Swift Energy Operating, LLC Form S-3 May 19, 2009

> As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 19, 2009 Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

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

Texas Texas (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

SWIFT ENERGY COMPANY 20-3940661 SWIFT ENERGY OPERATING, LLC (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

20-3892961 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

16825 Northchase Drive, Suite 400 Houston, Texas 77060 (281) 874-2700 (Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code of registrants' principal executive offices)

> Laurent A. Baillargeon General Counsel 16825 Northchase Drive, Suite 400 Houston, Texas 77060 (281) 874-2700

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

Copies to:

Christopher M. Abundis Corporate Counsel Swift Energy Company 16825 Northchase Drive, Suite 400

Donald W. Brodsky Judy G. Gechman Baker & Hostetler LLP 1000 Louisiana Street

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Houston, Texas 77060 (281) 874-2571 Suite 2000 Houston, Texas 77002 (713) 646-1335

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after this registration statement becomes effective, as determined by market conditions and other factors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and ""smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-7 of the Exchange Act. Check one:

Large accelerated Accelerated Non-accelerated filer o Small filer þ filer o (Do not check if Smaller co reporting company)

Smaller reporting company o

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Proposed Maximum Amount of Title of Each Class of Aggregate Registration Offering Price(1)(2)Fees(3) Securities to be Registered(1) Debt Securities(4) Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share(5) Preferred Stock, par value \$.01 per share(5) Depositary Shares(6) Warrants Guarantees of Debt Securities(7) Total \$500,000,000 \$27,900

- (1) This registration statement also covers such indeterminate amount of securities as may be issued in exchange for, or upon conversion, redemption or exercise of, as the case may be, debt securities, preferred stock, depositary share or warrants registered hereunder, including under any applicable anti-dilution provisions pursuant to 416(a) of the Securities Act. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered hereunder. This total amount also includes such securities as may, from time to time, be issued upon conversion or exchange of securities registered hereunder, to the extent any such securities are, by their terms, convertible into or exchangeable for other securities.
- (2) An indeterminate aggregate offering price and number or amount of debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, warrants and guarantees of debt securities is being registered as may from time to time be sold at indeterminate prices, with a maximum aggregate offering price not to exceed \$500,000,000.
- (3) Not specified as to each class of securities to be registered pursuant to General Instruction II.D of Form S-3 under the Securities Act. Pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act, the registration fee has been calculated on the basis of the maximum offering price.
- (4) If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price of the debt securities shall be in such amount as shall result in an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$500,000,000, or the equivalent thereof in foreign currencies, foreign currency units or composite currencies, less the offering price of any securities previously issued hereunder.
- (5) Attached to each share of common stock is a preferred share purchase right pursuant to the Rights Agreement (as Amended and Restated as of March 31, 1999, and as further amended on December 12, 2005, and December 21, 2006) and the Assignment Assumption, Amendment and Novation Agreement dated December 28, 2005 between Swift Energy Company and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as Rights Agent. Until the occurrence of certain prescribed events, none of which has occurred, the rights are not detachable from the common stock nor exercisable and will be transferred along with, and only with, the common stock. Accordingly, no separate registration fee is payable with respect thereto.
- (6) Such indeterminate number of depositary shares will be represented by depositary receipts. In the event that the Registrant elects to offer to the public fractional interests in shares or preferred stock registered hereunder, depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional interest and the shares of preferred stock will be issued to the Depository under the deposit agreement.
- (7) In accordance with Rule 457(n), no separate fee is payable with respect to any guarantee of the debt securities being registered.

Each Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration

Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, May 19, 2009

Prospectus

\$500,000,000 Debt Securities Common Stock Preferred Stock Depositary Shares Warrants Guarantees of Debt Securities

We may offer and sell from time to time debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, warrants and unsecured guarantees of debt securities. Our subsidiary, Swift Energy Operating, LLC, a Texas limited liability company, may guarantee the debt securities we issue.

This prospectus describes the general terms of the offered securities and the general manner in which we will offer these securities. We will provide specific terms of any offering in supplements to this prospectus. The securities may be offered separately or together in any combination and as separate series. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

We may offer and sell securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealer and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. If we use underwriters, dealers, or agents to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement. The net proceeds we expect to receive from these sales will be described in the prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "SFY."

The securities offered in this prospectus involve a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the matters set forth in "Risk Factors" on page 3 of this prospectus, in any prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference herein or therein in determining whether to purchase our securities.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus is May 19, 2009

About this prospectus

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a "shelf" registration process. Under the shelf process, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$500,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, together with additional information described under the heading "Where you can find more information" before you invest in any of these securities.

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You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to provide you with additional or different information. This prospectus and any prospectus supplement are not an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the securities to which they relate and are not an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation in that jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or in any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document containing the information.

You should read carefully the entire prospectus, as well as the documents incorporated by reference in the prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, before making an investment decision.

Unless the context requires otherwise or unless otherwise noted, all references in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement to "Swift Energy, "we," or "our" are to Swift Energy Company and its subsidiaries.

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Forward-looking statements

Some of the information included in this prospectus and the documents we have incorporated by reference contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and may be identified by terms such as "believe," "expect," "may," "intend," "will," "project," "budget," "should" or "anticipate" or similar words. These statements discuss "forward-looking" information and may include, among others, statements about anticipated capital expenditures and budgets; sources of capital; future cash flows and borrowings; pursuit of potential future acquisition or drilling opportunities; future production volumes; oil and natural gas reserves; and sources of funding for exploration and development or other uses.

Although we believe the expectations and forecasts reflected in these and other forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance they will prove to have been correct. They can be affected by inaccurate assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from expected results are described under "Risk factors" and include:

- The length and severity of the current credit crisis
- volatility in oil and natural gas prices and fluctuation of prices received;
 - domestic and worldwide economic conditions;
- disruption of operations and damages due to hurricanes or tropical storms;
 - demand or market available for our oil and natural gas production;
 - production facility constraints;
- uncertainty of drilling results, reserve estimates and reserve replacement;
 - drilling and operating risks;
 - our level of indebtedness;
 - the strength and financial results of our competitors;
- the availability and cost of capital to fund reserve replacement and other capital expenditures and costs;
- uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of oil and natural gas reserves, projecting future rates of production and the timing of development expenditures;
 - acquisition risks;
 - unexpected substantial variances in capital requirements; and
 - environmental matters.

There are other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated, which are discussed in our periodic filings with the SEC, including our most recent Form 10-K. See "Risk factors" on page 3.

When considering these forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements in this prospectus and in the documents we have incorporated by reference. We specifically disclaim all responsibility to publicly update any information contained in a forward-looking statement or any forward-looking statement in its entirety and therefore disclaim any resulting liability for potentially related damages.

All forward-looking statements attributable to us are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement.

Where you can find more information

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which requires us to file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of its public reference room and its copy charges. You may view our SEC filings electronically at the SEC's Internet site at http://www.sec.gov, or at our own website at http://www.swiftenergy.com.

This prospectus constitutes part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933. It omits some of the information contained in the Registration Statement, and reference is made to the Registration Statement for further information with respect to us and the securities we are offering. Any statement contained in this prospectus concerning the provisions of any document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement or otherwise filed with the SEC is not necessarily complete, and in each instance reference is made to the copy of the filed document.

Incorporation of certain documents by reference

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. Any information referred to in this way is considered part of this prospectus from the date we file that document. Any reports filed by us with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and before the date that the offering of the securities by means of this prospectus and any supplement thereto is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We incorporate by reference (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Items 2.02 or 7.01 of any report on Form 8-K) the documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until we sell all the securities covered by this prospectus:

- Our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, filed February 27, 2009;
- Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009, filed May 7, 2009; and
 - Our current reports on Form 8-K filed April 7, 2009, May 1, 2009, and May 15, 2009.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing or telephoning:

Investor Relations Department 16825 Northchase Drive, Suite 400 Houston, Texas 77060 (281) 874-2700

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with any information. You should not assume that the information provided in this prospectus or incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover or the date of the incorporated material, as applicable.

The company

We are an independent oil and natural gas company formed in 1979, and we are engaged in the exploration, development, acquisition and operation of oil and natural gas properties. Our operations are primarily focused in four core areas identified as Southeast Louisiana, South Louisiana, Central Louisiana/East Texas, and South Texas. In addition, we have a strategic growth area in three parishes in southwest Louisiana and another on acreage in the Four Corners area of southwest Colorado. South Texas is the oldest of our core areas, with our operations first established in the AWP field in 1989 and subsequently expanded with the acquisition of the Sun TSH, Briscoe Ranch, and Las Tiendas fields during 2007 and with additional interests in the Briscoe Ranch field in 2008. Operations in our Central Louisiana/East Texas area began in mid-1998 when we acquired the Masters Creek field in Louisiana and the Brookeland field in Texas, later adding the South Bearhead Creek field in Louisiana in late 2005. The Southeast Louisiana and South Louisiana areas were established when we acquired majority interests in producing properties in the Lake Washington field in early 2001, in the Bay de Chene and Cote Blanche Island fields in December 2004, and in the Bayou Sale, Bayou Penchant, Horseshoe Bayou, and Jeanerette fields in 2006.

At December 31, 2008, we had estimated proved reserves from our continuing operations of 116.4 MMBoe. Our total proved reserves at year-end 2008 were comprised of approximately 43% crude oil, 42% natural gas, and 15% NGLs; and 53% of our total proved reserves were proved developed. At December 31, 2008, our proved reserves are concentrated with 61% of the total in Louisiana, 38% in Texas, and 1% in other states.

Our executive offices are located at 16825 Northchase Drive, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77060, and our telephone number is (281) 874-2700.

The subsidiary guarantors

Certain of our domestic subsidiaries, which we refer to as the "Subsidiary Guarantors" in this prospectus, may fully and unconditionally guarantee our payment obligations under any series of debt securities offered by this prospectus. Financial information concerning our Subsidiary Guarantors and any non-guarantor subsidiaries will be included in our consolidated financial statements filed as part of our periodic reports filed pursuant to the Exchange Act to the extent required by the rules and regulations of the SEC.

Risk factors

An investment in the securities involves a significant degree of risk. Before you invest in our securities you should carefully consider those risk factors included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, any Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and any Current Reports on Form 8-K, which are incorporated herein by reference, and those risk factors that may be included in any applicable prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference, in evaluating an investment in our securities. If any of the risks discussed in the foregoing documents were to occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be materially adversely affected. Also, please read the cautionary statement in this prospectus under "Forward-looking statements."

Use of proceeds

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered by this prospectus and any prospectus supplement for our general corporate purposes, which may include repayment of indebtedness, the financing of capital expenditures, future acquisitions and additions to our working capital.

Ratio of earnings to fixed charges

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges:

				Three months			
				Year Ended December 31, ended March 31,			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Ratio of earnings to fixed							
charges	3.31	5.59	8.21	7.17	*	*	

* Due to the \$754.3 million non-cash charge incurred in the fourth quarter of 2008, and the \$79.3 million non-cash charge incurred in the first quarter of 2009, both caused by a write-down in the carrying value of oil and gas properties due to the rapid decline of oil and gas prices during those periods, 2008 earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$420.8 million, and first quarter 2009 earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$93.5 million. If the \$754.3 million non-cash charge at year-end 2008 is excluded in calculating earnings, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges would have been 9.43 for the year ended December 31, 2008. If the \$79.3 million non-cash charge is excluded in calculating earnings, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the quarter ended March 31, 2009, would have still been insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$14.2 million.

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, fixed charges include interest expense, capitalized interest, amortization of debt issuance costs and discounts, and that portion of non-capitalized rental expense deemed to be the equivalent of interest. Earnings represents income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and interest expense, net, and that portion of rental expense deemed to be the equivalent of interest.

Description of debt securities

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities which may be offered by us from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the debt securities offered by that prospectus supplement. Those terms of the debt securities offered by a prospectus supplement may differ significantly from the terms of the Debt Securities described in this "Description of Debt Securities."

We may issue debt securities either separately or together with, or upon the conversion of, or in exchange for, other securities. The debt securities are to be either senior obligations of ours issued in one or more series and referred to herein as the "Senior Debt Securities," or subordinated obligations of ours issued in one or more series and referred to herein as the "Subordinated Debt Securities." The Senior Debt Securities and the Subordinated Debt Securities are collectively referred to as the "Debt Securities." The Debt Securities will be general obligations of the Company. Each series of Debt Securities will be issued on terms specified in an agreement, or "Indenture," between Swift and an independent third party, usually a bank or trust company, known as a "Trustee," who will be legally obligated to carry out the terms of the Indenture. The name(s) of the Trustee(s) will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may issue all the Debt Securities under the same Indenture, as one or as separate series, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement(s).

This summary of certain terms and provisions of the Debt Securities and Indentures is not complete. If we refer to particular provisions of an Indenture, the provisions, including definitions of certain terms, are incorporated by reference as a part of this summary. The Indentures are or will be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or as exhibits to documents filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The Indentures are subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. You should refer to the applicable Indenture for the provisions that may be important to you.

General

The Indentures will not limit the amount of Debt Securities that we may issue. We may issue Debt Securities up to an aggregate principal amount as we may authorize from time to time. The Company

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may establish, without the approval of existing holders of Debt Securities, and the applicable prospectus supplement will describe, the terms of any Debt Securities being offered, including:

- the title and aggregate principal amount;
 - the date(s) when principal is payable;
- the interest rate, if any, and the method for calculating the interest rate;
- the interest payment dates and the record dates for the interest payments;
 - the places where the principal and interest will be payable;
- any mandatory or optional redemption or repurchase terms or prepayment, conversion, sinking fund or exchangeability or convertibility provisions;
- whether such Debt Securities will be Senior Debt Securities or Subordinated Debt Securities and, if Subordinated Debt Securities, the subordination provisions and the applicable definition of "Senior Indebtedness";
 - additional provisions, if any, relating to the defeasance and covenant defeasance of the Debt Securities;
- if other than denominations of \$1,000 or multiples of \$1,000, the denominations the Debt Securities will be issued in;
 - whether the Debt Securities will be issued in the form of Global Securities, as defined below, or certificates;
- whether the Debt Securities will be issuable in registered form, referred to as "Registered Securities," or in bearer form, referred to as "Bearer Securities" or both and, if Bearer Securities are issuable, any restrictions applicable to the exchange of one form for another and the offer, sale and delivery of Bearer Securities;
 - any applicable material federal tax consequences;
 - the dates on which premiums, if any, will be payable;
 - our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of such deferral period;
 - any paying agents, transfer agents, registrars or trustees;