

NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS LP

Form S-4

April 02, 2015

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 2, 2015

Registration No. 333-

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

**Form S-4**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
***UNDER***  
***THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933***

**NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS L.P.**

**NRP FINANCE CORPORATION**

**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**Delaware**  
**Delaware**

**35-2164875**  
**46-3569226**

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

**(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)**

**601 Jefferson, Suite 3600**

**Houston, Texas 77002**

**(713) 751-7507**

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

**Kathryn S. Wilson**

**GP Natural Resource Partners LLC**

**601 Jefferson Street, Suite 3600**

**Houston, Texas 77002**

**(713) 751-7507**

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

*Copy to:*

**E. Ramey Layne**

**Vinson & Elkins L.L.P.**

**1001 Fannin Street, Suite 2500**

**Houston, Texas 77002**

**(713) 758-2222**

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale of the securities to the public: As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement.**

If the securities being registered on this Form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box. "

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

statement for the same offering. "

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

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

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

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

If applicable, place an X in the box to designate the appropriate rule provision relied upon in conducting this transaction:

Exchange Act Rule 13e-4(i) (Cross-Border Issue Tender Offer) "

Exchange Act Rule 14d-1(d) (Cross-Border Third-Party Tender Offer) "

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|                              | <b>Amount<br/>to be<br/>Registered</b> | <b>Proposed<br/>Maximum<br/>Offering Price<br/>Per Note(1)</b> | <b>Amount of<br/>Registration Fee(1)</b> |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 9.125% Senior Notes due 2018 | \$105,000,000                          | 100%   | \$12,201                                 |

(1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(f) under the Securities Act.

**The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

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**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

**Subject to Completion, Dated April 2, 2015**

**Prospectus**

**NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS L.P.**

**NRP FINANCE CORPORATION**

**Offer to Exchange**

**Up to \$105,000,000 of**

**9.125% Senior Notes due 2018**

**That Have Been Registered Under**

**The Securities Act of 1933**

**For**

**Up to \$105,000,000 of**

**9.125% Senior Notes due 2018**

**That Have Not Been Registered Under**

**The Securities Act of 1933**

**Terms of the New 9.125% Senior Notes due 2018 Offered in the Exchange Offer:**

The terms of the new notes are identical to the terms of the old notes that were issued on October 17, 2014, except that the new notes will be registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and will not contain restrictions on transfer, registration rights or provisions for additional interest.

**Terms of the Exchange Offer:**

We are offering to exchange up to \$105,000,000 of our new notes that have been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and are freely tradable for up to \$105,000,000 of our old notes.

We will exchange an equal principal amount of new notes for all old notes that you validly tender and do not validly withdraw before the exchange offer expires.

The exchange offer expires at 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, unless extended.

Tenders of old notes may be withdrawn at any time prior to the expiration of the exchange offer.

The exchange of old notes for new notes will not be a taxable event for U.S. federal income tax purposes. **You should carefully consider the risks set forth under Risk Factors beginning on page 10 of this prospectus for a discussion of factors you should consider before participating in the exchange offer.**

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

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

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**In making your investment decision, you should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with any other information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it.**

**You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of this prospectus. You should not assume that the information contained in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the respective dates of those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.**

**This prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about us that is not included or delivered with this prospectus. Such information is available without charge to holders of old notes upon written or oral request made to Natural Resource Partners L.P. at 601 Jefferson Street, Suite 3600, Houston, Texas 77002. To obtain timely delivery of any requested information, holders of old notes must make any request no later than five business days prior to the expiration of the exchange offer.**

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**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Some of the information included in this prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference contain forward-looking statements. These statements use forward-looking words such as may, will, anticipate, believe, expect, project or other similar words. These statements discuss goals, intentions and expectations as to future trends, plans, events, results of operations or financial condition or state other forward-looking information.

A forward-looking statement may include a statement of the assumptions or bases underlying the forward-looking statement. We believe we have chosen these assumptions or bases in good faith and that they are reasonable. However, we caution you that assumed facts or bases almost always vary from actual results, and the differences between assumed facts or bases and actual results can be material, depending on the circumstances. When considering forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements in this prospectus and the documents we have incorporated by reference. These statements reflect Natural Resource Partners current views with respect to future events and are subject to various risks, uncertainties and assumptions.

Many of such factors are beyond our ability to control or predict. Please read Risk Factors for a better understanding of the various risks and uncertainties that could affect our business and impact the forward-looking statements made in this prospectus. Readers are cautioned not to put undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus and all subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement.



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**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights some of the information contained in this prospectus and does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. You should read this entire prospectus and the documents to which we refer you to before making an investment decision. You should carefully consider the information set forth under Risk Factors beginning on page 10 of this prospectus, the financial and other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and the other documents to which we have referred.*

*As used in this prospectus, unless the context otherwise requires: we, our and us refer to Natural Resource Partners L.P. and, where the context requires, to our subsidiaries. References to NRP and Natural Resource Partners refer to Natural Resource Partners L.P. only, and not to NRP (Operating) LLC or any of Natural Resource Partners L.P.'s subsidiaries. References to Opco refer to NRP (Operating) LLC and its subsidiaries. References to NRP Oil and Gas refer to NRP Oil and Gas LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of NRP. References to the issuers refer to NRP and NRP Finance Corporation, the issuers of the notes.*

*In this prospectus, we refer to the notes to be issued in the exchange offer as the new notes and the notes that were issued on October 17, 2014 as the old notes. The old notes were offered as additional notes under the indenture, dated as of September 18, 2013, pursuant to which we issued \$300,000,000 principal amount of our 9.125% Senior Notes due 2018 on September 18, 2013, which were subsequently exchanged for registered notes in June 2014, which refer to herein as the existing registered notes. We refer to the new notes, the old notes and the existing registered notes collectively as the notes.*

**Our Company**

We are a limited partnership formed in April 2002, and we completed our initial public offering in October 2002. We engage principally in the business of owning, managing and leasing a diversified portfolio of mineral properties in the United States, including interests in coal, trona and soda ash, crude oil and natural gas, construction aggregates, frac sand and other natural resources.

Our coal reserves are located in the three major U.S. coal-producing regions: Appalachia, the Illinois Basin and the Western United States, as well as lignite reserves in the Gulf Coast region. We do not operate any coal mines, but lease our reserves to experienced mine operators under long-term leases that grant the operators the right to mine and sell our reserves in exchange for royalty payments. We also own and manage infrastructure assets that generate additional revenues, primarily in the Illinois Basin.

We own or lease aggregates and industrial mineral reserves located in a number of states across the country. We derive a small percentage of our aggregates and industrial mineral revenues by leasing our owned reserves to third party operators who mine and sell the reserves in exchange for royalty payments. However, the majority of our aggregates and industrial mineral revenues come from VantaCore Partners LLC, which we acquired in October 2014. VantaCore specializes in the construction materials industry and operates three hard rock quarries, five sand and gravel plants, two asphalt plants and a marine terminal. VantaCore's current operations are located in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Louisiana.

We own a 49% non-controlling equity interest in a trona ore mining operation and soda ash refinery in the Green River Basin, Wyoming. OCI Resources LP, our operating partner, mines the trona, processes it into soda ash, and distributes the soda ash both domestically and internationally into the glass and chemicals industries. We receive regular quarterly distributions from this business.



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We own various interests in oil and gas properties that are located in the Williston Basin, the Appalachian Basin, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Our interests in the Appalachian Basin, Louisiana and Oklahoma are minerals and royalty interests, while in the Williston Basin we own non-operated working interests. Our Williston Basin non-operated working interest properties include the properties acquired in the Sanish Field from an affiliate of Kaiser-Francis Oil Company in November 2014.

Our operations are conducted through, and our operating assets are owned by, our subsidiaries. We conduct our business through two wholly owned operating companies: NRP (Operating) LLC and NRP Oil and Gas LLC. NRP (GP) LP, our general partner, has sole responsibility for conducting our business and for managing our operations. Because our general partner is a limited partnership, its general partner, GP Natural Resource Partners LLC, conducts its business and operations, and the Board of Directors and officers of GP Natural Resource Partners LLC make decisions on our behalf. Robertson Coal Management LLC, a limited liability company wholly owned by Corbin J. Robertson, Jr., owns all of the membership interest in GP Natural Resource Partners LLC. Subject to the Investor Rights Agreement with Adena Minerals, LLC, Mr. Robertson is entitled to nominate ten directors, five of whom must be independent directors, to the Board of Directors of GP Natural Resource Partners LLC. Mr. Robertson has delegated the right to nominate two of the directors, one of whom must be independent, to Adena Minerals.

The senior executives and other officers who manage NRP are employees of Western Pocahontas Properties Limited Partnership and Quintana Minerals Corporation, companies controlled by Mr. Robertson, and they allocate varying percentages of their time to managing our operations. Neither our general partner, GP Natural Resource Partners LLC, nor any of their affiliates receive any management fee or other compensation in connection with the management of our business, but they are entitled to be reimbursed for all direct and indirect expenses incurred on our behalf.

We have several regional offices through which we conduct our operations, the largest of which is located at 5260 Irwin Road, Huntington, West Virginia 25705 and the telephone number is (304) 522-5757. Our principal executive office is located at 601 Jefferson Street, Suite 3600, Houston, Texas 77002 and our phone number is (713) 751-7507.

For additional information as to our business, properties and financial condition, please refer to the documents cited in **Where You Can Find More Information**.

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**The Exchange Offer**

*On October 17, 2014, we completed a private offering of \$125.0 million aggregate principal amount of the old notes. As part of this private offering, we entered into a registration rights agreement with the initial purchasers of the old notes in which we agreed, among other things, to deliver this prospectus to you and to use our commercially reasonable efforts to conduct the exchange offer for the purchasers of \$105.0 million aggregate principal amount of the old notes. The following is a summary of the exchange offer.*

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Old Notes                        | On October 17, 2014, we issued \$125.0 million aggregate principal amount of 9.125% Senior Notes due 2018, of which we are offering to exchange up to \$105.0 million. The exchange offer does not include \$20.0 million of notes issued on such date to an affiliate of the issuers in a private placement under Section 4(2) of the Securities Act.   |
| New Notes                        | The terms of the new notes are identical to the terms of the old notes, except that the new notes are registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and will not have restrictions on transfer, registration rights or provisions for additional interest. The new notes offered hereby, together with any old notes that remain outstanding after the completion of the exchange offer, will be treated as a single class for all purposes under the indenture, including, without limitation, waivers, amendments, redemptions and offers to purchase. The new notes will have a CUSIP number different from that of any old notes that remain outstanding after the completion of the exchange offer. |
| Exchange Offer                   | We are offering to exchange up to \$105.0 million aggregate principal amount of new notes for an equal amount of the old notes that have not been registered under the Securities Act to satisfy our obligations under the registration rights agreement that we entered into when we issued the old notes in a transaction exempt from registration under the Securities Act.   |
| Expiration Date                  | The exchange offer will expire at 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on _____, 2015, unless we decide to extend it.   |
| Conditions to the Exchange Offer | The registration rights agreement does not require us to accept old notes for exchange if the exchange offer, or the making of any exchange by a holder of the old notes, would violate any applicable law or interpretation of the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The exchange offer is not conditioned on a minimum aggregate principal amount of old notes being tendered. Please read Exchange Offer Conditions to the Exchange Offer for more information about the conditions to the   |

exchange offer.

Procedures for Tendering Old Notes

To participate in the exchange offer, you must follow the procedures established by The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, for tendering notes held in book-entry form. These procedures for using DTC's Automated Tender Offer Program, or ATOP, require that (i) the

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exchange agent receive, prior to the expiration date of the exchange offer, a computer generated message known as an agent's message that is transmitted through ATOP, and (ii) DTC confirms that:

DTC has received your instructions to exchange your notes; and

you agree to be bound by the terms of the letter of transmittal.

For more information on tendering your old notes, please refer to the section in this prospectus entitled Exchange Offer Terms of the Exchange Offer, Procedures for Tendering, and Description of Notes Book-Entry, Delivery and Form.

Guaranteed Delivery Procedures

None.

Withdrawal of Tenders

You may withdraw your tender of old notes at any time prior to the expiration date. To withdraw, you must submit a notice of withdrawal to the exchange agent using DTC's ATOP procedures before 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date of the exchange offer. Please refer to the section in this prospectus entitled Exchange Offer Withdrawal of Tenders.

Acceptance of Old Notes and Delivery of New Notes

If you fulfill all conditions required for proper acceptance of old notes, we will accept any and all old notes that you properly tender in the exchange offer on or before 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date. We will return any old notes that we do not accept for exchange to you without expense promptly after the expiration date and acceptance of the old notes for exchange. Please refer to the section in this prospectus entitled Exchange Offer Terms of the Exchange Offer.

Fees and Expenses

We will bear expenses related to the exchange offer. Please refer to the section in this prospectus entitled Exchange Offer Fees and Expenses.

Use of Proceeds

The issuance of the new notes will not provide us with any new proceeds. We are making this exchange offer solely to satisfy our obligations under the registration rights agreement.

Consequences of Failure to Exchange Old Notes

If you do not exchange your old notes in this exchange offer, you will no longer be able to require us to register the old notes under the Securities

Act, except in limited circumstances provided under the registration rights agreement. In addition, you will not be able to resell, offer to resell or otherwise transfer the old notes unless we have registered the old notes under the Securities Act, or unless you resell, offer to resell or otherwise transfer them under an exemption from the registration requirements of, or in a transaction not subject to, the Securities Act.

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U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations      The exchange of old notes for new notes in the exchange offer will not be a taxable event for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Please read Certain United States Federal Income Tax Consequences.

Exchange Agent      We have appointed Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as exchange agent for the exchange offer. You should direct questions and requests for assistance, as well as requests for additional copies of this prospectus or the letter of transmittal, to the exchange agent addressed as follows:

*By Registered & Certified Mail:*

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

Corporate Trust Operations

MAC N9303-121

PO Box 1517

Minneapolis, MN 55480

*By Regular Mail or Overnight Courier:*

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

Corporate Trust Operations

MAC N9303-121

6<sup>th</sup> & Marquette Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55479

*In Person by Hand Only:*

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

Corporate Trust Operations

12<sup>th</sup> Floor Northstar East Building

608 Second Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55402



Eligible institutions may make requests by facsimile at (877) 407-4679 and may confirm facsimile delivery by calling (800) 344-5128.

**Table of Contents****Terms of the New Notes**

*The new notes will be identical to the old notes, except that the new notes are registered under the Securities Act and will not have restrictions on transfer, registration rights or provisions for additional interest. The new notes will evidence the same debt as the old notes, and the same indenture will govern the new notes and the old notes.*

*The following summary contains basic information about the new notes and is not intended to be complete. It does not contain all the information that is important to you. For a more complete understanding of the new notes, please refer to the section of this prospectus entitled *Description of Notes*.*

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Issuers               | Natural Resource Partners L.P. and NRP Finance Corporation (together, the issuers ). NRP Finance Corporation, a Delaware corporation, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Natural Resource Partners L.P. and has no material assets or any liabilities other than as a co-issuer of the notes.  |
| Notes Offered         | <p>\$105,000,000 principal amount of 9.125% senior notes due 2018.</p> <p>The old notes were issued as additional notes under an indenture dated September 18, 2013. On September 18, 2013, the issuers sold \$300.0 million principal amount of 9.125% Senior Notes due 2018, all of which have been exchanged for registered notes. On October 17, 2014, the issuers sold an additional \$125.0 million of 9.125% Senior Notes due 2018, \$20 million of which were issued to an affiliate of the issuers and are not eligible to be exchanged in the exchange offer.</p> |
| Maturity Date         | October 1, 2018.  |
| Interest Rate         | 9.125% per year (calculated using a 360-day year).  |
| Interest Payment Date | Each April 1 and October 1, beginning April 1, 2015.  |
| Ranking               | <p>The notes are:</p> <p>senior unsecured obligations of the issuers;</p> <p>equal in right of payment to all of existing and future senior unsecured debt of the issuers;</p>  |

senior in right of payment to any subordinated debt of the issuers;

effectively subordinated in right of payment to all of our future secured debt of the issuers to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness; and

structurally subordinated in right of payment to all existing and future debt and other liabilities of our subsidiaries, including Opco's revolving credit facility and term loan facility, each series of Opco's outstanding senior notes and NRP Oil and Gas's revolving credit facility.

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None of our subsidiaries currently guarantee the notes. At December 31, 2014, our non-guarantor subsidiaries had \$1.05 billion of outstanding debt and \$127 million in additional borrowing capacity, all of which will be structurally senior to the notes offered hereby.

Guarantees

None currently. Certain subsidiaries may be required to guarantee the notes in the future in limited circumstances. See Description of Notes Certain Covenants Future Subsidiary Guarantees.

Optional Redemption

We will have the option to redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at any time on or after April 1, 2016 at the redemption prices described in this prospectus under the heading Description of Notes Optional Redemption, plus any accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemption. In addition, before April 1, 2016 we may redeem all or any part of the notes at the make-whole price set forth under Description of Notes Optional Redemption.

Change of Control

If a change of control event occurs, each holder of notes may require the co-issuers to repurchase all or a portion of its notes for cash at a price equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of such notes, plus any accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of repurchase.

Certain Covenants

The indenture governing the notes contains covenants that, among other things, limit our ability and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to:

declare or pay any dividend or distribution on, purchase or redeem our units or purchase or redeem subordinated debt;

make investments;

incur or guarantee additional indebtedness or issue certain types of equity securities;

create certain liens;

enter into agreements that restrict distributions or other payments from our restricted subsidiaries to us;

sell assets;

consolidate, merge or transfer all or substantially all of our assets;

engage in transactions with affiliates;

create unrestricted subsidiaries; and

enter into certain sale and leaseback transactions.

These covenants are subject to important exceptions and qualifications that are described under Description of Notes.

If the notes achieve an investment grade rating from each of Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and Standard & Poor's Ratings Services and

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no default or event of default has occurred and is continuing under the indenture, certain covenants will be suspended. See Description of Notes Covenant Suspension.

There can be no assurances that the notes will ever be rated investment grade.

Absence of Established Market for the Notes There is currently no established market for the notes. Accordingly, we cannot assure you as to the development or liquidity of any market for the notes. Certain of the initial purchasers currently make a market in the notes. However, they are not obligated to do so, and they may discontinue any market making with respect to the notes without notice. We do not intend to apply for a listing of the notes on any securities exchange or for the inclusion of the notes on any automated dealer quotation system.

**Table of Contents****Risk Factors**

Investment in the new notes involves certain risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors and other cautionary statements contained in this prospectus, including those described under **Risk Factors** beginning on page 10 of this prospectus and the risk factors described under the heading **Risk Factors** included in Item 1A of Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Also, please read **Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements** in this prospectus.

**Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges**

The following table sets forth NRP's ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges for the periods presented:

|                                    | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |             |             |             |             |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                    | <b>2010</b>                    | <b>2011</b> | <b>2012</b> | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges | 5.70x                          | 3.10x(1)    | 5.95x(2)    | 4.51x(3)    | 3.38x(4)    |

- (1) Includes asset impairment charges of \$161.3 million. Excluding these charges, the ratio for 2011 would have been 6.40x.
- (2) Includes asset impairment charges of \$2.5 million. Excluding these charges, the ratio for 2012 would have been 6.00x.
- (3) Includes asset impairment charges of \$0.7 million. Excluding these charges, the ratio for 2013 would have been 4.52x.
- (4) Includes asset impairment charges of \$26.2 million. Excluding these charges, the ratio for 2014 would have been 3.70x.

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges:

fixed charges represent interest expense plus capitalized interest; and

earnings represent the aggregate of pre-tax income, plus distributions of earnings from unconsolidated equity investment and fixed charges, less non-controlling interest, capitalized interest and equity and other unconsolidated investment income.

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**RISK FACTORS**

*Investing in our notes involves risk. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the following risk factors and all of the other information included, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus or to which we refer you, including the risk factors and other cautionary statements described under the heading Risk Factors included in Item 1A of Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Year Ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated herein by reference. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be adversely affected. In that case, you could lose all or part of your investment. Please also read Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.*

**Risks Related to Investing in the New Notes**

***If you do not properly tender your old notes, you will continue to hold unregistered old notes and your ability to transfer old notes will remain restricted and may be adversely affected.***

We will only issue new notes in exchange for old notes that you timely and properly tender. Therefore, you should allow sufficient time to ensure timely delivery of the old notes, and you should carefully follow the instructions on how to tender your old notes. Neither we nor the exchange agent is required to tell you of any defects or irregularities with respect to your tender of old notes.

If you do not exchange your old notes for new notes pursuant to the exchange offer, the old notes you hold will continue to be subject to the existing transfer restrictions. In general, you may not offer or sell the old notes except under an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. We do not plan to register old notes under the Securities Act after the exchange offer is consummated unless our registration rights agreement with the initial purchasers of the old notes requires us to do so. Further, if you continue to hold any old notes after the exchange offer is consummated, you may have trouble selling them because there will be fewer of these notes outstanding.

***We are a holding company with no independent operations or assets. Repayment of our debt, including the notes, is dependent on cash flow generated by our subsidiaries.***

We are a holding company and have no direct operations other than holding the equity interests in Opco and NRP Oil and Gas and activities directly related thereto. Operations are conducted through Opco and its subsidiaries and through NRP Oil and Gas. Accordingly, repayment of our indebtedness, including the notes, is dependent on the generation of cash flow by our subsidiaries and their ability to make such cash available to us, by dividend, debt repayment or otherwise. Our subsidiaries do not have any obligation to pay amounts due on the notes or to make funds available for that purpose. Our subsidiaries may not be able to, or may not be permitted to, make distributions to enable us to make payments in respect of our indebtedness, including the notes. Each of our subsidiaries is a separate and distinct legal entity, and under certain circumstances legal and contractual restrictions may limit our ability to obtain cash from them and we may be limited in our ability to cause any future joint ventures to distribute their earnings to us. While the indenture governing the notes limits the ability of our subsidiaries to incur consensual restrictions on their ability to pay dividends or make other intercompany payments to us, these limitations are subject to certain qualifications and exceptions. In the event that we do not receive distributions from our subsidiaries, we may be unable to make required principal and interest payments on our indebtedness, including the notes.

***Our leverage and debt service obligations may adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and business prospects.***



As of December 31, 2014, we and our subsidiaries had approximately \$1.5 billion of total indebtedness. The terms and conditions governing our indebtedness, including NRP's 9.125% senior notes, Opco's revolving credit facility, term loan and senior notes, and NRP Oil and Gas's revolving credit facility:

require us to meet certain leverage and interest coverage ratios;

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require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to service our existing debt, thereby reducing the cash available to finance our operations and other business activities and could limit our flexibility in planning for or reacting to changes in our business and the industries in which we operate;

increase our vulnerability to economic downturns and adverse developments in our business;

limit our ability to access the bank and capital markets to raise capital on favorable terms or to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures or acquisitions or to refinance existing indebtedness;

place restrictions on our ability to obtain additional financing, make investments, lease equipment, sell assets and engage in business combinations;

place us at a competitive disadvantage relative to competitors with lower levels of indebtedness in relation to their overall size or less restrictive terms governing their indebtedness;

make it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations under our debt agreements and increase the risk that we may default on our debt obligations; and

limit management's discretion in operating our business.

Our ability to meet our expenses and debt obligations will depend on our future performance, which will be affected by financial, business, economic, regulatory and other factors. We will not be able to control many of these factors, such as economic conditions and governmental regulation. We cannot be certain that our cash flow will be sufficient to allow us to pay the principal and interest on our debt and meet our other obligations. If we do not have sufficient funds, we may be required to refinance all or part of our existing debt, borrow more money, sell assets or raise equity, and our ability to pursue acquisitions may be limited. We are required to make substantial principal repayments each year in connection with Opco's senior notes, with approximately \$81 million due thereunder each year through 2018. In addition, Opco's revolving credit facility and term loan both mature in 2016. We will be required to repay or refinance the amounts outstanding under these credit facilities prior to their maturity. We may not be able to refinance these amounts on terms acceptable to us, if at all, or the borrowing capacity under Opco's revolving credit facility may be substantially reduced.

The borrowing base under NRP Oil and Gas's revolving credit facility is based on the value of our proved reserves and is redetermined on a semi-annual basis in May and October of each year. The current oil price environment or future declines in prices or reduced production from or development of our properties could result in a determination to lower the borrowing base. In such event, we may not be able to access funding under the facility necessary to operate our business or we could be required to repay any indebtedness in excess of the redetermined borrowing base.

We may not be able to refinance our debt, sell assets, borrow more money or access the bank and capital markets on terms acceptable to us, if at all. Our ability to access the capital markets may be challenging in the current commodity price environment. Our ability to comply with the financial and other restrictive covenants in our debt agreements will be affected by the levels of cash flow from our operations and future events and circumstances beyond our control.

Failure to comply with these covenants would result in an event of default under our indebtedness, and such an event of default could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***We may not be able to generate enough cash flow to meet our debt obligations.***

We expect our earnings and cash flow to vary significantly from year to year due to the cyclical nature of our and our lessees' business. As a result, the amount of debt that we can service in some periods may not be appropriate for us in other periods. Additionally, our future cash flow may be insufficient to meet our debt obligations and commitments, including the notes. Any insufficiency could negatively impact our business. A

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range of economic, competitive, business and industry factors will affect our future financial performance, and, as a result, our ability to generate cash flow from operations and to pay our debt, including the notes. Many of these factors, such as coal, aggregates and oil and gas prices, economic and financial conditions in those industries and the global economy or competitive initiatives of our competitors, are beyond our control.

If we do not generate enough cash flow from operations to satisfy our debt obligations, we may have to undertake alternative financing plans, such as:

refinancing or restructuring our debt;

selling assets;

reducing or delaying capital investments; or

seeking to raise additional capital.

However, we cannot assure you that undertaking alternative financing plans, if necessary, would allow us to meet our debt obligations. Our inability to generate sufficient cash flow to satisfy our debt obligations, including our obligations under the notes, or to obtain alternative financing, could materially and adversely affect our ability to make payments on the notes and our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***We distribute all of our available cash to our unitholders after reserves established by our general partner, which may limit the cash available to service the notes or repay them at maturity.***

Subject to the limitations on restricted payments contained in the indenture governing the notes, in Opco's revolving credit facility, senior notes and term loan, and in NRP Oil and Gas's revolving credit facility, we will distribute all of our available cash each quarter to our unitholders. Available cash is defined in our partnership agreement.

As a result, we may not accumulate significant amounts of cash. These distributions could significantly reduce the cash available to us in subsequent periods to make payments on the notes.

***In the event of our bankruptcy or liquidation, holders of the notes will be paid from any assets remaining after payments to any holders of our secured debt and the debt of our subsidiaries.***

The notes are our general unsecured senior obligations, and effectively subordinated to any secured debt that we may incur in the future to the extent of the value of the assets securing that debt and to any indebtedness of our subsidiaries. Although we do not currently have secured debt, the indenture governing the notes permits us and our subsidiaries to incur secured debt under specified circumstances. If we incur any secured debt, our assets and the assets of our subsidiaries will be subject to prior claims by our secured creditors.

None of our subsidiaries other than the co-issuer, NRP Finance Corporation, which has no material assets and was formed for the sole purpose of being a co-issuer of the notes, will initially guarantee the notes, and our subsidiaries will only be required to guarantee the notes in the future under certain limited circumstances. As a result, in the event that we are unable to make scheduled payments on the notes, no other entity will have an obligation to make such

payments to you. Our subsidiaries have a substantial amount of indebtedness. As of December 31, 2014, Opco had an aggregate of approximately \$666.7 million in senior notes outstanding, a \$1.3 million utility local improvement obligation, \$75.0 million outstanding under its term loan and \$200.0 million outstanding under its revolving credit facility. In addition, at December 31, 2014, NRP Oil and Gas had \$110.0 million outstanding under its revolving credit facility. Our subsidiaries may incur additional indebtedness in the future. Our right to receive any assets of our subsidiaries, as an equity holder of such subsidiaries, and the consequent right of the holders of the notes to participate in those assets, will be structurally subordinated to the claims of the applicable subsidiaries' creditors. If we are declared bankrupt or insolvent, or are liquidated, the holders of our secured debt and any debt of our subsidiaries will be entitled to be paid in full from our assets before any payment may be made with respect to the notes.

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***Our variable rate indebtedness subjects us to interest rate risk, which could cause our debt service obligations to increase significantly.***

Borrowings under Opco's revolving credit facility and term loan facility and under NRP Oil and Gas's revolving credit facility bear interest at variable rates and expose us to interest rate risk. If interest rates increase and we are unable to effectively hedge our interest rate risk, our debt service obligations on the variable rate indebtedness would increase even if the amount borrowed remained the same, and our net income and cash available for servicing our indebtedness would decrease. As of December 31, 2014, if interest rates on these facilities increased by 1%, our annual interest expense would increase by approximately \$3.9 million.

***Despite our current level of indebtedness, we may still be able to incur substantially more debt. This could further exacerbate the risks associated with our substantial indebtedness.***

We and our subsidiaries may be able to incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future, subject to certain limitations, including under Opco's revolving credit facility, term loan and senior notes, under NRP Oil and Gas's revolving credit facility, and under the indenture for the notes. If new debt is added to our current debt levels, the related risks that we now face could increase. Our level of indebtedness could, for instance, prevent us from engaging in transactions that might otherwise be beneficial to us or from making desirable capital expenditures. This could put us at a competitive disadvantage relative to other less leveraged competitors that have more cash flow to devote to their operations. In addition, the incurrence of additional indebtedness could make it more difficult to satisfy our existing financial obligations, including those relating to the notes.

***We may not be able to repurchase the notes upon a change of control.***

Upon the occurrence of certain change of control events, we would be required to offer to repurchase all or any part of the notes then outstanding for cash at 101% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest. The source of funds for any repurchase required as a result of any change of control will be our available cash or cash generated from our operations or other sources, including:

borrows under our revolving credit facilities or other sources;

sales of assets; or

sales of equity.

We cannot assure you that sufficient funds would be available at the time of any change of control to repurchase your notes after first repaying any of our senior debt that may exist at the time. In addition, restrictions under our revolving credit facilities will not allow such repurchases and additional credit facilities we enter into in the future also may prohibit such repurchases. We cannot assure you that we can obtain waivers from the lenders. Additionally, using available cash to fund the potential consequences of a change of control may impair our ability to obtain additional financing in the future, which could negatively impact our ability to conduct our business operations.

***Many of the covenants contained in the indenture will be suspended if the notes are rated investment grade by both Standard & Poor's and Moody's.***

Many of the covenants in the indenture governing the notes will be suspended if the notes are rated investment grade by both Standard & Poor's and Moody's provided at such time no default has occurred and is continuing. The covenants will restrict, among other things, our ability to pay distributions on our common units, incur debt and to enter into certain other transactions. There can be no assurance that the notes will ever be rated investment grade. However, suspension of these covenants would allow us to engage in certain transactions that would not have been permitted while these covenants were in force, and the effects of any such transactions will be permitted to remain in place even if the notes are subsequently downgraded below investment grade. See Description of Notes Certain Covenants Covenant Suspension.

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***Your ability to transfer the notes may be limited by the absence of an active trading market, and there is no assurance that any active trading market for the notes will develop or persist.***

The old notes may not be resold by holders thereof unless the old notes are registered or an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 is available. However, we cannot assure you that, even following registration or exchange of the old notes for new notes, that an active trading market for the old notes or the new notes will exist (or persist, if developed), and we will have no obligation to create such a market. At the time of the private offering of the old notes, certain of the initial purchasers advised us that they intended to make a market in the old notes and, if issued, the new notes. The initial purchasers are not obligated, however, to make a market in the old notes or the new notes and any market making may be discontinued at any time at their sole discretion. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of or trading market for the old notes or the new notes.

The liquidity of any trading market for the notes and the market price quoted for the notes will depend upon the number of holders of the notes, the overall market for high yield securities, our financial performance or prospects or the prospects for companies in our industry generally, the interest of securities dealers in making a market in the notes and other factors.



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**USE OF PROCEEDS**

The exchange offer is intended to satisfy our obligations under the registration rights agreement. We will not receive any proceeds from the issuance of the new notes in the exchange offer. In consideration for issuing the new notes as contemplated by this prospectus, we will receive old notes in a like principal amount. The form and terms of the new notes are identical in all respects to the form and terms of the old notes, except the new notes will be registered under the Securities Act and will not contain restrictions on transfer, registration rights or provisions for additional interest. Old notes surrendered in exchange for the new notes will be retired and cancelled and will not be reissued. Accordingly, the issuance of the new notes will not result in any change in outstanding indebtedness.

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**EXCHANGE OFFER**

**Purpose and Effect of the Exchange Offer**

We sold \$105 million of the old notes on October 17, 2014 pursuant to the purchase agreement, dated as of October 9, 2014, by and among NRP, NRP Finance Corporation and the initial purchasers named therein. The old notes were subsequently offered by the initial purchasers to qualified institutional buyers pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act and to non-U.S. persons pursuant to Regulation S under the Securities Act.

We sold the old notes in transactions that were exempt from or not subject to the registration requirements under the Securities Act. Accordingly, the old notes are subject to transfer restrictions. In general, you may not offer or sell the old notes unless either they are registered under the Securities Act or the offer or sale is exempt from, or not subject to, registration under the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws.

In connection with the sale of the old notes, we entered into a registration rights agreement with the initial purchasers of the old notes. In that agreement, we agreed to use our commercially reasonable efforts to file an exchange offer registration statement after the closing date following the offering of the old notes. Now, to satisfy our obligations under the registration rights agreement, we are offering holders of the old notes who are able to make certain representations described below the opportunity to exchange their old notes for the new notes in the exchange offer. The exchange offer will be open for a period of at least 20 business days. During the exchange offer period, we will exchange the new notes for all old notes properly surrendered and not withdrawn before the expiration date. The new notes will be registered under the Securities Act, and the transfer restrictions, registration rights and provisions for additional interest relating to the old notes will not apply to the new notes.

For each old note surrendered to us pursuant to the exchange offer, the holder of such old note will receive a new note having a principal amount equal to that of the surrendered old note. Interest on each new note accrues from the last interest payment date on which interest was paid on the surrendered old note, or if no interest has been paid on such old note, from October 1, 2014. The registration rights agreement also provides an agreement to include in the prospectus for the exchange offer certain information necessary to allow a broker-dealer who holds old notes that were acquired for its own account as a result of market-making activities or other ordinary course trading activities (other than old notes acquired directly from us or one of our affiliates) to exchange such old notes pursuant to the exchange offer and to satisfy the prospectus delivery requirements in connection with resales of new notes received by such broker-dealer in the exchange offer. We agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to maintain the effectiveness of the exchange offer registration statement for these purposes for a period ending 180 days from the date on which the exchange offer registration statement is declared effective, which period may be extended under certain circumstances.

The preceding agreement is needed because any broker-dealer who acquires old notes for its own account as a result of market-making activities or other trading activities is required to deliver a prospectus meeting the requirements of the Securities Act. This prospectus covers the offer and sale of the new notes pursuant to the exchange offer and the resale of new notes received in the exchange offer by any broker-dealer who held old notes acquired for its own account as a result of market-making activities or other trading activities, other than old notes acquired directly from us or one of our affiliates.

Based on interpretations by the staff of the SEC set forth in no-action letters issued to third parties, we believe that the new notes issued pursuant to the exchange offer would in general be freely tradable after the exchange offer without further registration under the Securities Act. However, any purchaser of old notes who is an affiliate of ours or who intends to participate in the exchange offer for the purpose of distributing the related new notes:

will not be able to rely on the interpretation of the staff of the SEC,

will not be able to tender its old notes in the exchange offer, and

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must comply with the registration and prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act in connection with any sale or transfer of the old notes unless such sale or transfer is made pursuant to an exemption from such requirements.

Each holder of the old notes (other than certain specified holders) who desires to exchange old notes for the new notes in the exchange offer will be required to make the representations described below under **Procedures for Tendering Your Representations to Us**.

We further agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to file with the SEC a shelf registration statement to register for public resale old notes held by any holder who provides us with certain information for inclusion in the shelf registration statement if:

we determine that the exchange offer is not permitted by applicable law or SEC policy;