

HELIX ENERGY SOLUTIONS GROUP INC

Form 8-K

August 24, 2009

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

Form 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): August 20, 2009

Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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| Minnesota (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) | 001-32936 (Commission File Number) | 95-3409686 (IRS Employer Identification No.) |
| 400 N. Sam Houston Parkway E., Suite 400 Houston, Texas (Address of principal executive offices) | 281-618-0400 (Registrant's telephone number, including area code) | 77060 (Zip Code) |

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

On August 20, 2009, Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. (“Helix”) issued a press release announcing that on August 25, 2009, representatives of Helix will make a presentation (with slides) to analysts and investors regarding certain operational updates. The press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated by reference herein. The slide presentation related to the operational update is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.2 and incorporated by reference herein. The slide presentation will also be posted beginning on August 24, 2009 in the Presentations section under Investor Relations of Helix’s website, www.helixesg.com.

This information is not deemed to be “filed” for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (“Exchange Act”), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, and such information is not incorporated by reference into any registration statements or other document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (“Securities Act”), or the Exchange Act, regardless of the general incorporation language contained in such filing, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference to this filing.

Forward-Looking Statements and Assumptions

This current report on Form 8-K includes forward-looking statements that contain forward-looking information regarding Helix and represent our expectations and beliefs concerning future events. This forward looking information is intended to be covered by the safe harbor for “forward-looking statements” provided by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 as set forth in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). All statements, included herein or incorporated herein by reference, that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that use terms and phrases such as “achieve,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “estimate,” “expect,” “forecast,” “plan,” “propose,” “strategy,” “predict,” “envision,” “hope,” “intend,” “will,” “continue,” “may,” “potential,” “achieve,” “should,” “could” and similar terms and phrases are forward-looking statements. Included in forward-looking statements are, among other things:

- statements regarding our business strategy, including the potential sale of assets and/or other investments in our subsidiaries and facilities, or any other business plans, forecasts or objectives, any or all of which is subject to change;
- statements regarding our anticipated production volumes, results of exploration, exploitation, development, acquisition or operations expenditures, and current or prospective reserve levels with respect to any property or well;
- statements related to commodity prices for oil and gas or with respect to the supply of and demand for oil and gas;
- statements relating to our proposed acquisition, exploration, development and/or production of oil and gas properties, prospects or other interests and any anticipated costs related thereto;
- statements related to environmental risks, exploration and development risks, or drilling and operating risks;
- statements relating to the construction or acquisition of vessels or equipment and any anticipated costs related thereto;
- statements that our proposed vessels, when completed, will have certain characteristics or the effectiveness of such characteristics;
- statements regarding projections of revenues, gross margin, expenses, earnings or losses, working capital or other financial items;

- statements regarding any financing transactions or arrangements, or ability to enter into such transactions;
- statements regarding any SEC or other governmental or regulatory inquiry or investigation;
- statements regarding anticipated legislative, governmental, regulatory, administrative or other public body actions, requirements, permits or decisions;
- statements regarding anticipated developments, industry trends, performance or industry ranking;
- statements regarding general economic or political conditions, whether international, national or in the regional and local market areas in which we do business;
- statements related to our ability to retain key members of our senior management and key employees;
- statements related to the underlying assumptions related to any projection or forward-looking statement; and
- any other statements that relate to non-historical or future information.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable and are based on reasonable assumptions, they do involve risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to be materially different from those in the forward-looking statements. These factors include, among other things:

- Impact of the weak economic conditions and the future impact of such conditions on the oil and gas industry and the demand for our services;
- uncertainties inherent in the development and production of oil and gas and in estimating reserves;
- the geographic concentration of our oil and gas operations;
- uncertainties regarding our ability to replace depletion;
- unexpected future capital expenditures (including the amount and nature thereof);
- impact of oil and gas price fluctuations and the cyclical nature of the oil and gas industry;
- the effects of indebtedness, which could adversely restrict our ability to operate, could make us vulnerable to general adverse economic and industry conditions, could place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors that have less debt and could have other adverse consequences to us;
- the effectiveness of our derivative activities;
- the results of our continuing efforts to control or reduce costs, and improve performance;
- the success of our risk management activities;
- the effects of competition;
- the availability (or lack thereof) of capital (including any financing) to fund our business strategy and/or operations and the terms of any such financing;
- the impact of current and future laws and governmental regulations including tax and accounting developments;
- the effect of adverse weather conditions or other risks associated with marine operations;
- the effect of environmental liabilities that are not covered by an effective indemnity or insurance;

- the potential impact of a loss of one or more key employees; and
- the impact of general economic, market, industry or business conditions.

You should not put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. When considering forward-looking statements, please review the risk factors described under “Risk Factors” in Item 1A of our annual reports on Form 10-K, and any updates to those risk factors included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by these risk factors. Forward-looking statements are only as of the date they are made and, other than as required under the securities laws, we assume no obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements or provide reasons why actual results may differ.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

| Number | Description |
|--------|-------------|
| ----- | ----- |

99.1 Press release announcing Helix’s intent to provide an operational update to investors dated August 20, 2009.

99.2 Operational Update Presentation.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: August 24, 2009

HELIX ENERGY SOLUTIONS GROUP, INC.

By: /s/ Anthony Tripodo
Anthony Tripodo
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Index to Exhibits

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|-------------|-------------|
| ----- | ----- |

99.1 Press release announcing Helix's intent to provide an operational update to investors dated August 20, 2009.

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Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Wells Fargo & Company. The agent may resell the securities to other securities dealers at the original offering price of the securities.

The agent or another affiliate of ours expects to realize hedging profits projected by its proprietary pricing models to the extent it assumes the risks inherent in hedging our obligations under the securities. If any dealer participating in the distribution of the securities or any of its affiliates conducts hedging activities for us in connection with the securities, that dealer or its affiliate will expect to realize a profit projected by its proprietary pricing models from such hedging activities. Any such projected profit will be in addition to any discount or concession received in connection with the sale of the securities to you.

Denominations:

\$1,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000.

CUSIP:

94986RK26

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Hypothetical Payout Profile

The following profile is based on a hypothetical maximum settlement amount of 125.725% of the face amount or \$1,257.25 per security (the midpoint of the specified range for the maximum settlement amount), an upside participation rate of 1.5, a buffer level equal to 85% of the initial underlier level, a buffer rate of approximately 1.1765 and a buffer amount of 15%. This graph has been prepared for purposes of illustration only. Your actual return will depend on the actual final underlier level, the actual maximum settlement amount and whether you hold your securities to maturity.

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Risk Factors

The securities have complex features and investing in the securities will involve risks not associated with an investment in conventional debt securities. You should carefully consider the risk factors set forth below as well as the other information contained in this pricing supplement and the accompanying market measure supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus, including the documents they incorporate by reference. As described in more detail below, the value of the securities may vary considerably before the stated maturity date due to events that are difficult to predict and are beyond our control. You should reach an investment decision only after you have carefully considered with your advisors the suitability of an investment in the securities in light of your particular circumstances.

You May Lose Up To All Of Your Investment.

We will not repay you a fixed amount on the securities on the stated maturity date. The cash settlement amount will depend on the direction of and percentage change in the final underlier level relative to the initial underlier level and the other terms of the securities. Because the level of the underlier will be subject to market fluctuations, the cash settlement amount you receive may be more or less, and possibly significantly less, than the original offering price of your securities.

If the final underlier level is less than the initial underlier level by more than the buffer amount, the cash settlement amount will be less than the face amount per security and you will be exposed on a leveraged basis to the decline in the underlier beyond the buffer amount. As a result, you may receive less than, and possibly lose all of, the face amount per security at maturity even if the level of the underlier is greater than or equal to the initial underlier level or the buffer level at certain points during the term of the securities.

Even if the final underlier level is greater than the initial underlier level, the amount you receive at stated maturity may only be slightly greater than the face amount, and your yield on the securities may be less than the yield you would earn if you bought a traditional interest-bearing debt security of Wells Fargo or another issuer with a similar credit rating with the same stated maturity date.

Your Return Will Be Limited By The Maximum Settlement Amount And May Be Lower Than The Return On A Direct Investment In The Underlier.

Your return on the securities will be subject to a maximum settlement amount. The opportunity to participate in the possible increases in the level of the underlier through an investment in the securities will be limited because the cash settlement amount will not exceed the maximum settlement amount. Furthermore, the effect of the upside participation rate will be progressively reduced for all final underlier levels exceeding the final underlier level at which the maximum settlement amount is reached, which we refer to as the cap level.

No Periodic Interest Will Be Paid On The Securities.

No periodic payments of interest will be made on the securities. However, if the agreed-upon tax treatment is successfully challenged by the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS), you may be required to recognize taxable income over the term of the securities. You should review the section of this pricing supplement entitled United States Federal Tax Considerations.

The Stated Maturity Date Of The Securities Is A Pricing Term And Will Be Determined By Us On The Trade Date.

We will not fix the stated maturity date until the trade date. The term could be as short as the low end of the range and as long as the high end of the range set forth on the cover page. You should be willing to hold your securities for up to the high end of the range set forth on the cover page. The stated maturity date selected by us could have an impact on the value of the securities.

The Securities Are Subject To The Credit Risk Of Wells Fargo.

The securities are our obligations and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. Any amounts payable under the securities are subject to our creditworthiness, and you will have no ability to pursue any securities included in the underlier for payment. As a result, our actual and perceived creditworthiness may affect the value of the securities and, in the event we were to default on our obligations, you may not receive any amounts owed to you under the terms of the securities.

The Estimated Value Of The Securities On The Trade Date, Based On WFS's Proprietary Pricing Models, Will Be Less Than The Original Offering Price.

The original offering price of the securities includes certain costs that are borne by you. Because of these costs, the estimated value of the securities on the trade date will be less than the original offering price. The costs included in the original offering price relate to selling, structuring, hedging and issuing the securities, as well as to our funding considerations for debt of this type. The costs related to selling, structuring, hedging and issuing the securities include (i) the agent discount (if any), (ii) the projected profit that our hedge counterparty (which may be one of our affiliates) expects to realize for assuming risks inherent in hedging our obligations under the securities and (iii) hedging and other costs relating to the offering of the securities. Our funding considerations are reflected in the fact that we determine the economic terms of the securities based on an assumed funding rate that is generally lower than our secondary market rates. If the costs relating to selling, structuring, hedging and issuing the securities were lower, or if the assumed funding

rate we use to determine the economic terms of the securities were higher, the economic terms of the securities would be more favorable to you and the estimated value would be higher.

The Estimated Value Of The Securities Is Determined By Our Affiliate s Pricing Models, Which May Differ From Those Of Other Dealers.

The estimated value of the securities was determined for us by WFS using its proprietary pricing models and related market inputs and assumptions referred to above under Investment Description Determining the estimated value. Certain inputs to these models may be determined by WFS in its discretion. WFS s views on these inputs may differ from other dealers views, and WFS s estimated value of the securities may be higher, and perhaps materially higher, than the estimated value of the securities that would be determined by other dealers in the market. WFS s models and its inputs and related assumptions may prove to be wrong and therefore not an accurate reflection of the value of the securities.

The Estimated Value Of The Securities Is Not An Indication Of The Price, If Any, At Which WFS Or Any Other Person May Be Willing To Buy The Securities From You In The Secondary Market.

The price, if any, at which WFS or any of its affiliates may purchase the securities in the secondary market will be based on WFS s proprietary pricing models and will fluctuate over the term of the securities as a result of changes in the market and other factors described in the next risk factor. Any such secondary market price for the securities will also be reduced by a bid-offer spread, which may vary depending on the aggregate face amount of the securities to be purchased in the secondary market transaction, and the expected cost of unwinding any related hedging transactions. Unless the factors described in the next risk factor change significantly in your favor, any such secondary market price for the securities is likely to be less than the original offering price.

If WFS or any of its affiliates makes a secondary market in the securities at any time up to the original issue date or during the 3-month period following the original issue date, the secondary market price offered by WFS or any of its affiliates will be increased by an amount reflecting a portion of the costs associated with selling, structuring, hedging and issuing the securities that are included in the original offering price. Because this portion of the costs is not fully deducted upon issuance, any secondary market price offered by WFS or any of its affiliates during this period will be higher than it would be if it were based solely on WFS s proprietary pricing models less the bid-offer spread and hedging unwind costs described above. The amount of this increase in the secondary market price will decline steadily to zero over this 3-month period. If you hold the securities through an account at WFS or any of its affiliates, we expect that this increase will also be reflected in the value indicated for the securities on your brokerage account statement. If you hold your securities through an account at a broker-dealer other than WFS or any of its affiliates, the value of the securities on your brokerage account statement may be different than if you held your securities at WFS or any of its affiliates, as discussed above under Investment Description.

The Value Of The Securities Prior To Stated Maturity Will Be Affected By Numerous Factors, Some Of Which Are Related In Complex Ways.

The value of the securities prior to stated maturity will be affected by the level of the underlier at that time, interest rates at that time and a number of other factors, some of which are interrelated in complex ways. The effect of any one factor may be offset or magnified by the effect of another factor. The following factors, which we refer to as the derivative component factors, are expected to affect the value of the securities. When we refer to the value of your security, we mean the value that you could receive for your security if you are able to sell it in the open market before the stated maturity date.

Underlier Performance. The value of the securities prior to maturity will depend substantially on the level of the underlier. The price at which you may be able to sell the securities before stated maturity may be at a discount, which could be substantial, from their original offering price, if the level of the underlier at such time is less than, equal to or not sufficiently above the initial underlier level.

Interest Rates. The value of the securities may be affected by changes in the interest rates in the U.S. markets.

Volatility Of The Underlier. Volatility is the term used to describe the size and frequency of market fluctuations. The value of the securities may be affected if the volatility of the underlier changes.

Time Remaining To Maturity. The value of the securities at any given time prior to maturity will likely be different from that which would be expected based on the then-current level of the underlier. This difference will most likely reflect a discount due to expectations and uncertainty concerning the level of the underlier during the period of time still remaining to the maturity date. In general, as the time remaining to maturity decreases, the value of the securities will approach the amount that could be payable at maturity based on the then-current level of the underlier.

Dividend Yields On The Securities Included In The Underlier. The value of the securities may be affected by the dividend yields on securities included in the underlier.

In addition to the derivative component factors, the value of the securities will be affected by actual or anticipated changes in our creditworthiness, as reflected in our secondary market rates. You should understand that the impact of one of the factors specified above, such as a change in interest rates, may offset some or all of any change in the value of the

securities attributable to another factor, such as a change in the level of the underlier. Because several factors are expected to affect the value of the securities, changes in the level of the underlier may not result in a comparable change in the value of the securities. We anticipate that the value of the securities will always be at a discount to the maximum settlement amount.

The Securities Will Not Be Listed On Any Securities Exchange And We Do Not Expect A Trading Market For The Securities To Develop.

The securities will not be listed or displayed on any securities exchange or any automated quotation system. Although the agent and/or its affiliates may purchase the securities from holders, they are not obligated to do so and are not required to make a market for the securities. There can be no assurance that a secondary market will develop. Because we do not expect that any market makers will participate in a secondary market for the securities, the price at which you may be able to sell your securities is likely to depend on the price, if any, at which the agent is willing to buy your securities.

If a secondary market does exist, it may be limited. Accordingly, there may be a limited number of buyers if you decide to sell your securities prior to stated maturity. This may affect the price you receive upon such sale. Consequently, you should be willing to hold the securities to stated maturity.

Your Return On The Securities Could Be Less Than If You Owned Securities Included In The Underlier.

Your return on the securities will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the securities included in the underlier and received the dividends and other payments paid on those securities. This is in part because the cash settlement amount payable at stated maturity will be determined by reference to the final underlier level, which will be calculated by reference to the prices of the securities in the underlier without taking into consideration the value of dividends and other payments paid on those securities. In addition, the cash settlement amount will not be greater than the maximum settlement amount.

Historical Levels Of The Underlier Should Not Be Taken As An Indication Of The Future Performance Of The Underlier During The Term Of The Securities.

The trading prices of the securities included in the underlier will determine the cash settlement amount payable at maturity to you. As a result, it is impossible to predict whether the closing level of the underlier will fall or rise compared to the initial underlier level. Trading prices of the securities included in the underlier will be influenced by complex and interrelated political, economic, financial and other factors that can affect the markets in which those securities are traded and the values of those securities themselves. Accordingly, any historical levels of the underlier do not provide an indication of the future performance of the underlier.

Changes That Affect The Underlier May Adversely Affect The Value Of The Securities And The Amount You Will Receive At Stated Maturity.

The policies of the underlier sponsor concerning the calculation of the underlier and the addition, deletion or substitution of securities comprising the underlier and the manner in which the underlier sponsor takes account of certain changes affecting such securities may affect the level of the underlier and, therefore, may affect the value of the securities and the cash settlement amount payable at maturity. The underlier sponsor may discontinue or suspend calculation or dissemination of the underlier or materially alter the methodology by which it calculates the underlier. Any such actions could adversely affect the value of the securities.

We Cannot Control Actions By Any Of The Unaffiliated Companies Whose Securities Are Included In The Underlier.

Actions by any company whose securities are included in the underlier may have an adverse effect on the price of its security, the final underlier level and the value of the securities. We are currently one of the companies included in the underlier. The unaffiliated companies included in the underlier will not be involved in the offering of the securities and will have no obligations with respect to the securities, including any obligation to take our or your interests into consideration for any reason. These companies will not receive any of the proceeds of the offering of the securities and will not be responsible for, and will not have participated in, the determination of the timing of, prices for, or quantities of, the securities to be issued. These companies will not be involved with the administration, marketing or trading of the securities and will have no obligations with respect to any amounts to be paid to you on the securities.

We And Our Affiliates Have No Affiliation With The Underlier Sponsor And Have Not Independently Verified Its Public Disclosure Of Information.

We and our affiliates are not affiliated in any way with the underlier sponsor and have no ability to control or predict its actions, including any errors in or discontinuation of disclosure regarding the methods or policies relating to the calculation of the underlier. We have derived the information about the underlier sponsor and the underlier contained in this pricing supplement from publicly available information, without independent verification. You, as an investor in the securities, should make your own investigation into the underlier and the underlier sponsor. The underlier sponsor is not involved in the offering of the securities made hereby in any way and has no obligation to consider your interest as an owner of securities in taking any actions that might affect the value of the securities.

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The Stated Maturity Date Will Be Postponed If The Determination Date Is Postponed.

The determination date will be postponed if the calculation agent determines that a market disruption event has occurred or is continuing on the determination date or if the originally scheduled determination date is not a trading day. If such a postponement occurs, the stated maturity date will be postponed until three business days after the postponed determination date.

Our Economic Interests And Those Of Any Dealer Participating In The Offering Are Potentially Adverse To Your Interests.

You should be aware of the following ways in which our economic interests and those of any dealer participating in the distribution of the securities, which we refer to as a participating dealer, are potentially adverse to your interests as an investor in the securities. In engaging in certain of the activities described below, our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates may take actions that may adversely affect the value of and your return on the securities, and in so doing they will have no obligation to consider your interests as an investor in the securities. Our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates may realize a profit from these activities even if investors do not receive a favorable investment return on the securities.

The calculation agent is our affiliate and may be required to make discretionary judgments that affect the return you receive on the securities. WFS, which is our affiliate, will be the calculation agent for the securities. As calculation agent, WFS will determine the final underlier level and may be required to make other determinations that affect the return you receive on the securities at maturity. In making these determinations, the calculation agent may be required to make discretionary judgments, including determining whether a market disruption event has occurred on the scheduled determination date, which may result in postponement of the determination date; determining the final underlier level if the determination date is postponed to the last day to which it may be postponed and a market disruption event occurs on that day; if the underlier is discontinued, selecting a successor underlier or, if no successor underlier is available, determining the final underlier level; and determining whether to adjust the closing level on the determination date in the event of certain changes in or modifications to the underlier. In making these discretionary judgments, the fact that WFS is our affiliate may cause it to have economic interests that are adverse to your interests as an investor in the securities, and WFS's determinations as calculation agent may adversely affect your return on the securities.

The estimated value of the securities was calculated by our affiliate and is therefore not an independent third-party valuation. WFS calculated the estimated value of the securities set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement, which involved discretionary judgments by WFS, as described under Risk Factors The Estimated Value Of The Securities Is Determined By Our Affiliate's Pricing Models, Which May Differ From Those Of Other Dealers above. Accordingly, the estimated value of the securities set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement is not an independent third-party valuation.

Research reports by our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates may be inconsistent with an investment in the securities and may adversely affect the level of the underlier. Our affiliates or any dealer participating in the offering of the securities or its affiliates may, at present or in the future, publish research reports on the underlier or the companies whose securities are included in the underlier. This research is modified from time to time without notice and may, at present or in the future, express opinions or provide recommendations that are inconsistent with purchasing or holding the securities. Any research reports on the

underlier or the companies whose securities are included in the underlier could adversely affect the level of the underlier and, therefore, adversely affect the value of and your return on the securities. You are encouraged to derive information concerning the underlier from multiple sources and should not rely on the views expressed by us or our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates. In addition, any research reports on the underlier or the companies whose securities are included in the underlier published on or prior to the trade date could result in an increase in the level of the underlier on the trade date, which would adversely affect investors in the securities by increasing the level at which the underlier must close on the determination date in order for investors in the securities to receive a favorable return.

Business activities of our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates with the companies whose securities are included in the underlier may adversely affect the level of the underlier. Our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates may, at present or in the future, engage in business with the companies whose securities are included in the underlier, including making loans to those companies (including exercising creditors' remedies with respect to such loans), making equity investments in those companies or providing investment banking, asset management or other advisory services to those companies. These business activities could adversely affect the level of the underlier and, therefore, adversely affect the value of and your return on the securities. In addition, in the course of these business activities, our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates may acquire non-public information about one or more of the companies whose securities are included in the underlier. If our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates do acquire such non-public information, we and they are not obligated to disclose such non-public information to you.

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Hedging activities by our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates may adversely affect the level of the underlier. We expect to hedge our obligations under the securities through one or more hedge counterparties, which may include our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates. Pursuant to such hedging activities, our hedge counterparties may acquire securities included in the underlier or listed or over-the-counter derivative or synthetic instruments related to the underlier or such securities. Depending on, among other things, future market conditions, the aggregate amount and the composition of such positions are likely to vary over time. To the extent that our hedge counterparties have a long hedge position in any of the securities included in the underlier, or derivative or synthetic instruments related to the underlier or such securities, they may liquidate a portion of such holdings at or about the time of the determination date or at or about the time of a change in the securities included in the underlier. These hedging activities could potentially adversely affect the level of the underlier and, therefore, adversely affect the value of and your return on the securities.

Trading activities by our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates may adversely affect the level of the underlier. Our affiliates or any participating dealer or its affiliates may engage in trading in the securities included in the underlier and other instruments relating to the underlier or such securities on a regular basis as part of their general broker-dealer and other businesses. Any of these trading activities could potentially adversely affect the level of the underlier and, therefore, adversely affect the value of and your return on the securities.

A participating dealer or its affiliates may realize hedging profits projected by its proprietary pricing models in addition to any selling concession, creating a further incentive for the participating dealer to sell the securities to you. If any participating dealer or any of its affiliates conducts hedging activities for us in connection with the securities, that participating dealer or its affiliates will expect to realize a projected profit from such hedging activities. If a participating dealer receives a concession for the sale of the securities to you, this projected hedging profit will be in addition to the concession, creating a further incentive for the participating dealer to sell the securities to you.

The U.S. Federal Tax Consequences Of An Investment In The Securities Are Unclear.

There is no direct legal authority regarding the proper U.S. federal tax treatment of the securities, and we do not plan to request a ruling from the IRS. Consequently, significant aspects of the tax treatment of the securities are uncertain, and the IRS or a court might not agree with the treatment of the securities as prepaid derivative contracts that are open transactions for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the IRS were successful in asserting an alternative treatment of the securities, the tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of the securities might be materially and adversely affected. In addition, in 2007 the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS released a notice requesting comments on various issues regarding the U.S. federal income tax treatment of prepaid forward contracts and similar instruments. Any Treasury regulations or other guidance promulgated after consideration of these issues could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the securities, including the character and timing of income or loss and the degree, if any, to which income realized by non-U.S. persons should be subject to withholding tax, possibly with retroactive effect. You should read carefully the discussion under United States Federal Tax Considerations in this pricing supplement. You should also consult your tax adviser regarding the U.S. federal tax consequences of an investment in the securities, as well as tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction.

Determining Payment at Stated Maturity

On the stated maturity date, you will receive a cash payment per security (the cash settlement amount) calculated as follows:

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Hypothetical Returns

The following table illustrates, for a hypothetical maximum settlement amount of 125.725% of the face amount or \$1,257.25 per security (the midpoint of the specified range of the maximum settlement amount) and a range of hypothetical final underlier levels:

the hypothetical percentage change from the hypothetical initial underlier level to the hypothetical final underlier level; and

the hypothetical pre-tax total return.

| Hypothetical underlier return | Hypothetical pre-tax total return |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 50.00% | 25.725% |
| 40.00% | 25.725% |
| 20.00% | 25.725% |
| 17.15% | 25.725% |
| 10.00% | 15.000% |
| 5.00% | 7.500% |
| 0.00% | 0.000% |
| -5.00% | 0.000% |
| -10.00% | 0.000% |
| -15.00% | 0.000% |
| -16.00% | -1.176% |
| -25.00% | -11.765% |
| -50.00% | -41.176% |
| -75.00% | -70.588% |
| -100.00% | -100.000% |

The above figures are for purposes of illustration only and may have been rounded for ease of analysis. The actual amount you receive at stated maturity and the resulting pre-tax return will depend on the actual final underlier level and maximum settlement amount.

If, for example, the underlier return were determined to be -75.00%, the pre-tax return on your securities at maturity would be approximately -70.588%, as shown in the table above. As a result, if you purchased your securities on the original issue date at the face amount and held them to the stated maturity date, you would lose approximately 70.588% of your investment. In addition, if the underlier return were determined to be 50.00%, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your securities at maturity would be capped at the maximum settlement amount, and the pre-tax return on your securities would therefore be capped at 25.725%, as shown in the table above. As a result, if you held your securities to the stated maturity date, you would not benefit from any underlier return in excess of 17.15%.

Additional Terms of the Securities

Wells Fargo will issue the securities as part of a series of senior unsecured debt securities entitled Medium-Term Notes, Series K, which is more fully described in the prospectus supplement. Information included in this pricing supplement supersedes information in the market measure supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus to the extent that it is different from that information.

Calculation Agent

Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, one of our subsidiaries, will act as initial calculation agent for the securities and may appoint agents to assist it in the performance of its duties. Pursuant to the calculation agent agreement, we may appoint a different calculation agent without your consent and without notifying you.

The calculation agent will determine the cash settlement amount you receive at stated maturity. In addition, the calculation agent will, among other things:

determine whether a market disruption event or non-trading day has occurred;

determine if adjustments are required to the closing level of the underlier under various circumstances; and

if publication of the underlier is discontinued, select a successor underlier (as defined below) or, if no successor underlier is available, determine the closing level of the underlier.

All determinations made by the calculation agent will be at the sole discretion of the calculation agent and, in the absence of manifest error, will be conclusive for all purposes and binding on us and you. The calculation agent will have no liability for its determinations.

Market Disruption Events

A market disruption event means any of the following events as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion:

- (A) The occurrence or existence of a material suspension of or limitation imposed on trading by the relevant stock exchanges or otherwise relating to securities which then comprise 20% or more of the level of the underlier or any successor underlier at any time during the one-hour period that ends at the close of trading on that day, whether by reason of movements in price exceeding limits permitted by those relevant stock exchanges or otherwise.
- (B) The occurrence or existence of a material suspension of or limitation imposed on trading by any related futures or options exchange or otherwise in futures or options contracts relating to the underlier or any successor underlier on any related futures or options exchange at any time during the one-hour period that ends at the close of trading on that day, whether by reason of movements in price exceeding limits permitted by the related futures or options exchange or otherwise.

- (C) The occurrence or existence of any event, other than an early closure, that materially disrupts or impairs the ability of market participants in general to effect transactions in, or obtain market values for, securities that then comprise 20% or more of the level of the underlier or any successor underlier on their relevant stock exchanges at any time during the one-hour period that ends at the close of trading on that day.

 - (D) The occurrence or existence of any event, other than an early closure, that materially disrupts or impairs the ability of market participants in general to effect transactions in, or obtain market values for, futures or options contracts relating to the underlier or any successor underlier on any related futures or options exchange at any time during the one-hour period that ends at the close of trading on that day.

 - (E) The closure on any exchange business day of the relevant stock exchanges on which securities that then comprise 20% or more of the level of the underlier or any successor underlier are traded or any related futures or options exchange prior to its scheduled closing time unless the earlier closing time is announced by the relevant stock exchange or related futures or options exchange, as applicable, at least one hour prior to the earlier of (1) the actual closing time for the regular trading session on such relevant stock exchange or related futures or options exchange, as applicable, and (2) the submission deadline for orders to be entered into the relevant stock exchange or related futures or options exchange, as applicable, system for execution at such actual closing time on that day.

 - (F) The relevant stock exchange for any security underlying the underlier or successor underlier or any related futures or options exchange fails to open for trading during its regular trading session.
- For purposes of determining whether a market disruption event has occurred:
- (1) the relevant percentage contribution of a security to the level of the underlier or any successor underlier will be based on a comparison of (x) the portion of the level of such underlier attributable to that security and (y) the overall level of the underlier or successor underlier, in each case immediately before the occurrence of the market disruption event;

- (2) the close of trading on any trading day for the underlier or any successor underlier means the scheduled closing time of the relevant stock exchanges with respect to the securities underlying the underlier or successor underlier on such trading day; provided that, if the actual closing time of the regular trading session of any such relevant stock exchange is earlier than its scheduled closing time on such trading day, then (x) for purposes of clauses (A) and (C) of the definition of market disruption event above, with respect to any security underlying the underlier or successor underlier for which such relevant stock exchange is its relevant stock exchange, the close of trading means such actual closing time and (y) for purposes of clauses (B) and (D) of the definition of market disruption event above, with respect to any futures or options contract relating to the underlier or successor underlier, the close of trading means the latest actual closing time of the regular trading session of any of the relevant stock exchanges, but in no event later than the scheduled closing time of the relevant stock exchanges;
- (3) the scheduled closing time of any relevant stock exchange or related futures or options exchange on any trading day for the underlier or any successor underlier means the scheduled weekday closing time of such relevant stock exchange or related futures or options exchange on such trading day, without regard to after hours or any other trading outside the regular trading session hours; and
- (4) an exchange business day means any trading day for the underlier or any successor underlier on which each relevant stock exchange for the securities underlying the underlier or any successor underlier and each related futures or options exchange are open for trading during their respective regular trading sessions, notwithstanding any such relevant stock exchange or related futures or options exchange closing prior to its scheduled closing time.

If a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on the determination date, then the determination date will be postponed to the first succeeding trading day on which a market disruption event has not occurred and is not continuing; however, if such first succeeding trading day has not occurred as of the eighth trading day after the originally scheduled determination date, that eighth trading day shall be deemed to be the determination date. If the determination date has been postponed eight trading days after the originally scheduled determination date and a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on such eighth trading day, the calculation agent will determine the closing level of the underlier on such eighth trading day in accordance with the formula for and method of calculating the closing level of the underlier last in effect prior to commencement of the market disruption event, using the closing price (or, with respect to any relevant security, if a market disruption event has occurred with respect to such security, its good faith estimate of the value of such security at the scheduled closing time of the relevant stock exchange for such security or, if earlier, the actual closing time of the regular trading session of such relevant stock exchange) on such date of each security included in the underlier. As used herein, closing price means, with respect to any security on any date, the relevant stock exchange traded or quoted price of such security as of the scheduled closing time of the relevant stock exchange for such security or, if earlier, the actual closing time of the regular trading session of such relevant stock exchange.

Adjustments to the Underlier

If at any time the sponsor or publisher of the underlier (the underlier sponsor) makes a material change in the formula for or the method of calculating the underlier, or in any other way materially modifies the underlier (other than a modification prescribed in that formula or method to maintain the underlier in the event of changes in constituent stock and capitalization and other routine events), then, from and after that time, the calculation agent will, at the close of business in New York, New York, on each date that the closing level of the underlier is to be calculated, calculate a substitute closing level of the underlier in accordance with the formula for and method of calculating the underlier last in effect prior to the change, but using only those securities that comprised the underlier immediately prior to that change. Accordingly, if the method of calculating the underlier is modified so that the level of the underlier is a

fraction or a multiple of what it would have been if it had not been modified, then the calculation agent will adjust the underlier in order to arrive at a level of the underlier as if it had not been modified.

Discontinuance of the Underlier

If the underlier sponsor discontinues publication of the underlier, and the underlier sponsor or another entity publishes a successor or substitute equity index that the calculation agent determines, in its sole discretion, to be comparable to the underlier (a successor underlier), then, upon the calculation agent's notification of that determination to the trustee and Wells Fargo, the calculation agent will substitute the successor underlier as calculated by the relevant underlier sponsor or any other entity and calculate the final underlier level as described above. Upon any selection by the calculation agent of a successor underlier, Wells Fargo will cause notice to be given to holders of the securities.

In the event that the underlier sponsor discontinues publication of the underlier prior to, and the discontinuance is continuing on, the determination date and the calculation agent determines that no successor underlier is available at such time, the calculation agent will calculate a substitute closing level for the underlier in accordance with the formula for and method of calculating the underlier last in effect prior to the discontinuance, but using only those securities that comprised the underlier immediately prior to that discontinuance. If a successor underlier is selected or the calculation agent calculates a level as a substitute for the underlier, the successor underlier or level will be used as a substitute for the underlier for all purposes, including the purpose of determining whether a market disruption event exists.

If on the determination date the underlier sponsor fails to calculate and announce the level of the underlier, the calculation agent will calculate a substitute closing level of the underlier in accordance with the formula for and method of calculating the underlier last in effect prior to the failure, but using only those securities that comprised the underlier immediately prior to that failure; *provided* that, if a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on such day, then the provisions set forth above under **Market Disruption Events** shall apply in lieu of the foregoing.

Notwithstanding these alternative arrangements, discontinuance of the publication of, or the failure by the underlier sponsor to calculate and announce the level of, the underlier may adversely affect the value of the securities.

Events of Default and Acceleration

If an event of default with respect to the securities has occurred and is continuing, the amount payable to a holder of a security upon any acceleration permitted by the securities, with respect to each security, will be equal to the cash settlement amount, calculated as provided herein. The cash settlement amount will be calculated as though the date of acceleration were the determination date.

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The S&P 500 Index

The S&P 500 Index is an equity index that is intended to provide an indication of the pattern of common stock price movement in the large capitalization segment of the United States equity market. Wells Fargo & Company is one of the companies currently included in the S&P 500 Index. See "Description of Equity Indices - The S&P 500 Index" in the accompanying market measure supplement for additional information about the S&P 500 Index.

Historical Information

We obtained the closing levels set forth in the graph below from Bloomberg Financial Markets without independent verification.

The historical performance of the underlier should not be taken as an indication of the future performance of the underlier during the term of the securities.

The following graph sets forth the daily closing levels of the underlier for each day in the period from January 1, 2006 through April 6, 2016. The closing level on April 6, 2016 was 2,066.66.

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ERISA Considerations

Each fiduciary of a pension, profit-sharing or other employee benefit plan to which Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) applies (a plan), should consider the fiduciary standards of ERISA in the context of the plan's particular circumstances before authorizing an investment in the securities. Accordingly, among other factors, the fiduciary should consider whether the investment would satisfy the prudence and diversification requirements of ERISA and would be consistent with the documents and instruments governing the plan. When we use the term holder in this section, we are referring to a beneficial owner of the securities and not the record holder.

Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit plans, as well as individual retirement accounts and Keogh plans to which Section 4975 of the Code applies (also plans), from engaging in specified transactions involving plan assets with persons who are parties in interest under ERISA or disqualified persons under the Code (collectively parties in interest) with respect to such plan. A violation of those prohibited transaction rules may result in an excise tax or other liabilities under ERISA and/or Section 4975 of the Code for such persons, unless statutory or administrative exemptive relief is available. Therefore, a fiduciary of a plan should also consider whether an investment in the securities might constitute or give rise to a prohibited transaction under ERISA and the Code.

Employee benefit plans that are governmental plans, as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA, certain church plans, as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA, and foreign plans, as described in Section 4(b)(4) of ERISA (collectively, Non-ERISA Arrangements), are not subject to the requirements of ERISA, or Section 4975 of the Code, but may be subject to similar rules under other applicable laws or regulations (Similar Laws).

We and our affiliates may each be considered a party in interest with respect to many plans. Special caution should be exercised, therefore, before the securities are purchased by a plan. In particular, the fiduciary of the plan should consider whether statutory or administrative exemptive relief is available. The U.S. Department of Labor has issued five prohibited transaction class exemptions (PTCEs) that may provide exemptive relief for direct or indirect prohibited transactions resulting from the purchase or holding of the securities. Those class exemptions are:

PTCE 96-23, for specified transactions determined by in-house asset managers;

PTCE 95-60, for specified transactions involving insurance company general accounts;

PTCE 91-38, for specified transactions involving bank collective investment funds;

PTCE 90-1, for specified transactions involving insurance company separate accounts; and

PTCE 84-14, for specified transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers. In addition, Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code provide an exemption for transactions between a plan and a person who is a party in interest (other than a fiduciary who has or exercises any discretionary authority or control with respect to investment of the plan assets involved in the transaction or renders investment advice with respect thereto) solely by reason of providing services to the plan (or by reason of a relationship to such a service provider), if in connection with the transaction of the plan receives no less, and pays no more, than adequate consideration (within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA).

Any purchaser or holder of the securities or any interest in the securities will be deemed to have represented by its purchase and holding that either:

no portion of the assets used by such purchaser or holder to acquire or purchase the securities constitutes assets of any plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement; or

the purchase and holding of the securities by such purchaser or holder will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or similar violation under any Similar Laws.

Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties that may be imposed upon persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions, it is particularly important that fiduciaries or other persons considering purchasing the securities on behalf of or with plan assets of any plan consult with their counsel regarding the potential consequences under ERISA and the Code of the acquisition of the securities and the availability of exemptive relief.

The securities are contractual financial instruments. The financial exposure provided by the securities is not a substitute or proxy for, and is not intended as a substitute or proxy for, individualized investment management or advice for the benefit of any purchaser or holder of the securities. The securities have not been designed and will not be administered in a manner intended to reflect the individualized needs and objectives of any purchaser or holder of the securities.

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Each purchaser or holder of the securities acknowledges and agrees that:

- (i) the purchaser or holder or its fiduciary has made and shall make all investment decisions for the purchaser or holder and the purchaser or holder has not relied and shall not rely in any way upon us or our affiliates to act as a fiduciary or adviser of the purchaser or holder with respect to (a) the design and terms of the securities, (b) the purchaser or holder's investment in the securities, or (c) the exercise of or failure to exercise any rights we have under or with respect to the securities;
- (ii) we and our affiliates have acted and will act solely for our own account in connection with (a) all transactions relating to the securities and (b) all hedging transactions in connection with our obligations under the securities;
- (iii) any and all assets and positions relating to hedging transactions by us or our affiliates are assets and positions of those entities and are not assets and positions held for the benefit of the purchaser or holder;
- (iv) our interests may be adverse to the interests of the purchaser or holder; and
- (v) neither we nor any of our affiliates is a fiduciary or adviser of the purchaser or holder in connection with any such assets, positions or transactions, and any information that we or any of our affiliates may provide is not intended to be impartial investment advice.

Purchasers of the securities have the exclusive responsibility for ensuring that their purchase, holding and subsequent disposition of the securities does not violate the fiduciary or prohibited transaction rules of ERISA, the Code or any Similar Law. Nothing herein shall be construed as a representation that an investment in the securities would be appropriate for, or would meet any or all of the relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by, plans or Non-ERISA Arrangements generally or any particular plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement.

United States Federal Tax Considerations

The following is a discussion of the material U.S. federal income and certain estate tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of the securities. It applies to you only if you purchase a security for cash in the initial offering at the issue price, which is the first price at which a substantial amount of the securities is sold to the public, and hold the security as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code). It does not address all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to you in light of your particular circumstances or if you are an investor subject to special rules, such as:

a financial institution;

a regulated investment company ;

a tax-exempt entity, including an individual retirement account or Roth IRA ;

a dealer or trader subject to a mark-to-market method of tax accounting with respect to the securities;

a person holding a security as part of a straddle or conversion transaction or who has entered into a constructive sale with respect to a security;

a U.S. holder (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar; or

an entity classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If an entity that is classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds the securities, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partnership holding the securities or a partner in such a partnership, you should consult your tax adviser as to your particular U.S. federal tax consequences of holding and disposing of the securities.

We will not attempt to ascertain whether any of the issuers of the underlying stocks of the underlier (the underlying stocks) is treated as a U.S. real property holding corporation (USRPHC) within the meaning of Section 897 of the Code or as a passive foreign investment company (PFIC) within the meaning of Section 1297 of the Code. If any of the issuers of the underlying stocks were so treated, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences might apply to you, in the case of a USRPHC if you are a non-U.S. holder (as defined below) and in the case of a PFIC if you are a U.S. holder (as defined below), upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of the securities. You should refer to information filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission or another governmental authority by the issuers of the

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underlying stocks and consult your tax adviser regarding the possible consequences to you if any of the issuers of the underlying stocks is or becomes a USRPHC or PFIC.

This discussion is based on the Code, administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, all as of the date of this pricing supplement, changes to any of which subsequent to the date of this pricing supplement may affect the tax consequences described herein, possibly with retroactive effect. This discussion does not address the effects of any applicable state, local or non-U.S. tax laws or the potential application of the alternative minimum tax or of the Medicare tax on investment income. You should consult your tax adviser concerning the application of U.S. federal income and estate tax laws to your particular situation (including the possibility of alternative treatments of the securities), as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. jurisdiction.

Tax Treatment of the Securities

In the opinion of our counsel, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, which is based on current market conditions, a security should be treated as a prepaid derivative contract that is an open transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes. By purchasing a security, you agree (in the absence of an administrative determination or judicial ruling to the contrary) to this treatment.

Due to the absence of statutory, judicial or administrative authorities that directly address the U.S. federal tax treatment of the securities or similar instruments, significant aspects of the treatment of an investment in the securities are uncertain. We do not plan to request a ruling from the IRS, and the IRS or a court might not agree with the treatment described below. Accordingly, you should consult your tax adviser regarding all aspects of the U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of an investment in the securities. Unless otherwise indicated, the following discussion is based on the treatment of the securities as prepaid derivative contracts that are open transactions.

Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders

This section applies only to U.S. holders. You are a U.S. holder if you are a beneficial owner of a security that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

a citizen or individual resident of the United States;

a corporation created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state therein or the District of Columbia; or

an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

Tax Treatment Prior to Maturity. You should not be required to recognize income over the term of the securities prior to maturity, other than pursuant to a sale, exchange or retirement as described below.

Sale, Exchange or Retirement of the Securities. Upon a sale, exchange or retirement of the securities, you should recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange or retirement and your tax basis in the securities that are sold, exchanged or retired. Your tax basis in the securities should equal the amount you paid to acquire them. This gain or loss should be long-term capital gain or loss if at the time of the sale, exchange or retirement you held the securities for more than one year, and short-term capital gain or loss otherwise.

Long-term capital gains recognized by non-corporate U.S. holders are generally subject to taxation at reduced rates. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to certain limitations.

Possible Alternative Tax Treatments of an Investment in the Securities

Alternative U.S. federal income tax treatments of the securities are possible that, if applied, could materially and adversely affect the timing and/or character of income, gain or loss with respect to them. It is possible, for example, that the securities could be treated as debt instruments governed by Treasury regulations relating to the taxation of contingent payment debt instruments. In that case, regardless of your method of tax accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes, you would be required to accrue income based on our comparable yield for similar non-contingent debt, determined as of the time of issuance of the securities, in each year that you held the securities, even though we are not required to make any payment with respect to the securities prior to maturity. In addition, any gain on the sale, exchange or retirement of the securities would be treated as ordinary income.

Other possible U.S. federal income tax treatments of the securities could also affect the timing and character of income or loss with respect to the securities. In 2007, the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS released a notice requesting

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comments on the U.S. federal income tax treatment of prepaid forward contracts and similar instruments. The notice focuses in particular on whether to require holders of these instruments to accrue income over the term of their investment. It also asks for comments on a number of related topics, including the character of income or loss with respect to these instruments; whether short-term instruments should be subject to any such accrual regime; the relevance of factors such as the exchange-traded status of the instruments and the nature of the underlying property to which the instruments are linked; and whether these instruments are or should be subject to the constructive ownership regime, which very generally can operate to recharacterize certain long-term capital gain as ordinary income and impose a notional interest charge. While the notice requests comments on appropriate transition rules and effective dates, any Treasury regulations or other guidance promulgated after consideration of these issues could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the securities, possibly with retroactive effect. You should consult your tax adviser regarding the possible alternative treatments of an investment in the securities and the issues presented by this notice.

Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

This section applies only to non-U.S. holders. You are a non-U.S. holder if you are a beneficial owner of a security that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual who is classified as a nonresident alien;

a foreign corporation; or

a foreign estate or trust.

You are not a non-U.S. holder for purposes of this discussion if you are (i) an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of disposition or (ii) a former citizen or resident of the United States. If you are or may become such a person during the period in which you hold a security, you should consult your tax adviser regarding the U.S. federal tax consequences of an investment in the securities.

Sale, Exchange or Retirement of the Securities. Subject to the possible application of Section 897 of the Code, you generally should not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax in respect of amounts paid to you, provided that income in respect of the securities is not effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

If you are engaged in a U.S. trade or business, and if income from the securities is effectively connected with the conduct of that trade or business, you generally will be subject to regular U.S. federal income tax with respect to that income in the same manner as if you were a U.S. holder, unless an applicable income tax treaty provides otherwise. If you are such a holder and you are a corporation, you should also consider the potential application of a 30% (or lower treaty rate) branch profits tax.

Tax Consequences Under Possible Alternative Treatments. If all or any portion of a security were recharacterized as a debt instrument, subject to the possible application of Section 897 of the Code and the discussion below regarding FATCA, any payment made to you with respect to the security generally should not be subject to U.S. federal withholding or income tax, provided that: (i) income or gain in respect of the security is not effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States, and (ii) you provide an appropriate IRS Form W-8 certifying under penalties of perjury that you are not a United States person.

Other U.S. federal income tax treatments of the securities are also possible. In 2007, the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS released a notice requesting comments on the U.S. federal income tax treatment of prepaid forward contracts and similar instruments. Among the issues addressed in the notice is the degree, if any, to which income with respect to instruments such as the securities should be subject to U.S. withholding tax. While the notice requests comments on appropriate transition rules and effective dates, it is possible that any Treasury regulations or other guidance promulgated after consideration of these issues might materially and adversely affect the withholding tax consequences of an investment in the securities, possibly with retroactive effect. If withholding applies to the securities, we will not be required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts withheld. Accordingly, you should consult your tax adviser regarding the issues presented by the notice.

U.S. Federal Estate Tax

If you are an individual non-U.S. holder or an entity the property of which is potentially includible in such an individual's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes (for example, a trust funded by such an individual and with respect to which the individual has retained certain interests or powers), you should note that, absent an applicable treaty exemption, the securities may be treated as U.S. situs property subject to U.S. federal estate tax. If you are such an

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individual or entity, you should consult your tax adviser regarding the U.S. federal estate tax consequences of investing in the securities.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Amounts paid on the securities, and the proceeds of a sale, exchange or other disposition of the securities, may be subject to information reporting and, if you fail to provide certain identifying information (such as an accurate taxpayer identification number if you are a U.S. holder) or meet certain other conditions, may also be subject to backup withholding at the rate specified in the Code. If you are a non-U.S. holder that provides an appropriate IRS Form W-8, you will generally establish an exemption from backup withholding. Amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules are not additional taxes and may be refunded or credited against your U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the relevant information is timely furnished to the IRS.

FATCA Legislation

Legislation commonly referred to as FATCA generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on payments to certain non-U.S. entities (including financial intermediaries) with respect to certain financial instruments, unless various U.S. information reporting and due diligence requirements have been satisfied. An intergovernmental agreement between the United States and the non-U.S. entity's jurisdiction may modify these requirements. This legislation applies to certain financial instruments that are treated as paying U.S.-source interest or other U.S.-source fixed or determinable annual or periodical income. If the securities were treated as debt instruments, the withholding regime under FATCA would apply to any amounts treated as interest. If withholding applies to the securities, we will not be required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts withheld. If you are a non-U.S. holder, or a U.S. holder holding securities through a non-U.S. intermediary, you should consult your tax adviser regarding the potential application of FATCA to the securities.

The preceding discussion constitutes the full opinion of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP regarding the material U.S. federal tax consequences of owning and disposing of the securities.

You should consult your tax adviser regarding all aspects of the U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of an investment in the securities and any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction.