

Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.

Form S-3ASR

December 11, 2007

**Table of Contents**

**As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 11, 2007**  
**Registration No. 333-**

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

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

**ENERGY TRANSFER PARTNERS, L.P.**  
*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Delaware**  
*(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or  
organization)*

**73-1493906**  
*(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)*

**3738 Oak Lawn Avenue**  
**Dallas, TX 75219**  
**(214) 981-0700**  
*(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,  
including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)*

**Brian J. Jennings**  
**Chief Financial Officer**  
**Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.**  
**3738 Oak Lawn Avenue**  
**Dallas, TX 75219**  
**(214) 981-0700**  
*(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number,  
including area code, of agent for service)*

***Copies to:***

**Thomas P. Mason**  
**General Counsel and Secretary**  
**Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.**  
**3738 Oak Lawn Avenue**  
**Dallas, TX 75219**  
**(214) 981-0700**

**Douglas E. McWilliams**  
**Vinson & Elkins L.L.P.**  
**First City Tower**  
**1001 Fannin Street, Suite 2500**  
**Houston, TX 77002**  
**(713) 758-2222**

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** As soon as practicable after this registration statement becomes effective.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered</b>	<b>Amount to be registered/ proposed maximum offering price per unit/ proposed maximum aggregate offering price per unit/ amount of registration fee(1)</b>
Common Units	
Debt Securities of Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.	
Total	

- (1) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered hereunder at indeterminate prices. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.
-

**Table of Contents**

**Prospectus**

**ENERGY TRANSFER PARTNERS, L.P.**

**Common Units**

**Debt Securities**

We may offer and sell the common units, representing limited partner interests of Energy Transfer Partners, L.P., and debt securities described in this prospectus from time to time in one or more classes or series and in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of our offerings.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. This prospectus describes the general terms of these common units and debt securities and the general manner in which we will offer the common units and debt securities. The specific terms of any common units and debt securities we offer will be included in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will also describe the specific manner in which we will offer the common units and debt securities.

**Investing in our common units and debt securities involves risks. Limited partnerships are inherently different from corporations. You should carefully consider the risk factors described under **Risk Factors** beginning on page 4 of this prospectus before you make an investment in our securities.**

Our common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, under the symbol ETP. We will provide information in the prospectus supplement for the trading market, if any, for any debt securities we may offer.

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The date of this prospectus is December 11, 2007.

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.</u>	1
<u>Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements</u>	2
<u>Risk Factors</u>	4
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	30
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	31
<u>Description of Units</u>	32
<u>Cash Distribution Policy</u>	39
<u>Description of the Debt Securities</u>	43
<u>Material Income Tax Considerations</u>	49
<u>Investments In Us By Employee Benefit Plans</u>	64
<u>Legal Matters</u>	66
<u>Experts</u>	66
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	66
<u>Opinion of Vinson &amp; Elkins L.L.P.</u>	
<u>Opinion of Vinson &amp; Elkins L.L.P.</u>	
<u>Statement Regarding Computation of Ratios</u>	
<u>Consent of Grant Thornton LLP.</u>	
<u>Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification</u>	

**In making your investment decision, you should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with any other information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it.**

**You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of this prospectus. You should not assume that the information contained in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the respective dates of those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.**

---

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may, over time, offer and sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus generally describes Energy Transfer Partners, L.P. and the securities. Each time we sell securities with this prospectus, we will provide you with a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change information in this prospectus. Before you invest in our securities, you should carefully read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement and the additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**. To the extent information in this prospectus is inconsistent with information contained in a prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**, and any additional information you may need to make your investment decision. All references in this prospectus to **we**, **us**, **ETP**, **the Partnership** and **refer to Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.**

**ENERGY TRANSFER PARTNERS, L.P.**

We are a publicly traded limited partnership that owns and operates a diversified portfolio of energy assets. Our natural gas operations include intrastate natural gas gathering and transportation pipelines, an interstate pipeline, natural gas treating and processing assets located in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Louisiana, Utah and Colorado, and three natural gas storage facilities located in Texas. These assets include approximately 14,000 miles of intrastate pipeline in service, with an additional 500 miles of intrastate pipeline under construction, and 2,400 miles of interstate pipelines. We are also one of the three largest retail marketers of propane in the United States, serving more than one million customers across the country.

Our principal executive offices are located at 3738 Oak Lawn Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75219, and our telephone number at that location is (214) 981-0700.

**Table of Contents**

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus contains various forward-looking statements and information that are based on our beliefs and those of our general partner, as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to us. These forward-looking statements are identified as any statement that does not relate strictly to historical or current facts. When used in this prospectus, words such as anticipate, project, expect, plan, goal, forecast, intend, could, may, and similar expressions and statements regarding our plans and objectives for future operations, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Although we and our general partner believe that the expectations on which such forward-looking statements are based are reasonable, neither we nor our general partner can give assurances that such expectations will prove to be correct. Forward-looking statements are subject to a variety of risks, uncertainties and assumptions. If one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, estimated, projected or expected. Among the key risk factors that may have a direct bearing on our results of operations and financial condition are:

the amount of natural gas transported on our pipelines and gathering systems;

the level of throughput in our natural gas processing and treating facilities;

the fees we charge and the margins we realize for our gathering, treating, processing, storage and transportation services;

the prices and market demand for, and the relationship between, natural gas and natural gas liquids, or NGLs; energy prices generally;

the prices of natural gas and propane compared to the price of alternative and competing fuels;

the general level of petroleum product demand and the availability and price of propane supplies;

the level of domestic oil, propane and natural gas production;

the availability of imported oil and natural gas;

the ability to obtain adequate supplies of propane for retail sale in the event of an interruption in supply or transportation and the availability of capacity to transport propane to market areas;

actions taken by foreign oil and gas producing nations;

the political and economic stability of petroleum producing nations;

the effect of weather conditions on demand for oil, natural gas and propane;

availability of local, intrastate and interstate transportation systems;

the continued ability to find and contract for new sources of natural gas supply;

availability and marketing of competitive fuels;

the impact of energy conservation efforts;

energy efficiencies and technological trends;

governmental regulation and taxation;

changes to, and the application of, regulation of tariff rates and operational requirements related to our interstate and intrastate pipelines;

hazards or operating risks incidental to the gathering, treating, processing and transporting of natural gas and NGLs or to the transporting, storing and distributing of propane that may not be fully covered by insurance;

the maturity of the propane industry and competition from other propane distributors;



**Table of Contents**

competition from other midstream companies, interstate pipeline companies and propane distribution companies;

loss of key personnel;

loss of key natural gas producers or the providers of fractionation services;

reductions in the capacity or allocations of third party pipelines that connect with our pipelines and facilities;

the effectiveness of risk-management policies and procedures and the ability of our liquids marketing counterparties to satisfy their financial commitments;

the nonpayment or nonperformance by our customers;

regulatory, environmental, political and legal uncertainties that may affect the timing and cost of our internal growth projects, such as our construction of additional pipeline systems;

risks associated with the construction of new pipelines and treating and processing facilities or additions to our existing pipelines and facilities;

the availability and cost of capital and our ability to access certain capital sources;

the ability to successfully identify and consummate strategic acquisitions at purchase prices that are accretive to our financial results and to successfully integrate acquired businesses;

changes in laws and regulations to which we are subject, including tax, environmental, transportation and employment regulations or new interpretations by regulatory agencies concerning such laws and regulations; and

the costs and effects of legal and administrative proceedings.

You should not put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. When considering forward-looking statements, please review the risk factors described under **Risk Factors** in this prospectus.

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

*An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the following risk factors, together with all of the other information included in, or incorporated by reference into, this report in evaluating an investment in our securities. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our common units or debt securities could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment. When we offer and sell any securities pursuant to a prospectus supplement, we may include additional risk factors relevant to such securities in the prospectus supplement.*

**Risks Inherent In An Investment In Us**

***Cash distributions are not guaranteed and may fluctuate with our performance and other external factors.***

The amount of cash we can distribute on our common units or other partnership securities depends upon the amount of cash we generate from our operations. The amount of cash we generate from our operations will fluctuate from quarter to quarter and will depend upon, among other things:

the amount of natural gas transported in our pipelines and gathering systems;

the level of throughput in our processing and treating operations;

the fees we charge and the margins we realize for our gathering, treating, processing, storage and transportation services;

the price of natural gas;

the relationship between natural gas and NGL prices;

the weather in our operating areas;

the cost to us of the propane we buy for resale and the prices we receive for our propane;

the level of competition from other midstream companies, interstate pipeline companies, propane companies and other energy providers;

the level of our operating costs;

prevailing economic conditions; and

the level of our hedging activities.

In addition, the actual amount of cash we will have available for distribution will also depend on other factors, such as:

the level of capital expenditures we make;

the level of costs related to litigation and regulatory compliance matters;

the cost of acquisitions, if any;

the levels of any margin calls that result from changes in commodity prices;

our debt service requirements;

fluctuations in our working capital needs;

our ability to make working capital borrowings under our credit facilities to make distributions;

our ability to access capital markets;

restrictions on distributions contained in our debt agreements; and

**Table of Contents**

the amount, if any, of cash reserves established by the general partner in its discretion for the proper conduct of our business.

Because of all these factors, we cannot guarantee that we will have sufficient available cash to pay a specific level of cash distributions to our unitholders.

Furthermore, you should be aware that the amount of cash we have available for distribution depends primarily upon our cash flow, including cash flow from financial reserves and working capital borrowings, and is not solely a function of profitability, which will be affected by non-cash items. As a result, we may make cash distributions during periods when we record net losses and may not make cash distributions during periods when we record net income.

***We may sell additional limited partner interests, diluting existing interests of unitholders.***

Our partnership agreement allows us to issue an unlimited number of additional limited partner interests, including securities senior to the common units, without the approval of the unitholders. The issuance of additional common units or other equity securities will have the following effects:

the current proportionate ownership interest of our unitholders in us will decrease;

the amount of cash available for distribution on each common unit or partnership security may decrease;

the relative voting strength of each previously outstanding common unit may be diminished; and

the market price of the common units or partnership securities may decline.

***Future sales of our units or other limited partner interests in the trading market could reduce the market price of unitholders' limited partner interests.***

As of August 31, 2007, Energy Transfer Equity, L.P., or ETE, and its affiliates owned 62,500,797 common units. ETE owns our general partner. If ETE were to sell and/or distribute its common units to the holders of its equity interests in the future, those holders may dispose of some or all of these units. The sale or disposition of a substantial portion of these units in the public markets could reduce the market price of our outstanding common units.

***Our increased debt level and debt agreements may limit our ability to make distributions to unitholders and our future financial and operating flexibility.***

As of August 31, 2007, we had approximately \$3.7 billion of consolidated debt outstanding. Our level of indebtedness affects our operations in several ways, including, among other things:

a significant portion of our cash flow from operations will be dedicated to the payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt and will not be available for other purposes, including payment of distributions;

covenants contained in our existing debt arrangements require us to meet financial tests that may adversely affect our flexibility in planning for and reacting to changes in our business;

our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and general partnership purposes may be limited;

we may be at a competitive disadvantage relative to similar companies that have less debt;

we may be more vulnerable to adverse economic and industry conditions as a result of our significant debt level; and

failure to comply with the various restrictive and affirmative covenants of the credit agreements could negatively impact our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries to incur additional debt and our ability to pay our distributions. We are required to measure these financial tests and covenants quarterly and,

**Table of Contents**

as of August 31, 2007, we were in compliance with all financial requirements, tests, limitations, and covenants related to financial ratios under our existing credit agreements.

***Increases in interest rates could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition.***

In addition to our exposure to commodity prices, we have significant exposure to increases in interest rates. As of August 31, 2007, we had approximately \$3.7 billion of consolidated debt, of which approximately \$2.7 billion was at fixed interest rates and approximately \$1.0 billion was at variable interest rates. We have entered interest rate swaps for a total notional amount of \$125.0 million, resulting in a net amount of \$875.01 million of variable-rate debt at August 31, 2007. We manage a portion of our interest rate exposures by utilizing interest rate swaps and similar arrangements. To the extent that we have debt with variable interest rates that is not hedged, our results of operations, cash flows and financial condition, could be materially adversely affected by significant increases in interest rates.

An increase in interest rates may also cause a corresponding decline in demand for equity investments, in general, and in particular for yield-based equity investments such as our common units. Any such reduction in demand for our common units resulting from other more attractive investment opportunities may cause the trading price of our common units to decline.

***The credit and risk profile of our general partner and its owners could adversely affect our credit ratings and profile.***

The credit and business risk profiles of our general partner or owners of our general partner may be factors in credit evaluations of us as a master limited partnership. This is because the general partner can exercise significant influence over our business activities, including our cash distribution and acquisition strategy and business risk profile. Another factor that may be considered is the financial condition of our general partner and its owners, including the degree of their financial leverage and their dependence on cash flow from the partnership to service their indebtedness.

Entities controlling the owner of our general partner have significant indebtedness outstanding and are dependent principally on the cash distributions from their general and limited partner equity interests in us to service such indebtedness. Any distributions by us to such entities will be made only after satisfying our then current obligations to our creditors. Although we have taken certain steps in our organizational structure, financial reporting and contractual relationships to reflect the separateness of us, ETP GP and ETP LLC from the entities that control ETP GP, our credit ratings and business risk profile could be adversely affected if the ratings and risk profiles of such entities were viewed as substantially lower or more risky than ours.

***The general partner is not elected by the unitholders and cannot be removed without its consent.***

Unlike the holders of common stock in a corporation, unitholders have only limited voting rights on matters affecting our business, and therefore limited ability to influence management's decisions regarding our business. We are managed by our general partner, Energy Transfer Partners GP, L.P., or ETP GP, which in turn is managed by its general partner, Energy Transfer Partners, L.L.C., or ETP LLC. Our unitholders did not elect our general partner and will have no right to elect our general partner on an annual or other continuing basis. Although our general partner has a fiduciary duty to manage us in a manner beneficial to us and our unitholders, the directors of our general partner, ETP GP, and its general partner, ETP LLC, have a fiduciary duty to manage the general partner and its general partner in a manner beneficial to the owners of those entities.

Furthermore, if the unitholders are dissatisfied with the performance of our general partner, they will have little ability to remove our general partner. The general partner generally may not be removed except upon the vote of the holders

of 662/3% of the outstanding units voting together as a single class, including units owned by the general partner and its affiliates. As of August 31, 2007, ETE and its affiliates held approximately 46% of our outstanding units, with an approximately 1% of units held by our officers and directors. Consequently, it could be difficult to remove the general partner without the consent of the general partner and our affiliates.

**Table of Contents**

Furthermore, unitholders' voting rights are further restricted by the partnership agreement provision providing that any units held by a person that owns 20% or more of any class of units then outstanding, other than the general partner and its affiliates, cannot be voted on any matter.

***The control of our general partner may be transferred to a third party without unitholder consent.***

The general partner may transfer its general partner interest to a third party in a merger or in a sale of all or substantially all of its assets without the consent of the unitholders. Furthermore, there is no restriction in the partnership agreement on the ability of the general partner or our general partner from transferring its general partner interest in our general partner to a third party. Any new owner of the general partner would be in a position to replace the officers of the general partner with its own choices and to control the decisions taken by such officers.

***Unitholders may be required to sell their units to the general partner at an undesirable time or price.***

If at any time less than 20% of the outstanding units of any class are held by persons other than the general partner and its affiliates, the general partner will have the right to acquire all, but not less than all, of those units at a price no less than their then-current market price. As a consequence, a unitholder may be required to sell his common units at an undesirable time or price. The general partner may assign this purchase right to any of its affiliates or to us.

***The interruption of distributions to us from our operating subsidiaries and equity investees may affect our ability to satisfy our obligations and to make distributions to our partners.***

We are a holding company with no business operations. Our only significant assets are the equity interests we own in our operating subsidiaries and equity investees. As a result, we depend upon the earnings and cash flow of our operating subsidiaries and equity investees and the distribution of that cash to us in order to meet our obligations and to allow us to make distributions to our partners.

***Cost reimbursements due our general partner may be substantial and reduce our ability to pay the distributions to unitholders.***

Prior to making any distributions on the units, we will reimburse our general partner for all expenses it has incurred on our behalf. In addition, our general partner and its affiliates may provide us with services for which we will be charged reasonable fees as determined by the general partner. The reimbursement of these expenses and the payment of these fees could adversely affect our ability to make distributions to the unitholders. Our general partner has sole discretion to determine the amount of these expenses and fees.

***Unitholders may have liability to repay distributions.***

Under certain circumstances unitholders may have to repay us amounts wrongfully distributed to them. Under Delaware law, we may not make a distribution to unitholders if the distribution causes our liabilities to exceed the fair value of our assets. Liabilities to partners on account of their partnership interests and non-recourse liabilities are not counted for purposes of determining whether a distribution is permitted. Delaware law provides that a limited partner who receives such a distribution and knew at the time of the distribution that the distribution violated Delaware law will be liable to the limited partnership for the distribution amount for three years from the distribution date. Under Delaware law, an assignee who becomes a substituted limited partner of a limited partnership is liable for the obligations of the assignor to make contributions to the partnership. However, such an assignee is not obligated for liabilities unknown to him at the time he or she became a limited partner if the liabilities could not be determined from the partnership agreement.





**Table of Contents**

**Risks Related to Conflicts of Interest**

***Our partnership agreement limits our general partner's fiduciary duties to our unitholders and restricts the remedies available to unitholders for actions taken by our general partner that might otherwise constitute breaches of fiduciary duty***

Our partnership agreement contains provisions that waive or consent to conduct by our general partner and its affiliates and which reduce the obligations to which our general partner would otherwise be held by state-law fiduciary duty standards. The following is a summary of the material restrictions contained in our partnership agreement on the fiduciary duties owed by our general partner to the limited partners. Our partnership agreement:

permits our general partner to make a number of decisions in its sole discretion. This entitles our general partner to consider only the interests and factors that it desires, and it has no duty or obligation to give any consideration to any interest of, or factors affecting, us, our affiliates or any limited partner;

provides that our general partner is entitled to make other decisions in its reasonable discretion ;

generally provides that affiliated transactions and resolutions of conflicts of interest not involving a required vote of unitholders must be fair and reasonable to us and that, in determining whether a transaction or resolution is fair and reasonable, our general partner may consider the interests of all parties involved, including its own. Unless our general partner has acted in bad faith, the action taken by our general partner shall not constitute a breach of its fiduciary duty; and

provides that our general partner and its officers and directors will not be liable for monetary damages to us, our limited partners or assignees for errors of judgment or for any acts or omissions if our general partner and those other persons acted in good faith.

In order to become a limited partner of our partnership, a common unitholder is required to agree to be bound by the provisions in the partnership agreement, including the provisions discussed above.

***Some of our executive officers and directors face potential conflicts of interest in managing our business.***

Certain of our executive officers and directors are also officers and/or directors of ETE. These relationships may create conflicts of interest regarding corporate opportunities and other matters. The resolution of any such conflicts may not always be in our or our unitholders' best interests. In addition, these overlapping executive officers and directors allocate their time among us and ETE. These officers and directors face potential conflicts regarding the allocation of their time, which may adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***The general partner's absolute discretion in determining the level of cash reserves may adversely affect our ability to make cash distributions to our unitholders.***

Our partnership agreement requires the general partner to deduct from operating surplus cash reserves that in its reasonable discretion are necessary to fund our future operating expenditures. In addition, the partnership agreement permits the general partner to reduce available cash by establishing cash reserves for the proper conduct of our business, to comply with applicable law or agreements to which we are a party or to provide funds for future distributions to partners. These cash reserves will affect the amount of cash available for distribution to unitholders.

***Our general partner has conflicts of interest and limited fiduciary responsibilities, which may permit our general partner to favor its own interests to the detriment of unitholders.***

As of August 31, 2007, ETE and its affiliates directly and indirectly owned an aggregate limited partner interest in us of approximately 46% and our officers and directors owned approximately 1% of the limited partner interests in us. Conflicts of interest could arise in the future as a result of relationships between our general partner and its affiliates, on the one hand, and us, on the other hand. As a result of these conflicts our

## **Table of Contents**

general partner may favor its own interests and those of its affiliates over the interests of the unitholders. The nature of these conflicts includes the following considerations:

Remedies available to unitholders for actions that might, without the limitations, constitute breaches of fiduciary duty. Unitholders are deemed to have consented to some actions and conflicts of interest that might otherwise be deemed a breach of fiduciary or other duties under applicable state law.

Our general partner is allowed to take into account the interests of parties in addition to us in resolving conflicts of interest, thereby limiting its fiduciary duties to the unitholders.

Our general partner's affiliates are not prohibited from engaging in other businesses or activities, including those in direct competition with us.

Our general partner determines the amount and timing of our asset purchases and sales, capital expenditures, borrowings and reserves, each of which can affect the amount of cash that is distributed to unitholders.

Our general partner determines whether to issue additional units or other equity securities of us.

Our general partner determines which costs are reimbursable by us.

Our general partner controls the enforcement of obligations owed to us by it.

Our general partner decides whether to retain separate counsel, accountants or others to perform services for us.

Our general partner is not restricted from causing us to pay it or its affiliates for any services rendered on terms that are fair and reasonable to us or entering into additional contractual arrangements with any of these entities on our behalf.

In some instances our general partner may borrow funds in order to permit the payment of distributions, even if the purpose or effect of the borrowing is to make incentive distributions.

### ***The risk of competition with affiliates of our general partner has increased.***

Except as provided in our partnership agreement, affiliates of our general partner are not prohibited from engaging in other businesses or activities, including those that might be in direct competition with us. On May 7, 2007, Enterprise GP Holdings, L.P. acquired a 34.9% non-controlling equity interest in LE GP, LLC, ETE's general partner. Enterprise GP Holdings, L.P. and its subsidiaries are a North American midstream energy business. As a result, there is greater risk that competition with affiliates of our general partner could occur, which could adversely impact our results of operations and cash available for distributions.

## **Risks Related to our Business**

***The profitability of our midstream and intrastate transportation and storage operations are largely dependent upon natural gas commodity prices, price spreads between two or more physical locations and market demand for natural gas and NGLs, which are factors beyond our control and have been volatile.***

Income from our midstream and intrastate transportation and storage operations are exposed to risks due to fluctuations in commodity prices. For a portion of the natural gas gathered at the North Texas System, Southeast

Texas System and at our Houston Pipe Line System, or the HPL System, we purchase natural gas from producers at the wellhead at a price that is at a discount to a specified index price and then gather and deliver the natural gas to pipelines where we typically resell the natural gas at the index price or gas daily average. Generally, the gross margins we realize under these discount-to-index arrangements decrease in periods of low natural gas prices because these gross margins are based on a percentage of the index price.

For a portion of the natural gas gathered and processed at the North Texas System and Southeast Texas System, we enter into percentage-of-proceeds arrangements, keep-whole arrangements, and processing fee agreements pursuant to which we agree to gather and process natural gas received from the producers. Under percentage-of-proceeds arrangements, we generally sell the residue gas and NGLs at market prices and remit

**Table of Contents**

to the producers an agreed upon percentage of the proceeds based on an index price. In other cases, instead of remitting cash payments to the producer, we deliver an agreed upon percentage of the residue gas and NGL volumes to the producer and sell the volumes we keep to third parties at market prices. Under these arrangements our revenues and gross margins decline when natural gas prices and NGL prices decrease. Accordingly, a decrease in the price of natural gas or NGLs could have an adverse effect on our results of operations. Under keep-whole arrangements, we generally sell the NGLs produced from our gathering and processing operations to third parties at market prices. Because the extraction of the NGLs from the natural gas during processing reduces the Btu content of the natural gas, we must either purchase natural gas at market prices for return to producers or make a cash payment to producers equal to the value of this natural gas. Under these arrangements, our revenues and gross margins decrease when the price of natural gas increases relative to the price of NGLs if we are not able to bypass our processing plants and sell the unprocessed natural gas. Under processing fee agreements, we process the gas for a fee. If recoveries are less than those guaranteed the producer, we may suffer a loss by having to supply liquids or its cash equivalent to keep the producer whole with regard to contractual recoveries.

In the past, the prices of natural gas and NGLs have been extremely volatile, and we expect this volatility to continue. For example, during our fiscal year ended August 31, 2007, the NYMEX settlement price for the prompt month contract ranged from a high of \$8.87 per MMBtu to a low of \$4.20 per MMBtu. A composite of the Mt. Belvieu average NGLs price based upon our average NGLs composition during our fiscal year ended August 31, 2007 ranged from a high of approximately \$1.15 per gallon to a low of approximately \$0.83 per gallon. Natural gas prices are subject to significant fluctuations, and we cannot assure you that natural gas prices will remain at the high levels recently experienced.

Our Oasis pipeline, East Texas pipeline, ET Fuel System and HPL System receive fees for transporting natural gas for our customers. Although a significant amount of the pipeline capacity of the East Texas pipeline and various pipeline segments of the ET Fuel System is committed under long-term fee-based contracts, the remaining capacity of our transportation pipelines is subject to fluctuation in demand based on the markets and prices for natural gas and NGLs, which factors may result in decisions by natural gas producers to reduce production of natural gas during periods of lower prices for natural gas and NGLs or may result in decisions by end users of natural gas and NGLs to reduce consumption of these fuels during periods of higher prices for these fuels. Our fuel retention fees are also directly impacted by changes in natural gas prices. Increases in natural gas prices tend to increase our fuel retention fees, and decreases in natural gas prices tend to decrease our fuel retention fees.

The markets and prices for natural gas and NGLs depend upon factors beyond our control. These factors include demand for oil, natural gas and NGLs, which fluctuate with changes in market and economic conditions, and other factors, including:

- the impact of weather on the demand for oil and natural gas;
- the level of domestic oil and natural gas production;
- the availability of imported oil and natural gas;
- actions taken by foreign oil and gas producing nations;
- the availability of local, intrastate and interstate transportation systems;
- the price, availability and marketing of competitive fuels;
- the demand for electricity;

the impact of energy conservation efforts; and

the extent of governmental regulation and taxation.

**Table of Contents**

***The use of derivative financial instruments could result in material financial losses by us.***

From time to time, we have sought to limit a portion of the adverse effects resulting from changes in natural gas and other commodity prices and interest rates by using derivative financial instruments and other hedging mechanisms and by the activities we conduct in our trading operations. To the extent that we hedge our commodity price and interest rate exposures, we forego the benefits we would otherwise experience if commodity prices or interest rates were to change in our favor. In addition, even though monitored by management, our hedging and trading activities can result in losses. Such losses could occur under various circumstances, including if a counterparty does not perform its obligations under the hedge arrangement, the hedge is imperfect, commodity prices move unfavorably related to our physical or financial positions, or hedging policies and procedures are not followed.

***Our success depends upon our ability to continually contract for new sources of natural gas supply.***

In order to maintain or increase throughput levels on our gathering and transportation pipeline systems and asset utilization rates at our treating and processing plants, we must continually contract for new natural gas supplies and natural gas transportation services. We may not be able to obtain additional contracts for natural gas supplies for our natural gas gathering systems, and we may be unable to maintain or increase the levels of natural gas throughput on our transportation pipelines. The primary factors affecting our ability to connect new supplies of natural gas to our gathering systems include our success in contracting for existing natural gas supplies that are not committed to other systems and the level of drilling activity and production of natural gas near our gathering systems or in areas that provide access to our transportation pipelines or markets to which our systems connect. The primary factors affecting our ability to attract customers to our transportation pipelines consist of our access to other natural gas pipelines, natural gas markets, natural gas-fired power plants and other industrial end-users and the level of drilling and production of natural gas in areas connected to these pipelines and systems.

Fluctuations in energy prices can greatly affect production rates and investments by third parties in the development of new oil and natural gas reserves. Drilling activity and production generally decrease as oil and natural gas prices decrease. We have no control over the level of drilling activity in our areas of operation, the amount of reserves underlying the wells and the rate at which production from a well will decline, sometimes referred to as the decline rate. In addition, we have no control over producers or their production decisions, which are affected by, among other things, prevailing and projected energy prices, demand for hydrocarbons, the level of reserves, geological considerations, governmental regulation and the availability and cost of capital.

A substantial portion of our assets, including our gathering systems and our processing and treating plants, are connected to natural gas reserves and wells for which the production will naturally decline over time. Accordingly, our cash flows will also decline unless we are able to access new supplies of natural gas by connecting additional production to these systems.

Our transportation pipelines are also dependent upon natural gas production in areas served by our pipelines or in areas served by other gathering systems or transportation pipelines that connect with our transportation pipelines. A material decrease in natural gas production in our areas of operation or in other areas that are connected to our areas of operation by third party gathering systems or pipelines, as a result of depressed commodity prices or otherwise, would result in a decline in the volume of natural gas we handle, which would reduce our revenues and operating income. In addition, our future growth will depend, in part, upon whether we can contract for additional supplies at a greater rate than the rate of natural decline in our currently connected supplies.

Transwestern derives a significant portion of its revenue from charges to its customers for reservation of capacity, which charges Transwestern receives regardless of whether these customers actually use the reserved capacity.



Transwestern also generates revenue from transportation of natural gas for customers without reserved capacity. As the reserves available through the supply basins connected to Transwestern's systems naturally decline, a decrease in development or production activity could cause a decrease in the volume of natural gas available for transmission or a decrease in demand for natural gas transportation on the

**Table of Contents**

Transwestern system in the long run. Investments by third parties in the development of new natural gas reserves connected to Transwestern's facilities depend on many factors beyond Transwestern's control.

The volumes of natural gas we transport on our intrastate transportation pipelines may be reduced in the event that the prices at which natural gas is purchased and sold at the Waha Hub, the Katy Hub, the Carthage Hub and the Houston Ship Channel Hub, the four major natural gas trading hubs served by our pipelines, become unfavorable in relation to prices for natural gas at other natural gas trading hubs or in other markets as customers may elect to transport their natural gas to these other hubs or markets using pipelines other than those we operate.

***We may not be able to fully execute our growth strategy if we encounter illiquid capital markets or increased competition for qualified assets.***

Our strategy contemplates growth through the development and acquisition of a wide range of midstream, transportation, storage, propane and other energy infrastructure assets while maintaining a strong balance sheet. This strategy includes constructing and acquiring additional assets and businesses to enhance our ability to compete effectively and diversify our asset portfolio, thereby providing more stable cash flow. We regularly consider and enter into discussions regarding, and are currently contemplating, the acquisition of additional assets and businesses, stand alone development projects or other transactions that we believe will present opportunities to realize synergies and increase our cash flow.

Consistent with our acquisition strategy, we are continuously engaged in discussions with potential sellers regarding the possible acquisition of additional assets or businesses. Such acquisition efforts may involve our participation in processes that involve a number of potential buyers, commonly referred to as auction processes, as well as situations in which we believe we are the only party or one of a very limited number of potential buyers in negotiations with the potential seller. We cannot assure you that our current or future acquisition efforts will be successful or that any such acquisition will be completed on terms considered favorable to us.

In addition, we are experiencing increased competition for the assets we purchase or contemplate purchasing. Increased competition for a limited pool of assets could result in us losing to other bidders more often or acquiring assets at higher prices. Either occurrence would limit our ability to fully execute our growth strategy. Inability to execute our growth strategy may materially adversely impact the market price of our securities.

***An impairment of goodwill and intangible assets could reduce our earnings.***

At August 31, 2007, our consolidated balance sheet reflected \$718.4 million of goodwill and \$211.7 million of intangible assets. Goodwill is recorded when the purchase price of a business exceeds the fair market value of the tangible and separately measurable intangible net assets. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require us to test goodwill for impairment on an annual basis or when events or circumstances occur indicating that goodwill might be impaired. Long-lived assets such as intangible assets with finite useful lives are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. If we determine that any of our goodwill or intangible assets were impaired, we would be required to take an immediate charge to earnings with a correlative effect on partners