

COMSTOCK RESOURCES INC
Form 10-Q
May 04, 2016

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the Quarter Ended March 31, 2016

OR

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

Commission File No. 001-03262

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

NEVADA 94-1667468
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization) Identification Number)

5300 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 500, Frisco, Texas 75034

(Address of principal executive offices)

Telephone No.: (972) 668-8800

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes No

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock, par value \$0.50, as of May 4, 2016 was 60,889,146.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.

QUARTERLY REPORT

For the Quarter Ended March 31, 2016

INDEX

| | Page |
|--|------|
| PART I. Financial Information | |
| Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited): | |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets -</u> | |
| <u>March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015</u> | 4 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Operations -</u> | |
| <u>Three Months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015</u> | 5 |
| <u>Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Deficit</u> | |
| <u>Three Months ended March 31, 2016</u> | 6 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows -</u> | |
| <u>Three Months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015</u> | 7 |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | 8 |
| | |
| <u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 17 |
| | |
| <u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk</u> | 20 |
| | |
| <u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u> | 21 |
| | |
| PART II. Other Information | |
| | |
| <u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u> | 22 |
| | |
| <u>Item 6. Exhibits</u> | 22 |
| EX-31.1 | |
| EX-31.2 | |
| EX-32.1 | |
| EX-32.2 | |
| EX-101 INSTANCE DOCUMENT | |
| EX-101 SCHEMA DOCUMENT | |
| EX-101 CALCULATION LINKBASE DOCUMENT | |

EX-101 LABELS LINKBASE DOCUMENT
EX-101 PRESENTATION LINKBASE DOCUMENT
EX-101 DEFINITION LINKBASE DOCUMENT

PART I — FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Unaudited)

| | March 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ 89,323 | \$ 134,006 |
| Accounts Receivable: | | |
| Oil and gas sales | 11,751 | 15,241 |
| Joint interest operations | 2,755 | 3,552 |
| Derivative Financial Instruments | 1,104 | 1,446 |
| Assets Held for Sale | 42,542 | — |
| Other Current Assets | 1,884 | 1,993 |
| Total current assets | 149,359 | 156,238 |
| Property and Equipment: | | |
| Unproved oil and gas properties | 76,391 | 84,144 |
| Oil and gas properties, successful efforts method | 3,783,992 | 4,332,222 |
| Other | 19,521 | 19,521 |
| Accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization | (2,945,283) | (3,397,467) |
| Net property and equipment | 934,621 | 1,038,420 |
| Other Assets | 1,156 | 1,192 |
| | \$ 1,085,136 | \$ 1,195,850 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' DEFICIT | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$ 41,583 | \$ 57,276 |
| Accrued Liabilities | 30,667 | 38,444 |
| Total current liabilities | 72,250 | 95,720 |
| Long-term Debt | 1,210,582 | 1,249,330 |
| Deferred Income Taxes | 6,423 | 1,965 |
| Reserve for Future Abandonment Costs | 16,100 | 20,093 |
| Total liabilities | 1,305,355 | 1,367,108 |
| Commitments and Contingencies | | |
| Stockholders' Deficit: | | |
| Common stock – \$0.50 par, 75,000,000 shares authorized, 53,148,937 and 47,720,176 shares outstanding at March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively | 26,574 | 23,860 |

Edgar Filing: COMSTOCK RESOURCES INC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Additional paid-in capital | 490,484 | 485,582 |
| Accumulated deficit | (737,277) | (680,700) |
| Total stockholders' deficit | (220,219) | (171,258) |
| | \$1,085,136 | \$ 1,195,850 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(Unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|---|-------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (in thousands, except per share amounts) | |
| Revenues: | | |
| Oil sales | \$ 11,016 | \$ 45,953 |
| Natural gas sales | 25,147 | 20,569 |
| Total oil and gas sales | 36,163 | 66,522 |
| Gain on exchange of oil and gas properties | 740 | — |
| Total revenues | 36,903 | 66,522 |
| Operating expenses: | | |
| Production taxes | 1,186 | 2,974 |
| Gathering and transportation | 4,365 | 2,853 |
| Lease operating | 12,960 | 15,136 |
| Exploration | 7,753 | 42,229 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 38,836 | 91,889 |
| General and administrative | 5,575 | 7,966 |
| Impairment of oil and gas properties | 22,718 | 403 |
| Total operating expenses | 93,393 | 163,450 |
| Operating loss | (56,490) | (96,928) |
| Other income (expenses): | | |
| Net gain (loss) on extinguishment of debt | 33,380 | (2,735) |
| Gain on derivative financial instruments | 656 | — |
| Other income | 281 | 287 |
| Interest expense | (29,944) | (20,754) |
| Total other income (expenses) | 4,373 | (23,202) |
| Loss before income taxes | (52,117) | (120,130) |
| (Provision for) benefit from income taxes | (4,460) | 41,628 |
| Net loss | \$(56,577) | \$(78,502) |
| Net loss per share – basic and diluted | \$(1.14) | \$(1.71) |

Weighted average shares outstanding – basic and diluted 49,512 46,027

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF STOCKHOLDERS' DEFICIT

For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2016

(Unaudited)

| | Common Stock (Shares) (In thousands) | Common Stock – Par Value | Additional Paid-in Capital | Accumulated Deficit | Total |
|--|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Balance at January 1, 2016 | 47,720 | \$ 23,860 | \$ 485,582 | \$ (680,700) | \$(171,258) |
| Stock-based compensation | 1,023 | 512 | 818 | — | 1,330 |
| Restricted stock used for tax withholdings | (209) | (105) | (207) | — | (312) |
| Stock issued in exchange for debt | 4,615 | 2,307 | 4,291 | — | 6,598 |
| Net loss | — | — | — | (56,577) | (56,577) |
| Balance at March 31, 2016 | 53,149 | \$ 26,574 | \$ 490,484 | \$ (737,277) | \$(220,219) |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities: | | |
| Net loss | \$(56,577) | \$(78,502) |
| Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities: | | |
| Gain on exchange of oil and gas properties | (740) | — |
| Deferred income taxes | 4,446 | (41,691) |
| Leasehold impairments, dry hole costs and other exploration costs | 7,753 | 42,229 |
| Impairment of oil and gas properties | 22,718 | 403 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 38,836 | 91,889 |
| Gain on derivative financial instruments | (656) | — |
| Settlements of derivative financial instruments | 998 | — |
| Net (gain) loss on extinguishment of debt | (33,380) | 2,735 |
| Amortization of debt discount, premium and issuance costs | 1,281 | 1,061 |
| Stock-based compensation | 1,330 | 1,892 |
| Excess income taxes from stock-based compensation | — | 1,510 |
| Decrease in accounts receivable | 4,287 | 15,081 |
| Decrease in other current assets | 109 | 7,724 |
| Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (21,444) | 15,897 |
| Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities | (31,039) | 60,228 |
| Cash Flows From Investing Activities: | | |
| Capital expenditures | (14,185) | (140,397) |
| Proceeds from asset sales | 868 | — |
| Net cash used for investing activities | (13,317) | (140,397) |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities: | | |
| Borrowings | — | 740,000 |
| Principal payments on debt | — | (415,000) |
| Debt issuance costs | (15) | (15,970) |
| Tax withholdings related to restricted stock | (312) | (526) |
| Excess income taxes from stock-based compensation | — | (1,510) |
| Net cash provided by (used for) financing activities | (327) | 306,994 |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | (44,683) | 226,825 |

Edgar Filing: COMSTOCK RESOURCES INC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|----------|-----------|
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 134,006 | 2,071 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$89,323 | \$228,896 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

7

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2016

(Unaudited)

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES –

Basis of Presentation

In management's opinion, the accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments necessary to present fairly the financial position of Comstock Resources, Inc. and subsidiaries ("Comstock" or the "Company") as of March 31, 2016, the related results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, and cash flows for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015. Net loss and comprehensive loss are the same in all periods presented. All adjustments are of a normal recurring nature unless otherwise disclosed.

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Certain information and disclosures normally included in annual financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States have been omitted pursuant to those rules and regulations, although Comstock believes that the disclosures made are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. These unaudited consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in Comstock's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

The results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2016 are not necessarily an indication of the results expected for the full year.

These unaudited consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Comstock and its wholly-owned and controlled subsidiaries.

Property and Equipment

The Company follows the successful efforts method of accounting for its oil and gas properties. Costs incurred to acquire oil and gas leasehold are capitalized.

At March 31, 2016, the Company reflected certain of its natural gas properties located in South Texas as assets held for sale in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet. The Company engaged financial advisors in February 2016 to sell the properties. At March 31, 2016, these assets were reflected on the balance sheet at \$42.5 million, representing their estimated net realizable value on a sale less costs to sell. The Company has recognized an impairment charge of \$20.8 million to adjust the carrying value of these assets to their net realizable value. The impairment, which is a Level 3 fair value measurement, was computed using a discounted cash flow valuation approach which is consistent with the Company's methodology for determining impairments of its proved oil and gas properties. The asset retirement obligation related to these properties of \$3.4 million is included in accrued

liabilities. During 2016 and 2015, the Company sold certain oil and gas properties for total proceeds of \$0.9 million in the three months ended March 31, 2016 and \$102.5 million in the third quarter of 2015. Results of operations for the properties that were sold or are being held for sale were as follows:

| | Three Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Total oil and gas sales | \$ 1,699 | \$ 8,424 |
| Total operating expenses ⁽¹⁾ | (1,469) | (54,087) |
| Operating income (loss) | \$ 230 | \$ (45,663) |

(1) Includes direct operating expenses, depreciation, depletion and amortization and exploration expense. Excludes interest expense and general and administrative expenses.

In January 2016, the Company exchanged certain oil and gas properties with another operator in a non-monetary exchange. Under the exchange, the Company received 3,637 net acres in DeSoto Parish, Louisiana, prospective for the Haynesville shale, including four producing wells (3.5 net). The Company exchanged 2,547 net acres in Atascosa County, Texas, including seven producing wells (5.3 net) for the Haynesville shale properties. The Company has recognized a gain of \$0.7 million on this transaction

which is included in the gain on exchange of oil and gas properties for the three months ended March 31, 2016.

Unproved oil and gas properties are periodically assessed and any impairment in value is charged to exploration expense. The costs of unproved properties which are determined to be productive are transferred to oil and gas properties and amortized on an equivalent unit-of-production basis. The Company recognized impairment charges in exploration expense of \$7.8 million and \$40.4 million during the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively, related to certain leases that the Company currently does not plan to develop.

The Company also assesses the need for an impairment of the capitalized costs for its proved oil and gas properties on a property basis. During the three months ended March 31, 2016, reductions to management's oil and natural gas price outlook resulted in indications of impairment of certain of the Company's properties. Accordingly, the Company recognized additional impairments of its oil and gas properties of \$1.9 million and \$0.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively, to reduce the carrying value of these properties to their estimated fair value.

The Company determines the fair values of its oil and gas properties using a discounted cash flow model and proved and risk adjusted probable reserves. Undrilled acreage can also be valued based on sales transactions in comparable areas. Significant Level 3 assumptions associated with the calculation of discounted future cash flows included in the cash flow model include management's outlook for oil and natural gas prices, production costs, capital expenditures, and future production as well as estimated proved reserves and risk-adjusted probable reserves. Management's oil and natural gas price outlook is developed based on third-party longer-term price forecasts as of each measurement date. The expected future net cash flows are discounted using an appropriate discount rate in determining a property's fair value.

It is reasonably possible that the Company's estimates of undiscounted future net cash flows attributable to its oil and gas properties may change in the future. The primary factors that may affect estimates of future cash flows include future adjustments, both positive and negative, to proved and appropriate risk-adjusted probable oil and gas reserves, results of future drilling activities, future prices for oil and natural gas, and increases or decreases in production and capital costs. As a result of these changes, or if in the future the Company does not have access to sufficient capital to develop any undrilled reserves used in its assessment, there may be further impairments in the carrying values of these or other properties.

Accrued Liabilities

Accrued liabilities at March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 consist of the following:

| | As of March 31, 2016 | As of December 31, 2015 |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Accrued interest | \$21,572 | \$ 29,075 |
| Accrued drilling costs | — | 5,306 |
| Accrued ad valorem taxes | 1,200 | — |
| Asset retirement obligation of assets held for sale | 3,442 | — |

Edgar Filing: COMSTOCK RESOURCES INC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Other accrued liabilities | 4,453 | 4,063 |
| | \$30,667 | \$ 38,444 |

Reserve for Future Abandonment Costs

Comstock's asset retirement obligations relate to future plugging and abandonment expenses on its oil and gas properties and related facilities disposal. The following table summarizes the changes in Comstock's total estimated liability for such obligations during the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Future abandonment costs — beginning of period | \$20,093 | \$14,900 |
| Accretion expense | 274 | 198 |
| New wells placed on production | 1 | 213 |
| Assets held for sale | (3,442) | — |
| Liabilities settled and assets disposed of | (826) | — |
| Future abandonment costs — end of period | \$16,100 | \$15,311 |

Derivative Financial Instruments and Hedging Activities

Comstock periodically uses swaps, floors and collars to hedge oil and natural gas prices and interest rates. Swaps are settled monthly based on differences between the prices specified in the instruments and the settlement prices of futures contracts. Generally, when the applicable settlement price is less than the price specified in the contract, Comstock receives a settlement from the counterparty based on the difference multiplied by the volume or amounts hedged. Similarly, when the applicable settlement price exceeds the price specified in the contract, Comstock pays the counterparty based on the difference. Comstock generally receives a settlement from the counterparty for floors when the applicable settlement price is less than the price specified in the contract, which is based on the difference multiplied by the volumes hedged. For collars, generally Comstock receives a settlement from the counterparty when the settlement price is below the floor and pays a settlement to the counterparty when the settlement price exceeds the cap. No settlement occurs when the settlement price falls between the floor and cap. All of the Company's derivative financial instruments are used for risk management purposes and, by policy, none are held for trading or speculative purposes. Comstock minimizes credit risk to counterparties of its derivative financial instruments through formal credit policies, monitoring procedures, and diversification. All of Comstock's derivative financial instruments are with parties that are lenders under its bank credit facility. The Company is not required to provide any credit support to its counterparties other than cross collateralization with the assets securing its bank credit facility. None of the Company's derivative financial instruments involve payment or receipt of premiums.

As of March 31, 2016, the Company had the following outstanding commodity derivatives:

| Commodity and Derivative Type | Weighted-Average Contract Price | Contract Volume (Mmbtu) | Contract Period April 2016 – |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Natural Gas Price Swap Agreements | \$3.20 per Mmbtu | 900,000 | June 2016 |

None of the Company's derivative contracts have been designated as cash flow hedges. The Company recognizes cash settlements and changes in the fair value of its derivative financial instruments as a single component of other income (expenses). The Company recognized a gain of \$0.7 million related to the change in fair value of its natural gas swap agreements during the three months ended March 31, 2016. Cash settlements on the Company's natural gas derivative financial instruments were receipts of \$1.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016. The Company had no derivative financial instruments outstanding during the three months ended March 31, 2015. The estimated fair value and carrying value of the Company's derivative financial instruments was \$1.1 million as of March 31, 2016, and was classified as a current asset.

Stock-Based Compensation

Comstock accounts for employee stock-based compensation under the fair value method. Compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on the fair value of the award and is recognized over the award vesting period. During the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, the Company recognized \$1.3 million and \$1.9 million, respectively, of stock-based compensation expense within general and administrative expenses related to awards of restricted stock and performance stock units to its employees and directors.

During the three months ended March 31, 2016, the Company granted 998,091 shares of restricted stock with a grant date fair value of \$1.1 million, or \$1.11 per share, to its employees. The fair value of each restricted share on the date of grant was equal to its market price. As of March 31, 2016, Comstock had 1,822,604 shares of unvested restricted stock outstanding at a weighted average grant date fair value of \$3.46 per share. Total unrecognized compensation

cost related to unvested restricted stock grants of \$5.1 million as of March 31, 2016 is expected to be recognized over a period of 2.2 years.

During the three months ended March 31, 2016, the Company granted 300,064 performance share units ("PSUs") with a grant date fair value of \$0.4 million, or \$1.40 per unit, to its employees. As of March 31, 2016, Comstock had 673,133 PSUs outstanding at a weighted average grant date fair value of \$4.42 per unit. The number of shares of common stock to be issued related to the PSUs is based on the Company's stock price performance as compared to its peers which could result in the issuance of anywhere from zero to 1,346,266 shares of common stock. Total unrecognized compensation cost related to these grants of \$2.1 million as of March 31, 2016 is expected to be recognized over a period of 2.2 years.

As of March 31, 2016, Comstock had outstanding options to purchase 58,650 shares of common stock at a weighted average exercise price of \$33.22 per share. All of the stock options were exercisable and there were no unrecognized compensation costs related to the stock options as of March 31, 2016. No stock options were granted or exercised during the three months ended March 31, 2016 or 2015.

Income Taxes

Deferred income taxes are provided to reflect the future tax consequences or benefits of differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements using enacted tax rates. The deferred tax provision in the first three months of 2016 related to an increase in the Company's deferred income tax liability resulting from state tax law changes enacted during the period. In recording deferred income tax assets, the Company considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of its deferred income tax assets will be realized in the future. The ultimate realization of deferred income tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which those deferred income tax assets would be deductible. The Company believes that after considering all the available objective evidence, historical and prospective, with greater weight given to historical evidence, management is not able to determine that it is more likely than not that all of its deferred tax assets will be realized and, therefore, has recorded an additional valuation allowance of \$19.7 million and \$4.0 million against its net federal deferred tax assets and state deferred tax assets (net of the federal tax benefit), respectively, at March 31, 2016. The Company will continue to assess the valuation allowance against deferred tax assets considering all available information obtained in future reporting periods.

The following is an analysis of consolidated income tax expense (benefit):

| | Three Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Current provision | \$ 14 | \$ 63 |
| Deferred provision (benefit) | 4,446 | (41,691) |
| Provision for (benefit from) income taxes | \$ 4,460 | \$ (41,628) |

The difference between the Company's effective tax rate and the 35% federal statutory rate is caused by valuation allowances on deferred taxes and state taxes. The impact of these items varies based upon the Company's projected full year loss and the jurisdictions that are expected to generate the projected losses. The difference between the Company's customary rate of 35% and the effective tax rate on the loss before income taxes is due to the following:

| | Three Months Ended | | | |
|--|--------------------|----|------|---|
| | March 31, | | | |
| | 2016 | | 2015 | |
| Tax at statutory rate | 35.0 | % | 35.0 | % |
| Tax effect of: | | | | |
| Valuation allowance on deferred tax assets | (45.4 |) | — | |
| State income taxes net of federal benefit | 2.1 | | — | |
| Other | (0.3 |) | (0.3 |) |
| Effective tax rate | (8.6 |)% | 34.7 | % |

The Company's federal income tax returns for the years subsequent to December 31, 2011, remain subject to examination. The Company's income tax returns in major state income tax jurisdictions remain subject to examination

for the year ended December 31, 2008 and for various periods subsequent to December 31, 2010. A state tax return in one state jurisdiction is currently under review. The Company has evaluated the preliminary findings in this jurisdiction and believes it is more likely than not that the ultimate resolution of these matters will not have a material effect on the Company's financial statements. The Company currently believes that all other significant filing positions are highly certain and that all of its other significant income tax positions and deductions would be sustained under audit or the final resolution would not have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements. Therefore, the Company has not established any significant reserves for uncertain tax positions.

Future use of the Company's federal and state net operating loss carryforwards may be limited in the event that a cumulative change in the ownership of Comstock's common stock by more than 50% occurs within a three-year period. Such a change in ownership could result in a substantial portion of Comstock's net operating loss carryforwards being eliminated or becoming restricted, and the Company may need to recognize an additional valuation allowance reflecting the restricted use of these net operating loss carryforwards in the period when such an ownership change occurred. In October 2015, the Company established a rights plan to deter ownership changes that would trigger this limitation.

Fair Value Measurements

The Company holds or has held certain items that are required to be measured at fair value. These include cash and cash equivalents held in bank accounts and derivative financial instruments in the form of oil and natural gas price swap agreements. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. A three-level hierarchy is followed for disclosure to show the extent and level of judgment used to estimate fair value measurements:

Level 1 – Inputs used to measure fair value are unadjusted quoted prices that are available in active markets for the identical assets or liabilities as of the reporting date.

Level 2 – Inputs used to measure fair value, other than quoted prices included in Level 1, are either directly or indirectly observable as of the reporting date through correlation with market data, including quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets and quoted prices in markets that are not active. Level 2 also includes assets and liabilities that are valued using models or other pricing methodologies that do not require significant judgment since the input assumptions used in the models, such as interest rates and volatility factors, are corroborated by readily observable data from actively quoted markets for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.

Level 3 – Inputs used to measure fair value are unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and reflect the use of significant management judgment. These values are generally determined using pricing models for which the assumptions utilize management's estimates of market participant assumptions.

The Company's valuation of cash and cash equivalents is a Level 1 measurement. The Company's natural gas price swap agreements are not traded on a public exchange. Their value is determined utilizing a discounted cash flow model based on inputs that are readily available in public markets and, accordingly, the valuation of these swap agreements is categorized as a Level 2 measurement.

The following table summarizes financial assets and liabilities accounted for at fair value as of March 31, 2016:

| | Carrying Value Measured at Fair Value at March 31, 2016 | | |
|---|---|----------|---------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents held in bank accounts | \$89,323 | \$89,323 | \$— |
| Derivative financial instruments | 1,104 | — | 1,104 |
| Total assets | \$90,427 | \$89,323 | \$1,104 |

As of March 31, 2016, the Company's other financial instruments, comprised solely of its fixed rate debt, had a carrying value of \$1.2 billion and a fair value of \$415.4 million. The fair market value of the Company's fixed rate debt was based on quoted prices as of March 31, 2016, a Level 2 measurement.

Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share is determined without the effect of any outstanding potentially dilutive stock options or PSUs and diluted earnings per share is determined with the effect of outstanding stock options and PSUs that are potentially dilutive. Unvested share-based payment awards containing nonforfeitable rights to dividends are considered to be participatory securities and are included in the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share pursuant to the two-class method. PSUs represent the right to receive a number of shares of the Company's common stock that may range from zero to up to two times the number of PSUs granted on the award date based on the achievement of certain performance measures during a performance period. The number of potentially dilutive shares related to PSUs is based on the number of shares, if any, which would be issuable at the end of the respective period, assuming that date was the end of the contingency period. The treasury stock method is used to measure the dilutive effect of PSUs. Basic and diluted losses per share for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 were determined as follows:

Edgar Filing: COMSTOCK RESOURCES INC - Form 10-Q

| | Three Months ended March 31, | | 2015 | | Per Share | |
|---|--|--------|--------------|------------|--------------|----------|
| | 2016 | | Loss | Shares | | |
| | Loss | Shares | Per Share | Loss | Shares | |
| | (In thousands, except per share amounts) | | | | | |
| Basic and Diluted net loss attributable to common stock | \$(56,577) | 49,512 | \$(1.14) | \$(78,502) | 46,027 | \$(1.71) |

At March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, 1,822,604 and 1,570,302 shares of restricted stock, respectively, are included in common stock outstanding as such shares have a nonforfeitable right to participate in any dividends that might be declared and have the right to vote on matters submitted to the Company's stockholders. Weighted average shares of unvested restricted stock outstanding during the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 were as follows:

| | Three Months Ended | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| | March 31, 2016 | 2015 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Unvested restricted stock | 1,571 | 1,166 |

Options to purchase common stock and PSUs that were outstanding and that were excluded as anti-dilutive from the determination of diluted earnings per share are as follows:

| | Three Months Ended | |
|---|--|----------|
| | March 31, 2016 | 2015 |
| | (In thousands except per share/unit data) | |
| Weighted average stock options | 59 | 111 |
| Weighted average exercise price per share | \$ 33.22 | \$ 32.95 |
| Weighted average performance share units | — | 111 |
| Weighted average grant date fair value per unit | \$ — | \$ 9.13 |

For the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, the excluded options that were anti-dilutive were at exercise prices in excess of the average stock price. All stock options and unvested PSUs were anti-dilutive to earnings and excluded from weighted average shares used in the computation of earnings per share in the periods presented due to the net loss in those periods.

Supplementary Information With Respect to the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

Edgar Filing: COMSTOCK RESOURCES INC - Form 10-Q

For the purpose of the consolidated statements of cash flows, the Company considers all highly liquid investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

The following is a summary of cash payments made for interest and income taxes:

| | Three Months Ended | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| | March 31, 2016 | 2015 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Interest payments | \$36,167 | \$2,093 |
| Income tax payments | \$1 | \$11 |

The Company capitalizes interest on its unevaluated oil and gas property costs during periods when it is conducting exploration activity on this acreage. No interest was capitalized during the three months ended March 31, 2016. The Company capitalized interest of \$0.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 which reduced interest expense.

Recent accounting pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606) ("ASU 2014-09"), which supersedes nearly all existing revenue recognition guidance under existing generally accepted accounting principles. This new standard is based upon the principal that revenue is recognized to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. ASU 2014-09 also requires additional disclosure about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from customer contracts. ASU 2014-09 is effective for annual and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2017. Early adoption is permitted beginning with periods after December 15, 2016 and entities have the option of using either a full retrospective or modified approach to adopt ASU 2014-09. The Company is currently evaluating the new guidance and has not determined the impact this standard may have on its financial statements or decided upon the method of adoption.

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-15, Presentation of Financial Statements - Going Concern (Subtopic 205-40): Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern ("ASU 2014-15"). ASU 2014-15 provides guidance about management's responsibility to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about an entity's ability to continue as a going concern and sets rules for how this information should be disclosed in the financial statements. ASU 2014-15 is effective for annual periods ending after December 15, 2016 and interim periods thereafter. Early adoption is permitted. The Company has elected to not adopt ASU 2014-15 early and does not expect adoption of ASU 2014-15 to have any impact on its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases, ("ASU 2016-02"). ASU 2016-02 requires lessees to put most leases on their balance sheets, but recognize lease costs in their financial statements in a manner similar to accounting for leases prior to ASC 2016-02. ASU 2016-02 is effective for annual periods ending after December 15, 2018 and interim periods thereafter. Early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the new guidance and has not determined the impact this standard may have on its financial statements or decided upon the method of adoption.

In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-09, Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting, ("ASU 2016-09"). ASU 2016-09 will change how companies account for certain aspects of share-based payments, including recognizing the income tax effects of awards in the income statement when the awards vest or are settled. ASC 2016-09 revises guidance on employers' accounting for employee's use of shares to satisfy the employer's statutory income tax withholding obligation and the treatment of forfeitures. ASU 2016-09 is effective for annual periods ending after December 15, 2016 and interim periods thereafter. Early adoption is permitted, but all guidance must be adopted in the same period. The Company is currently evaluating the new guidance and has not determined the impact this standard may have on its financial statements or decided upon the method of adoption.

(2) STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY—

On March 24, 2016, the Company received a notification from the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”) notifying the Company that it was not in compliance with the NYSE's continued listing standards. The Company is considered below criteria established by the NYSE as a result of the Company's average stock price trading below \$1.00 per share and its average market capitalization being less than \$50 million, in each case over a consecutive 30 trading-day period.

The Company will submit a plan to the NYSE to outline steps to be taken to cure the deficiency in its stock price and market capitalization. If the Company fails to cure its stock price deficiency within six months, or its market capitalization deficit within eighteen months, it will be subject to suspension or delisting by the NYSE. The Company's stock will continue to trade on the NYSE pending acceptance by the NYSE of the Company's plan. In the event that the NYSE does not accept the Company's plan, the Company will be subject to suspension and delisting procedures by the NYSE.

(3) LONG-TERM DEBT –

At March 31, 2016, long-term debt was comprised of:

| | (In thousands) |
|--|----------------|
| 7 ³ / ₄ % Senior Notes due 2019: | |
| Principal | \$ 336,090 |
| Premium, net of amortization | 2,955 |
| Debt issue costs, net of amortization | (3,131) |
| 9 ¹ / ₂ % Senior Notes due 2020: | |
| Principal | 194,367 |
| Discount, net of amortization | (4,755) |
| Debt issue costs, net of amortization | (2,261) |
| 10% Senior Secured Notes due 2020: | |
| Principal | 700,000 |
| Debt issue costs, net of amortization | (12,683) |
| | \$ 1,210,582 |

In March 2015, Comstock issued \$700.0 million of 10% senior secured notes (the "Secured Notes") which are due on March 15, 2020. Interest on the Secured Notes is payable semi-annually on each March 15 and September 15. Net proceeds from the issuance of the Secured Notes of \$683.8 million were used to retire the Company's bank credit facility and for general corporate purposes. Comstock also has outstanding (i) \$336.1 million of 7³/₄% senior notes (the "2019 Notes") which are due on April 1, 2019 and bear interest which is payable semi-annually on each April 1 and October 1 and (ii) \$194.4 million of 9¹/₂% senior notes (the "2020 Notes") which are due on June 15, 2020 and bear interest which is payable semi-annually on each June 15 and December 15. The Secured Notes are secured on a first-priority basis equally and ratably with the Company's revolving credit facility described below, subject to payment priorities in favor of the revolving credit facility by the collateral securing the revolving credit facility, which consists of, among other things, at least 80% of the Company's and its subsidiaries' oil and gas properties. The Secured Notes, the 2019 Notes and the 2020 Notes are general obligations of Comstock and are guaranteed by all of Comstock's subsidiaries. Such subsidiary guarantors are 100% owned and all of the guarantees are full and unconditional and joint and several obligations. There are no restrictions on the ability of Comstock to obtain funds from its subsidiaries through dividends or loans. As of March 31, 2016, Comstock had no material assets or operations which are independent of its subsidiaries.

During the three months ended March 31, 2016, the Company exchanged \$40.0 million in principal amount of the 2019 Notes for the issuance of 4,614,655 shares of common stock. A gain of \$33.4 million recognized on the exchange of the 2019 Notes is included in the net gain on extinguishment of debt for the difference between the market value of the stock on the closing date of the exchange and the net carrying value of the debt and the related net premium and net debt issuance costs.

Comstock has a \$50.0 million revolving credit facility with Bank of Montreal and Bank of America, N.A. The revolving credit facility is a four year credit commitment that matures on March 4, 2019. Indebtedness under the revolving credit facility is guaranteed by all of the Company's subsidiaries and is secured by substantially all of Comstock's and its subsidiaries' assets. Borrowings under the revolving credit facility bear interest, at Comstock's option, at either (1) LIBOR plus 2.5% or (2) the base rate (which is the higher of the administrative agent's prime rate, the federal funds rate plus 0.5% or 30 day LIBOR plus 1.0%) plus 1.5%. A commitment fee of 0.5% per annum is payable quarterly on the unused credit line. The revolving credit facility contains covenants that, among other things, restrict the payment of cash dividends and repurchases of common stock, limit the amount of additional debt that

Comstock may incur and limit the Company's ability to make certain loans, investments and divestitures. The only financial covenants are the maintenance of a current ratio of at least 1.0 to 1.0 and the maintenance of an asset coverage ratio of proved developed reserves to total debt outstanding under the revolving credit facility of at least 2.5 to 1.0. The Company was in compliance with these covenants as of March 31, 2016.

(4) Commitments and Contingencies –

From time to time, Comstock is involved in certain litigation that arises in the normal course of its operations. The Company records a loss contingency for these matters when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. The Company does not believe the resolution of these matters will have a material effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In connection with its exploration and development activities, the Company contracts for drilling rigs. As of March 31, 2016, the Company had commitments for contracted drilling services through May 2016 of \$1.0 million.

The Company has entered into natural gas transportation and treating agreements through July 2019. Maximum commitments under these transportation agreements as of March 31, 2016 totaled \$5.9 million.

(5) SUBSEQUENT EVENTS –

In April and May 2016, the Company retired \$64.3 million of principal of its outstanding debt comprised of \$47.6 million of its 2019 Notes and \$16.7 million of its 2020 Notes. The senior notes were acquired in several transactions in exchange for the issuance of 7,627,358 shares of common stock and \$3.5 million in cash for total consideration of \$9.2 million based on the stock price on the closing dates of the transactions plus accrued interest. The effect on the consolidated financial statements of the Company is to decrease the carrying value of long-term debt by \$63.7 million and increase stockholders' equity by \$60.2 million, comprised of \$5.7 million of value for the common stock issued and a gain on retirement of debt of \$54.5 million.

ITEM 2: MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

This report contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties that are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual results may differ materially from those anticipated in our forward-looking statements due to many factors. The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in this report and in our annual report filed on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

The prices for crude oil and natural gas have been highly volatile over the last twelve months, and we continue to experience a period of low prices primarily due to an oversupply of oil and natural gas. As these prices remain low, we continue to experience lower revenues and cash flows. We expect our oil production to continue to decline until we resume drilling on our properties. We anticipate that our natural gas production will increase through our 2016 drilling program focused on our Haynesville shale properties. We may also recognize further impairments of our producing oil and gas properties if oil and natural gas prices remain low and as a result the expected future cash flows from these properties becomes insufficient to recover their carrying value or we do not have sufficient capital to develop undeveloped reserves required to recover their carrying value. In addition, we may recognize additional impairments of our unevaluated oil and gas properties should we determine that we no longer intend to retain these properties for future development.

Results of Operations

| | Three Months Ended March 31, 2016 2015 (In thousands, except per unit amounts) | |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|
| Net Production Data: | | |
| Natural gas (Mmcf) | 13,825 | 8,200 |
| Oil (Mbbls) | 417 | 1,036 |
| Natural gas equivalent (Mmcfe) | 16,325 | 14,418 |
| Revenues: | | |
| Natural gas sales | \$25,147 | \$20,569 |
| Oil sales | 11,016 | 45,953 |
| Total oil and gas sales | \$36,163 | \$66,522 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Production taxes | \$1,186 | \$2,974 |
| Gathering and transportation | 4,365 | 2,853 |
| Lease operating ⁽¹⁾ | 12,960 | 15,136 |
| Exploration expense | 7,753 | 42,229 |

Edgar Filing: COMSTOCK RESOURCES INC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 38,836 | 91,889 |
|--|--------|--------|

Average Sales Price:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| Natural gas (per Mcf) | \$1.82 | \$2.51 |
| Oil (per Bbl) | \$26.44 | \$44.34 |
| Average equivalent (Mcf) | \$2.22 | \$4.61 |

Expenses (\$ per Mcfe):

| | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| Production taxes | \$0.07 | \$0.21 |
| Gathering and transportation | \$0.27 | \$0.20 |
| Lease operating ⁽¹⁾ | \$0.79 | \$1.04 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization ⁽²⁾ | \$2.36 | \$6.35 |

(1) Includes ad valorem taxes.

(2) Represents depreciation, depletion and amortization of oil and gas properties only.

Revenues –

Our oil and natural gas sales decreased \$30.3 million (46%) in the first quarter of 2016 to \$36.2 million from \$66.5 million in the first quarter of 2015, primarily due to a substantial decline in oil and natural gas prices. Gas sales in the first quarter increased 22% to \$25.1 million due to higher gas production offset in part by lower natural gas prices. Our natural gas production increased by 69% from the first quarter of 2015 while our realized natural gas price decreased by 27% during the same period. The increase in our

natural gas production has been driven by our successful natural gas drilling program that we commenced in 2015. Oil sales in the first quarter of 2016 decreased by 76% to \$11.0 million from the first quarter of 2015 due to a 60% decrease in our oil production and a 40% decrease in our realized oil prices as compared with the first quarter of 2015.

The decline in oil production is attributable to the sale of our East Texas Eagle Ford shale properties in or near Burleson, Texas and the lack of drilling activity in our South Texas Eagle Ford shale properties in South Texas.

Costs and Expenses –

Production taxes decreased \$1.8 million to \$1.2 million for the first quarter of 2016 from \$3.0 million in the first quarter of 2015. These decreases are mainly related to our lower oil and gas sales in 2016 as well as state exemptions on our Haynesville shale wells drilled in 2015 and 2016.

Gathering and transportation costs for the first quarter of 2016 increased \$1.5 million to \$4.4 million as compared to \$2.9 million in the first quarter of 2015. Our gathering and transportation costs have increased due to the volume growth from our Haynesville shale drilling program.

Our lease operating expense of \$13.0 million for the first quarter of 2016 decreased \$2.1 million (14%) from operating expense of \$15.1 million for the first quarter of 2015. This decrease primarily reflects lower costs associated with our declining oil production. Our lease operating expense of \$0.79 per Mcfe produced for the three months ended March 31, 2016 was \$0.25 per Mcfe lower than the lease operating expense of \$1.04 per Mcfe for the same period in 2015.

Exploration costs of \$7.8 million and \$42.2 million in the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively, primarily related to impairments of unevaluated leases and rig termination fees in 2015.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization ("DD&A") decreased \$53.1 million (58%) to \$38.8 million in the first quarter of 2016 from \$91.9 million in the first quarter of 2015. Our DD&A per equivalent Mcf produced decreased \$3.99 (63%) to \$2.36 for the three months ended March 31, 2016 from \$6.35 for the three months ended March 31, 2015. The lower rate in the first quarter of 2016 reflects the impairments we recognized in 2015 as well as the increase in production from the lower cost Haynesville shale properties.

General and administrative expenses, which are reported net of overhead reimbursements, decreased to \$5.6 million for the first quarter of 2016 from \$8.0 million in the first quarter of 2015. The lower general and administrative costs are attributable to a reduction in personnel and related compensation costs in 2016. Included in general and administrative expenses are stock-based compensation of \$1.3 million and \$1.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

We assess the need for impairment of the capitalized costs for our oil and gas properties on a property basis. We recognized impairment charges of \$1.9 million and \$0.4 million on our oil and gas properties during the three months ended March 31, 2016 and March 31, 2015, respectively, primarily due to the decline in management's oil and natural gas price outlook. Also included in impairments for the three months ended March 31, 2016 is an impairment of \$20.8 million to reduce the carrying value of our South Texas natural gas properties classified as assets held for sale to their net realizable value less costs to sell. The gain on exchange of oil and gas properties of \$0.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016 relates to an asset exchange transaction.

Interest expense increased \$9.1 million to \$29.9 million for the first quarter of 2016 from interest expense of \$20.8 million in the first quarter of 2015. We did not capitalize interest during the three months ended March 31, 2016 and we capitalized interest of \$0.9 million during the three months ended March 31, 2015. The increase in interest expense primarily relates to the issuance of \$700.0 million of senior secured notes in March 2015.

Edgar Filing: COMSTOCK RESOURCES INC - Form 10-Q

We utilize oil and natural gas price swaps to manage our exposure to oil and natural gas prices and protect returns on investment from our drilling activities. Gains related to our natural gas derivative financial instruments that covered a portion of our production were \$0.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016. We had no crude oil or natural gas swaps during the three months ended March 31, 2015. The following table presents our natural gas prices before and after the effect of cash settlements of our derivative financial instruments:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| Average Realized Natural Gas Price: | | |
| Natural gas, per Mcf | \$ 1.82 | \$ 2.51 |
| Cash settlements of derivative financial instruments, per Mcf | 0.07 | — |
| Price per Mcf, including cash settlements of derivative financial instruments | \$ 1.89 | \$ 2.51 |

18

During the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, we recognized a net gain on extinguishment of debt of \$33.4 million and net loss on extinguishment of debt of \$2.7 million, respectively. We retired \$40.0 million and \$2.0 million of principal of our senior notes in the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The loss for the three months ended March 31, 2015 primarily relates to certain debt issuance costs that were written off as part of our senior notes offering transaction during that period.

Income taxes for the three months ended March 31, 2016 were a provision of \$4.5 million as compared to a benefit of \$41.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015. Our effective tax rate for the three months ended March 31, 2016 was a provision of 8.6% as compared to a benefit of 34.7% for the three months ended March 31, 2015. During the first quarter of 2016, Louisiana changed its tax laws with respect to the utilization of net operating losses. As a result of this tax law change we increased our deferred income tax liability related to state income taxes by \$4.5 million. No benefit for income taxes was reflected on the loss in the first quarter of 2016 due to the increase to our valuation allowances related to federal and certain state net operating losses. The effective tax rate for 2015 differed slightly from the expected rate of 35% primarily because of state taxes.

We reported a net loss of \$56.6 million, or \$1.14 per share, for the three months ended March 31, 2016 as compared to a net loss of \$78.5 million, or \$1.71 per share, for the three months ended March 31, 2015. The net loss in the three months ended March 31, 2016 was primarily due to the substantial oil and gas property impairment charges recognized, lower oil and natural gas prices and higher interest expense.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Funding for our activities has historically been provided by our operating cash flow, debt or equity financings or proceeds from asset sales. For the three months ended March 31, 2016, our primary source of funds was cash on hand. Cash used for operating activities for the three months ended March 31, 2016 was \$31.0 million as compared to cash provided by operating activities of \$60.2 million for the first three months of 2015. This decrease primarily reflects our lower revenues from oil and gas sales and working capital changes.

Our primary needs for capital, in addition to funding our ongoing operations, relate to the acquisition, development and exploration of our oil and gas properties and the repayment of our debt. In the first three months of 2016, we incurred capital expenditures of \$8.9 million primarily for our development and exploration activities.

The following table summarizes our capital expenditure activity, on an accrual basis, for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, 2016 2015 (In thousands) | |
|------------------------------|--|---------|
| Exploration and development: | | |
| Exploratory leasehold | \$— | \$1,305 |
| Development leasehold | 132 | 377 |
| Development drilling | 7,109 | 94,499 |
| Exploratory drilling | — | 10,763 |

Edgar Filing: COMSTOCK RESOURCES INC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Other development | 1,638 | 16,162 |
| Total capital expenditures | \$8,879 | \$123,106 |

We expect to spend approximately \$81.2 million for our drilling program in 2016 to drill nine Haynesville shale wells and other development activity. We expect to fund our development and exploration activities with future operating cash flow, proceeds from anticipated asset sales and from cash on hand. Our cash flows for the first three months of 2016 were significantly impacted by the low oil and natural gas prices and a reduction in accounts payable due to the timing of our interest payments and our lower drilling activity. We presently anticipate that the use of funds for working capital changes in future periods should decrease, and our future cash flows will increase as oil and natural gas prices improve. The timing of most of our capital expenditures is discretionary because we have no material long-term capital expenditure commitments. Consequently, we have a significant degree of flexibility to adjust the level of our capital expenditures as circumstances warrant. As of March 31, 2016, we have one drilling rig under contract through May 2016 at a cost of \$1.0 million. We may elect to reduce our planned drilling activity based on the outlook for natural gas prices and our liquidity. We also have maximum commitments of \$5.9 million to transport and treat natural gas through July 2019. We have obligations to incur future payments for dismantlement, abandonment and restoration costs of oil and gas properties. These payments are currently estimated to be incurred primarily after 2020.

In March 2015, we issued \$700.0 million of 10% senior secured notes (the "Secured Notes") which are due on March 15, 2020. Interest on the Secured Notes is payable semi-annually on each March 15 and September 15. Net proceeds from the issuance of the Secured Notes of \$683.8 million were used to retire our bank credit facility and for general corporate purposes. We also have outstanding (i) \$336.1 million of 7¾% senior notes (the "2019 Notes") which are due on April 1, 2019 and bear interest which is payable semi-annually on each April 1 and October 1 and (ii) \$194.4 million of 9½% senior notes (the "2020 Notes") which are due on June 15, 2020 and bear interest which is payable semi-annually on each June 15 and December 15. The Secured Notes are secured on a first priority basis equally and ratably with our revolving credit facility described below, subject to payment priorities in favor of the revolving credit facility by the collateral securing the revolving credit facility, which consists of, among other things, at least 80% of our and its subsidiaries' oil and gas properties. The Secured Notes, the 2019 Notes and 2020 Notes are our general obligations and are guaranteed by all of our subsidiaries. Such subsidiary guarantors are 100% owned and all of the guarantees are full and unconditional and joint and several obligations. There are no restrictions on our ability to obtain funds from our subsidiaries through dividends or loans. As of March 31, 2016, we had no material assets or operations which are independent of our subsidiaries.

During the three months ended March 31, 2016, we exchanged \$40.0 million in principal amount of the 2019 Notes for approximately 4.6 million shares of our common stock. The gain of \$33.4 million recognized on the exchange of the 2019 Notes is included in the net gain on extinguishment of debt for the difference between the market value on the closing date of the exchange and the net carrying value of the debt and the related net premium and net debt issuance costs.

In April and May 2016, we retired \$64.3 million of our outstanding debt comprised of \$47.6 million of our 2019 Notes and \$16.7 million of our 2020 Notes. The senior notes were acquired in several transactions in exchange for the issuance of 7,627,358 shares of common stock and \$3.5 million in cash for total consideration of \$9.2 million plus accrued interest.

We have a \$50.0 million revolving credit facility with Bank of Montreal and Bank of America, N.A. The revolving credit facility is a four year credit commitment that matures on March 4, 2019. Indebtedness under the revolving credit facility is secured by substantially all of our and our subsidiaries' assets and is guaranteed by all of our subsidiaries. Borrowings under the revolving credit facility bear interest at our option at either (1) LIBOR plus 2.5% or (2) the base rate (which is the higher of the administrative agent's prime rate, the federal funds rate plus 0.5% or 30 day LIBOR plus 1.0%) plus 1.5%. A commitment fee of 0.5% per annum is payable quarterly on the unused credit line. The revolving credit facility contains covenants that, among other things, restrict the payment of cash dividends and repurchases of common stock, limit the amount of consolidated debt that we may incur and limit our ability to make certain loans, investments and divestitures. The only financial covenants are the maintenance of a current ratio of at least 1.0 to 1.0 and the maintenance of an asset coverage ratio of proved developed reserves to total debt outstanding under the revolving credit facility of at least 2.5 to 1.0. We were in compliance with these covenants as of March 31, 2016.

We believe that our future cash flow from operations, proceeds from asset sales, cash on hand and available borrowings under our revolving credit facility will be sufficient to fund our operations and future growth as contemplated under our current business plan. However, if our plans or assumptions change or if our assumptions prove to be inaccurate, we may be required to seek additional capital. We cannot provide any assurance that we will be able to obtain such capital, or if such capital is available, that we will be able to obtain it on acceptable terms.

Federal Taxation

Future use of our federal net operating loss carryforwards may be limited in the event that a cumulative change in the ownership of our common stock by more than 50% occurs within a three-year period. Such a change in ownership

would result in a substantial portion of our net operating loss carryforwards being eliminated or becoming restricted, and we would need to recognize a valuation allowance reflecting the restricted use of these net operating loss carryforwards in the period when such an ownership change occurred. We may also need to recognize additional valuation allowances on our net operating loss carryforwards in future periods if we incur significant losses and accordingly a tax benefit may not be recognized on such losses. In 2015, we adopted a Rights Plan intended to prevent these potential limitations on our ability to utilize our net operating loss carryforwards.

ITEM 3: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK

Oil and Natural Gas Prices

Our financial condition, results of operations and capital resources are highly dependent upon the prevailing market prices of natural gas and oil. These commodity prices are subject to wide fluctuations and market uncertainties due to a variety of factors, some of which are beyond our control. Factors influencing oil and natural gas prices include the level of global demand for crude oil, the foreign supply of oil and natural gas, the establishment of and compliance with production quotas by oil exporting countries, weather conditions that determine the demand for natural gas, the price and availability of alternative fuels and overall economic conditions. It is impossible to predict future oil and natural gas prices with any degree of certainty. Sustained weakness in natural gas and oil prices may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations, and may also reduce the amount of oil and natural gas reserves

that we can produce economically. Any reduction in our natural gas and oil reserves, including reductions due to price fluctuations, can have an adverse effect on our ability to obtain capital for our exploration and development activities. Similarly, any improvements in natural gas and oil prices can have a favorable impact on our financial condition, results of operations and capital resources. Based on our oil and natural gas production for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and our outstanding natural gas price swap agreements, a \$0.10 change in the price per Mcf of natural gas would have changed our cash flow by approximately \$1.3 million and a \$1.00 change in the price per barrel of oil would have resulted in a change in our cash flow from continuing operations for such period by approximately \$0.4 million.

We have hedged a portion of our price risks associated with our gas sales. As of March 31, 2016, our outstanding natural gas price swap agreements had a fair asset value of \$1.1 million. A change in the fair value of our natural gas price swap agreements that would result from a 10% change in natural gas prices at March 31, 2016 would be \$0.1 million. Such a change in fair value could be a gain or a loss depending on whether prices increase or decrease. Gains and losses on settlements and changes in the fair value of our swap agreements are reported as a separate component of other income (expenses) in the consolidated statement of operations. None of our derivatives contracts have margin requirements or collateral provisions that could require funding prior to the scheduled cash settlement date.

Interest Rates

At March 31, 2016, we had approximately \$1.2 billion of long-term debt outstanding. Of this amount, \$700.0 million bears interest at a fixed rate of 10%, \$336.1 million bears interest at a fixed rate of 7¾% and \$194.4 million bears interest at a fixed rate of 9½%. The fair market value of our fixed rate debt as of March 31, 2016 was \$415.4 million based on the market price of approximately 34% of the face amount. At March 31, 2016, we had no borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility, which is subject to variable rates of interest that are tied at our option to either LIBOR or the corporate base rate.

ITEM 4: CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

As of March 31, 2016, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). Based on this evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of March 31, 2016 to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports filed or submitted by us under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. There were no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that occurred during the quarter ended March 31, 2016, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

PART II — OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

The following risk factor updates the Risk Factors included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 (the "Annual Report"). Except as set forth below, there have been no material changes to the risks described in the Annual Report.

We have received a notice of non-compliance with continued listing standards from the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") for our common stock. If we are unable to avoid the delisting of our common stock from the NYSE, it could have a substantial effect on our liquidity and results of operations.

On March 24, 2016, we received a notification from the NYSE informing us that we were no longer in compliance with the NYSE's continued listing standards for our common stock because the average closing price of our common stock and our average market capitalization have fallen below the NYSE's requirements. The NYSE's continued listing standards require that (i) the average closing price of a listed company's common stock be at least \$1.00 per share and (ii) a listed company's equity market capitalization be at least \$50 million, in each case over a consecutive 30 trading-day period. As of May 3, 2016, the average closing price of our common stock over the preceding 30 trading-day period was \$0.78 per share and our average equity market capitalization over the same period was \$43.8 million.

We intend to submit a business plan to the NYSE demonstrating our intent to regain compliance with the NYSE's continued listing standards. The plan is subject to NYSE review, and rejection of the plan will result in the commencement of suspension and delisting procedures. We may regain compliance with the NYSE's stock price standard at any time during a six-month cure period commencing on receipt of the NYSE notification if our common stock has a closing stock price of at least \$1.00 and an average closing stock price of at least \$1.00 over the 30 trading-day period ending on the last trading day of that month or the last trading day of the cure period. We must regain compliance with respect to our market capitalization, pending acceptance of our business plan, within eighteen months of receipt of the NYSE notification. Failure to regain compliance with the NYSE's continued listing standards within the applicable time periods will result in the commencement of suspension and delisting procedures.

The NYSE notification did not affect our business operations or our SEC reporting requirements and did not conflict with or cause an event of default under any of our material debt or other agreements. However, if our common stock ultimately were to be delisted for any reason, it could negatively impact us by (i) reducing the liquidity and market price of our common stock; (ii) reducing the number of investors willing to hold or acquire our common stock, which could negatively impact our ability to raise equity financing; (iii) limiting our ability to use a registration statement to offer and sell freely tradable securities, thereby preventing us from accessing the public capital markets; and (iv) impairing our ability to provide equity incentives to our employees.

ITEM 6: EXHIBITS

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

| | |
|-------|--|
| 31.1* | Section 302 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer. Section 302 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer. |
|-------|--|

31.2*

32.1† Certification for the Chief Executive Officer as required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

32.2† Certification for the Chief Financial Officer as required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

101.INS* XBRL Instance Document

101.SCH* XBRL Schema Document

101.CAL* XBRL Calculation Linkbase Document

101.LAB* XBRL Labels Linkbase Document

101.PRE* XBRL Presentation Linkbase Document

101.DEF* XBRL Definition Linkbase Document

*Filed herewith.

†Furnished herewith.

22

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, thereunto duly authorized.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.

Date: May 4, 2016 /s/ M. JAY ALLISON

M. Jay Allison, Chairman, Chief
Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

Date: May 4, 2016 /s/ ROLAND O. BURNS

Roland O. Burns, President, Chief Financial
Officer and Secretary

(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)