

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP  
Form 10KSB  
March 30, 2004

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-KSB

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003

OR

TRANSITION REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (NO FEE REQUIRED)

For the transition period from to

Commission file number 001-16653

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

(Name of small business issuer in its charter)

Delaware 73-1238709  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

8801 S. Yale, Suite 120, Tulsa, OK 74137-3575  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Issuer's Telephone Number: (918) 488-8068

Securities registered under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act:  
None

Securities registered under Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act:

Common Stock, \$0.001 par value

(Title of class)

Check whether the issuer: (1) filed all reports required to be filed by  
Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act during the past 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

Check if disclosure of delinquent filers in response to Item 405 of  
Regulation S-B is not contained in this form, and no disclosure will be  
contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or  
information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form  
10-KSB or any amendment to this Form 10-KSB

The issuer's gross revenues for the most recent fiscal year were \$ 163,627.

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates, based upon the average bid and asked prices of the Common Stock on February 27, 2004 was \$5,486,600.

The number of shares outstanding of the issuer's Common Stock, as of March 15, 2004 was 37,830,190.

Transitional Small Business Disclosure Format (check one): Yes [ ] No [X]

# Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION  
FORM 10-KSB  
TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM NUMBER AND CAPTION	PAGE NUMBER
PART I	
Item 1. Description of Business	4-7
Item 2. Description of Property	7-8
Item 3. Legal Proceedings	9
Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders	9
PART II	
Item 5. Market for Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters	9
Item 6. Management's Discussion and Analysis or Plan of Operation	10-17
Item 7. Financial Statements	F-1 through F-12
Item 8. Changes In and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	17
Item 8A. Controls and Procedures	17
PART III	
Item 9. Directors, Executive Officers, Promoters and Control Persons; Compliance with Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act	17-19
Item 10. Executive Compensation	19
Item 11. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	19-21
Item 12. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions	21
Item 13. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K	21-22
Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services	22-23
Signatures	23

# Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

## PART I

### ITEM 1. DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

#### Background

Empire Petroleum Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), was incorporated in the state of Utah in August 1983 under the name Chambers Energy Corporation and domesticated in Delaware in March 1985 under the name Americomm Corporation. The Company's name was changed to Americomm Resources Corporation in July 1995. On May 29, 2001, Americomm Resources Corporation acquired Empire Petroleum Corporation, which became a wholly owned subsidiary of Americomm Resources Corporation. On August 15, 2001, Americomm Resources Corporation and Empire Petroleum Corporation merged and the Company's name was changed to Empire Petroleum Corporation. Since August 15, 2001, the Company has not had any subsidiaries. The Company operates from leased office space at 8801 S. Yale, Suite 120, Tulsa, OK 74137-3575, and its telephone number is (918) 488-8068.

During the past three fiscal years, the Company has focused on developing the Cheyenne River and Gabbs Valley Prospects as further described below.

#### Oil and Gas Development Prospects

Pursuant to that certain Americomm Cheyenne River Prospect Agreement dated March 4, 1998, as amended (the "Prospect Agreement"), the Company paid \$234,500 in March 1998 to cover the initial expenses of acquiring leases in an oil and gas Prospect in the Eastern Powder River Basin in the State of Wyoming (the "Cheyenne River Prospect"). Also in accordance with the Prospect Agreement, the Company issued an aggregate of 566,000 shares of Common Stock and agreed to grant overriding royalty interests to five individuals as consideration for services performed and to be performed in connection with the acquisition and exploration of the Cheyenne River Prospect.

Prior to the Company acquiring Empire Petroleum Corporation, the Company entered into that certain Farmout Agreement dated November 15, 2000 by and between the Company, Empire Petroleum Corporation and certain other parties (the "2000 Farmout Agreement"). Pursuant to the 2000 Farmout Agreement, drilling of the Timber Draw #1-AH well commenced during December 2000 within the 25,000 acre Timber Draw Federal Drilling Unit included in the Cheyenne River Prospect. The following parties participated with Empire Petroleum Corporation in the drilling of the Timber Draw #1-AH test well at the following participation levels: Maxy Resources, LLC (25%), Enterra Energy Corp. (formerly Big Horn Resources Ltd.) (15%) and 74305 Alberta Ltd. (10%). The drilling of the Timber Draw #1-AH well was completed at a total measured depth of 10,578 feet, of which the last 2,030 feet were drilled horizontally through the Newcastle "B" formation. The Timber Draw #1-AH well encountered flows of oil and gas during the horizontal drilling. Thereafter, the Company conducted a series of production methods on its Timber Draw #1-AH well during the period from February 13, 2001, to June 22, 2001. During the test period, the well flowed 8,139 barrels of 44 degree light gravity sweet crude and 29,072,000 cubic feet of natural gas with a BTU content of 1,493 and rich in natural gas liquids. Consulting engineers calculated that the natural gas would yield natural gas liquids of approximately 70 barrels per day based on estimated gas production of 500,000 cubic feet per day. The well was shut-in on June 22, 2001 to conserve the

-4-

natural gas, which was flared during the test period. A bottom hole pressure

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

survey of the Timber Draw #1-AH well conducted in April 2002 indicated a limited reservoir for this well.

The Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") has advised the Company that it does not consider the Timber Draw Unit #1-AH well economic. In other words, under the BLM's criteria for economic determination, the well will not pay out the cost incurred to drill and complete the well. The Company planned on initiating additional drilling during the second half of 2002; however, due to poor financial market conditions, the Company was unable to raise the funds necessary to complete such drilling. The BLM also advised the Company that since it did not commence another test well prior to August 12, 2002, the Timber Draw Unit had been terminated.

As of December 31, 2003, the Company owns a thirty three and one-third (33.33%) percent working interest in the Timber Draw #1-AH well. The Company's working interest in the #1-AH well, was reduced from 50% by virtue of the terms of a Farmout Agreement with a third party that is subject to final documentation (the "2003 Farmout Agreement"), pursuant to which the third party completed a 16 square mile seismic program and earned a 25% interest in the #1-AH well effective October 1, 2003. The third party also has the right to drill a new test well on the farmout lands for which it will earn an additional interest in the #1-AH. Upon the completion of this new test well, the Company's interest in the #1-AH well will be reduced to 17.5% and its working interest in the balance of the 36,410 gross acres of leases currently held by the Company will be reduced to 26.8%. The Company will have no cost obligation associated with the new test well to be drilled by the third party. In order to drill the test well, a new Federal Unit is being formed. The Company anticipates that the new test well will be drilled in the second quarter of 2004. Also as of December 31, 2003, the Company retains an overriding royalty on 42,237 acres.

On May 8, 2003, the Company entered into an agreement with O.F. Duffield (the "Duffield Agreement") to acquire a ten percent (10%) interest in a block of acreage in the Gabbs Valley Prospect by agreeing to issue 2,000,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock to Mr. Duffield for such 10% interest. The shares were issued in July 2003. This block of acreage in the Gabbs Valley Prospect consists of federal leases covering approximately 45,000 acres in Nye and Mineral Counties, Nevada in which Mr. Duffield had a 100% working interest. Pursuant to the Duffield Agreement, the Company is also entitled to acquire up to a 10% interest in a block of 26,080 acres also located in the Gabbs Valley Prospect should Duffield acquire an interest in such block. The shares issued to Mr. Duffield were valued at \$.10 per share based on the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on the date of issuance.

### Risks Inherent in Oil and Gas Exploration

Exploration for oil and gas is highly speculative and involves a great degree of risk. The Company may be required to perform expensive geological and/or seismic surveys with respect to its properties. Even if the results of such surveys are favorable, only subsequent drilling at substantial costs can determine whether commercial development of the properties is feasible. Oil and gas drilling is frequently marked by unprofitable efforts, not only from unproductive prospects, but also from productive prospects that do not produce sufficient amounts to return a profit on the investment. To further test its Cheyenne River Prospect, the Company has entered into an agreement with a third party pursuant to which

-5-

the third party completed a 16 square mile 3-D seismic program immediately surrounding the Timber Draw #1-AH test well, and the results of the seismic

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

survey were positive. The third party is planning to drill a new test well in the second quarter of 2004, utilizing horizontal drilling, a technology which can drill underbalanced wells horizontally thousands of feet into fractured reservoirs. The Company believes horizontal drilling, while more costly than conventional drilling methods, could yield substantial and economic reserves. However, there can be no assurance that the Company will be able to discover, develop or produce sufficient reserves to recover the expenses incurred in connection with the exploration of its Cheyenne River Prospect and achieve profitability.

The Company's operations are subject to the substantial operating hazards and risks inherent to exploring for and developing oil and gas, such as encountering unusual or unexpected formations, interruptions due to adverse weather conditions, unforeseen technical difficulties and equipment breakdowns. Oil and gas properties are also subject to risks inherent to drilling for and producing oil and gas, including blowouts, cratering and fires. These risks could result in damage to or loss of life and property. Prior to commencing drilling of the Timber Draw #1-AH test well, the Company obtained insurance coverage that is customary for companies engaged in similar operations. However, the Company may not be fully insured against all possible risks. For a discussion of additional risks applicable to the Company, see Item 6, Management's Discussion and Analysis or Plan of Operation.

### Competition

The oil and gas business is extremely competitive. The Company must compete with many long-established companies with greater financial resources and technical capabilities. The Company is not a significant participant in the oil and gas industry.

### Markets; Price Volatility

The market price of oil and gas is volatile, subject to speculative movement and depends upon numerous factors beyond the control of the Company, including expectations regarding inflation, global and regional demand, political and economic conditions and production costs. Future profitability, if any, will depend substantially upon the prevailing prices for oil and gas. If the market price for oil and gas is significantly depressed in the future, it could have a material adverse effect on the Company's ability to raise additional capital necessary to finance operations and to explore the Cheyenne River Prospect. Lower oil and gas prices may also reduce the amount of oil and gas, if any, that can be produced economically from the Company's properties.

### Regulation

The oil and gas industry is subject to extensive federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the production, transportation and sale of hydrocarbons as well as the taxation of income resulting therefrom. Legislation affecting the oil and gas industry is constantly changing. Numerous federal and state departments and agencies have issued rules and regulations applicable to the oil and gas industry. In general, these rules and regulations regulate, among other things, the extent to which acreage may be acquired or relinquished; spacing of wells; measures required for preventing waste of oil and gas resources; and, in some cases, rates of production. The heavy and increasing regulatory burdens on the oil and gas industry increase the costs of doing business and, consequently, affect profitability.

-6-

A substantial portion of the leases, which constitute the Cheyenne River Prospect are granted by the federal government and administered by the BLM and the Minerals Management Service ("MMS") of the U.S. Department of the

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

Interior, both of which are federal agencies. Such leases are issued through competitive bidding, contain relatively standardized terms and require compliance with detailed BLM and MMS regulations and orders (which are subject to change by the BLM and the MMS). Leases are also accompanied by stipulations imposing restrictions on surface use and operations. Operations to be conducted by the Company on federal oil and gas leases must comply with numerous regulatory restrictions, including various nondiscrimination statutes. Federal leases also generally require a complete environmental impact assessment prior to the authorization of an exploration or development plan.

The Company's oil and gas properties and operations are also subject to numerous federal, state and local laws and regulations relating to environmental protection. These laws govern, among other things, the amounts and types of substances and materials that may be released into the environment, the issuance of permits in connection with exploration, drilling and production activities, the release of emissions into the atmosphere, the discharge and disposition of generated waste materials, the reclamation and abandonment of wells and facility sites and the remediation of contaminated sites. These laws and regulations may impose substantial liabilities for the Company's failure to comply with them or for any contamination resulting from the Company's operations.

Although the Company is not aware of any circumstances which would cause it to be in violation of any regulation, if the Company engages in the exploration of oil and gas, substantial costs are expected to be required to comply with applicable regulations and costs and delays associated with such compliance could materially affect the economics of a given project, cause material changes or delays in the intended activities or inhibit the development of an oil or gas property. The effect of any future regulation on the Company's operations cannot be determined at this time, although any increase in the cost of the Company's operations as a result of future regulations could have a material adverse impact on the Company.

### Employees

As of December 31, 2003, the Company has one employee, a full time secretary. Mr. Albert E. Whitehead, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, devotes a considerable amount of time to the affairs of the Company and receives no compensation. For financial statement purposes, Mr. Whitehead's services have been recorded as contributed capital and expense in the amount of \$50,000 for the year ended December 31, 2003.

### ITEM 2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

#### Cheyenne River Prospect - Powder River Basin, Wyoming

As of December 31, 2003, the Cheyenne River Prospect consists of approximately 36,410 gross acres of federal, state and fee leases, all of which are located in Niobrara County, Wyoming. The land in the Cheyenne River Prospect consists of gently rolling ranch land with a substantial network of ranch roads, which permit easy access to most areas of the Prospect. The Prospect is located in a mature producing area with an established pipeline and service network.

Numerous wells were drilled within the Prospect area in the 1950's through the 1970's, with initial potential flowing rates in the range of 200 to 1,500 barrels of oil per day. Management believes that these wells may identify a

-7-

fractured reservoir with the potential for significant oil and gas production, which would be most effectively exploited utilizing horizontal drilling technology.

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

Pursuant to the 2000 Farmout Agreement, a test well was drilled on the Prospect using horizontal drilling technology. The Company has retained a 33.33% interest in such well. For more information on this test well and the 2000 Farmout Agreement see "Oil and Gas Development Prospects" under Item 1, Description of Business.

The Company's leases in the Cheyenne River Prospect are predominately federal leases with 10 year terms, most of which have four years remaining. Since the Company did not commence drilling another well by August 12, 2002, the BLM informed the Company the Timber Draw Unit was terminated. Unless a new unit is formed, a well will need to be drilled on each federal, state or fee lease in order to extend such lease for the life of its producing capability.

Pursuant to the 2003 Farmout Agreement, a third party carried out a seismic program in 2003 and, based on the results of such survey, the third party is planning to drill a test well during the second quarter of 2004. For more information on this 2003 Farmout Agreement, see "Oil and Gas Development Prospects" under Item 1, Description of Business. The Company has applied for a new drilling unit based upon a favorable seismic survey and the commitment by a third party to drill a new test well. The Company's state and fee leases had initial terms of five years. As of December 31, 2003, the Company had retained two state leases which expire in July 2005. The Company's fee leases were renewed for two (2) year terms and expire in April 2005.

Gabbs Valley Prospect - Nye and Mineral Counties, Nevada

As of December 31, 2003, the Gabbs Valley Prospect consists of approximately 45,000 acres of federal leases, which are located in Nye and Mineral Counties, Nevada. Pursuant to the Duffield Agreement, the Company has acquired a ten percent (10%) interest in 45,000 acres in the Gabbs Valley Prospect. As of December 31, 2003, no wells had been drilled on the Gabbs Valley Prospect. For more information regarding the Duffield Agreement, see "Oil and Gas Development Prospects" under Item 1, Description of Business.

### COMPANY UNDEVELOPED ACREAGE (LEASES) AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003

Prospect	Undeveloped Acreage		Productive Acreage		Drilling Activity Completed Oil Well		
	Gross Acres	Net Acres	Gross Acres	Net Acres	2001	2002	2003
Cheyenne River	36,410	17,856	-	-	*	-0-	-0-
Gabbs Valley	45,000	4,500	-	-	-0-	-0-	-0-

\* As of December 31, 2003, the Company's Timber Draw #1-AH well is under evaluation to assess its production and economic potential.

-8-

### ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

As of December 31, 2003, neither the Company nor its property was subject to any legal proceedings.



## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

### ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

There were no matters submitted to a vote of security holders during the quarter ended December 31, 2003.

### PART II

### ITEM 5. MARKET FOR COMMON EQUITY AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

#### Market Information:

The Company's Common Stock is traded on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automatic Quotation (NASDAQ) over-the-counter bulletin board system under the symbol "EMPR."

The following table sets forth the range of high and low prices at which the Company's common stock traded during the time periods indicated, as reported by NASDAQ.

Year ending December 31, 2002:

Quarter	High	Low
03/31/02	.22	.15
06/30/02	.21	.15
09/30/02	.16	.06
12/31/02	.13	.015

Year ending December 31, 2003:

Quarter	High	Low
03/31/03	.12	.007
06/30/03	.30	.06
09/30/03	.20	.08
12/31/03	.25	.14

Quotations reflect inter-dealer prices, without retail mark-up, markdown or commission and may not represent actual transactions.

#### Number of Holders of Common Stock

At December 31, 2003, there were approximately 181 stockholders of record of the Company's Common Stock.

#### Dividends

The Company has never paid cash dividends on its Common Stock. The Company intends to retain future earnings for use in its business and, therefore, does not anticipate paying cash dividends on its Common Stock in the foreseeable future.

#### Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

During the quarter ended December 31, 2003, the Company did not sell any securities of the Company that were not registered under the Securities Act.

-9-

### ITEM 6. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OR PLAN OF OPERATION

#### Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

All statements, other than statements of historical fact contained in this report are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements generally are

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

accompanied by words such as "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "may," "might," "potential," "project" or similar statements. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, no assurance can be given that such expectations will prove correct. Factors that could cause results to differ materially from the results discussed in such forward-looking statements include:

- \* the need for additional capital,
- \* the costs expected to be incurred in exploration and development,
- \* unforeseen engineering, mechanical or technological difficulties in drilling wells,
- \* uncertainty of exploration results,
- \* operating hazards,
- \* competition from other natural resource companies,
- \* the fluctuations of prices for oil and gas,
- \* the effects of governmental and environmental regulation, and
- \* general economic conditions and other risks described in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Information on these and other risk factors are discussed under "Factors That May Affect Future Results" below. Accordingly, the actual results of operations in the future may vary widely from the forward-looking statements included herein, and all forward-looking statements in this Form 10-KSB are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements in this paragraph.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which reflect management's analysis, judgment, belief and expectations only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly revise these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that arise after the date hereof.

### Factors That May Affect Future Results

The Company does not have any significant on-going income producing oil and gas properties and has limited financial resources.

As of December 31, 2003, the Company did not have any significant on-going income producing oil and gas producing properties. For the past three fiscal years, the Company has financed its operations primarily from advances made to the Company by Albert E. Whitehead, the Company's Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Whitehead has no obligation to advance the Company any additional money, and there is no assurance that he will do so. The Company will not be able to continue operations unless it is able to obtain funding from outside sources.

-10-

The report of the Company's independent auditor regarding the Company's financial statements has been modified because of a going concern uncertainty.

The Company reported losses of \$558,092 and \$5,692,735 for the years ending December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively. The Company also has an accumulated deficit of \$8,310,249 as of December 31, 2003. The Company can provide no

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

assurance that it will be profitable in the future and, if the Company does not become profitable, it may have to suspend its operations. As a result of the foregoing, the audit report of the Company's independent auditors relating to the Company's financial statements has been modified because of a going concern uncertainty.

If the Company is able to raise the funds necessary to continue its operations, its future performance will be affected by the successful drilling results of its inventory of unproved locations in Wyoming and Nevada. The failure of drilling activities to achieve anticipated quantities of economically attractive reserves and production would have a material adverse effect on the Company's liquidity, operations and financial results.

The Company could be adversely affected by fluctuations in oil and gas prices.

Even if the Company's drilling activities achieve commercial quantities of economically attractive reserves and production revenue, the Company will remain subject to prevailing prices for oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids, which are dependent upon numerous factors such as weather, economic, political and regulatory developments and competition from other sources of energy. The volatile nature of the energy markets makes it particularly difficult to estimate future prices of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids. Prices of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids are subject to wide fluctuations in response to relatively minor changes in circumstances, and there can be no assurance that future prolonged decreases in such prices will not occur. All of these factors are beyond the control of the Company. Any significant decline in oil and gas prices could have a material adverse effect on the Company's liquidity, operations and financial condition.

The Company could be adversely affected by increased costs of service providers utilized by the Company.

In accordance with customary industry practice, the Company relies on independent third party service providers to provide most of the services necessary to drill new wells, including drilling rigs and related equipment and services, horizontal drilling equipment and services, trucking services, tubulars, fracing and completion services and production equipment. The industry has experienced significant price increases for these services during the last year and this trend is expected to continue into the future. These cost increases could in the future significantly increase the Company's development costs and decrease the return possible from drilling and development activities, and possibly render the development of certain proved undeveloped reserves uneconomical.

The Company is subject to numerous drilling and operating risks.

Oil and gas drilling activities are subject to numerous risks, many of which are beyond the Company's control. The Company's operations may be curtailed, delayed or canceled as a result of title problems, weather conditions, compliance with governmental requirements, mechanical difficulties and shortages or delays in the delivery of equipment. In addition, the Company's

-11-

properties may be susceptible to hydrocarbon drainage from production by other operators on adjacent properties. Industry operating risks include the risk of fire, explosions, blow-outs, pipe failure, abnormally pressured formations and environmental hazards such as oil spills, gas leaks, ruptures or discharges of toxic gases, the occurrence of any of which could result in substantial losses to the Company due to injury or loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property, natural resources and equipment, pollution or other environmental damage, clean-up responsibilities,

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

regulatory investigation and penalties and suspension of operations. The Company anticipates that it will utilize horizontal drilling techniques. The horizontal drilling activities involve greater risk of mechanical problems than conventional vertical drilling operations.

The Company's insurance policies may not adequately protect the Company against certain unforeseen risks.

In accordance with customary industry practice, the Company maintains insurance against some, but not all, of the risks described herein. There can be no assurance that any insurance will be adequate to cover the Company's losses or liabilities. The Company cannot predict the continued availability of insurance, or its availability at premium levels that justify its purchase.

The Company's activities are subject to extensive governmental regulation.

Oil and gas operations are subject to various federal, state and local governmental regulations that may be changed from time to time in response to economic or political conditions. From time to time, regulatory agencies have imposed price controls and limitations on production in order to conserve supplies of oil and gas. In addition, the production, handling, storage, transportation and disposal of oil and gas, by-products thereof and other substances and materials produced or used in connection with oil and gas operations are subject to regulation under federal, state and local laws and regulations primarily relating to protection of human health and the environment. To date, expenditures related to complying with these laws and for remediation of existing environmental contamination have not been significant in relation to the results of operations of the Company. There can be no assurance that the trend of more expansive and stricter environmental legislation and regulations will not continue.

The Company is subject to various environmental risks, and governmental regulation relating to environmental matters.

The Company is subject to a variety of federal, state and local governmental laws and regulations related to the storage, use, discharge and disposal of toxic, volatile or otherwise hazardous materials. These regulations subject the Company to increased operating costs and potential liability associated with the use and disposal of hazardous materials. Although these laws and regulations have not had a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations, there can be no assurance that the Company will not be required to make material expenditures in the future. Moreover, the Company anticipates that such laws and regulations will become increasingly stringent in the future, which could lead to material costs for environmental compliance and remediation by the Company. Any failure by the Company to obtain required permits for, control the use of, or adequately restrict the discharge of hazardous substances under present or future regulations could subject the Company to substantial liability or could cause its operations to be suspended. Such liability or suspension of operations could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

-12-

The Company is subject to intense competition.

The Company operates in a highly competitive environment and competes with major and independent oil and gas companies for the acquisition of desirable oil and gas properties, as well as for the equipment and labor required to develop and operate such properties. Many of these competitors have financial and other resources substantially greater than those of the Company.

The Company currently depends on the Company's Chief Executive Officer.

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

The Company is dependent on the experience, abilities and continued services of its current Chief Executive Officer and President, Albert E. Whitehead. Mr. Whitehead has played a significant role in the development and management of the Company. The loss or reduction of services of Mr. Whitehead could have a material adverse effect on the Company.

The Company's stock trades in a limited public market, is subject to price volatility, and there can be no assurance that an active trading market will be sustained.

There has been a limited public trading market for the Company's Common Stock, and there can be no assurance that an active trading market will be sustained. There can be no assurance that the Common Stock will trade at or above any particular price in the public market, if at all. The trading price of the Common Stock could be subject to significant fluctuations in response to variations in quarterly operating results or even mild expressions of interest on a given day. Accordingly, the Common Stock should be expected to experience substantial price changes in short periods of time. Even if the Company is performing according to its plan and there is no legitimate company-specific financial basis for this volatility, it must still be expected that substantial percentage price swings will occur in the Company's Common Stock for the foreseeable future.

Certain restricted shares of the Company will be eligible for sale in the future which could affect the prevailing market price of the Company's Common Stock.

Certain of the outstanding shares of the Company's Common Stock are "restricted securities" under Rule 144 of the Securities Act, and (except for shares purchased by "affiliates" of the Company's as such term is defined in Rule 144) would be eligible for sale as the applicable holding periods expire. In the future, these shares may be sold only pursuant to a registration statement under the Securities Act or an applicable exemption, including pursuant to Rule 144. Under Rule 144, a person who has owned common stock for at least one year may, under certain circumstances, sell within any three-month period a number of shares of common stock that does not exceed the greater of 1% of the then outstanding shares of common stock or the average weekly trading volume during the four calendar weeks prior to such sale. A person who is not deemed to have been an affiliate of the Company at any time during the three months preceding a sale, and who has beneficially owned the restricted securities for the last two years is entitled to sell all such shares without regard to the volume limitations, current public information requirements, manner of sale provisions and notice requirements. Sale or the expectation of sales of a substantial number of shares of Common Stock in the public market by selling stockholders could adversely affect the prevailing market price of the Common Stock, possibly having a depressive effect on any trading market for the Common Stock, and may impair the Company's ability to raise capital at that time through additional sale of its equity securities.

-13-

The Company does not expect to declare or pay any dividends in the foreseeable future.

The Company has not declared or paid any dividends on its Common Stock. The Company currently intends to retain future earnings to fund the development and growth of its businesses, to repay indebtedness and for general corporate purposes, and therefore, does not anticipate paying any cash dividends on its Common Stock in the foreseeable future.

The Company's Common Stock may be subject to secondary trading restrictions

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

related to penny stocks.

Certain transactions involving the purchase or sale of Common Stock of the Company may be affected by a SEC rule for "penny stocks" that imposes additional sales practice burdens and requirements upon broker-dealers that purchase or sell such securities. For transactions covered by this penny stock rule, broker-dealers must make certain disclosures to purchasers prior to purchase or sale. Consequently, the penny stock rule may impede the ability of broker-dealers to purchase or sell the Company's securities for their customers and the ability of persons now owning or subsequently acquiring the Company's securities to resell such securities.

The Company's principal shareholders own a significant amount of Common Stock.

Albert E. Whitehead and his wife beneficially own approximately 38% of the Company's Common Stock. As a result, by coordinating with other shareholders, such as the former management of the Company, Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead may be able to control the outcome of shareholder votes, including votes concerning the election of directors, the adoption or amendment of provisions in the Company's certificate of incorporation or bylaws and the approval of merger and other significant corporate transactions. This concentrated ownership makes it unlikely that any other holder or group of holders of Common Stock will be able to affect the way the Company is managed or the direction of its business. These factors may also precipitate, delay or prevent a change in the management or voting control of the Company.

### Plan of Operation

The Company has no significant on-going income producing oil and gas properties at December 31, 2003. An oil and gas test well (Timber Draw #1-AH) was drilled in January 2001 on the Cheyenne River Project. The Timber Draw #1-AH well encountered flows of oil and natural gas during the drilling period and was subsequently completed as an oil well. The well was shut-in on June 22, 2001 to conserve natural gas, which was flared during the test period. For more information about this test well and the BLM's determination that it does not consider the well economic, see "Oil and Gas Development Prospects: under Item 1, Description of Business.

Beginning in April of 2003, the Company initiated testing of the #1-AH well for up to ten days per month for a three month period by authority of the BLM, which testing was subsequently extended by the BLM. During the test periods indicated below, the #1-AH well produced the following number of barrels during the following months in 2003:

-14-

Month	Days in Test Period	Number Of Barrels
April	7	1,335
June	10	1,421
July	10	1,321
August	10	1,029
October	10	954
November	10	693

All of the Company's limited revenues in 2003 were attributable to the above

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

described production from its #1-AH well. The Company plans to continue testing the #1-AH well through March 2004. The test results will then be evaluated to determine what future production practice might be utilized.

As of December 31, 2003, the Company had \$21,622 of cash on hand. The Company expects that its cash on hand and advances the Company anticipates it will receive from its Chairman will be sufficient to fund its operations for the next 3 months; however, there is no assurance that such advances will be made. The Company's material commitments consist of a lease payment on the Cheyenne River Prospect in April 2003, of which the Company's portion will be approximately \$29,077, which will be paid by the third party pursuant to the 2003 Farmout Agreement. The Company's share of the rentals on the Nevada leases will be \$8,921. In addition, the Company leases office space in Tulsa, Oklahoma from an unrelated party. The lease calls for monthly lease payments of \$1,009 through the end of the term of the lease in December 2004. The Company's former management (Messrs. McGrain and Jacobsen) entered into a lease agreement for office space in Canada. This office was closed after Messrs. McGrain and Jacobsen resigned as officers of the Company. This lease agreement calls for monthly lease and tax payments of approximately \$4,400 (U.S.) through April, 2006. No lease payment was made subsequent to December of 2002 and in January of 2003, the Company was notified that the lease had been terminated without prejudice to the landlord's right to hold the Company liable for future damages related to lost rent.

Management plans to continue to support the Company financially during the next several months. It will also determine the best method to explore its Gabbs Valley Prospect, look for merger opportunities and consider public or private financings.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Because estimates and assumptions require significant judgment, future actual results could differ from those estimates and could have a significant impact on the Company's results of operations, financial position and cash flows. The Company re-evaluates its estimates and assumptions at least on a quarterly basis. The following policies may involve a higher degree of estimation and assumption:

### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

None

### Critical Accounting Policies

-15-

Successful Efforts Accounting - Under the successful efforts method of accounting, the Company capitalizes all costs related to property acquisitions and successful exploratory wells, all development costs and the costs of support equipment and facilities. Certain costs of exploratory wells are capitalized pending determination that proved reserves have been found. Such determination is dependent upon the results of planned additional wells and the cost of required capital expenditures to produce the reserves found. All costs related to unsuccessful exploratory wells are expensed when such wells are determined to be non-productive; other exploration costs, including geological and geophysical costs, are expensed as incurred. The application of the successful efforts method of accounting requires management's judgment to determine the proper designation of wells as either developmental or exploratory, which will

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

ultimately determine the proper accounting treatment of the costs incurred. The results from a drilling operation can take considerable time to analyze, and the determination that commercial reserves have been discovered requires both judgment and application of industry experience. Wells may be completed that are assumed to be productive and actually deliver oil and gas in quantities insufficient to be economic, which may result in the abandonment of the wells at a later date. The evaluation of oil and gas leasehold acquisition costs requires management's judgment to estimate the fair value of exploratory costs related to drilling activity in a given area.

Impairment of unproved oil and gas properties. Unproved leasehold costs and exploratory drilling in progress are capitalized and are reviewed periodically for impairment. Costs related to impaired prospects or unsuccessful exploratory drilling are charged to expense. Management's assessment of the results of exploration activities, commodity price outlooks, planned future sales or expiration of all or a portion of such leaseholds impact the amount and timing of impairment provisions. An impairment expense could result if oil and gas prices decline in the future as it may not be economic to develop some of these unproved properties.

Estimates of future dismantlement, restoration, and abandonment costs. Through December 31, 2002, the Company had accounted for future abandonment costs of wells and related facilities through its depreciation calculation in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 19, "Financial Accounting and Reporting by Oil and Gas Producing Companies" and industry practice. The accounting for future development and abandonment costs changed on January 1, 2003, with the adoption of SFAS No. 143 "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations". See "Recent Accounting Pronouncements" in footnote 2 of the financial statements included elsewhere in this Form 10-KSB for a further discussion of this new standard. Under both methods of accounting, the accrual is based on estimates of these costs for each of the Company's properties based upon the type of production structure, reservoir characteristics, depth of the reservoir, market demand for equipment, currently available procedures and consultations with construction and engineering consultants. Because these costs typically extend many years into the future, estimating these future costs is difficult and requires management to make estimates and judgments that are subject to future revisions based upon numerous factors, including changing technology and the political and regulatory environment and, beginning in 2003, estimates as to the proper discount rate to use and timing of abandonment.

On December 31, 2002, the FASB issued SFAS No. 148, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation-Transition and Disclosure" ("SFAS No. 148"). SFAS No. 148 amends SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation" ("SFAS No. 123"), to provide alternative methods of transition to SFAS No. 123's fair value method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation. SFAS No. 148 also amends

-16-

the disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 123 and APB Opinion No. 28, "Interim Financial Reporting", to require disclosure in the summary of significant accounting policies of the effects of an entity's accounting policy with respect to stock-based employee compensation on reported net income and earnings per share in annual and interim financial statements. While SFAS No. 148 does not amend SFAS No. 123 to require companies to account for employee stock options using the fair value method, the disclosure provisions of the standard are applicable to all companies with stock-based employee compensation, regardless of whether they account for that compensation using the fair value method or the intrinsic value method. The Company adopted the disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 148 in its financial statements included elsewhere in this Form 10-KSB.



## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

### ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the Company are set forth on pages F-1 through F-13 at the end of this Form 10-KSB.

### ITEM 8. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None, other than those previously reported in the Company's Form 10-KSB for the period ended December 31, 2002, which was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 16, 2003.

### ITEM 8A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

The Company Carried out an evaluation under the supervision of the Company's Chief Executive Officer of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a - 15(e) and 15d - 15(e). Based on this evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) has concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report on Form 10-KSB are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company on reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act are recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms. The design of any system of controls is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in adhering its stated goals under all potential future conditions.

During the period covered by this report on Form 10-KSB, the Company engaged a third party financial consultant to oversee the Company's financial reporting to ensure compliance with applicable disclosure requirements. Other than as described in the preceding sentence, there have been no other changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the period covered by this report on Form 10-KSB.

## PART III

### ITEM 9. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, PROMOTERS AND CONTROL PERSONS; COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 16(A) OF THE EXCHANGE ACT

The following lists the directors and executive officers of the Company:

-17-

Name	Age	Position	Held Position Since
Albert E. Whitehead	73	Director; Chairman & C.E.O	April 2002
John C. Kinard	70	Director	June 1998

(1) Directors hold office until their successors are elected by the shareholders of the Company and qualified. Executive Officers serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Albert E. Whitehead.

Mr. Whitehead served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

from March 1998 to May 2001, when John P. McGrain assumed such role. Mr. Whitehead again assumed the role of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer April 16, 2002 upon the resignation of Mr. McGrain. Mr. Whitehead served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Seven Seas Petroleum Inc., a publicly held company, engaged in international oil and gas exploration from February 1995 to May 1997. From April 1987 through January 1995, Mr. Whitehead served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Garnet Resources Corporation, a publicly held oil and gas exploration and development company.

John C. Kinard.

Mr. Kinard has served as a Director of the Company since June 1998 and is currently a Partner in Silver Run Investments, LLC, an oil and gas investment firm. Mr. Kinard served as President of the Remuda Corporation, a private oil and gas exploration company, from 1967 until 2002. From 1990 through December 1995, Mr. Kinard served as President of Glen Petroleum, Inc., a private oil and gas exploration company. From 1990-2002, Mr. Kinard also served as the Chairman of Envirosolutions UK Ltd., a private industrial wastewater treatment company.

### IDENTIFICATION OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE; AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT:

Due to the Company's size, it has had difficulty recruiting additional individuals to serve on its Board of Directors, including persons qualified to serve as an audit committee financial expert on an audit committee. As of December 31, 2003, the Company had not established any committees (including an audit committee) because the Board of Directors consists of only two individuals. As such, the Company does not have an audit committee or an audit committee financial expert serving on such committee. As of December 31, 2003, the entire Board of Directors (Messrs. Whitehead and Kinard) essentially serve as the Company's audit committee.

### CODE OF ETHICS:

As of December 31, 2003, the Company has not adopted a Code of Ethics applicable to the Company's officers. Through December 31, 2003, the Company's primary focus has been on achieving profitability. The Company intends to adopt a Code of Ethics in the current fiscal year.

### SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE:

Section 16(a) of the Security Exchange Act of 1934 requires the Company's directors, executive officers, and persons who beneficially own more than 10 percent of a registered class of the Company's equity securities, to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") initial reports of ownership

-18-

and reports of changes in ownership of Common Stock and other equity securities of the Company. Officers, directors and greater than ten percent stockholders are required by SEC regulation to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

Based solely on review of the copies of such reports furnished to the Company and any written representations that in other reports were required during the year ended December 31, 2003, to the Company's knowledge, all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to its officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners during the year ended December 31, 2003 were complied with on a timely basis.

ITEM 10. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

# Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AND OTHER MATTERS

During the last three completed fiscal years, no executive officer received a salary or any other benefits as a part of executive compensation.

### Compensation of Directors

The Company does not have any formal procedure for compensating the members of its Board of Directors. From time to time in the past, the Company has granted options to the members of its Board of Directors under its 1995 Stock Option Plan as compensation for serving on the Board of Directors. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Company granted Mr. Kinard an option to purchase 150,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock at an exercise price of \$0.10 per share as compensation for his service as a member of the Company's Board of Directors. This option expires on June 9, 2013.

### ITEM 11. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

#### Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans

As of December 31, 2003, the Company had one equity incentive plan under which equity securities have been authorized for issuance to the Company's directors, officers, employees and other persons who perform substantial services for or on behalf of the Company. This plan is titled "1995 Stock Option Plan" and has been approved by the Company's stockholders.

The following table provides certain information relating to the 1995 Stock Option Plan as of December 31, 2003:

Plan Category	(a)	(b)	(c)
	Number of Securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans, excluding securities reflected in column (a)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	1,181,666	\$0.75	418,334
Equity Compensation plans not approved by security holders	-----	-19- N/A	-----
TOTAL	1,181,666		418,334
	-----		-----

#### SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of our Common Stock as of March 15, 2004 for:

\* each person who is known to own beneficially more than 5% of our

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

outstanding Common Stock;

\* each of our executive officers and directors; and

\* all executive officers and directors as a group.

The percentage of beneficial ownership for the following table is based on 37,830,190 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of March 15, 2004.

Unless otherwise indicated below, to the Company's knowledge, all persons and entities listed below have sole voting and investment power over their shares of Common Stock.

Name and address of beneficial owner	Amount and nature of beneficial ownership	Percent of class (1)
Albert E. Whitehead, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer 2236 E. 55th Place Tulsa, OK 74105-6124	14,338,025 (2)	37.73%
John C. Kinard, Director 240 Cook Street Denver, CO 80206-0590	631,331 (3)	1.64%
All current directors and executive officers as a group (2 persons)	14,969,356 (4)	39.56%

(1) The percentage ownership for each person is calculated in accordance with the rules of the SEC, which provide that any shares a person is deemed to beneficially own by virtue of having a right to acquire shares upon the conversion of options or other rights are considered outstanding solely for purposes of calculating such person's percentage ownership.

(2) This number includes: (i) 11,332,742 shares directly owned by the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust, of which Mr. Whitehead is the trustee; (ii) 170,000 shares that Mr. Whitehead has the right to acquire pursuant to options

-20-

granted to him under the 1995 Stock Option Plan; and (iii) 2,835,283 shares directly owned by the Lacy E. Whitehead Living Trust, of which Ms. Whitehead, Mr. Whitehead's wife, is trustee. Mr. Whitehead disclaims any interest in the shares owned by the Lacy E. Whitehead Living Trust.

(3) This number includes: (i) 320,000 shares Mr. Kinard has the right to acquire pursuant to options granted to him under the 1995 Stock Option Plan; and (ii) 150,000 shares directly owned by Mr. Kinard's wife, of which Mr. Kinard disclaims any interest.

(4) This number includes 490,000 shares issuable upon the exercise of options granted under the 1995 Stock Option Plan.

### ITEM 12. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

On March 15, 2002, the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust loaned the Company

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

\$170,000 pursuant to a convertible note issued by the Company. The note accrued interest at the rate of 10% per year, had a one year term and was convertible into shares. On March 17, 2003, the Company issued 874,071 shares of Common Stock to the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust in connection with the conversion of such note by the trust. Also on March 17, 2003, the Company issued the following number of shares to the following related parties in consideration of the cancellation of the debt owed by the Company to such parties as set forth below:

Name	Number of Shares	Amount of Debt Owed by the Company
The Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust	7,966,244	\$238,987.30
The Lacy E. Whitehead Living Trust	1,968,172	59,045.15

The market value of the Common Stock as of March 17, 2003 (\$0.03) was used in connection with the conversion of debt described in the table above. In addition, from the period from February 14, 2003 to December 31, 2003, the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust advanced the Company an additional \$128,957.

### ITEM 13. EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

#### (a) Exhibits

#### Exhibit Description

No.

- 3.1 Articles of Incorporation of the Company, as amended  
(incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Form 10-QSB for the period ended September 30, 1995, (SEC File No. 0-20193) which was filed November 6, 1995)
- 3.2 Bylaws of the Company  
(incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Company's Form 10-QSB for the period ended March 31, 1998, which was filed May 15 1998)

-21-

- 10.1 1995 Stock Option Plan  
(incorporated herein by reference to Appendix A of the Company's Form DEFS 14A dated June 13, 1995, (SEC File No. 0-20193) which was filed June 14, 1995)
- 10.2 Form of Stock Option Agreement  
(incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(g) of the Company's Form 10-KSB for the year ended December 31, 1995, (SEC File No. 0-20193) which was filed March 29, 1996)
- 10.3 Americomm Cheyenne River Development Prospect Agreement dated March 4, 1998 by and among the Company, Fred S. Jensen, Richard A. Bate, A. R. Briggs and Thomas L. Thompson  
(incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(j) of the Company's Form 10-QSB for the period ended June 30, 1998, which was filed August 12, 1998)
- 10.4 Farmout Agreement dated November 15, 2000 by and among the Company and

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

the other parties named therein (incorporated hereby reference to Exhibit 10(e) of the Company's Form 10-KSB for the year ended December 31, 2000, which was filed March 29, 2001)

- 10.5 Share Exchange Agreement by and among Americomm Resources Corporation, Empire Petroleum Corporation and each of the shareholders of Empire Petroleum Corporation  
(incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.1 of the Company's Form 8-K dated May 29, 2001, which was filed June 5, 2001)
- 10.6 Promissory Note dated March 15, 2002 issued to the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust
- 10.7 Letter Agreement dated May 8, 2003 between the Company and O. F. Duffield (submitted herewith)
- 31 Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) pursuant to Rules 13a - 14 (a) and 15(d) - 14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Item 601(1) (31) of Regulation S-B, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith)
- 32 Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith)

(b) Reports on Form 8-K

None.

### ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The following is a summary of the fees billed or to be billed to the Company by Tullius Taylor Sartain & Sartian, LLP, the Company's independent auditors, for professional services rendered for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002:

-22-

Fee Category	Fiscal 2003 Fees	Fiscal 2002 Fees
Audit Fees (1)	\$16,000	\$7,500
Audit-Related Fees (2)	-0-	-0-
Tax Fees	-0-	-0-
All Other Fees (3)	-0-	-0-
Total Fees	\$16,000	\$7,500

(1) Audit Fees consist of aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements and review of the interim financial statements included in quarterly reports or services that are normally provided by the independent auditors in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002, respectively.

(2) Audit-Related fees consist of aggregate fees billed for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

or review of our financial statements and are not reported under "Audit Fees."

(3) All Other Fees consist of aggregate fees billed for products and services provided by Tullius Taylor Sartain & Sartain, LLP, other than those disclosed above.

The entire Board of Directors of the Company is responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of the independent auditors and approves in advance any services to be performed by the independent auditors, whether audit-related or not. The entire Board of Directors reviews each proposed engagement to determine whether the provision of services is compatible with maintaining the independence of the independent auditors. All of the fees shown above were pre-approved by the entire Board of Directors.

### SIGNATURES

In accordance with Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, the Registrant caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Empire Petroleum Corporation  
(Registrant)

Date: March 30, 2004 By: /s/Albert E. Whitehead  
Albert E. Whitehead  
Chief Executive Officer

In accordance with the Exchange Act, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/Albert E. Whitehead Albert E. Whitehead	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer	March 30, 2004
/s/John C. Kinard John C. Kinard	Director	March 30, 2004

-23-

### EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### CONTENTS

	Page No.
Balance Sheet at December 31, 2003	F-2
Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002	F-3
Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002	F-4
Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002	F-5
Notes to Financial Statements	F-6 through F-12

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2003

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of  
Empire Petroleum Corporation

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Empire Petroleum Corporation as of December 31, 2003, and the related statements of operations, cash flows and stockholders' equity for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our



# Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Empire Petroleum Corporation as of December 31, 2003, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared assuming that the Company will continue as a going concern. As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Company has been incurring significant losses and has a significant working capital deficiency at December 31, 2003. The ultimate recoverability of the Company's investment in its oil and gas interests is dependent upon the existence and discovery of economically recoverable oil and gas reserves and the ability of the Company to obtain necessary financing to develop the interests. This condition raises substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern. Management's plan concerning this matter is also described in Note 1. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty.

/s/ TULLIUS TAYLOR SARTAIN & SARTAIN LLP  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
March 5, 2004

F-1

## EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

### BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	December 31, 2003
Current assets:	
Cash	\$ 21,622
Accounts receivable	21,062
Prepaid expenses	2,651
	<hr/>
Total current assets	45,335
	<hr/>
Property & equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and depletion	527,109
	<hr/>

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

	\$ 572,444
	=====
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' DEFICIENCY	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 261,127
Accounts payable to related party	130,180
Note payable	85,421
	<hr/>
Total current liabilities	476,728
	<hr/>
Total liabilities	476,728
	<hr/>
Stockholders' equity:	
Common stock, par value \$.001, 50,000,000	
shares authorized, 37,830,190 shares	
issued and outstanding	37,830
Additional paid in capital	8,368,135
Accumulated deficit	(8,310,249)
	<hr/>
Total stockholders' equity	95,716
	<hr/>
	\$ 572,444
	=====

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

F-2  
EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION  
STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

Years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002

	2003	2002
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Revenue:		
Petroleum sales	\$ 163,627	\$ 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	163,627	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Costs and expenses:		
Operating expenses	161,263	157,427
General and administrative	271,076	223,738
Depreciation expense	1,028	4,150
Leasehold impairment	266,778	6,496,614
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

	700,145	6,496,614
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Operating loss	(536,518)	(6,881,929)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other income and (expense):		
Gain on sale of assets	2,201	0
Interest expense	(27,047)	(62,676)
Miscellaneous income	3,272	1,870
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total other income and expense	(21,574)	(60,806)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net loss before income taxes	(558,092)	(6,942,735)
Deferred tax benefit	0	(1,250,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net loss	\$ (558,092)	\$ (5,692,735)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net loss per common share	\$ (.02)	\$ (0.24)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding - Basic and diluted	34,462,942	23,896,824
	<hr/>	<hr/>

See accompanying notes to financial statements

F-3

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002

	Shares	Amount	Additional Paid in Capital	Accumulated deficit	Total
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balances January 1, 2001	23,495,391	\$23,495	\$7,441,099	\$ (2,059,422)	\$5,405,172
Net loss	-	-	-	(5,692,735)	(5,692,735)
Issuance of Common Stock	964,515	965	191,965	-	192,930
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balances December 31, 2002	24,459,906	24,460	7,633,064	(7,752,157)	(94,633)

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

Net loss	-	-	-	(558,092)	(558,092)
Value of services Contributed by Employee			50,000		50,000
Issuance of Common stock	13,370,284	13,370	685,071	-	698,441
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balances December 31, 2003	37,830,190	\$37,830	\$8,368,135	\$(8,310,249)	\$ 95,716
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

See accompanying notes to financial statements

F-4

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002

	2003	2002
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net loss	\$ (558,092)	\$ (5,692,735)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Common stock issued for services	0	3,982
Depreciation	1,028	4,150
Leasehold impairment	266,778	6,496,614
Deferred tax benefit	0	(1,250,000)
Gain on sale of assets	(2,201)	0
Value of services contributed by Employee	50,000	0
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(18,530)	125,177
Prepaid expenses	1,269	1,403
Accounts payable and accrued		

**Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB**

liabilities	268,605	108,621
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	8,857	(202,788)
Cash flows from investing activities: Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	7,311	0
Net cash provided by investing activities	7,311	0
Cash flows from financing activities: Proceeds of note payable-related party	0	170,000
Net cash provided by financing activities	0	170,000
Net increase (decrease) in cash	16,168	(32,788)
Cash - Beginning	5,454	38,242
Cash - Ending	\$ 21,622	\$ 5,454
Supplemental cash flow information: Cash paid for interest	0	\$ 14,644
Non-cash investing and financing activities: Common Stock issued for debt & other payables	\$ 498,441	\$ 188,949
Common Stock issued for leasehold Interest	\$ 200,000	\$ 0

See accompanying notes to financial statements

F-5

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2003 and 2002

General:

On July 20, 2001, Americomm Resources Corporation merged with its wholly-owned subsidiary, Empire Petroleum Corporation, and simultaneously changed the name of the corporation to Empire Petroleum Corporation (the "Company"). Both the merger and name change were effective as of August 15, 2001. Americomm Resources Corporation was originally incorporated in the State of Utah on the 22nd day of August 1983, as Chambers Energy Corporation. On the 7th day of March 1985, the state of incorporation was changed to Delaware by means of a merger with Americomm Corporation, a Delaware corporation formed for the purpose of effecting the said change. In July 1995, the Company changed its name to Americomm Resources Corporation. The Company is involved in oil and gas exploration.

1. Continuing operations:

The continuation of the Company is dependent upon the ability of the Company to attain future profitable operations. These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of United States generally accepted accounting principles applicable to a company with continuing operations, which assume

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

that the Company will continue in operation for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets and discharge its obligations in the normal course of operations. Management believes the going concern assumption to be appropriate for these financial statements. If the going concern assumption were not appropriate for these financial statements, then adjustments might be necessary to the carrying value of assets and liabilities, reported expenses and the balance sheet classifications used.

The Company continues to explore and develop its oil and gas interests. The ultimate recoverability of the Company's investment in its oil and gas interests is dependent upon the existence and discovery of economically recoverable oil and gas reserves, confirmation of the Company's interest in the oil and gas interests, the ability of the Company to obtain necessary financing to further develop the interests, and upon the ability to attain future profitable production. The Company has been incurring significant losses in recent years and has a significant working capital deficiency as of December 31, 2003. The Company recognized an impairment charge of \$266,778 in 2003 and \$6,496,614 in 2002 on its oil and gas property. See Note 9, Property and Equipment.

Management plans to continue to support the Company financially during the next several months. The Company anticipates that a new exploratory well in which the Company will have an interest will be drilled by a third party in the Cheyenne River Prospect during the second quarter of 2004. The Company also intends to determine the best approach to explore its Gabbs Valley Prospect in Nevada, look for merger opportunities and consider public or private financings.

### 2. Significant accounting policies:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

F-6

#### (a) Capital assets:

The Company uses the successful efforts method of accounting for its oil and gas activities. Costs incurred are deferred until exploration and completion results are evaluated. At such time, costs of activities with economically recoverable reserves are capitalized as proven properties, and costs of unsuccessful or uneconomical activities are expensed.

#### (b) Per share amounts:

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 128, "Earnings Per Share" requires presentation of basic earnings per share ("Basic EPS") and diluted earnings per share ("Diluted EPS"). The computation of basic earnings per share is computed by dividing earnings available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of outstanding common shares during the period. Diluted EPS gives effect to all dilutive potential common shares outstanding during the period. The computation of diluted EPS does not assume conversion, exercise or contingent exercise of securities that would have an anti-dilutive effect on losses.

#### (c) Income taxes:

The Company accounts for income taxes in accordance with the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes set forth in SFAS No. 109, "Accounting for Income Taxes." Under the asset and liability method of SFAS 109, deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and operating loss and tax credit carry forwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to the taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. Under SFAS 109, the effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

(d) Financial instruments:

The carrying value of current assets and current liabilities approximate their fair value due to the relatively short period to maturity of the instruments.

(e) Stock option plan:

The Company has a stock option plan that is described in note 5 and uses the intrinsic value method of accounting for stock-based compensation in accordance with Accounting Principles Board Opinion ("APB") No. 25. When stock options are granted, no compensation expense is recorded. Consideration received on the exercise of the stock options is credited to additional paid in capital.

The Company has adopted the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation", as amended by SFAS No. 148 "Accounting for Stock Based Compensation - Transition and Disclosure, an Amendment of FASB Statement No. 123."

The Company applies APB Opinion No. 25 and related interpretations in accounting for its Incentive Plan described in footnote 5. Accordingly, no stock based employee compensation is reflected in net earnings as all options granted had an exercise price equal to the market value of the underlying common stock on the date of grant. The following table illustrates the effect

F-7

on net earnings and earnings per share if the Company had applied the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS No. 123 to stock based employee compensation.

	2003	2002
Net Earnings - as reported	\$(558,092)	\$(5,692,735)
Deduct: Total stock-based compensation expense determined under fair value based methods for all awards, net of related tax effects	(16,000)	-
Net Earnings - pro forma	\$(574,092)	(5,692,735)
Earnings per share - as reported	\$ (0.02)	\$ (0.24)
Earnings per share - pro forma	\$ (0.02)	\$ (0.24)

The fair value of options was \$.08 for options granted in 2003. No options were granted in 2002. The fair value of options granted under the Incentive Plan was estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The following assumptions were used for options granted in 2003: no dividend yield, expected volatility of 209.0%, risk free interest rate of 4.25% and

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

expected life of ten years.

### (f) Obligations associated with the retirement of assets

The Company has adopted the provisions of SFAS No. 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations" ("SFAS No. 143"). SFAS No. 143 amended SFAS No. 19, "Financial Accounting and Reporting by Oil and Gas Producing Companies," and, among other matters, addresses financial accounting and reporting for legal obligations associated with the retirement of tangible long-lived assets and the associated asset retirement costs. SFAS No. 143 requires that the fair value of a liability for an asset retirement obligation be recognized in the period in which it is incurred, with the associated asset retirement cost capitalized as part of the related asset and allocated to expense over the asset's useful life.

This is a change from the approach taken under SFAS No. 19, whereby an amount for an asset retirement obligation was recognized using a cost-accumulation measurement approach. Under that approach, the obligation was reported as a contra-asset recognized as part of depletion and depreciation over the life of the asset without discounting. Management has determined that adopting SFAS No. 143 has had no significant effect on the Company's financial statements since abandonment costs for which it is responsible are not material.

### (g) Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2002, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued SFAS No. 146, "Accounting for Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities." This statement requires that a liability for a cost associated with an exit or disposal activity be recognized when the liability is incurred.

F-8

Under previous guidance, a liability for an exit cost was recognized at the date of the commitment to an exit plan. The provisions of this statement will be applied prospectively, as applicable, and are effective for exit or disposal activities that are initiated after December 31, 2002. The adoption of SFAS No. 146 did not have a material effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In November 2002, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 45, "Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others" ("FIN 45"). This interpretation elaborates on the disclosures to be made by a guarantor in its interim and annual financial statements about its obligations under specified guarantees that it has issued. It also clarifies that a guarantor is required to recognize, at the inception of a guarantee, a liability for the fair value of the obligation undertaken in issuing the guarantee. The disclosure requirements in this interpretation were effective for financial statements of interim or annual periods ending after December 15, 2002. Additionally, the recognition of a guarantor's obligation should be applied on a prospective basis to guarantees issued after December 31, 2002. The adoption of FIN 45 did not have a material effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In January 2003, the FASB issued FIN 46, "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities", that provides guidance in determining when variable interest entities should be consolidated in the financial statements of the primary beneficiary. For the Company, the consolidation provisions of FIN 46, as revised, are effective in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2004. The adoption of FIN 46 is not expected to have a material effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.



## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

In May 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 150, "Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments With Characteristics of Both Liabilities and Equity." SFAS No. 150 changes the classification in the statement of financial position of certain common financial instruments from either equity or mezzanine presentation to liabilities and requires an issuer of those financial statements to recognize changes in fair value or redemption amount, as applicable, in earnings. SFAS No. 150 is effective for financial instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003, and with one exception, is effective at the beginning of the first interim period beginning after June 15, 2003. The effect of adopting SFAS No. 150 is recognized as a cumulative effect of an accounting change as of the beginning of the period of adoption. Restatement of prior periods is not permitted. SFAS No. 150 did not have any impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

### 3. Conversion of notes and accounts payable:

In May, 2002, the Company converted two notes payable totaling \$176,666 to 903,231 shares of the Company's common stock at a price of \$.20 per share. The notes had been issued in 2001 and bore interest at 12% annually.

During 2002, the Company issued 61,284 shares of the Company's common stock as payment for accounts payable of \$12,283.

In March, 2003, the Company converted a note payable to the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust of which the Company's Chief Executive Officer is Trustee, in the amount of \$170,000 plus interest due to 874,071 shares of the Company's stock at a price of \$.21 per share.

F-9

During 2003, the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust accepted 7,966,244 shares of the Company's common stock as payment for advances the trust had made to the Company at the conversion rate of \$.03 per share under terms of an offer made to all creditors. The Lacy E. Whitehead Living Trust, of which the wife of the Company's Chief Executive Officer is Trustee, and another creditor of the Company also converted \$59,045 and \$16,854 in debt, respectively, to 1,968,172 and 561,797, respectively, shares of common stock as a part of the offer.

### 4. Stock options:

Under a stock option plan adopted in 1995, the Company may grant options for up to 1,600,000 shares of common stock. The Board of Directors has sole discretion for the granting of the options. Stock options granted under the plan expire ten years from the date of grant plus 30 days. The exercise price of the options is the fair market value on the date of grant.

A summary of the Company's Incentive Plan as of December 31, 2003 and changes during the year is presented below:

	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Outstanding at Beginning of Year 2003	981,666	.89
Granted	200,000	.10
Outstanding at End of Year 2003	1,181,666	.75

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

=====

=====

There were no options granted during the year ended December 31, 2002.

The following table summarizes information about stock options outstanding at December 31, 2003:

Range of Exercise Prices	Options Outstanding			Options Exercisable		
	Number Outstanding at 12/31/03	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Number Exercisable at 12/31/03	Weighted Average Exercise Price	
\$0.10-\$1.375	1,181,666	5.30 Years	\$0.75	1,181,666	\$0.75	

During the year ended December 31, 2003, the Company granted an option to an employee of the Company to purchase 50,000 shares of the Company's common stock and an option to Mr. Kinard, a member of the Board of Directors, to purchase 150,000 shares of the Company's common stock, both of which have an exercise price of \$0.10 per share.

5. Income taxes:

The provision for income taxes differs from the amount obtained by applying the Federal income tax rate of 34% to income before income taxes. The difference relates to the following items:

	F-10
Statutory tax rate	34%
Expected recovery	\$ (190,000)
Benefit of losses not recognized	190,000
Tax provision (benefit) as reported	\$ -

The components of deferred income taxes at December 31, 2003 are as follows:

Deferred tax assets:	
Loss carry-forwards	\$ 937,000
Valuation allowance	(458,000)
	479,000
Deferred tax liabilities:	
Property and equipment	479,000
Net deferred taxes	\$ -

At December 31, 2003, the Company had net operating loss carryforwards of Approximately \$2,750,000 which expire beginning in 2010.

Utilization of the Company's loss carryforwards is dependent on realizing Taxable income. Deferred tax assets for these carryforwards have been Reduced by a valuation allowance.

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

### 6. Related party transactions:

On March 15, 2002, the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust, of which the Company's Chief Executive Officer is Trustee, loaned the Company \$170,000 in the form of a convertible note. The note accrued interest at the rate of 10% per year, had a one year term, and was convertible into shares of the Company's Common Stock at the rate of \$.21 per share. In February 2003, the note was converted into common stock of the Company. During 2002, the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust also paid \$245,181 of operating expenses on behalf of the Company. The advance was repaid in the form of Common Stock in 2003 at the rate of \$.03 per share in an offer made to all creditors of the Company, including the Lacy E. Whitehead Living Trust as further described in Note 4.

During 2003, the Company's Chief Executive Officer advanced an additional \$128,957 for operating expenses which the Company has recorded in accounts payable in the accompanying balance sheet. See Note 4.

### 7. Operating lease:

The Company leases office space under operating lease agreements with unrelated parties, which will expire in 2004 and 2006.

The future minimum lease payments under the operating leases are as follows:

	F-11
2004	\$52,800
2005	52,800
2006	17,600
	<hr/>
	\$123,200

Rent expense for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively, was \$111,492 and \$41,913.

Since December 2002, the Company has not paid the monthly lease and tax payments of approximately \$4,400 (U.S.) on the Canadian office lease. The Company has been notified that the lease has been terminated without prejudice to the landlord's right to hold the Company liable for future damages related to lost rent.

### 8. Property and equipment:

In 2002, the Company's management determined that an impairment allowance of \$6,496,614 was necessary to properly value the Company's oil and gas properties bringing the net book value of the oil and gas properties to \$594,915. The basis for the impairment was the determination by the United States Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") that it does not consider the Timber Draw #1-AH well economic. In other words, under the BLM's criteria for economic determination, the well will not pay out the cost incurred to drill and complete the well. However, by authority of the BLM, for the period from April to November 2003, the well was tested for production using production periods of ten days per month. The BLM also advised the Company that since it did not commence another test well prior to August 12, 2002, the Timber Draw Unit had been terminated. Furthermore, a bottom hole pressure survey conducted in April 2002 indicated a limited reservoir for the well. The basis of the impairment described above was calculated using an estimated \$10 per acre market price for the leases multiplied by the Company's

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

working interest. During 2003, the Company recorded impairment charges of \$266,778 based on working interest percentages granted to a third party for performance of certain activities and management's assessment of certain undeveloped lease values.

In 2003, the Company acquired a 10% interest in the Gabbs Valley Prospect of Western Nevada by issuing 2,000,000 shares of Company stock. The Company has recorded its investment at \$200,000. The Company's other property and equipment, totaling \$20,086 at December 31, 2002, consists entirely of office furniture, fixtures and equipment, which are fully depreciated.

F-12

EXHIBIT 10.7

May 8, 2003

Mr. O. F. Duffield  
16786 Kincheloe Rd.  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

RE: Acquisition Agreement,  
Gabbs Valley Prospect,  
Nye & Mineral Counties, Nevada

Dear Buddy:

This letter will serve as a memorandum of our verbal agreement whereby O. F. Duffield ("Duffield") agrees to sell Empire Petroleum a ten (10%) percent interest in leases owned outright by Duffield and lease ownership being contested in an adjoining block of leases more clearly defined as follows:

Block I This block of federal leases consists of approximately 45,000 acres located primarily in Twps 12 & 13N, Rge 35E, Nye County, Nevada in which Duffield has a 100% working interest (80% NRI).

Block II This block of federal leases consists of 26,080 acres located in Twps 12 & 13N, Rge 35E, Nye County, Nevada and the leases are recorded in Frontera Resources Ltd. which is controlled by James R. Isern. Duffield claims an interest in the Frontera leases and is pursuing legal means to resolve this issue.

Empire is prepared to issue Duffield 2,000,000 shares of its Common Stock for a ten (10%) percent interest in Block I, subject to royalties and overrides

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

totaling twenty (20%) percent. Empire would also be entitled to a ten (10%) percent interest in the Block II Frontera leases should Duffield prevail and be awarded all or a portion of these leases. For clarification, should Duffield be awarded or settle for less than 100% of the Block II leases, Empire's interest shall be proportionately reduced based on the percentage received by Duffield. The Empire shares issued to Duffield would be restricted until such time as a registration of same was made. Empire would grant Duffield "Piggy Back" rights that would allow him to register his shares should Empire do a registration.

Empire, from the date this transaction is completed, would bear ten (10%) percent of all costs associated with lease maintenance (rentals), travel expenses associated with the Gabbs Valley Prospect, legal expenses incurred in the Frontera/Isern dispute and other prospect related matters.

Empire's President, A. E. Whitehead would agree to assist Duffield regarding all issues related to legal, geological, geophysical, marketing and other strategies for getting this prospect explored.

Duffield agrees to hold Empire's ten (10%) percent leasehold in trust until such time Empire requests an assignment of its interest. Empire and Duffield also agree to enter into an operating agreement and other agreements deemed necessary to exploring and producing hydrocarbons from the Gabbs Valley Prospect.

If this letter correctly sets out your understanding of our agreement please sign and return one copy of this letter to Empire.

Yours very truly,

/s/A. E. Whitehead

AEW/gs

Agreed to this 16th day of  
May, 2003

/s/ O. F. Duffield

EXHIBIT 31

### CERTIFICATION

I, Albert E. Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) of Empire Petroleum Corporation, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-KSB of Empire Petroleum Corporation;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the small business issuer as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

4. The small business issuer's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the small business issuer and have:

(a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the small business issuer, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

(b) Evaluated the effectiveness of the small business issuer's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

(c) Disclosed in this report any change in the small business issuer's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the small business issuer's fourth fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the small business issuer's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The small business issuer's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the small business issuer's auditors and the audit committee of small business issuer's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

(a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the small business issuer's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

(b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the small business issuer's internal control over financial reporting.

March 30, 2004

/s/ Albert E. Whitehead  
Albert E. Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer  
and principal financial officer

EXHIBIT 32

### CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the annual report of Empire Petroleum Corporation (the "Company") on Form 10-KSB for the period ending December 31, 2003, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Albert E. Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

(1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and

## Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10KSB

(2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

March 30, 2004

/s/ Albert E. Whitehead  
Albert E. Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer  
and principal financial officer

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

The foregoing certification is being furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to the Report and shall not be considered filed as part of the Report.