

WHITING PETROLEUM CORP
Form S-8
July 26, 2013

Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

WHITING PETROLEUM CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)
1700 Broadway, Suite 2300

20-0098515
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)
80290-2300

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Denver, Colorado
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

Whiting Petroleum Corporation 2013 Equity Incentive Plan

(Full title of the plan)

James J. Volker

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

1700 Broadway, Suite 2300

Denver, Colorado 80290-2300

(303) 837-1661

(Name, address and telephone number, including area

code, of agent for service)

Copy to:

Benjamin F. Garmer, III, Esq.

John K. Wilson, Esq.

Foley & Lardner LLP

777 East Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-5306

(414) 271-2400

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 definition of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of securities to be registered | Amount to be registered | Proposed maximum offering price per share | Proposed maximum aggregate offering price | Amount of registration fee |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Common Stock, \$0.001 par value | 5,300,000 shares (1) | 49.70 (2) | 263,410,000 (2) | \$35,929 |
| Preferred Share Purchase Rights | 2,650,000 rights | (3) | (3) | (3) |

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement also covers an indeterminate number of additional shares of Whiting Petroleum Corporation common stock (and preferred share purchase rights) that may become issuable in accordance with the adjustment and anti-dilution provisions of the Whiting Petroleum Corporation 2013 Equity Incentive Plan.
- (2) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457(c) and (h) under the Securities Act of 1933 solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee based on the average of the high and low prices for Whiting Petroleum Corporation Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange LLC on July 24, 2013.
- (3) The preferred share purchase rights are attached to and traded with the shares of common stock being registered. The value attributable to the preferred share purchase rights, if any, is reflected in the value attributable to the common stock.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The document or documents containing the information specified in Part I are not required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as part of this Form S-8 Registration Statement.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by Whiting Petroleum Corporation (hereinafter referred to as the Company or the Registrant) pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), are hereby incorporated herein by reference:

1. The Company's latest Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012;
2. The Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2013 and June 30, 2013;
3. The Company's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 8, 2013, May 8, 2013, June 17, 2013, June 19, 2013, June 24, 2013, July 1, 2013 and July 19, 2013;
4. The description of the Company's common stock contained in its Registration Statement on Form 8-A, dated November 14, 2003, and any amendment or report updating that description; and
5. The description of the Company's preferred share purchase rights contained in its Registration Statement on Form 8-A, dated February 24, 2006 and any amendment or report updating that description.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, information furnished under Items 2.02 and 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K, including the related exhibits under Item 9.01, is not incorporated herein by reference.

All documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, after the date of filing of this Registration Statement and prior to such time as the Company files a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated herein by reference shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purpose of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any subsequently filed document which also is, or is deemed to be, incorporated herein by reference modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

None.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Under the provisions of Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Company is required to indemnify any present or former officer or director against expenses arising out of legal proceedings in which the director or officer becomes involved by reason of being a director or officer if the director or officer is successful in

the defense of such proceedings. Section 145 also provides that the Company may indemnify a director or officer in connection with a proceeding in which he is not successful in defending if it is determined that he acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Company or, in the case of a criminal action, if it is determined that he had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. Liabilities for which a director or officer may be indemnified include amounts paid in satisfaction of settlements, judgments, fines and other expenses (including attorneys' fees incurred in connection with such proceedings). In a stockholder derivative action, no indemnification may be paid in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which the director or officer has been adjudged to be liable to the Company (except for expenses allowed by a court).

The Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides for indemnification of directors and officers of the Company to the full extent permitted by applicable law. Under the provisions of the Company's Amended and Restated By-laws, the Company is required to indemnify officers or directors to a greater extent than under the current provisions of Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. Except with respect to stockholder derivative actions, the By-law provisions generally state that the director or officer will be indemnified against expenses, amounts paid in settlement and judgments, fines, penalties and/or other amounts incurred with respect to any threatened, pending or completed proceeding, provided that (i) such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Company, and (ii) with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, such person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

The foregoing standards also apply with respect to the indemnification of expenses incurred in a stockholder derivative suit. However, a director or officer may only be indemnified for settlement amounts or judgments incurred in a derivative suit to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper.

In accordance with the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation contains a provision to limit the personal liability of the directors of the Company for violations of their fiduciary duty. This provision eliminates each director's liability to the Company or its stockholders, for monetary damages except (i) for breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Company or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law providing for liability of directors for unlawful payment of dividends or unlawful stock purchases or redemptions or (iv) for any transaction from which a director derived an improper personal benefit. The effect of this provision is to eliminate the personal liability of directors for monetary damages for actions involving a breach of their fiduciary duty of care, including any such actions involving gross negligence.

The Company has entered into indemnification agreements with its directors and executive officers. The indemnification agreements do not increase the extent or scope of indemnification provided to the Company's directors and executive officers under the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated By-laws, but set forth indemnification and expense advancement rights and establish processes and procedures determining entitlement to obtaining indemnification and advancement of expenses.

The Company maintains insurance policies that provide coverage to its directors and officers against certain liabilities.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

The exhibits filed herewith or incorporated herein by reference are set forth in the attached Exhibit Index.

Item 9. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Denver, State of Colorado, on July 26, 2013.

WHITING PETROLEUM CORPORATION

By: /s/ James J. Volker
James J. Volker
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on July 26, 2013.

| Signature | Title |
|------------------------|---|
| /s/ James J. Volker | |
| James J. Volker | Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer) |
| /s/ Michael J. Stevens | Vice President and Chief Financial Officer |
| Michael J. Stevens | (Principal Financial Officer) |
| /s/ Brent P. Jensen | Controller and Treasurer |
| Brent P. Jensen | (Principal Accounting Officer) |
| * | |
| Thomas L. Aller | Director |
| * | |
| D. Sherwin Artus | Director |
| * | |
| Philip E. Doty | Director |
| * | |
| William N. Hahne | Director |
| * | |
| Allan R. Larson | Director |
| * | |
| Michael B. Walen | Director |

* By: /s/ James J. Volker
James J. Volker
Attorney-in-fact

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Description |
|----------------|---|
| (4.1) | Whiting Petroleum Corporation 2013 Equity Incentive Plan [Incorporated by reference to Annex A to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's definitive proxy statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Schedule 14A on March 25, 2013 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (4.2) | Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Whiting Petroleum Corporation [Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2011 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (4.3) | Amended and Restated By-laws of Whiting Petroleum Corporation, effective February 17, 2011 [Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (4.4) | Fifth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of October 15, 2010, among Whiting Petroleum Corporation, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation, the lenders party thereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, and the various other agents party thereto [Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 15, 2010 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (4.5) | First Amendment to Fifth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of April 15, 2011, among Whiting Petroleum Corporation, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, the various other agents party thereto and the lenders party thereto [Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (4.6) | Second Amendment to Fifth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of October 12, 2011, among Whiting Petroleum Corporation, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, the various other agents party thereto and the lenders party thereto [Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 12, 2011 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (4.7) | Third Amendment to Fifth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of October 19, 2012, among Whiting Petroleum Corporation, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, and the lenders party thereto [Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 19, 2012 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (4.8) | Fourth Amendment to Fifth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of June 27, 2013, among Whiting Petroleum Corporation, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, and the lenders party thereto [Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (4.9) | Subordinated Indenture, dated as of April 19, 2005, by and among Whiting Petroleum Corporation, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation, Whiting Programs, Inc., Equity Oil Company and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee [Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 21, 2010 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (4.10) | Second Supplemental Indenture, dated September 24, 2010, among Whiting Petroleum Corporation, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee, creating the 6.5% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2018 [Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 21, 2010 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (4.11) | Indenture, dated October 4, 2005, by and among Whiting Petroleum Corporation, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation, Whiting Programs, Inc. and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee [Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 4, 2005 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (4.12) | Rights Agreement, dated as of February 23, 2006, between Whiting Petroleum Corporation and Computershare Trust Company, Inc. [Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Whiting Petroleum Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 23, 2006 (File No. 001-31899)]. |
| (5) | Opinion of Foley & Lardner LLP (including consent of counsel). |
| (23.1) | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP. |

- (23.2) Consent of Cawley, Gillespie & Associates, Inc., Independent Petroleum Engineers.
- (23.3) Consent of Foley & Lardner LLP (filed as part of Exhibit (5)).
- (24) Powers of Attorney.

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