RANGE RESOURCES CORP
Form 10-K
February 27, 2008

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K

(Mark one)

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

For the fiscal year-ended December 31, 2007

or

o **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 001-12209

RANGE RESOURCES CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware	**34-1312571**
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)
100 Throckmorton Street, Suite 1200, Fort Worth, Texas	**76102**
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant s Telephone Number, Including Area Code
(817) 870-2601
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title Of Each Class	Name Of Each Exchange On Which Registered
Common Stock, $.01 par value	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant as a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes þ No o

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes o No þ

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 þ No o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant s knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. o

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 þ	Accelerated filer o	Non-accelerated filer o	Smaller reporting company o
		(Do not check if a 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 o No þ

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates (excluding voting shares held by officers and directors) as of June 29, 2007 was $5,459,435,000.

As of February 20, 2008, there were 149,903,625 shares of Range Resources Corporation Common Stock outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

Portions of the registrant s proxy statement to be furnished to stockholders in connection with its 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference in Part III, Items 10-14 of this report.

RANGE RESOURCES CORPORATION

Unless the context otherwise indicates, all references in this report to Range we us or our are to Range Resources Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiaries and its ownership interests in equity method investees. Unless otherwise noted, all information in the report relating to oil and gas reserves and the estimated future net cash flows attributable to those reserves are based on estimates and are net to our interest. If you are not familiar with the oil and gas terms used in this report, please refer to the explanation of such terms under the caption Glossary of Certain Defined Terms at the end of Item 15 of this report.

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RANGE RESOURCES CORPORATION
Annual Report on Form 10-K
Year Ended December 31, 2007

Disclosures Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain information included in this report, other materials filed or to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), as well as information included in oral statements or other written statements made or to be made by us contain or incorporate by reference certain statements (other than statements of historical fact) that constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. When used herein, the words budget, budgeted, assumes, shoul goal, anticipates, expects, believes, seeks, plans, estimates, intends, projects or targets and similar convey the uncertainty of future events or outcomes are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Where any forward-looking statement includes a statement of the assumptions or bases underlying such forward-looking statement, we caution that while we believe these assumptions or bases to be reasonable and to be made in good faith, assumed facts or bases almost always vary from actual results and the difference between assumed facts or bases and the actual results could be material, depending on the circumstances. It is important to note that our actual results could differ materially from those projected by such forward-looking statements. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable and such forward-looking statements are based upon the best data available at the date this report is filed with the SEC, we cannot assure you that such expectations will prove correct. Factors that could cause our results to differ materially from the results discussed in such forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the following: the factors listed in Item 1A of this report under the heading Risk Factors, production variance from expectations, volatility of oil and gas prices, hedging results, the need to develop and replace reserves, the substantial capital expenditures required to fund operations, exploration risks, environmental risks, uncertainties about estimates of reserves, competition, litigation, government regulation, political risks, our ability to implement our business strategy, costs and results of drilling new projects, mechanical and other inherent risks associated with oil and gas production, weather, availability of drilling equipment and changes in interest rates. All such forward-looking statements in this document are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements in this paragraph, and we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

General

We are a Fort Worth, Texas-based independent oil and gas company, engaged in the exploration, development and acquisition of oil and gas properties, primarily in the Southwestern, Appalachian and Gulf Coast regions of the United States. We were incorporated in early 1980 under the name Lomak Petroleum, Inc. and, later that year, we completed an initial public offering and began trading on the NASDAQ. In 1996, our common stock was listed on the New York Stock Exchange. In 1998, we changed our name to Range Resources Corporation. In 1999, we implemented a strategy of internally generated drillbit growth coupled with complementary acquisitions. Our objective is to build stockholder value through consistent growth in reserves and production on a cost-efficient basis. During the past five years, we have increased our proved reserves 286%, while production has increased 115% during that same period.

At year-end 2007, our proved reserves had the following characteristics:

- 2.2 Tcfe of proved reserves;
- 82% natural gas;
- 64% proved developed;
- 77% operated;
- a reserve life of 17.7 years (based on fourth quarter 2007 production);

- a pre-tax present value of $5.2 billion of future net revenues attributable to our reserves, discounted at 10% per annum (PV-10); and

- a standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows of $3.7 billion (after tax).

PV-10 may be considered a non-GAAP financial measure as defined by the SEC. We believe that the presentation of PV-10 is relevant and useful to our investors as supplemental disclosure to the standardized measure, or after-tax amount, because it presents the discounted future net cash flows attributable to our proved reserves prior to taking into account corporate future income taxes and our current tax structure. While the standardized measure is dependent on the unique tax situation of each company, PV-10 is based on prices and discount factors that are consistent for all companies. Because of this, PV-10 can be used within the industry and by creditors and securities analysts to evaluate estimated net cash flows from proved reserves on a more comparable basis. The difference between the standardized measure and the PV-10 amount is discounted estimated future income tax of $1.5 billion at December 31, 2007.

At year-end 2007, we owned 3,385,000 gross (2,695,000 net) acres of leasehold, including 407,800 acres where we also own a royalty interest. We have built a multi-year inventory drilling that is estimated to contain over 11,000 drilling locations, with approximately 8,500 drilling locations in our Appalachian region.

Our corporate offices are located at 100 Throckmorton Street, Suite 1200, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Our telephone number is (817) 870-2601.

Business Strategy

Our objective is to build stockholder value through consistent growth in reserves and production on a cost-efficient basis. Our strategy is to employ internally generated drillbit growth coupled with complementary acquisitions. Our strategy requires us to make significant investments in technical staff, acreage and seismic data and technology to build drilling inventory. Our strategy has the following principal elements:

Concentrate in Core Operating Areas. We currently operate in three regions; the Southwestern (which includes the Barnett Shale of North Central Texas, the Permian Basin of West Texas and eastern New Mexico, the East Texas Basin, the Texas Panhandle and Anadarko Basin of Western Oklahoma), Appalachian (which includes tight-gas, shale, coal bed methane and conventional oil and gas production in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, New York and West Virginia) and the Gulf Coast (which includes onshore Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi). Concentrating our drilling and producing activities in these core areas allows us to develop the regional expertise needed to interpret specific geological and operating trends and develop economies of scale. Operating in multiple core areas allows us to blend the production characteristics of each area to balance our portfolio toward our goal of consistent production and reserve growth.

Maintain Multi-Year Drilling Inventory. We focus on areas where multiple prospective productive horizons and development opportunities exist. We use our technical expertise to build and maintain a multi-year drilling inventory. A large, multi-year inventory of drilling projects increases our ability to consistently grow production and reserves. Currently, we have over 11,000 identified drilling locations in inventory. In 2007, we drilled 967 gross (698 net) wells. In 2008, our capital program targets the drilling of 968 gross (715 net) wells.

Make Complementary Acquisitions. We target complementary acquisitions in existing core areas and focus on acquisition opportunities where our existing operating and technical knowledge is transferable and drilling results can be forecast with confidence. Over the past three years, we have completed $903.8 million of complementary acquisitions. These acquisitions have been located in the Southwestern and Appalachian regions.

Maintain Long Life, Low Decline Reserve Base. Long life, low decline, oil and gas reserves provide a more stable growth platform than short life, high decline reserves. Long life reserves reduce reinvestment risk as they lessen the amount of reinvestment capital deployed each year to replace production. Long life, low decline oil and gas reserves also assist us in minimizing costs as stable production makes it easier to build and maintain operating economies of scale. Lastly, the inherent greater predictability of low decline oil and gas reserve production better lends itself to commodity price hedging than high decline reserves. We use our acquisition, divestiture, and drilling activity to execute this strategy.

Maintain Flexibility. Because of the volatility of commodity prices and the risks involved in drilling, we remain flexible and adjust our capital budget throughout the year. We may defer capital projects to seize an attractive acquisition opportunity. If certain areas generate higher than anticipated returns, we may accelerate drilling in those areas and decrease capital expenditures elsewhere. We also believe in maintaining a strong balance sheet and using commodity hedging. This allows us to be more opportunistic in lower price environments as well as providing more consistent financial results.

Equity Ownership and Incentive Compensation. We want our employees to act like owners. To achieve this, we reward and encourage them through equity ownership in us. As of December 31, 2007, our employees owned equity securities (vested and unvested) that had an aggregate market value of approximately $260 million.

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Significant Accomplishments in 2007

Production and reserve growth The fourth quarter of 2007 marked the 20th consecutive quarter of sequential production growth. In 2007, our annual production averaged 319.0 Mmcfe per day, an increase of 22% from 2006, after reclassification of 2006 to report the results of the Gulf of Mexico properties sold in the first quarter of 2007 as discontinued operations. See Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements. This achievement is the result of our continued drilling success and the completion and integration of complementary acquisitions. Our business is inherently volatile, and while consistent growth such as we have experienced over the past five years will be challenging to sustain, the quality of our technical teams and our sizable drilling inventory bode well for the future. Proven reserves increased 27% in 2007 to 2.2 Tcfe, marking the sixth consecutive year our proven reserves have increased.

Successful drilling program In 2007, we drilled 967 gross wells. Production was replaced by 416% through drilling in 2007, and our overall success rate was 98%. As we continue to build our drilling inventory for the future, our ability to drill a large number of wells each year on a cost effective and efficient basis is critical.

Continued expansion of drilling inventory and emerging plays To continue to grow, the size of our prospect inventory must remain large. Our drilling inventory currently includes over 11,000 projects, up from 9,400 at year-end 2006. We engaged in meaningful expansion of our coal bed methane plays and our shale plays in 2007. We have now leased 286,000 net acres in our coal bed methane plays and 1.0 million net acres in our shale plays. We have hired additional experienced technical professionals to assist us in these emerging plays.

Record financial results and balance sheet enhancement Growth in production volumes and higher oil and gas prices drove our record financial performance in 2007. Revenue, net income, and net cash flow provided from operating activities all reached annual record highs. On the balance sheet, we refinanced $250 million of shorter term bank debt with a like amount of senior subordinated fixed rate 7.5% notes having a 10-year maturity. This helped to align the maturity schedule of our debt with the long-term life of our assets. Financial leverage, as measured by the debt-to-capitalization ratio improved from 46% to 40%. Future cash flow will be enhanced through low income tax payments due to a $204.4 million net operating loss carryforward.

Successful acquisitions completed In 2007, we acquired $260.9 million of properties located in our core areas. The largest acquisition involved acquiring additional interests in the Nora field of Virginia, where we entered into a joint development plan with Equitable Resources, Inc. (Equitable). As a result of this transaction, Equitable and Range equalized their working interests in the Nora field, including producing wells, undrilled acreage and gathering systems. Range retained separately owned royalty interests in the field. Equitable operates the producing wells, manages the drilling operations of all future coal bed methane wells and manages the gathering system. Range oversees the drilling of formations below the coal bed methane formations, including tight gas, shale and deeper formations. A newly formed limited liability company, owned 50% by Equitable and 50% by Range, holds the investment in the gathering system.

Successful dispositions completed In February 2007, we sold the Austin Chalk properties for proceeds of $80.4 million. In March 2007, we sold our Gulf of Mexico properties for proceeds of $155.0 million. As a result of these divestitures, we lowered our overall production decline rate and lengthened our reserve life. See Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements.

Plans for 2008

We have announced a $1.1 billion capital budget for 2008, excluding acquisitions. The budget includes $783 million to drill 968 gross (715 net) wells and to undertake 82 gross (66 net) recompletions. Also included is $109 million for land, $51 million for seismic and $122 million for the expansion and enhancement of gathering systems and facilities. Approximately 56% of the budget is attributable to the Southwest Area, 40% to the Appalachia Area and 4% to the Gulf Coast Area.

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Production, Revenues and Price History

The following table sets forth information regarding oil and gas production, revenues and direct operating expenses for the last three years. The information set forth in this table reflects the reclassification of prior year amounts to report the results of operations of our Gulf of Mexico properties sold in the first quarter of 2007 as discontinued operations. For additional information on price calculations, see information set forth in Item 7. Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Production			
Gas (Mmcf)	89,595	70,713	57,609
Crude oil (Mbbls)	3,360	3,039	2,929
Natural gas liquids (Mbbls)	1,115	1,092	1,012
Total (Mmcfe) (a)	116,441	95,498	81,253
Revenues ($000)			
Gas	$ 613,454	$ 418,183	$ 354,728
Crude oil	202,931	144,251	113,153
Natural gas liquids	46,152	36,705	27,589
Transportation and gathering	2,290	2,422	2,306
Derivative fair value income (loss)	(7,767)	142,395	10,303
Less: Mark-to-market component of derivative fair value income (loss) (c)	79,589	(92,456)	(7,397)
Total	936,649	651,500	500,682
Direct operating expenses (b)	108,741	81,261	57,866
Production and ad valorem taxes	42,443	36,415	30,822
Gross margin	$ 785,465	$ 533,824	$ 411,994
Average sales price (wellhead)			
Gas (per mcf)	$ 6.54	$ 6.59	$ 8.00
Crude oil (per bbl)	67.47	62.36	53.30
Natural gas liquids (per bbl)	41.40	33.62	31.52
Total (per mcfe) (a)	7.37	7.25	7.99
Average realized price (including all derivative settlements)			
Gas (per mcf)	$ 7.66	$ 6.62	$ 6.21
Crude oil (per bbl)	60.16	47.46	38.63
Natural gas liquids (per bbl)	41.40	33.62	27.27
Total (per mcfe) (a)	8.02	6.80	6.13
Operating costs (per mcfe)			
Direct (b)	$ 0.93	$ 0.85	$ 0.71
Production and ad valorem taxes	0.36	0.38	0.38
Total operating costs	$ 1.29	$ 1.23	$ 1.09

Gross margin (per mcfe)	$ 6.74	$ 5.59	$ 5.07

(a) Oil and NGLs are converted at the rate of one barrel equals six mcfe.

(b) 2007 direct operating expenses include $1.8 million (or $0.02 per mcfe) of stock-based compensation. 2006 direct operating expenses include $1.4 million (or $0.01 per mcfe) of stock-based compensation.

(c) By adding this component, the total reflects realized gains (losses) on those derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting and excludes unrealized gains (losses) on derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting.

Employees

As of January 1, 2008, we had 733 full-time employees, 371 of whom were field personnel. All full-time employees are eligible to receive equity awards approved by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. No employees are covered by a labor union or other collective bargaining arrangement. We believe that the relationship with our employees is excellent. We regularly use independent consultants and contractors to perform various professional services, particularly in the areas of drilling, completion, field, on-site production operation services and certain accounting functions.

Available Information

We maintain an internet website under the name www.rangeresources.com. We make available, free of charge, on our website, the annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after providing such reports to the SEC. Also, our Corporate Governance Guidelines, the charters of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Dividend Committee, and the Governance and Nominating Committee, and the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics are available on our website and in print to any stockholder who provides a written request to the Corporate Secretary at 100 Throckmorton Street, Suite 1200, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics applies to all directors, officers and employees, including the chief executive officer and senior financial officers.

We file annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, proxy statements and other documents with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The public may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington DC 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Also, the SEC maintains an internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers, including Range, that file electronically with the SEC. The public can obtain any document we file with the SEC at www.sec.gov. Information contained on or connected to our website is not incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K and should not be considered part of this report or any other filing that we make with the SEC.

Competition

We encounter substantial competition in developing and acquiring oil and gas properties, securing and retaining personnel, conducting drilling and field operations and marketing production. Competitors in exploration, development, acquisitions and production include the major oil companies as well as numerous independent oil companies, individual proprietors and others. Although our sizable acreage position and core area concentration provide some competitive advantages, many competitors have financial and other resources substantially exceeding ours. Therefore, competitors may be able to pay more for desirable leases and to evaluate, bid for and purchase a greater number of properties or prospects than our financial or personnel resources allow. Our ability to replace and expand our reserve base depends on our ability to attract and retain quality personnel and identify and acquire suitable producing properties and prospects for future drilling.

Marketing and Customers

We market nearly all of our oil and gas production from the properties we operate for both our interest and that of the other working interest owners and royalty owners. We sell our gas pursuant to a variety of contractual arrangements; generally month-to-month and one to five-year contracts. Less than 1% of our production is subject to contracts longer than five years. Pricing on the month-to-month and short-term contracts is based largely on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) pricing, with fixed or floating basis. For one to five-year contracts, we sell our gas on NYMEX pricing, published regional index pricing or percentage of proceeds sales based on local indices. We sell less than 500 mcf per day under long-term fixed price contracts. Many contracts contain provisions for periodic price adjustment, termination and other terms customary in the industry. We sell our gas to utilities, marketing companies and industrial users. We sell our oil under contracts ranging in terms from month-to-month, up to as long as one year. The pricing for oil is based upon the posted prices set by major purchasers in the production area or upon NYMEX pricing or fixed pricing. All oil pricing is adjusted for quality and transportation. Oil and gas purchasers are selected on the basis of price, credit quality and service. For a summary of purchasers of our oil and gas production that accounted for 10% or more of consolidated revenue, see Note 15 to our consolidated financial statements. Because alternative purchasers of oil and gas are usually readily available, we believe that the loss of any of these purchasers would not have a material adverse effect on us.

We enter into hedging transactions with unaffiliated third parties for significant portions of our production to achieve more predictable cash flows and to reduce our exposure to short-term fluctuations in oil and gas prices. For a more detailed discussion, see the information set forth in Item 7. Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk. Proximity to local markets, availability of competitive fuels and overall supply and demand are factors affecting the prices for which our production can be sold. Market volatility due to international political developments, overall energy supply and demand, fluctuating weather conditions, economic growth rates and other factors in the United States and worldwide have had, and will continue to have, a significant effect on energy prices.

We incur gathering and transportation expenses to move our natural gas and crude oil from the wellhead and tanks to purchaser specified delivery points. These expenses vary based on volume, distance shipped and the fee charged by the third-party transporters. In the Southwestern and Gulf Coast Areas, our natural gas and oil production are transported primarily through third-party trucks, gathering systems and pipelines. Transportation space on these gathering systems and pipelines is occasionally limited. In Appalachia, we own approximately 5,100 miles of gas gathering pipelines which transport a majority

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of our Appalachian gas production as well as third-party gas to transmission lines and directly to end-users and interstate pipelines. For additional information, see Risk Factors *Our business depends on oil and natural gas transportation facilities, many of which are owned by others*, in Item 1A of this report.

Governmental Regulation

Our operations are substantially affected by federal, state and local laws and regulations. In particular, oil and gas production and related operations are, or have been, subject to price controls, taxes and numerous other laws and regulations. All of the jurisdictions in which we own or operate producing crude oil and natural gas properties have statutory provisions regulating the exploration for and production of crude oil and natural gas, including provisions related to permits for the drilling of wells, bonding requirements to drill or operate wells, the location of wells, the method of drilling and casing wells, the surface use and restoration of properties upon which wells are drilled, and the abandonment of wells. Our operations are also subject to various conservation laws and regulations. These include the regulation of the size of drilling and spacing units or proration units, the number of wells which may be drilled in an area, and the unitization or pooling of crude oil and natural gas wells, generally prohibit the venting or flaring of natural gas, and impose certain requirements regarding the ratability or fair apportionment of production from fields and individuals wells.

In August 2005, Congress enacted the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005). Among other matters, the EPAct 2005 amends the Natural Gas Act (NGA), to make it unlawful for any entity , including otherwise non-jurisdictional producers such as Range, to use any deceptive or manipulative device or contrivance in connection with the purchase or sale of natural gas or the purchase or sale of transportation services subject to regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), in contravention of rules prescribed by the FERC. On January 20, 2006, the FERC issued rules implementing this provision. The rules make it unlawful in connection with the purchase or sale of natural gas subject to the jurisdiction of FERC, or the purchase or sale of transportation services subject to the jurisdiction of FERC, for any entity, directly or indirectly, to use or employ any device, scheme or artifice to defraud; to make any untrue statement of material fact or omit to make any such statement necessary to make the statements made not misleading; or to engage in any act or practice that operates as a fraud or deceit upon any person. EPAct 2005 also gives the FERC authority to impose civil penalties for violations of the NGA up to $1,000,000 per day per violation. The new anti-manipulation rule does not apply to activities that relate only to intrastate or other non-jurisdictional sale or gathering, but does apply to activities or otherwise non-jurisdictional entities to the extent the activities are conducted in connection with gas sales, purchases or transportation subject to FERC jurisdiction. It therefore reflects a significant expansion of FERC s enforcement authority. Range does not anticipate it will be affected any differently than other producers of natural gas.

Failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations can result in substantial penalties. The regulatory burden on the industry increases the cost of doing business and affects profitability. Although we believe we are in substantial compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, such laws and regulations are frequently amended or reinterpreted. Therefore, we are unable to predict the future costs or impact of compliance.

Additional proposals and proceedings that affect the oil and gas industry are regularly considered by Congress, the states, the FERC, and the courts. We cannot predict when or whether any such proposals may become effective.

Environmental and Occupational Matters

Our operations are subject to stringent federal, state and local laws governing the discharge of materials into the environment or otherwise relating to environmental protection. Numerous governmental departments such as the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issue regulations to implement and enforce such laws, which are often difficult and costly to comply with and which carry substantial administrative, civil and criminal penalties for failure to comply. These laws and regulations may require the acquisition of a permit before drilling commences, restrict the types, quantities and concentrations of various substances that can be released into the environment in connection with drilling, production and transporting through pipelines, limit or prohibit drilling activities on certain lands lying within wilderness, wetlands, frontier and other protected areas, require some form of remedial action to prevent or mitigate pollution from former operations such as plugging abandoned wells or closing earthen pits and impose substantial liabilities for pollution resulting from operations. In addition, these laws and regulations may restrict the rate of production. The regulatory burden imposed on the oil and gas industry by these laws and regulations increases the cost of doing business, affecting growth and profitability. Changes in environmental laws and regulations occur frequently, and changes that result in more stringent and costly waste handling, disposal or clean-up requirements could adversely affect our operations and financial position, as well as the industry in general. We believe we are in substantial compliance with current applicable environmental laws and regulations. Although we have not experienced any material adverse effect from compliance with environmental requirements, there is no assurance that this will continue. We did not have any material capital or other non-recurring expenditures in connection with complying with environmental laws or environmental remediation matters in 2007, nor do we anticipate that such expenditures will be material in 2008.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, as amended, (CERCLA), known as the Superfund law, and comparable state laws impose liability, without regard to fault or the legality of the original conduct, on certain classes of persons who are considered to be responsible for the release of a hazardous substance into the environment. These persons include owners or operators of the disposal site or sites where the release occurred and companies that disposed of or arranged for the disposal of the hazardous substances at the site where the release occurred. Under CERCLA, such persons may be subject to joint and several liabilities for the costs of cleaning up the hazardous substances that have been released into the environment, for damages to natural resources and for the costs of certain health studies and it is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury and property damages allegedly caused by the release of hazardous substances or other pollutants into the environment pursuant to environmental statutes, common law or both. Although petroleum, including crude oil and natural gas, is not a hazardous substance under CERCLA, at least two courts have ruled that certain wastes associated with the production of crude oil may be classified as hazardous substances under CERCLA and that such wastes may therefore give rise to liability under CERCLA. While we generate materials in the course of our operations that may be regulated as hazardous substances, we have not received notification that we may be potentially responsible for cleanup costs under CERCLA. Beyond CERCLA, state laws regulate the disposal of oil and gas wastes, and periodically new state legislative initiatives are proposed that could have a significant impact on us.

We also may incur liability under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended (RCRA), which imposes requirements related to the handling and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes. While there exists an exclusion from the definition of hazardous wastes for drilling fluids, produced waters, and other wastes associated with the exploration, development, or production of crude oil, natural gas or geothermal energy, these wastes may be regulated by the EPA or state agencies as non-hazardous solid waste. Moreover, ordinary industrial wastes, such as paint wastes, waste solvents, laboratory wastes and waste compressor oils, can be regulated as hazardous wastes. Although the costs of managing wastes classified as hazardous waste may be significant, we do not expect to experience more burdensome costs than similarly situated companies.

We currently own or lease, and have in the past owned or leased, properties that for many years have been used for the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas. Although we used operating and disposal practices that were standard in the industry at the time, petroleum hydrocarbons or wastes may have been disposed of or released on or under the properties owned or leased by us or on or under other locations where such wastes have been taken for disposal. In addition, some of these properties have been operated by third parties whose treatment and disposal or release of petroleum hydrocarbons and wastes was not under our control. These properties and the materials disposed or released on them may be subject to CERCLA, RCRA and analogous state laws. Under such laws, we could be required to remove or remediate previously disposed wastes or property contamination, or to perform remedial activities to prevent future contamination.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (FWPCA), and analogous state laws impose restrictions and strict controls regarding the discharge of pollutants, including produced waters and other oil and gas wastes, into federal and state waters. The discharge of pollutants into regulated waters is prohibited, except in accordance with the terms of a permit issued by EPA or the state. These laws provide for administrative, civil and criminal penalties for any unauthorized discharges of oil and other hazardous substances in reportable quantities and may impose substantial potential liability for the costs of removal, remediation and damages. Pursuant to these laws and regulations, we may be required to obtain and maintain approvals or permits for the discharge of wastewater or storm water and are required to develop and implement spill prevention, control and countermeasure plans, also referred to as SPCC plans, in connection with on-site storage of greater than threshold quantities of oil. We are currently undertaking a review of recently acquired oil and gas properties to determine the need for new or updated SPCC plans and, where necessary, we will be developing or upgrading such plans, the costs of which are not expected to be substantial.

The Clean Air Act, as amended, and comparable state laws restrict the emission of air pollutants from many sources, including compressor stations. These laws and any implementing regulations may require us to obtain pre-approval for the construction or modification of certain projects or facilities expected to produce air emissions, impose stringent air permit requirements, or use specific equipment or technologies to control emissions. While we may be required to incur certain capital expenditures in the next few years for air pollution control equipment in connection with maintaining or obtaining operating permits addressing other air emission-related issues, we do not believe that such requirements will have a material adverse affect on our operations.

Changes in environmental laws and regulations occur frequently, and any changes that result in more stringent and costly waste handling, storage, transport, disposal or cleanup requirements could materially adversely affect our operations and financial position, as well as those of the oil and gas industry in general. For instance, recent scientific studies have suggested that emissions of certain gases, commonly referred to as greenhouse gases and including carbon dioxide and methane, may be contributing to warming of the Earth s atmosphere. In response to such studies, the U.S. Congress is actively considering climate change-related legislation to restrict greenhouse gas emissions. One bill recently approved by the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, known as the Lieberman Warner Climate Security Act or S. 2191, would require a 70% reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases from sources within the United States between 2012 and 2050. A vote on this bill by the full Senate is expected to occur before mid-year 2008. In addition, at least 17 states have already taken legal measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, primarily through the planned development of greenhouse gas emission inventories and/or regional greenhouse gas cap and trade programs. Also, as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court s decision on April 2, 2007 in *Massachusetts, et al. v. EPA*, the EPA may be required to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from mobile sources (e.g., cars and trucks) even if Congress does not adopt new legislation specifically addressing emissions of greenhouse gases. The EPA has indicated that it will issue a rulemaking notice to address greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles and automobile fuels, although the date for the issuance of this notice has not been finalized. The Court s holding in *Massachusetts* that greenhouse gases fall under the federal Clean Air Act s definition of air pollutant may also result in future regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources under certain Clean Air Act programs. New legislation or regulatory programs that restrict emissions of greenhouse gases in areas where we conduct business could adversely affect our operations and demand for our products.

We are also subject to the requirements of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and comparable state laws that regulate the protection of the health and safety of employees. In addition, OSHA s hazard communication standard requires that information be maintained about hazardous materials used or produced in our operations and that this information be provided to employees, state and local government authorities and citizens. We believe that our operations are in substantial compliance with the OSHA requirements.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

We are subject to various risks and uncertainties in the course of our business. The following summarizes some, but not all, of the risks and uncertainties which may adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Risks Related to Our Business

Volatility of oil and natural gas prices significantly affects our cash flow and capital resources and could hamper our ability to produce oil and gas economically

Oil and natural gas prices are volatile, and a decline in prices would adversely affect our profitability and financial condition. The oil and natural gas industry is typically cyclical, and prices for oil and natural gas have been highly volatile. Historically, the industry has experienced severe downturns characterized by oversupply and/or weak demand. Higher oil and natural gas prices have contributed to our positive earnings over the last several years. However, long-term supply and demand for oil and natural gas is uncertain and subject to a myriad of factors such as:

- the domestic and foreign supply of oil and gas;
- the price and availability of alternative fuels;
- weather conditions;
- the level of consumer demand;
- the price of foreign imports;
- world-wide economic conditions;
- political conditions in oil and gas producing regions; and
- domestic and foreign governmental regulations.

Decreases in oil and natural gas prices from current levels could adversely affect our revenues, net income, cash flow and proved reserves. Significant price decreases could have a material adverse effect on our operations and limit our ability to fund capital expenditures. Without the ability to fund capital expenditures, we would be unable to replace reserves and production.

Hedging transactions may limit our potential gains and involve other risks

To manage our exposure to price risk, we, from time to time, enter into hedging arrangements, utilizing commodity derivatives with respect to a significant portion of our future production. The goal of these hedges is to lock in prices so as to limit volatility and increase the predictability of cash flow. These transactions limit our potential gains if oil and natural gas prices rise above the price established by the hedge.

In addition, hedging transactions may expose us to the risk of financial loss in certain circumstances, including instances in which:

- our production is less than expected;
- the counterparties to our futures contracts fail to perform under the contracts; or
- a sudden, unexpected event materially impacts oil or natural gas prices or the relationship between the hedged price index and the oil and gas sales price.

Information concerning our reserves and future net reserve estimates is uncertain

There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of proved oil and natural gas reserves and their values, including many factors beyond our control. Estimates of proved reserves are by their nature uncertain. Although we believe these estimates are reasonable, actual production, revenues and costs to develop will likely vary from estimates and these variances could be material.

Reserve estimation is a subjective process that involves estimating volumes to be recovered from underground accumulations of oil and natural gas that cannot be directly measured. As a result, different petroleum engineers, each using industry-accepted geologic and engineering practices and scientific methods, may calculate different estimates of reserves and future net cash flows based on the same available data. Because of the subjective nature of oil and natural gas reserve estimates, each of the following items may differ materially from the amounts or other factors estimated:

- the amount and timing of oil and natural gas production;
- the revenues and costs associated with that production; and
- the amount and timing of future development expenditures.

The discounted future net revenues from our proved reserves included in this Report should not be considered as the market value of the reserves attributable to our properties. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, the estimated discounted future net revenues from our proved reserves are based generally on prices and costs as of the date of the estimate, while actual future prices and costs may be materially higher or lower. In addition, the 10 percent discount factor that is required to be used to calculate discounted future net revenues for reporting purposes under generally accepted accounting principles is not necessarily the most appropriate discount factor based on the cost of capital in effect from time to time and risks associated with our business and the oil and natural gas industry in general.

If oil and natural gas prices decrease or drilling efforts are unsuccessful, we may be required to record write-downs of our oil and natural gas properties

In the past, we have been required to write down the carrying value of certain of our oil and natural gas properties, and there is a risk that we will be required to take additional write-downs in the future. This could occur when oil and natural gas prices are low, or if we have downward adjustments to our estimated proved reserves, increases in our estimates of operating or development costs, deterioration in our drilling results or mechanical problems with wells where the cost to redrill or repair does not justify the expense.

Accounting rules require that the carrying value of oil and natural gas properties be periodically reviewed for possible impairment. Impairment is recognized when the book value of a proven property is greater than the expected undiscounted future net cash flows from that property and on acreage when conditions indicate the carrying value is not recoverable. We may be required to write down the carrying value of a property based on oil and natural gas prices at the time of the impairment review, as well as a continuing evaluation of drilling results, production data, economics and other factors. While an impairment charge reflects our long-term ability to recover an investment, it does not impact cash or cash flow from operating activities, but it does reduce our reported earnings and increases our leverage ratios.

Our business is subject to operating hazards and environmental regulations that could result in substantial losses or liabilities that may not be fully covered under our insurance policies

Oil and natural gas operations are subject to many risks, including well blowouts, craterings, explosions, uncontrollable flows of oil, natural gas or well fluids, fires, formations with abnormal pressures, pipeline ruptures or spills, pollution, releases of toxic natural gas and other environmental hazards and risks. If any of these hazards occur, we could sustain substantial losses as a result of:

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- injury or loss of life;
- severe damage to or destruction of property, natural resources and equipment;
- pollution or other environmental damage;
- clean-up responsibilities;
- regulatory investigations and penalties; or
- suspension of operations.

As we drill to deeper horizons and in more geologically complex areas, we could experience a greater increase in operating and financial risks due to inherent higher reservoir pressures and unknown downhole risk exposures. As we continue to drill deeper, the number of rigs capable of drilling to such depths will be fewer and we may experience greater competition from other operators.

We maintain insurance against some, but not all, of these potential risks and losses. We may elect not to obtain insurance if we believe that the cost of available insurance is excessive relative to the risks presented. Recently, we have experienced substantial increases in premiums especially in areas affected by the hurricanes and tropical storms. Insurers have imposed revised limits affecting how much the insurers will pay on actual storm claims plus the cost to re-drill wells where substantial damage has been incurred. Insurers are also requiring us to retain larger deductibles and reducing the scope of what insurable losses will include. Even with the increase in future insurance premiums, coverage will be reduced, requiring us to bear a greater potential risk if our oil and gas properties are damaged. We do not maintain any business interruption insurance. In addition, pollution and environmental risks generally are not fully insurable. If a significant accident or other event occurs that is not fully covered by insurance, it could have a material adverse affect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We are subject to financing and interest rate exposure risks

Our business and operating results can be harmed by factors such as the availability, terms of and cost of capital, increases in interest rates or a reduction in credit rating. These changes could cause our cost of doing business to increase, limit our ability to pursue acquisition opportunities, reduce cash flow used for drilling and place us at a competitive disadvantage. For example at December 31, 2007, approximately 74% of our debt is at fixed interest rates with the remaining 26% subject to variable interest rates. Recent unfavorable disclosures concerning the sub-prime mortgage market may lead to a contraction in credit availability impacting our ability to finance our operations.

Many of our current and potential competitors have greater resources than we have and we may not be able to successfully compete in acquiring, exploring and developing new properties

We face competition in every aspect of our business, including, but not limited to, acquiring reserves and leases, obtaining goods, services and employees needed to operate and manage our business and marketing oil and natural gas. Competitors include multinational oil companies, independent production companies and individual producers and operators. Many of our competitors have greater financial and other resources than we do. As a result, these competitors may be able to address these competitive factors more effectively than we can or weather industry downturns more easily than we can.

The demand for field services and their ability to meet that demand may limit our ability to drill and produce our oil and natural gas properties

Due to current industry demands, well service providers and related equipment and personnel are in short supply. This is causing escalating prices, the possibility of poor services coupled with potential damage to downhole reservoirs and personnel injuries. Such pressures will likely increase the actual cost of services, extend the time to secure such services and add costs for damages due to accidents sustained from the over use of equipment and inexperienced personnel. In some cases, we are operating in new areas where services and infrastructure do not exist or in urban areas which are more restrictive.

The oil and natural gas industry is subject to extensive regulation

The oil and natural gas industry is subject to various types of regulations in the United States by local, state and federal agencies. Legislation affecting the industry is under constant review for amendment or expansion, frequently increasing our regulatory burden. Numerous departments and agencies, both state and federal, are authorized by statute to issue rules and regulations binding on participants in the oil and natural gas industry. Compliance with such rules and regulations often increases our cost of doing business and, in turn, decreases our profitability.

Our operations are subject to numerous and increasingly strict federal, state and local laws, regulations and enforcement policies relating to the environment. We may incur significant costs and liabilities in complying with existing or future environmental laws, regulations and enforcement policies and may incur costs arising out of property damage or injuries to employees and other persons. These costs may result from our current and former operations and even may be caused by previous owners of property we own or lease. Any past, present or future failure by us to completely comply with environmental laws, regulations and enforcement policies could cause us to incur substantial fines, sanctions or liabilities from cleanup costs or other damages. Incurrence of those costs or damages could reduce or eliminate funds available for exploration, development or acquisitions or cause us to incur losses.

Acquisitions are subject to the risks and uncertainties of evaluating reserves and potential liabilities and may be disruptive and difficult to integrate into our business

We could be subject to significant liabilities related to our acquisitions. It generally is not feasible to review in detail every individual property included in an acquisition. Ordinarily, a review is focused on higher valued properties. However, even a detailed review of all properties and records may not reveal existing or potential problems in all of the properties, nor will it permit us to become sufficiently familiar with the properties to assess fully their deficiencies and capabilities. We do not always inspect every well we acquire, and environmental problems, such as groundwater contamination, are not necessarily observable even when an inspection is performed.

For example, in 1997, we consummated a large acquisition that proved extremely disappointing. Production from the acquired properties fell more rapidly than anticipated and further development results were below the results we had originally projected. The poor production performance of these properties resulted in material downward reserve revisions. There is no assurance that our recent and/or future acquisition activity will not result in similarly disappointing results.

In addition, there is intense competition for acquisition opportunities in our industry. Competition for acquisitions may increase the cost of, or cause us to refrain from, completing acquisitions. Our acquisition strategy is dependent upon, among other things, our ability to obtain debt and equity financing and, in some cases, regulatory approvals. Our ability to pursue our acquisition strategy may be hindered if we are unable to obtain financing on terms acceptable to us or regulatory approvals.

Acquisitions often pose integration risks and difficulties. In connection with recent and future acquisitions, the process of integrating acquired operations into our existing operations may result in unforeseen operating difficulties and may require significant management attention and financial resources that would otherwise be available for the ongoing development or expansion of existing operations. Future acquisitions could result in our incurring additional debt, contingent liabilities, expenses and diversion of resources, all of which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and operating results.

Our success depends on key members of our management and our ability to attract and retain experienced technical and other professional personnel

Our success is highly dependent on our management personnel, none of which is currently subject to an employment contract. The loss of one or more of these individuals could have a material adverse effect on our business. Furthermore, competition for experienced technical and other professional personnel is intense. If we cannot retain our current personnel or attract additional experienced personnel, our ability to compete could be adversely affected. Also, the loss of experienced personnel could lead to a loss of technical expertise.

Our future success depends on our ability to replace reserves that we produce

Because the rate of production from oil and natural gas properties generally declines as reserves are depleted, our future success depends upon our ability to economically find or acquire and produce additional oil and natural gas reserves. Except to the extent that we acquire additional properties containing proved reserves, conduct successful exploration and development activities or, through engineering studies, identify additional behind-pipe zones or secondary recovery reserves, our proved reserves will decline as reserves are produced. Future oil and natural gas production, therefore, is highly dependent upon our level of success in acquiring or finding additional reserves that are economically recoverable. We cannot assure you that we will be able to find or acquire and develop additional reserves at an acceptable cost.

Drilling is a high-risk activity

The cost of drilling, completing, and operating a well is often uncertain, and many factors can adversely affect the economics of a well. Our efforts will be uneconomical if we drill dry holes or wells that are productive but do not produce enough oil and natural gas to be commercially viable after drilling, operating and other costs. Furthermore, our drilling and producing operations may be curtailed, delayed, or canceled as a result of other factors, including:

- high costs, shortages or delivery delays of drilling rigs, equipment, labor, or other services;
- unexpected operational events and drilling conditions;
- reductions in oil and natural gas prices;
- limitations in the market for oil and natural gas;
- adverse weather conditions;
- facility or equipment malfunctions;
- equipment failures or accidents;
- title problems;
- pipe or cement failures;
- casing collapses;
- compliance with environmental and other governmental requirements;
- environmental hazards, such as natural gas leaks, oil spills, pipelines ruptures, and discharges of toxic gases;
- lost or damaged oilfield drilling and service tools;
- unusual or unexpected geological formations;
- loss of drilling fluid circulation;
- pressure or irregularities in formations;
- fires;
- natural disasters;
- blowouts, surface craterings and explosions; and
- uncontrollable flows of oil, natural gas or well fluids.

If any of these factors were to occur with respect to a particular field, we could lose all or a part of our investment in the field, or we could fail to realize the expected benefits from the field, either of which could materially and adversely affect our revenue and profitability.

New technologies may cause our current exploration and drilling methods to become obsolete

The oil and natural gas industry is subject to rapid and significant advancements in technology, including the introduction of new products and services using new technologies. As competitors use or develop new technologies, we may be placed at a competitive disadvantage, and competitive pressures may force us to implement new technologies at a substantial cost. In addition, competitors may have greater financial, technical and personnel resources that allow them to enjoy technological advantages and may in the future allow them to implement new technologies before we can. One or more of the technologies that we currently use or that we may implement in the future may become obsolete. We cannot be certain that we will be able to implement technologies on a timely basis or at a cost that is acceptable to us. If we are unable to maintain technological advancements consistent with industry standards, our operations and financial condition may be adversely affected.

Our business depends on oil and natural gas transportation facilities, most of which are owned by others

The marketability of our oil and natural gas production depends in part on the availability, proximity and capacity of pipeline systems owned by third parties. The unavailability of or lack of available capacity on these systems and facilities could result in the shut-in of producing wells or the delay or discontinuance of development plans for properties. Although we have some contractual control over the transportation of our product, material changes in these business relationships could materially affect our operations. We generally do not purchase firm transportation on third party facilities and therefore, our production transportation can be interrupted by those having firm arrangements. Federal and state regulation of oil and natural gas production and transportation, tax and energy policies, changes in supply and demand, pipeline pressures, damage to or destruction of pipelines and general economic conditions could adversely affect our ability to produce, gather and transport oil and natural gas.

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The disruption of third-party facilities due to maintenance and/or weather could negatively impact our ability to market and deliver our products. We have no control over when or if such facilities are restored or what prices will be charged. A total shut-in of production could materially affect us due to a lack of cash flow, and if a substantial portion of the production is hedged at lower than market prices, those financial hedges would have to be paid from borrowings absent sufficient cash flow.

Our indebtedness could limit our ability to success