gain (Loss) on Swap Six Months Ended June 30,		Gain (Loss) on Borrowing Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
Interest expense	\$ (330)	\$ (125)	\$ 330	\$ 125
	Three Months Ended June 30, 2009	2008	Three Months Ended June 30, 2009	2008
Interest expense	\$ -	\$ (1,730)	\$ -	\$ 1,730

There was no difference, or therefore ineffectiveness, between the gain (loss) on swap and gain (loss) on borrowing amounts in the above table because this swap met the criteria to qualify for the "short cut" method of assessing effectiveness. Accordingly, the change in fair value of the debt was assumed to equal the change in the fair value of the interest rate swap. In addition, the net swap settlements that accrued each period were also reported in interest expense.

Contingent features in derivative instruments—None of the Company’s derivative instruments contain credit-risk-related contingent features. Counterparties to the Company’s derivative contracts are high credit quality financial institutions that are lenders under Whiting’s credit agreement. Whiting uses only credit agreement participants to hedge with, since these institutions are secured equally with the holders of Whiting’s bank debt which eliminates the potential need to post collateral when Whiting is in a large derivative liability position. As a result, the Company is not required to post letters of credit or corporate guarantees for the counterparty to secure contract performance obligations.

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6. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Effective January 1, 2008, the Company adopted FASB Statement No. 157, Fair Value Measurements (“SFAS 157”) which established a three-level valuation hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy categorizes assets and liabilities measured at fair value into one of three different levels depending on the observability of the inputs employed in the measurement. The three levels are defined as follows:

- Level 1: Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets – inputs to the valuation methodology are quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Level 2: Significant Other Observable Inputs – inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, and inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.
- Level 3: Significant Unobservable Inputs – inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

A financial instrument’s categorization within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Company’s assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to the asset or liability. The following table presents information about the Company’s financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of June 30, 2009, and indicates the fair value hierarchy of the valuation techniques utilized by the Company to determine such fair values (in thousands):

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Fair Value June 30, 2009
Financial Assets				
Commodity derivatives - current	\$ -	\$ 8,714	\$ -	\$ 8,714
Commodity derivatives - non-current	-	13,520	-	13,520
Total financial assets	\$ -	\$ 22,234	\$ -	\$ 22,234
Financial Liabilities				
Commodity derivatives - current	\$ -	\$ 34,362	\$ -	\$ 34,362
Commodity derivatives - non-current	-	97,894	-	97,894
Total financial liabilities	\$ -	\$ 132,256	\$ -	\$ 132,256

Commodity Derivative Instruments—Commodity derivative instruments consist primarily of costless collars for crude oil and natural gas. The Company’s costless collars are valued using industry-standard modeling techniques that consider the contractual prices for the underlying instruments as well as other relevant economic measures. Substantially all of these assumptions are observable in the marketplace throughout the full term of the contract, can be derived from observable data or are supported by observable levels at which transactions are executed in the marketplace, and are designated as Level 2 within the valuation hierarchy. The discount rate used in the fair values of these instruments includes a measure of nonperformance risk. The Company utilizes the counterparties’ valuations to assess the reasonableness of its own valuations.

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7. DEFERRED COMPENSATION

Production Participation Plan—The Company has a Production Participation Plan (the “Plan”) in which all employees participate. On an annual basis, interests in oil and gas properties acquired, developed or sold during the year are allocated to the Plan as determined annually by the Compensation Committee. Once allocated, the interests (not legally conveyed) are fixed. Interest allocations prior to 1995 consisted of 2%-3% overriding royalty interests. Interest allocations since 1995 have been 2%-5% of oil and gas sales less lease operating expenses and production taxes.

Payments of 100% of the year’s Plan interests to employees and the vested percentages of former employees in the year’s Plan interests are made annually in cash after year-end. Accrued compensation expense under the Plan for the six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008 amounted to \$5.7 million and \$20.5 million, respectively, charged to general and administrative expense and \$0.8 million and \$3.3 million, respectively, charged to exploration expense.

Employees vest in the Plan ratably at 20% per year over a five year period. Pursuant to the terms of the Plan, (i) employees who terminate their employment with the Company are entitled to receive their vested allocation of future Plan year payments on an annual basis; (ii) employees will become fully vested at age 62, regardless of when their interests would otherwise vest; and (iii) any forfeitures inure to the benefit of the Company.

The Company uses average historical prices to estimate the vested long-term Production Participation Plan liability. At June 30, 2009, the Company used three-year average historical NYMEX prices of \$78.63 for crude oil and \$7.17 for natural gas to estimate this liability. If the Company were to terminate the Plan or upon a change in control (as defined in the Plan), all employees fully vest, and the Company would distribute to each Plan participant an amount based upon the valuation method set forth in the Plan in a lump sum payment twelve months after the date of termination or within one month after a change in control event. Based on prices at June 30, 2009, if the Company elected to terminate the Plan or if a change of control event occurred, it is estimated that the fully vested lump sum cash payment to employees would approximate \$108.2 million. This amount includes \$17.7 million attributable to proved undeveloped oil and gas properties and \$6.5 million relating to the short-term portion of the Plan liability, which has been accrued as a current payable to be paid in February 2010. The ultimate sharing contribution for proved undeveloped oil and gas properties will be awarded in the year of Plan termination or change of control. However, the Company has no intention to terminate the Plan.

The following table presents changes in the estimated long-term liability related to the Plan for the six months ended June 30, 2009 (in thousands):

Production Participation Plan liability, January 1, 2009	\$	66,166
Change in liability for accretion, vesting and changes in estimates		10,225
Reduction in liability for cash payments accrued and recognized as compensation expense		(6,545)
Production Participation Plan liability, June 30, 2009	\$	69,846

8. STOCKHOLDERS’ EQUITY

6.25% Convertible Perpetual Preferred Stock Offering—In June 2009, the Company completed a public offering of 6.25% convertible perpetual preferred stock, selling 3,450,000 shares at a price of \$100.00 per share and providing net proceeds of \$334.6 million after underwriters’ fees and offering expenses. The Company used the net offering proceeds to repay a portion of the debt outstanding under Whiting Oil and Gas’ credit agreement.

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Each holder of the convertible perpetual preferred stock is entitled to an annual dividend of \$6.25 per share to be paid quarterly in cash, common stock or a combination thereof on March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15, when and if such dividend has been declared by Whiting's board of directors with the first dividend payment September 15, 2009. Each share of convertible perpetual preferred stock has a liquidation preference of \$100.00 per share plus accumulated and unpaid dividends and is convertible, at a holder's option, into shares of Whiting's common stock based on an initial conversion price of \$43.4163, subject to adjustment upon the occurrence of certain events. The convertible perpetual preferred stock is not redeemable by the Company. At any time on or after June 15, 2013, the Company may cause all outstanding shares of this preferred stock to be automatically converted into shares of common stock if certain conditions are met. The holders of convertible preferred stock have no voting rights unless dividends payable on the convertible preferred stock are in arrears for six or more quarterly periods.

Common Stock Offering—In February 2009, the Company completed a public offering of its common stock, selling 8,450,000 shares of common stock at a price of \$29.00 per share and providing net proceeds of \$234.8 million after underwriters' fees and offering expenses. The Company used the net offering proceeds to repay a portion of the debt outstanding under Whiting Oil and Gas' credit agreement. Whiting plans to use the increased credit availability to fund a portion of the planned capital expenditures in its 2009 capital budget.

9. INCOME TAXES

Income tax expense during interim periods is based on applying an estimated annual effective income tax rate to year-to-date income, plus any significant unusual or infrequently occurring items which are recorded in the interim period. The provision for income taxes for the six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008 differs from the amount that would be provided by applying the statutory U.S. federal income tax rate of 35% to pre-tax income primarily because of state income taxes and estimated permanent differences.

The computation of the annual estimated effective tax rate at each interim period requires certain estimates and significant judgment including, but not limited to, the expected operating income for the year, projections of the proportion of income earned and taxed in various jurisdictions, permanent and temporary differences, and the likelihood of recovering deferred tax assets generated in the current year. The accounting estimates used to compute the provision for income taxes may change as new events occur, more experience is acquired, additional information is obtained or as the tax environment changes.

10. ADOPTED AND RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

On December 31, 2008, the SEC published the final rules and interpretations updating its oil and gas reporting requirements. Many of the revisions are updates to definitions in the existing oil and gas rules to make them consistent with the petroleum resource management system, which is a widely accepted standard for the management of petroleum resources that was developed by several industry organizations. Key revisions include the ability to include nontraditional resources in reserves, the use of new technology for determining reserves, permitting disclosure of probable and possible reserves, and changes to the pricing used to determine reserves in that companies must use a 12-month average price. The average is calculated using the first-day-of-the-month price for each of the 12 months that make up the reporting period. The SEC will require companies to comply with the amended disclosure requirements for registration statements filed after January 1, 2010, and for annual reports for fiscal years ending on or after December 31, 2009. Early adoption is not permitted. The Company is currently assessing the impact that the adoption will have on our disclosures, operating results, statement of financial position and statement of cash flows.

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In June 2009, the FASB issued SFAS No. 168, The “FASB Accounting Standards Codification” and the Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (“SFAS 168”). This standard replaces SFAS No. 162, The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and establishes only two levels of GAAP, authoritative and nonauthoritative. The FASB Accounting Standards Codification (the “Codification”) was not intended to change or alter existing GAAP, and it therefore will not have any impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements other than to modify certain existing disclosures. The Codification will become the source of authoritative, nongovernmental GAAP, except for rules and interpretive releases of the SEC, which are sources of authoritative GAAP for SEC registrants. All other nongrandfathered, non-SEC accounting literature not included in the Codification will become nonauthoritative. SFAS 168 is effective for financial statements for interim or annual reporting periods ending after September 15, 2009. The Company will begin to use the new guidelines and numbering system prescribed by the Codification when referring to GAAP in the third quarter of fiscal 2009.

In May 2009, the FASB issued SFAS No. 165, Subsequent Events (“SFAS 165”). This standard is intended to establish general standards of accounting for and disclosure of events that occur after the balance sheet date but before financial statements are issued or are available to be issued. Specifically, this standard sets forth the period after the balance sheet date during which management of a reporting entity should evaluate events or transactions that may occur for potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements, the circumstances under which an entity should recognize events or transactions occurring after the balance sheet date in its financial statements, and the disclosures that an entity should make about events or transactions that occurred after the balance sheet date. SFAS 165 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods ended after June 15, 2009. The Company adopted SFAS 165 effective April 1, 2009. The adoption of SFAS 165 did not have an impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements, other than additional disclosures.

In April 2009, the FASB issued two FASB Staff Positions (“FSP”) intended to provide additional application guidance and enhanced disclosures regarding fair value measurements and impairments of securities. FSP No. FAS 157-4, Determining Fair Value When the Volume or Level of Activity for the Asset or Liability Have Significantly Decreased and Identifying Transactions That Are Not Orderly (“FSP 157-4”), provides additional guidelines for estimating fair value in accordance with SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements. FSP No. 107-1 and APB 28-1, Interim Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments (“FSP 107-1”), increases the frequency of fair value disclosures. These FSPs are effective for fiscal years and interim periods ended after June 15, 2009. The Company adopted these FSPs effective April 1, 2009. The adoption of these FSPs did not have an impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements, other than additional disclosures.

The Company elected to implement SFAS 157 with the one-year deferral permitted by FSP No. FAS 157-2, Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157 (“FSP 157-2”), issued February 2008, which deferred the effective date of SFAS 157 for one year for certain nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities measured at fair value. Accordingly, the Company adopted SFAS 157 on January 1, 2009 for its nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis. This deferred adoption of SFAS 157, however, did not have an impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements nor its disclosures. As it relates to the Company, this delayed adoption applies to certain nonfinancial assets and liabilities as may be acquired in a business combination and thereby measured at fair value; impaired oil and gas property assessments; and the initial recognition of asset retirement obligations for which fair value is used.

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In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), Business Combinations (“SFAS 141(R)”), which replaces SFAS No. 141. SFAS 141(R) is effective for business combinations with acquisition dates on or after fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008, and the Company adopted SFAS 141(R) effective January 1, 2009. As the Company has not entered into any business combinations during the first half of 2009, the adoption of SFAS 141(R) has not had any impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements. SFAS 141(R) establishes principles and requirements for how an acquirer recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree and the goodwill acquired. SFAS 141(R) also establishes disclosure requirements that will enable users to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination.

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

Unless the context otherwise requires, the terms "Whiting," "we," "us," "our" or "ours" when used in this Item refer to Whiting Petroleum Corporation, together with its consolidated subsidiaries, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation, Equity Oil Company and Whiting Programs, Inc. When the context requires, we refer to these entities separately. This document contains forward-looking statements, which give our current expectations or forecasts of future events. Please refer to "Forward-Looking Statements" at the end of this Item for an explanation of these types of statements.

Overview

We are an independent oil and gas company engaged in oil and gas acquisition, development, exploitation, production and exploration activities primarily in the Permian Basin, Rocky Mountains, Mid-Continent, Gulf Coast and Michigan regions of the United States. Prior to 2006, we generally emphasized the acquisition of properties that increased our production levels and provided upside potential through further development. Since 2006, we have focused primarily on organic drilling activity and on the development of previously acquired properties, specifically on projects that we believe provide the opportunity for repeatable successes and production growth. We believe the combination of acquisitions, subsequent development and organic drilling provides us a broad set of growth alternatives and allows us to direct our capital resources to what we believe to be the most advantageous investments.

As demonstrated by our recent capital expenditure programs, we are increasingly focused on a balance between exploration and development programs and continuing to selectively pursue acquisitions that complement our existing core properties. We believe that our significant drilling inventory, combined with our operating experience and cost structure, provides us with meaningful organic growth opportunities. Our growth plan is centered on the following activities:

- pursuing the development of projects that we believe will generate attractive rates of return;
- maintaining a balanced portfolio of lower risk, long-lived oil and gas properties that provide stable cash flows;
- seeking property acquisitions that complement our core areas; and
- allocating a portion of our capital budget to leasing and exploring prospect areas.

We have historically acquired operated and non-operated properties that exceed our rate of return criteria. For acquisitions of properties with additional development, exploitation and exploration potential, our focus has been on acquiring operated properties so that we can better control the timing and implementation of capital spending. In some instances, we have been able to acquire non-operated property interests at attractive rates of return that established a presence in a new area of interest or that have complemented our existing operations. We intend to continue to acquire both operated and non-operated interests to the extent we believe they meet our return criteria. In addition, our willingness to acquire non-operated properties in new geographic regions provides us with geophysical and geologic data in some cases that leads to further acquisitions in the same region, whether on an operated or non-operated basis. We sell properties when we believe that the sales price realized will provide an above average rate of return for the property or when the property no longer matches the profile of properties we desire to own.

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Oil and natural gas prices have fallen significantly since their third quarter 2008 levels. For example, the daily average NYMEX oil price was \$118.13 per Bbl for the third quarter of 2008, \$58.75 per Bbl for the fourth quarter of 2008, and \$51.46 per Bbl for the first six months of 2009. Similarly, daily average NYMEX natural gas prices have declined from \$10.27 per Mcf for the third quarter of 2008 to \$6.96 per Mcf for the fourth quarter of 2008 and \$4.21 for the first six months of 2009. Lower oil and natural gas prices may not only decrease our revenues, but may also reduce the amount of oil and natural gas that we can produce economically and therefore potentially lower our reserve bookings. A substantial or extended decline in oil or natural gas prices may result in impairments of our proved oil and gas properties and may materially and adversely affect our future business, financial condition, cash flows, results of operations, liquidity or ability to finance planned capital expenditures. Lower oil and gas prices may also reduce the amount of our borrowing base under our credit agreement, which is determined at the discretion of the lenders based on the collateral value of our proved reserves that have been mortgaged to the lenders. Alternatively, higher oil and natural gas prices may result in significant non-cash mark-to-market losses being recognized on our commodity derivatives, which may in turn cause us to experience net income and operating result losses, on a non-cash basis.

2009 Highlights and Future Considerations

6.25% Convertible Perpetual Preferred Stock Offering. In June 2009, we completed a public offering of 6.25% convertible perpetual preferred stock, selling 3,450,000 shares at a price of \$100.00 per share and providing net proceeds of \$334.6 million after underwriters' fees and offering expenses. We used the net offering proceeds to repay a portion of the debt outstanding under Whiting Oil and Gas' credit agreement.

Each holder of the convertible perpetual preferred stock is entitled to an annual dividend of \$6.25 per share to be paid quarterly in cash, common stock or a combination thereof on March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15, when and if such dividends are declared by our board of directors with the first dividend payment September 15, 2009. Each share of convertible perpetual preferred stock has a liquidation preference of \$100.00 per share plus accumulated and unpaid dividends and is convertible, at a holder's option, into shares of our common stock based on an initial conversion price of \$43.4163, subject to adjustment upon the occurrence of certain events. The convertible perpetual preferred stock is not redeemable by us. At any time on or after June 15, 2013, we may cause all outstanding shares of convertible preferred stock to be automatically converted into shares of common stock if certain conditions are met. The holders of convertible preferred stock have no voting rights unless dividends payable on the convertible preferred stock are in arrears for six or more quarterly periods.

Sanish Field Transaction. On June 4, 2009, we entered into a participation agreement with a privately held independent oil company covering twenty-five 1,280-acre units and one 640-acre unit located primarily in the western portion of the Sanish field in Mountrail County, North Dakota. Under the terms of the agreement, the private company has agreed to pay 65% of our net working interest drilling and well completion costs to receive 50% of our working interest and net revenue interest in the first and second wells planned for each of the units. Pursuant to the agreement, we will remain the operator for each unit.

As of June 4, 2009, there were 18 wells drilled or in the process of being drilled on the 26 units covered by the agreement and 12 more wells planned in 2009 on these units. At the closing of the agreement, the private company paid us \$107.3 million, representing \$6.4 million for acreage costs, \$65.8 million for 65% of our cost in the 18 wells drilled or drilling and \$35.1 million for a 50% interest in our Robinson Lake gas plant and oil and gas gathering system. We used the proceeds to repay a portion of the debt outstanding under our credit agreement. We sold estimated proved reserves of 2.8 MMBOE, as of June 1, 2009, as a result of this transaction.

Common Stock Offering. In February 2009, we completed a public offering of our common stock, selling 8,450,000 shares of common stock at a price of \$29.00 per share and providing net proceeds of \$234.8 million after underwriters' fees and offering expenses. We used the net offering proceeds to repay a portion of the debt outstanding under

Whiting Oil and Gas' credit agreement, and we plan to use the increased credit availability to fund a portion of the planned capital expenditures in our 2009 capital budget.

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Operational Highlights. Our Sanish and Parshall fields in Mountrail County, North Dakota target the Bakken formation. Net production in the Sanish field increased 200% from a net 3.4 MBOE/d in June 2008 to a net 10.2 MBOE/d in June 2009. Net production in the Parshall field increased 6% from a net 5.0 MBOE/d in June 2008 to a net 5.3 MBOE/d in June 2009.

We continue to have significant development and related infrastructure activity on the Postle and North Ward Estes fields acquired in 2005, which have resulted in reserve and production increases. Our expansion of the CO2 flood at both fields continues to generate positive results. During the first half of 2009, we incurred \$98.5 million of development expenditures on these two projects.

The Postle field is located in Texas County, Oklahoma. Four of our five producing units are currently under active CO2 enhanced recovery projects. As of July 17, 2009, we were injecting 130 MMcf/d of CO2 in this field. Production from the field has increased 39% from a net 6.3 MBOE/d in June 2008 to a net 8.7 MBOE/d in June 2009. Operations are under way to expand CO2 injection into the northern part of the fourth unit, HMU, and to optimize flood patterns in the existing CO2 floods. These expansion projects include the restoration of shut-in wells and the drilling of new producing and injection wells.

The North Ward Estes field is located in Ward and Winkler Counties, Texas and is responding positively to our water and CO2 floods, which we initiated in Phase I during May 2007. In early March 2009, we began CO2 injection in Phase II of the project. As of July 17, 2009, we were injecting 144 MMcf/d of CO2 in this field. Production from the field has increased 22% from a net 5.4 MBOE/d in June 2008 to a net 6.5 MBOE/d in June 2009. In this field, we are developing new and reactivated wells for water and CO2 injection and production purposes. Additionally, we plan to install oil, gas and water processing facilities in four phases through 2015, and we estimate that the first three phases will be substantially complete by December 2009.

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Results of Operations

Six Months Ended June 30, 2009 Compared to Six Months Ended June 30, 2008

Selected Operating Data:	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008
Net production:		
Oil (MMBbls)	7.3	5.4
Natural gas (Bcf)	15.5	14.2
Total production (MMBOE)	9.9	7.8
Net sales (in millions):		
Oil (1)	\$ 307.3	\$ 549.4
Natural gas (1)	53.2	127.9
Total oil and natural gas sales	\$ 360.5	\$ 677.3
Average sales prices:		
Oil (per Bbl)	\$ 41.85	\$ 101.88
Effect of oil hedges on average price (per Bbl)	1.40	(13.17)
Oil net of hedging (per Bbl)	\$ 43.25	\$ 88.71
Average NYMEX price	\$ 51.46	\$ 110.98
Natural gas (per Mcf)	\$ 3.44	\$ 8.99
Effect of natural gas hedges on average price (per Mcf)	0.04	-
Natural gas net of hedging (per Mcf)	\$ 3.48	\$ 8.99
Average NYMEX price	\$ 4.21	\$ 9.49
Cost and expense (per BOE):		
Lease operating expenses	\$ 11.95	\$ 14.58
Production taxes	\$ 2.46	\$ 5.63
Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense	\$ 20.19	\$ 13.56
General and administrative expenses	\$ 1.94	\$ 4.46

(1) Before consideration of hedging transactions.

Oil and Natural Gas Sales. Our oil and natural gas sales revenue decreased \$316.8 million to \$360.5 million in the first half of 2009 compared to the same period in 2008. Sales are a function of volumes sold and average sales prices. Our oil sales volumes increased 36% between periods, while our natural gas sales volumes increased 9%. The oil volume increase resulted primarily from drilling success in the North Dakota Bakken area in addition to increased production at our two large CO₂ projects, Postle and North Ward Estes. Oil production from the Bakken area increased 1,775 MBbl compared to the first half of 2008, while Postle oil production increased 295 MBbl and North Ward Estes oil production increased 250 MBbl over the same prior year period. These production increases were partially offset by the Whiting USA Trust I (the "Trust") divestiture, which decreased oil production by 230 MBbl, as well as normal field production decline. The gas volume increase between periods was primarily the result of incremental gas production of 1,795 MMcf from the Flat Rock acquisition, which we completed on May 30, 2008, and higher production due to well completions in the Boies Ranch area of 1,315 MMcf, in the Gulf Coast region of 995 MMcf and in the North Dakota Bakken area of 585 MMcf. These production increases were partially offset by the Trust divestiture, which decreased gas production by 1,155 MMcf, as well as normal field production decline. Offsetting the production increases were decreases in average sales prices. Our average price for oil before

effects of hedging decreased 59% between periods, and our average price for natural gas before effects of hedging decreased 62%.

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Gain (Loss) on Oil Hedging Activities. Realized cash settlements on commodity derivatives that we have designated as cash flow hedges are recognized as gain (loss) on oil hedging activities. During the first half of 2009, we incurred cash settlement gains of \$13.5 million on such crude oil hedges. During the first half of 2008, we incurred realized cash settlement losses of \$71.0 million on crude oil derivatives designated as cash flow hedges. None of our natural gas derivatives were designated as cash flow hedges during the first six months of 2009 or 2008. Effective April 1, 2009, we elected to de-designate all of our commodity derivative contracts that had been previously designated as cash flow hedges as of March 31, 2009 and have elected to discontinue hedge accounting prospectively. As a result, we reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income into earnings \$6.8 million in unrealized noncash gains upon the expiration of these de-designated crude oil hedges during the second quarter of 2009. See Item 3, “Qualitative and Quantitative Disclosures About Market Risk” for a list of our outstanding oil and natural gas derivatives as of July 7, 2009.

Amortization of Deferred Gain on Sale. In connection with the sale of 11,677,500 Trust units to the public and related oil and gas property conveyance on April 30, 2008, we recognized a deferred gain on sale of \$100.1 million. This deferred gain is amortized to income over the life of the Trust on a units-of-production basis. For the six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008, we recognized \$8.4 million and \$3.0 million, respectively, in income as amortization of deferred gain on sale.

Gain on Sale of Properties. During the six months ended June 30, 2009, we entered into a participation agreement with a privately held independent oil company covering acreage located primarily in the western portion of the Sanish field in Mountrail County, North Dakota. At the closing of the agreement, the private company paid us \$107.3 million, resulting in a pre-tax gain on sale of \$4.6 million. There was no gain or loss on the sale of properties during the six months ended June 30, 2008.

Lease Operating Expenses. Our lease operating expenses during the first half of 2009 were \$118.5 million, a \$5.4 million or 5% increase over the same period in 2008. Our lease operating expenses per BOE, however, decreased from \$14.58 during the first half of 2008 to \$11.95 during the first half of 2009. The decrease of 18% on a BOE basis was primarily caused by increased production and a decrease of \$6.3 million in electric power and fuel costs during the first half of 2009 as compared to the first half of 2008, partially offset by a high level of workover activity. Workovers amounted to \$26.3 million in the first half of 2009, as compared to \$8.4 million in the first half of 2008. The increase in workover activity primarily relates to our two CO₂ projects, which are evolving past the construction and start-up phases and moving into an ongoing maintenance and repair phase that involves a significantly higher number of producing and injection wells.

Production Taxes. The production taxes we pay are generally calculated as a percentage of oil and natural gas sales revenue before the effects of hedging. We take advantage of all credits and exemptions allowed in our various taxing jurisdictions. Our production taxes for the first half of 2009 and 2008 were 6.8% and 6.5%, respectively, of oil and natural gas sales. Our production tax rate for the first half of 2009 was greater than the rate for same period in 2008 mainly due to successful wells completed in the North Dakota Bakken area during the latter half of 2008, which carry an 11.5% production tax rate.

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Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization. Our depreciation, depletion and amortization (“DD&A”) expense increased \$95.0 million as compared to the first half of 2008. The components of our DD&A expense were as follows (in thousands):

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008
Depletion	\$ 194,993	\$ 102,251
Depreciation	1,599	1,594
Accretion of asset retirement obligations	3,757	1,477
Total	\$ 200,349	\$ 105,322

DD&A increased \$95.0 million primarily due to \$92.7 million in higher depletion expense between periods. Of this \$92.7 million increase in depletion, \$28.4 million related to higher oil and gas volumes produced during the first half of 2009, while \$64.3 million related to our higher depletion rate in 2009. On a BOE basis, our DD&A rate increased by 49% from \$13.56 for the first half of 2008 to \$20.19 for the first half of 2009. The primary factors causing this rate increase were (i) \$787.3 million in drilling expenditures incurred during the past twelve months, (ii) net oil and natural gas reserve reductions of 11.6 MMBOE during 2008, which were primarily attributable to a 39.0 MMBOE downward revision for lower oil and natural gas prices at December 31, 2008, and (iii) the significant expenditures necessary to develop proved undeveloped reserves, particularly related to the enhanced oil recovery projects in the Postle and North Ward Estes fields, whereby the development of proved undeveloped reserves does not increase existing quantities of proved reserves. Under the successful efforts method of accounting, costs to develop proved undeveloped reserves are added into the DD&A rate when incurred.

Exploration and Impairment Costs. Our exploration and impairment costs increased \$7.5 million, as compared to the first half of 2008. The components of exploration and impairment costs were as follows (in thousands):

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008
Exploration	\$ 18,811	\$ 14,227
Impairment	8,295	5,400
Total	\$ 27,106	\$ 19,627

Exploration costs increased \$4.6 million during the first half of 2009 as compared to the same period in 2008 primarily due to rig termination fees recognized in the first quarter of 2009, partially offset by decreased accrued Production Participation Plan payments for geological and geophysical (“G&G”) personnel. Rig termination fees totaled \$7.5 million during the first half of 2009, while we did not pay any rig termination fees in the first half of 2008. Accrued Production Participation Plan distributions for exploration personnel were \$2.5 million lower during the first half of 2009 as compared to the same prior year period. The impairment charges in the first half of 2009 and 2008 were primarily related to the amortization of leasehold costs associated with individually insignificant unproved properties. As of June 30, 2009, the amount of unproved properties being amortized totaled \$81.6 million, as compared to \$72.8 million as of June 30, 2008.

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General and Administrative Expenses. We report general and administrative expenses net of third party reimbursements and internal allocations. The components of our general and administrative expenses were as follows (in thousands):

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008
General and administrative expenses	\$ 43,683	\$ 54,314
Reimbursements and allocations	(24,421)	(19,692)
General and administrative expense, net	\$ 19,262	\$ 34,622

General and administrative expense before reimbursements and allocations decreased \$10.6 million to \$43.7 million during the first half of 2009. The largest component of the decrease related to \$17.3 million in lower accrued distributions under our Production Participation Plan ("Plan") between periods due to a lower level of Plan net revenues (which have been reduced by lease operating expenses and production taxes pursuant to the Plan formula) resulting from lower oil and natural gas prices during the first half of 2009 as compared to the same period of 2008, as well as the Trust divestiture completed in April 2008. These lower accrued Plan distributions were partially offset by \$3.6 million in additional employee compensation for personnel hired during the past twelve months as well as general pay increases. The increase in reimbursements and allocations in 2009 was primarily caused by higher salary costs and a greater number of field workers on operated properties. Our general and administrative expenses as a percentage of oil and natural gas sales remained constant at 5% for the first half of 2009 and 2008.

Interest Expense. The components of our interest expense were as follows (in thousands):

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008
Senior Subordinated Notes	\$ 21,745	\$ 21,943
Credit Agreement	8,153	7,652
Amortization of debt issue costs and debt discount	4,355	2,423
Other	933	733
Capitalized interest	(1,813)	(1,534)
Total interest expense	\$ 33,373	\$ 31,217

The increase in interest expense of \$2.2 million between periods was mainly due to increased amortization of \$23.1 million in additional debt issue costs, which were incurred in April 2009 in connection with renewing our credit agreement. Our weighted average effective cash interest rate was 5.0% during the first half of 2009 compared to 6.4% during the first half of 2008. Our weighted average debt outstanding during the first half of 2009 was \$1,210.9 million versus \$929.2 million for the first half of 2008. After inclusion of non-cash interest costs for the amortization of debt issue costs, debt discount and the accretion of the tax sharing liability, our weighted average effective all-in interest rate was 5.7% during the first half of 2009 compared to 6.9% during the first half of 2008.

Change in Production Participation Plan Liability. For the six months ended June 30, 2009, this non-cash expense was \$3.7 million, a decrease of \$14.2 million as compared to the same period in 2008. This expense represents the change in the vested present value of estimated future payments to be made to participants after 2010 under our Plan. Although payments take place over the life of the Plan's oil and gas properties, which for some properties is over 20 years, we expense the present value of estimated future payments over the Plan's five-year vesting period. This expense in 2009 and 2008 primarily reflected (i) changes to future cash flow estimates stemming from the volatile commodity price environment during the first half of each respective year, (ii) recent drilling activity and property acquisitions, and (iii) employees' continued vesting in the Plan. The average NYMEX prices used to estimate this liability decreased by \$0.81 for crude oil and \$0.43 for natural gas for the six months ended June 30, 2009, as

compared to increases of \$15.51 for crude oil and \$0.74 for natural gas over the same period in 2008. Assumptions that are used to calculate this liability are subject to estimation and will vary from year to year based on the current market for oil and gas, discount rates and overall market conditions.

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Loss on Mark-to-Market Derivatives. During 2008, we entered into certain commodity derivative contracts that we did not designate as cash flow hedges. In addition, effective April 1, 2009, we elected to de-designate all of our commodity derivative contracts that had been previously designated as cash flow hedges as of March 31, 2009 and have elected to discontinue hedge accounting prospectively. Accordingly, beginning April 1, 2009 all of our derivative contracts are marked-to-market each quarter with fair value gains and losses recognized immediately in earnings. Cash flow is only impacted to the extent that actual cash settlements under these contracts result in making or receiving a payment from the counterparty, and such cash settlement gains and losses are also recorded immediately to earnings as (gain) loss on mark-to-market derivatives. The components of our loss on mark-to-market derivatives were as follows (in thousands):

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008
Unrealized mark-to-market derivative losses	\$ 156,973	\$ 17,625
Realized cash settlement losses	2,458	-
Loss on hedging ineffectiveness	22,866	-
Total loss on mark-to-market derivatives	\$ 182,297	\$ 17,625

The increase of \$139.3 million in unrealized mark-to-market derivative losses during the first half of 2009 as compared to the same prior year period was due to the fact that (i) we averaged 21.3 MMBbls of crude oil hedged during the six months ended June 30, 2009, while we only averaged 3.3 MMBbls of crude oil hedged during the six months ended June 30, 2008, and (ii) there was a significant upward shift in the forward price curve for NYMEX crude oil during the six months ended June 30, 2009.

Income Tax Expense (Benefit). Income tax benefit totaled \$78.1 million for the first half of 2009, versus \$83.9 million of income tax expense for the first half of 2008. Our effective income tax rate decreased from 37.0% for the first half of 2008 to 36.3% for the first half of 2009.

Net Income (Loss). Net income (loss) decreased from \$142.8 million in income during the first half of 2008 to a \$136.9 million loss during the first half of 2009. The primary reasons for this decrease include a 51% decrease in oil prices (net of hedging); a 61% decrease in natural gas prices (net of hedging); higher losses on mark-to-market derivatives, lease operating expenses, DD&A, exploration and impairment and interest expense. These negative factors were partially offset by a 28% increase in equivalent volumes sold; lower production taxes, general and administrative expenses, Production Participation Plan expense and income taxes; and higher amortization of deferred gain on sale as well as the gain on sale of properties during the first half of 2009.

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Three Months Ended June 30, 2009 Compared to Three Months Ended June 30, 2008

Selected Operating Data:	Three Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008
Net production:		
Oil (MMBbls)	3.8	2.8
Natural gas (Bcf)	7.6	7.3
Total production (MMBOE)	5.0	4.0
Net sales (in millions):		
Oil (1)	\$ 191.0	\$ 316.9
Natural gas (1)	23.3	73.6
Total oil and natural gas sales	\$ 214.3	\$ 390.5
Average sales prices:		
Oil (per Bbl)	\$ 50.66	\$ 113.28
Effect of oil hedges on average price (per Bbl)	(1.15)	(17.19)
Oil net of hedging (per Bbl)	\$ 49.51	\$ 96.09
Average NYMEX price	\$ 59.62	\$ 124.00
Natural gas (per Mcf)	\$ 3.08	\$ 10.02
Effect of natural gas hedges on average price (per Mcf)	0.05	-
Natural gas net of hedging (per Mcf)	\$ 3.13	\$ 10.02
Average NYMEX price	\$ 3.50	\$ 10.94
Cost and expense (per BOE):		
Lease operating expenses	\$ 11.44	\$ 14.29
Production taxes	\$ 2.96	\$ 6.48
Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense	\$ 19.93	\$ 13.63
General and administrative expenses	\$ 2.04	\$ 5.72

(1) Before consideration of hedging transactions.

Oil and Natural Gas Sales. Our oil and natural gas sales revenue decreased \$176.2 million to \$214.3 million in the second quarter of 2009 compared to the second quarter of 2008. Sales are a function of volumes sold and average sales prices. Our oil sales volumes increased 35% between periods, while our natural gas sales volumes increased 3%. The oil volume increase resulted primarily from drilling success in the North Dakota Bakken area in addition to increased production at our two large CO₂ projects, Postle and North Ward Estes. Oil production from the Bakken increased 785 MBbl compared to the second quarter of 2008, while Postle oil production increased 165 MBbl and North Ward Estes oil production increased 125 MBbl over the same prior year period. These production increases were partially offset by the Whiting USA Trust I (the "Trust") divestiture, which decreased oil production by 55 MBbl, as well as normal field production decline. The gas volume increase between periods was primarily the result of incremental gas production of 610 MMcf from the Flat Rock acquisition, which we completed on May 30, 2008, and higher production due to well completions in the Boies Ranch area of 435 MMcf, in the Gulf Coast region of 345 MMcf, and in the North Dakota Bakken area of 325 MMcf. These production increases were partially offset by the Trust divestiture, which decreased gas production by 260 MMcf, as well as normal field production decline. Offsetting the production increases were lower average sales prices. Our average price for oil before effects of hedging decreased 55% between periods, and our average price for natural gas before effects of hedging decreased 69%.

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Gain (Loss) on Oil Hedging Activities. Realized cash settlements on commodity derivatives that we have designated as cash flow hedges are recognized as gain (loss) on oil hedging activities. Effective April 1, 2009, we elected to de-designate all of our commodity derivative contracts that had been previously designated as cash flow hedges as of March 31, 2009 and have elected to discontinue hedge accounting prospectively. As a result, we reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income into earnings \$6.8 million in unrealized noncash gains upon the expiration of these de-designated crude oil hedges during the second quarter of 2009. None of our oil derivatives were designated as cash flow hedges during the second quarter of 2009. During the second quarter of 2008, we incurred realized cash settlement losses of \$48.1 million on crude oil derivatives designated as cash flow hedges. None of our natural gas derivatives were designated as cash flow hedges during the second quarter of 2009 or 2008. See Item 3, “Qualitative and Quantitative Disclosures About Market Risk” for a list of our outstanding oil and natural gas derivatives as of July 7, 2009.

Amortization of Deferred Gain on Sale. In connection with the sale of 11,677,500 Trust units to the public and related oil and gas property conveyance on April 30, 2008, we recognized a deferred gain on sale of \$100.1 million. This deferred gain is amortized to income over the life of the Trust on a units-of-production basis. For the three months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008, we recognized \$4.3 million and \$3.0 million, respectively, in income as amortization of deferred gain on sale.

Gain on Sale of Properties. During the three months ended June 30, 2009, we entered into a participation agreement with a privately held independent oil company covering acreage located primarily in the western portion of the Sanish field in Mountrail County, North Dakota. At the closing of the agreement, the private company paid us \$107.3 million, resulting in a pre-tax gain on sale of \$4.6 million. There was no gain or loss on the sale of properties during the three months ended June 30, 2008.

Lease Operating Expenses. Our lease operating expenses during the second quarter of 2009 were \$57.6 million, a \$0.1 million increase over the same period in 2008. Our lease operating expenses per BOE, however, decreased from \$14.29 during the second quarter of 2008 to \$11.44 during the second quarter of 2009. The decrease of 20% on a BOE basis was primarily caused by increased production and decreased electric power and fuel costs of \$5.7 million during the second quarter of 2009 as compared to the same period in 2008, partially offset by a high level of workover activity. Workovers amounted to \$12.2 million in the second quarter of 2009, as compared to \$4.5 million in the second quarter of 2008. The increase in workover activity primarily relates to our two CO2 projects, which are evolving past the construction and start-up phases and moving into an ongoing maintenance and repair phase that involves a significantly higher number of producing and injection wells.

Production Taxes. The production taxes we pay are generally calculated as a percentage of oil and natural gas sales revenue before the effects of hedging. We take advantage of all credits and exemptions allowed in our various taxing jurisdictions. Our production taxes for the second quarter of 2009 and 2008 were 7.0% and 6.7%, respectively, of oil and natural gas sales. Our production tax rate for the second quarter of 2009 was greater than the rate for same period in 2008 mainly due to successful wells completed in the North Dakota Bakken area during the latter half of 2008, which carry an 11.5% production tax rate.

Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization. Our depreciation, depletion and amortization (“DD&A”) expense increased \$45.5 million as compared to the second quarter of 2008. The components of our DD&A expense were as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008
Depletion	\$ 97,989	\$ 53,207
Depreciation	767	843

Accretion of asset retirement obligations	1,559	761
Total	\$ 100,315	\$ 54,811

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