

Enable Midstream Partners, LP
Form S-3
January 23, 2017
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 23, 2017

Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

ENABLE MIDSTREAM PARTNERS, LP
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

72-1252419
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

One Leadership Square
211 North Robinson Avenue
Suite 150
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102
(405) 525-7788

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

Mark C. Schroeder
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
1111 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002
(346) 701-2530

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

Copies to:

Gerald M. Spedale
Baker Botts L.L.P.
One Shell Plaza
910 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002-4995
(713) 229-1234

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:

From time to time after this registration statement becomes effective.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer		Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer	(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common units representing limited partner interests ⁽¹⁾	\$200,000,000	\$23,180

- (1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933. In no event will the aggregate initial offering price of the common units offered pursuant to the prospectus included as part of this registration statement exceed \$200,000,000.

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.

Table of Contents

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

Subject to Completion, dated January 23, 2017

PROSPECTUS

Common Units

We may offer and sell common units representing limited partner interests in Enable Midstream Partners, LP from time to time and in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions and other factors at the time of our offerings.

We may offer and sell these securities through one or more underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities. The specific terms of any securities we offer will be included in a supplement to this prospectus.

You should read carefully this prospectus and any prospectus supplement before you invest. You should also read the documents we have referred you to in the **Where You Can Find More Information** section of this prospectus for information on us and our financial statements. This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of our securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **ENBL**.

Investing in our common units involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks relating to investing in our common units described under Risk Factors on page 3 of this prospectus and in the applicable prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated herein and therein before you make any investment in our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined whether this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any

representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Prospectus dated , 2017

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>ENABLE MIDSTREAM PARTNERS, LP</u>	2
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	3
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	4
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	6
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS</u>	7
<u>CASH DISTRIBUTION POLICY</u>	9
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT</u>	25
<u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	39
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	56
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	58
<u>EXPERTS</u>	58
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	58

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information or to make any representations other than those contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the cover page of this prospectus or that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the documents incorporated by reference. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell, in one or more offerings, common units described in this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of us and the securities offered under this prospectus.

Each time we sell securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering and the securities being offered. The prospectus supplement also may add to, update or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read carefully this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the additional information described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by reference to the actual documents. For additional information about our business, operations and financial results, please read the documents incorporated by reference herein as described below in the section entitled **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Table of Contents

ENABLE MIDSTREAM PARTNERS, LP

In this prospectus, unless the context indicates otherwise, references to Enable, we, our, us, the Partnership or like terms refer to Enable Midstream Partners, LP and its subsidiaries.

We are a large-scale, growth-oriented Delaware limited partnership formed to own, operate and develop strategically located natural gas and crude oil infrastructure assets. We serve current and emerging production areas in the United States, including several unconventional shale resource plays, and local and regional end-user markets in the United States. Our assets and operations are organized into two reportable segments: (i) Gathering and Processing, which primarily provides natural gas gathering, processing and fractionation services and crude oil gathering for our producer customers, and (ii) Transportation and Storage, which provides interstate and intrastate natural gas pipeline transportation and storage services primarily to natural gas producers, utilities and industrial customers. The natural gas gathering and processing assets are located in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi and serve natural gas production in the Anadarko, Arkoma and Ark-La-Tex basins. We also own a crude oil gathering business located in North Dakota to serve shale development in the Bakken Shale formation of the Williston Basin. The natural gas transportation and storage assets extend from western Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle to Alabama and from Louisiana to Illinois.

Our general partner, Enable GP, LLC, is a Delaware limited liability company and has ultimate responsibility for conducting our business and managing our operations.

Our principal executive offices are located at One Leadership Square, 211 North Robinson Avenue, Suite 150, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102, and our telephone number is (405) 525-7788. Our website is <http://www.enablemidstream.com>. Information on our website or any other website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and does not constitute a part of this prospectus unless specifically so designated and filed with the SEC.

For additional information as to our business, properties and financial condition, please refer to the documents cited in Information We Incorporate by Reference.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described in our filings with the SEC referred to under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information,” as well as the risks included and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including the risk factors incorporated by reference herein from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 and Part II, Item 1A. Risk Factors of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2016, as updated by annual, quarterly and other reports and documents we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and that are incorporated by reference herein. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our common units could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment. When we offer and sell any securities pursuant to a prospectus supplement, we may include additional risk factors relevant to such securities in the prospectus supplement.

The tax treatment of publicly traded partnerships or an investment in our common units could be subject to potential legislative, judicial or administrative changes and differing interpretations of applicable law, possibly on a retroactive basis.

The present federal income tax treatment of publicly traded partnerships, including us, or an investment in our common units may be modified by administrative, legislative or judicial interpretation at any time. From time to time, members of the U.S. Congress propose and consider substantive changes to the existing federal income tax laws that affect publicly traded partnerships. Additionally, on January 19, 2017, in response to comments to proposed regulations issued May 5, 2015, the IRS and the U.S. Department of the Treasury issued final regulations that provide industry-specific guidance regarding whether income earned from certain activities will constitute qualifying income. The Trump administration has delayed for review the publishing of the final regulations in the Federal Register, and we are unable to predict if or when they will be published and take effect. If the final regulations take effect in their current form, we believe we will continue to be able to meet the Qualifying Income Exception under the new rules. Any modification to the federal income tax laws and interpretations thereof could make it more difficult or impossible to meet such exception. We are unable to predict whether these changes or any other proposals will ultimately be enacted, or whether final qualifying income regulations will materially change interpretations of the current law, but it is possible that a change in law could affect us and may, if enacted, be applied retroactively. Any such changes could negatively impact the value of an investment in our common units.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement may contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements give our expectations as of the date on which such statements were made, contain projections of results of operations or of financial condition, or forecasts of future events. Words such as could, will, should, may, assume, forecast, position, predict, strategy, expect, estimate, anticipate, believe, project, budget, potential, or continue, and similar expressions are used to identify forward-looking statements. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement include our expectations of plans, strategies, objectives, growth and anticipated financial and operational performance, including revenue projections, capital expenditures and tax position. Forward-looking statements can be affected by assumptions used or by known or unknown risks or uncertainties. Consequently, no forward-looking statements can be guaranteed.

A forward-looking statement may include a statement of the assumptions or bases underlying the forward-looking statement. We believe that we have chosen these assumptions or bases in good faith and that they are reasonable. However, when considering these forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference herein or therein, including those described in Item 1A Risk Factors in Part I of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, Item 1A Risk Factors in Part II of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed for periods ending after our most recent annual report and our future annual, quarterly and other reports that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, as such information may be amended or supplemented by any future filings with the SEC. Those risk factors and other factors noted in this prospectus or the documents we incorporate by reference herein could cause our actual results to differ materially from those disclosed in any forward-looking statement. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. You should also understand that it is not possible to predict or identify all such factors and should not consider the following list to be a complete statement of all potential risks and uncertainties. Factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the results contemplated by such forward-looking statements include:

changes in general economic conditions;

competitive conditions in our industry;

actions taken by our customers and competitors;

the supply and demand for natural gas, natural gas liquids, or NGLs, crude oil and midstream services;

our ability to successfully implement our business plan;

our ability to complete internal growth projects on time and on budget;

the price and availability of debt and equity financing;

strategic decisions by CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (CenterPoint Energy) and OGE Energy Corp. (OGE Energy) regarding their ownership of us and our general partner;

operating hazards and other risks incidental to transporting, storing, gathering and processing natural gas, NGLs, crude oil and midstream products;

natural disasters, weather-related delays, casualty losses and other matters beyond our control;

interest rates;

labor relations;

large customer defaults;

Table of Contents

changes in the availability and cost of capital;

changes in tax status;

the effects of existing and future laws and governmental regulations;

changes in insurance markets impacting costs and the level and types of coverage available;

the timing and extent of changes in commodity prices;

the suspension, reduction or termination of our customers' obligations under our commercial agreements;

disruptions due to equipment interruption or failure at our facilities, or third-party facilities on which our business is dependent;

the effects of future litigation; and

other factors set forth in this prospectus and our other filings with the SEC, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2016, which are incorporated by reference herein.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made. We expressly disclaim any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we specify otherwise in any prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of securities covered by this prospectus for general partnership purposes, which may include, among other things:

paying or refinancing all or a portion of our indebtedness outstanding at the time; and

funding working capital, capital expenditures or acquisitions.

The actual application of proceeds from the sale of any particular offering of securities using this prospectus will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to such offering. The precise amount and timing of the application of these proceeds will depend upon our funding requirements and the availability and cost of other funds.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS

The Common Units

The common units represent limited partner interests in us. The holders of common units, along with the holders of subordinated and preferred units, are entitled to participate in partnership distributions and exercise the rights or privileges available to such holders under our partnership agreement. Unless the context otherwise requires, in this

Description of the Common Units, references to unitholders include holders of our common and subordinated units only, and exclude holders of preferred units, and references to units include our common and subordinated units only, and exclude our preferred units. For a description of the relative rights and preferences of holders of common units, subordinated units and preferred units in and to partnership distributions, please read this section and Cash Distribution Policy in this prospectus. For a general discussion of the expected federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of common units, see Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations. References in this

Description of the Common Units to we, us and our mean Enable Midstream Partners, LP. For a description of the rights and privileges of limited partners under our partnership agreement, including voting rights, please read

Description of Our Partnership Agreement. Our outstanding common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ENBL.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Duties

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association serves as registrar and transfer agent for the common units. We will pay all fees charged by the transfer agent for transfers of common units, except the following that must be paid by unitholders:

surety bond premiums to replace lost or stolen certificates, taxes and other governmental charges;

special charges for services requested by a common unitholder; and

other similar fees or charges.

There will be no charge to unitholders for disbursements of our cash distributions. We will indemnify the transfer agent, its agents and each of their stockholders, directors, officers and employees against all claims and losses that may arise out of acts performed or omitted for its activities in that capacity, except for any liability due to any gross negligence or intentional misconduct of the indemnified person or entity.

Resignation or Removal

The transfer agent may resign, by notice to us, or be removed by us. The resignation or removal of the transfer agent will become effective upon our appointment of a successor transfer agent and registrar and its acceptance of the appointment. If no successor has been appointed and has accepted the appointment within 30 days after notice of the resignation or removal, our general partner may act as the transfer agent and registrar until a successor is appointed.

Transfer of Common Units

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By transfer of common units in accordance with our partnership agreement, each transferee of common units shall be admitted as a limited partner with respect to the common units transferred when such transfer and admission are reflected in our register and such limited partner becomes the record holder of the common units so transferred. Each transferee:

will become bound and will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by the terms and conditions of our partnership agreement;

Table of Contents

represents that the transferee has the capacity, power and authority to enter into our partnership agreement;
and

makes the consents, acknowledgements and waivers contained in our partnership agreement
all with or without executing our partnership agreement.

We are entitled to treat the nominee holder of a common unit as the absolute owner in the event such nominee is the record holder of such common unit. In that case, the beneficial holder's rights are limited solely to those that it has against the nominee holder as a result of any agreement between the beneficial owner and the nominee holder.

Common units are securities and are transferable according to the laws governing transfers of securities. Until a common unit has been transferred on our register, we and the transfer agent may treat the record holder of the unit as the absolute owner for all purposes, except as otherwise required by law or stock exchange regulations.

Table of Contents

CASH DISTRIBUTION POLICY

References in this Cash Distribution Policy to we, us and our mean Enable Midstream Partners, LP. Unless the context otherwise requires, in this Cash Distribution Policy, references to unitholders include holders of our common and subordinated units only, and exclude holders of preferred units, and references to units include our common and subordinated units only, and exclude our preferred units.

Distributions of Available Cash

General

Subject to the payment of distributions on the Preferred Units (as defined below), our partnership agreement requires that, within 60 days after the end of each quarter, we distribute all of our available cash to unitholders of record on the applicable record date.

Definition of Available Cash

Available cash generally means, for any quarter, all cash and cash equivalents on hand at the end of that quarter:

less, the amount of cash reserves established by our general partner to:

provide for the proper conduct of our business (including cash reserves for our future capital expenditures, future acquisitions, and anticipated future debt service requirements and refunds of collected rates reasonably likely to be refunded as a result of a settlement or hearing related to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rate proceedings or rate proceedings under applicable law subsequent to that quarter);

comply with applicable law, any of our debt instruments or other agreements;

provide funds for distributions to our unitholders and to our general partner for any one or more of the next four quarters (provided that our general partner may not establish cash reserves for distributions if the effect of the establishment of such reserves will prevent us from distributing the minimum quarterly distribution on all common units and any cumulative arrearages on such common units for the current quarter); or

provide funds for distributions on our Preferred Units;

plus, if our general partner so determines, all or any portion of the cash on hand on the date of determination of available cash for the quarter resulting from working capital borrowings made subsequent to the end of such quarter.

The purpose and effect of the last bullet point above is to allow our general partner, if it so decides, to use cash from working capital borrowings made after the end of the quarter, but on or before the date of determination of available cash for that quarter, to pay distributions to unitholders. Under our partnership agreement, working capital borrowings are generally borrowings that are made under a credit facility, commercial paper facility or similar financing arrangement, and in all cases are used solely for working capital purposes or to pay distributions to partners, and with the intent of the borrower to repay such borrowings within 12 months with funds other than from additional working capital borrowings.

Intent to Distribute the Minimum Quarterly Distribution

We intend to make a minimum quarterly distribution to the holders of our common units and subordinated units of \$0.2875 per unit, or \$1.15 per unit on an annualized basis, to the extent we have sufficient cash from our operations after the establishment of cash reserves and the payment of costs and expenses, including

Table of Contents

reimbursements of expenses to our general partner. However, there is no guarantee that we will pay the minimum quarterly distribution on our units in any quarter. Even if our cash distribution policy is not modified or revoked, the amount of distributions paid under our policy and the decision to make any distribution is determined by our general partner, taking into consideration the terms of our partnership agreement.

Distributions on Preferred Units

On February 18, 2016, we completed the private placement of 14,520,000 10% Series A Fixed-to-Floating Non-Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Units representing limited partner interests (Series A Preferred Units).

Pursuant to our partnership agreement, the Series A Preferred Units:

rank senior to our common units with respect to the payment of distributions and distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution and winding up;

have no stated maturity;

are not subject to any sinking fund; and

will remain outstanding indefinitely unless repurchased or redeemed by us or converted into our common units in connection with a change of control.

Holders of the Series A Preferred Units receive, on a non-cumulative basis and if and when declared by our general partner, a quarterly cash distribution, subject to certain adjustments, equal to an annual rate of 10% on the stated liquidation preference from the date of original issue to, but not including, the five year anniversary of the original issue date and an annual rate of LIBOR plus a spread of 8.5% on the stated liquidation preference thereafter.

Upon the transfer of any Series A Preferred Unit to a non-affiliate of CenterPoint Energy, the Series A Preferred Units will automatically convert into a new series of preferred units (the Series B Preferred Units and, together with the Series A Preferred Units, the Preferred Units) on the later of the date of transfer and the second anniversary of the date of issue. The Series B Preferred Units will have the same terms as the Series A Preferred Units except that unpaid distributions on the Series B Preferred Units will accrue on a cumulative basis until paid. In certain circumstances, the Series A Preferred Units could convert into one or more new series of preferred units (the New Preferred Units) with the same terms as the Series B Preferred Units except with respect to the date from which distributions accumulate.

General Partner Interest and Incentive Distribution Rights

Our general partner owns a non-economic general partner interest in us and thus will not be entitled to distributions that we make prior to our liquidation in respect of such general partner interest. Our general partner currently holds incentive distribution rights that entitle it to receive increasing percentages, up to a maximum of 50.0%, of the cash we distribute from operating surplus (as defined below) in excess of \$0.330625 per unit per quarter. The maximum distribution of 50.0% does not include any distributions that our general partner or its affiliates may receive on common units or subordinated units that they own. Please read Incentive Distribution Rights for additional

information.

Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus

General

All cash distributed to unitholders will be characterized as either being paid from operating surplus or capital surplus. We treat distributions of available cash from operating surplus differently than distributions of available cash from capital surplus.

Table of Contents

Operating Surplus

We define operating surplus as:

\$300 million; *plus*

all of our cash receipts after the closing of our initial public offering, excluding cash from interim capital transactions (as defined below) and the termination of hedge contracts, provided that cash receipts from the termination of a commodity hedge or interest rate hedge prior to its specified termination date shall be included in operating surplus in equal quarterly installments over the remaining scheduled life of such commodity hedge or interest rate hedge; *plus*

working capital borrowings made after the end of a quarter but on or before the date of determination of operating surplus for that quarter; *plus*

cash distributions (including incremental distributions on incentive distribution rights) paid in respect of equity issued, other than equity issued in our initial public offering, to finance all or a portion of expansion capital expenditures in respect of the period from the date that we enter into a binding obligation to commence the construction, development, replacement, improvement or expansion of a capital asset and ending on the earlier to occur of the date the capital asset commences commercial service and the date that it is abandoned or disposed of; *plus*

cash distributions (including incremental distributions on incentive distribution rights) paid in respect of equity issued, other than equity issued in our initial public offering, to pay interest and related fees on debt incurred, or to pay distributions on equity issued, to finance the expansion capital expenditures referred to in the prior bullet; *less*

all of our operating expenditures (as defined below) after April 16, 2014, the closing of our initial public offering; *less*

the amount of cash reserves established by our general partner to provide funds for future operating expenditures; *less*

all working capital borrowings not repaid within 12 months after having been incurred or repaid within such twelve-month period with the proceeds of additional working capital borrowings; *less*

any cash loss realized on disposition of an investment capital expenditure.

As described above, operating surplus does not reflect actual cash on hand that is available for distribution to our unitholders and is not limited to cash generated by our operations. For example, it includes a provision that will enable us, if we choose, to distribute as operating surplus up to \$300 million of cash we receive in the future from non-operating sources such as asset sales, issuances of securities and long-term borrowings that would otherwise be distributed as capital surplus. In addition, the effect of including, as described above, certain cash distributions on equity interests in operating surplus will be to increase operating surplus by the amount of any such cash distributions. As a result, we may also distribute as operating surplus up to the amount of any such cash that we receive from non-operating sources.

The proceeds of working capital borrowings increase operating surplus and repayments of working capital borrowings are generally operating expenditures (as described below) and thus reduce operating surplus when repayments are made. However, if working capital borrowings, which increase operating surplus, are not repaid during the 12-month period following the borrowing, they will be deemed repaid at the end of such period, thus decreasing operating surplus at such time. When such working capital borrowings are in fact repaid, they will not be treated as a further reduction in operating surplus because operating surplus will have been previously reduced by the deemed repayment.

We define interim capital transactions as (i) borrowings, refinancings or refundings of indebtedness (other than working capital borrowings and items purchased on open account or for a deferred purchase price in the

Table of Contents

ordinary course of business) and sales of debt securities, (ii) issuances of equity securities, (iii) sales or other dispositions of assets, other than sales or other dispositions of inventory, accounts receivable and other assets in the ordinary course of business and sales or other dispositions of assets as part of normal asset retirements or replacements and (iv) capital contributions received by a group member.

We define operating expenditures as all of our cash expenditures, including, but not limited to, taxes, reimbursements of expenses of our general partner and its affiliates, director, officer and employee compensation, debt service payments, payments made in the ordinary course of business under interest rate hedge contracts and commodity hedge contracts (provided that payments made in connection with the termination of any interest rate hedge contract or commodity hedge contract prior to the expiration of its settlement or termination date specified therein will be included in operating expenditures in equal quarterly installments over the remaining scheduled life of such interest rate hedge contract or commodity hedge contract and amounts paid in connection with the initial purchase of a rate hedge contract or a commodity hedge contract will be amortized at the life of such rate hedge contract or commodity hedge contract), maintenance capital expenditures (as discussed in further detail below) and repayment of working capital borrowings; provided, however, that operating expenditures will not include:

repayments of working capital borrowings where such borrowings have previously been deemed to have been repaid (as described above);

payments (including prepayments and prepayment penalties) of principal of and premium on indebtedness other than working capital borrowings;

expansion capital expenditures;

investment capital expenditures;

payment of transaction expenses (including taxes) relating to interim capital transactions;

distributions to our partners;

repurchases of partnership interests (excluding repurchases we make to satisfy obligations under employee benefit plans); or

any expenditures made to fund certain demand fees using a portion of the proceeds of our initial public offering.

Capital Surplus

Capital surplus is defined in our partnership agreement as any distribution of available cash in excess of our cumulative operating surplus. Accordingly, except as described above, capital surplus would generally be generated

by:

borrowings other than working capital borrowings;

sales of our equity and debt securities;

sales or other dispositions of assets, other than inventory, accounts receivable and other assets sold in the ordinary course of business or as part of ordinary course retirement or replacement of assets; and

capital contributions received.

Characterization of Cash Distributions

Our partnership agreement requires that we treat all available cash distributed as coming from operating surplus until the sum of all available cash distributed since the closing of our initial public offering equals the operating surplus from the closing of our initial public offering through the end of the quarter immediately preceding that distribution. Our partnership agreement requires that we treat any amount distributed in excess of

Table of Contents

operating surplus, regardless of its source, as capital surplus. Our partnership agreement treats a distribution of capital surplus as the repayment of the initial unit price from our initial public offering and as a return of capital. We do not anticipate that we will make any distributions from capital surplus.

Capital Expenditures

Expansion capital expenditures are cash expenditures incurred for acquisitions or capital improvements that we expect will increase our asset base, operating income or operating capacity over the long term. Examples of expansion capital expenditures include the acquisition of equipment and the construction, development or acquisition of additional pipeline, storage, gathering or processing capacity, including well connections, to the extent such capital expenditures are expected to expand our asset base, operating capacity or our operating income. Expansion capital expenditures include interest payments (and related fees) on debt incurred to finance all or a portion of expansion capital expenditures in respect of the period from the date that we enter into a binding obligation to commence the construction, development, replacement, improvement or expansion of a capital asset and ending on the earlier to occur of the date that such capital improvement commences commercial service and the date that such capital improvement is abandoned or disposed of.

Maintenance capital expenditures are cash expenditures (including expenditures for the construction or development of new capital assets or the replacement, improvement or expansion of existing capital assets) made to maintain, over the long term, our asset base, operating capacity or operating income. Examples of maintenance capital expenditures are expenditures to repair, refurbish and replace pipelines, to maintain equipment reliability, integrity and safety and to address environmental laws and regulations. Maintenance capital expenditures are included in operating expenditures and thus will reduce operating surplus.

Investment capital expenditures are those capital expenditures that are neither maintenance capital expenditures nor expansion capital expenditures. Investment capital expenditures largely will consist of capital expenditures made for investment purposes. Examples of investment capital expenditures include traditional capital expenditures for investment purposes, such as purchases of securities, as well as other capital expenditures that might be made in lieu of such traditional investment capital expenditures, such as the acquisition of a capital asset for investment purposes or development of facilities that are in excess of the maintenance of our existing operating capacity or operating income, but that are not expected to expand our asset base, operating capacity or operating income over the long term.

Capital expenditures that are made in part for maintenance capital purposes, investment capital purposes and/or expansion capital purposes will be allocated as maintenance capital expenditures, investment capital expenditures or expansion capital expenditure by our general partner.

Subordination Period

General

Subject to the payment of distributions on the Preferred Units, our partnership agreement provides that, during the subordination period (which we define below), the common units will have the right to receive distributions of available cash from operating surplus each quarter in an amount equal to \$0.2875 per common unit, which amount is defined in our partnership agreement as the minimum quarterly distribution, plus any arrearages in the payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units from prior quarters, before any distributions of available cash from operating surplus may be made on the subordinated units. These units are deemed subordinated because for a period of time, referred to as the subordination period, the subordinated units will not be entitled to receive any distributions until the common units have received the minimum quarterly distribution plus any arrearages from prior

quarters. Furthermore, no arrearages will be paid on the subordinated units. The practical effect of the subordinated units is to increase the likelihood that during the subordination period there will be available cash to be distributed on the common units.

Table of Contents

Subordination Period

Except as described below, the subordination period began on the closing date of our initial public offering and will extend until the first business day following the distribution of available cash in respect of any quarter beginning with the quarter ending June 30, 2017, that each of the following tests are met:

distributions of available cash from operating surplus on each of the outstanding common units and subordinated units equaled or exceeded \$1.15 per unit (the annualized minimum quarterly distribution), for each of the three consecutive, non-overlapping four-quarter periods immediately preceding that date;

the adjusted operating surplus (as defined below) generated during each of the three consecutive, non-overlapping four-quarter periods immediately preceding that date equaled or exceeded the sum of \$1.15 (the annualized minimum quarterly distribution) on all of the outstanding common units and subordinated units during those periods on a fully diluted basis; and

there are no arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units.

Early Termination of Subordination Period

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the subordination period will automatically terminate on the first business day following the distribution of available cash in respect of any quarter beginning with the quarter ending June 30, 2015, that each of the following tests are met:

distributions of available cash from operating surplus on each of the outstanding common units and subordinated units equaled or exceeded \$1.725 (150% of the annualized minimum quarterly distribution) for the four-consecutive-quarter period immediately preceding that date;

the adjusted operating surplus (as defined below) generated during the four-consecutive-quarter period immediately preceding that date equaled or exceeded the sum of (i) \$1.725 per unit (150% of the annualized minimum quarterly distribution) on all of the outstanding common units and subordinated units during that period on a fully diluted basis and (ii) the corresponding distributions on the incentive distribution rights; and

there are no arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distributions on the common units.

Expiration Upon Removal of the General Partner

In addition, if the unitholders remove our general partner other than for cause:

the subordinated units held by any person will immediately and automatically convert into common units on a one-for-one basis, provided (i) neither such person nor any of its affiliates voted any of its units in favor of the removal and (ii) such person is not an affiliate of the successor general partner;

if all of the subordinated units convert pursuant to the foregoing, all cumulative common unit arrearages on the common units will be extinguished and the subordination period will end; and

our general partner will have the right to convert its general partner interest and its incentive distribution rights into common units or to receive cash in exchange for those interests.

Expiration of the Subordination Period

When the subordination period ends, each outstanding subordinated unit will convert into one common unit and will thereafter participate pro rata with the other common units in distributions of available cash.

Table of Contents

Adjusted Operating Surplus

Adjusted operating surplus is intended to reflect the cash generated from operations during a particular period and therefore excludes net drawdowns of reserves of cash established in prior periods. Adjusted operating surplus for a period consists of:

operating surplus generated with respect to that period (excluding any amounts attributable to the item described in the first bullet point under the caption Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus Operating Surplus above); *less*

any net increase in working capital borrowings with respect to that period; *less*

any net decrease in cash reserves for operating expenditures with respect to that period not relating to an operating expenditure made with respect to that period; *plus*

any net decrease in working capital borrowings with respect to that period; *plus*

any net decrease made in subsequent periods to cash reserves for operating expenditures initially established with respect to that period to the extent such decrease results in a reduction in adjusted operating surplus in subsequent periods; *plus*

any net increase in cash reserves for operating expenditures with respect to that period required by any debt instrument for the repayment of principal, interest or premium.

Cash payments by any of our customers to settle a shortfall associated with any minimum volume commitment under a gathering agreement will be operating surplus in the quarter in which they are actually received. An estimated, prorated amount of such payments, however, may be included in adjusted operating surplus by our general partner in the manner generally described below. Under our gathering agreements that include minimum volume commitments, the cash settlement of shortfalls in actual volumes associated with minimum volume commitments is settled on an annual basis at the end of the contract year to which such volume commitments relate. In order to accommodate the rolling-four quarter test associated with expiration of the subordination period (relative to any payment associated with a shortfall in any minimum volume commitment), to the extent that the actual volumes (associated with a minimum volume commitment) in a particular quarter or quarters are less than the prorated minimum volume commitment amount for such period, our general partner may add to adjusted operating surplus for such period an amount equal to such shortfall, multiplied by the then applicable gathering rate. The quarterly shortfall payment estimate would be adjusted each subsequent quarter based on the level of actual volumes for such subsequent quarter and the preceding quarters of the period that remain subject to a minimum volume commitment (as compared to the prorated volume commitment for such period). If the estimated amount of shortfall payments used by our general partner to increase adjusted operating surplus in prior quarters is more than any shortfall amount actually paid for a minimum volume commitment period as finally determined, and subordinated units remain outstanding, then adjusted operating surplus shall be adjusted in each such quarter to give effect to the actual amount of the payment as if it had been received in such quarter to cover the shortfall in such quarter. With respect to a quarter in which a shortfall

amount is actually paid, adjusted operating surplus shall be reduced by an amount equal to the amount of quarterly shortfall payment estimates previously added by the general partner to adjusted operating surplus with respect to such minimum volume commitment period.

Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus During the Subordination Period

Subject to the payment of distributions on the Preferred Units, we will make distributions of available cash from operating surplus for any quarter during the subordination period in the following manner:

first, to the common unitholders, pro rata, until we distribute for each outstanding common unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter;

second, to the common unitholders, pro rata, until we distribute for each outstanding common unit an amount equal to any arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units for any prior quarters during the subordination period;

Table of Contents

third, to the subordinated unitholders, pro rata, until we distribute for each outstanding subordinated unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and

thereafter, in the manner described in **Incentive Distribution Rights** below.

The preceding discussion is based on the assumption that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

Distributions of Available Cash from Operating Surplus After the Subordination Period

Subject to the payment of distributions on the Preferred Units, we will make distributions of available cash from operating surplus for any quarter after the subordination period in the following manner:

first, to all unitholders, pro rata, until we distribute for each outstanding unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and

thereafter, in the manner described in **Incentive Distribution Rights** below.

The preceding discussion is based on the assumption that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

Incentive Distribution Rights

Incentive distribution rights represent the right to receive an increasing percentage (15.0%, 25.0% and 50.0%) of quarterly distributions of available cash from operating surplus after the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels have been achieved. Our general partner currently holds the incentive distribution rights, but may transfer these rights separately from its general partner interest, subject to restrictions in our partnership agreement.

The following discussion assumes that our general partner continues to own the incentive distribution rights.

If for any quarter:

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the holders of our Preferred Units to the extent of the distribution preference on the Preferred Units;

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the common and subordinated unitholders in an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution; and

we have distributed available cash from operating surplus on outstanding common units in an amount necessary to eliminate any cumulative arrearages in payment of the minimum quarterly distribution; then, we will distribute any additional available cash from operating surplus for that quarter among the unitholders and our general partner in the following manner:

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first, to all unitholders, pro rata, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.330625 per unit for that quarter (the first target distribution);

second, 85.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 15.0% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.359375 per unit for that quarter (the second target distribution);

third, 75.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 25.0% to our general partner, until each unitholder receives a total of \$0.431250 per unit for that quarter (the third target distribution); and

thereafter, 50.0% to all unitholders, pro rata, and 50.0% to our general partner.

Table of Contents

Percentage Allocations of Available Cash from Operating Surplus

The following table illustrates the percentage allocations of available cash from operating surplus (after payment of the distribution preference on the Preferred Units) between the unitholders and our general partner (through the incentive distribution rights) based on the specified target distribution levels. The amounts set forth under **Marginal Percentage Interest in Distributions** are the percentage interests of our general partner and the unitholders in any available cash from operating surplus we distribute up to and including the corresponding amount in the column **Total Quarterly Distribution Per Unit Target Amount**. The percentage interests shown for our unitholders for the minimum quarterly distribution are also applicable to quarterly distribution amounts that are less than the minimum quarterly distribution. The percentage interests set forth below for our general partner assume that our general partner has not transferred its incentive distribution rights and that there are no arrearages on common units.

Total Quarterly Distribution Per Unit Target Amount	Marginal Percentage Interest in Distributions Unitholders
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