

CONTANGO OIL & GAS CO
Form 424B5
November 15, 2018
Table of Contents

**File Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-215784**

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell the securities described herein and it is not soliciting an offer to buy such securities in any state where such offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion, dated November 15, 2018

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement

(To prospectus dated February 8, 2017, as amended by prospectus supplement dated November 15, 2018)

Shares

Contango Oil & Gas Company

Common Stock

We are selling _____ shares of our common stock.

Our shares trade on the NYSE American under the symbol MCF. On November 14, 2018, the last sale price of the shares as reported on the NYSE American was \$4.68 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks that are described and incorporated by reference in the Risk Factors section beginning on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement.

| | <i>Per Common Share</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Public Offering Price | \$ | \$ |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Underwriting Discount(1) | \$ | \$ |
| Proceeds, before expenses, to us | \$ | \$ |

(1) We refer you to Underwriting beginning on page S-22 of this prospectus supplement for additional information regarding underwriting compensation.

The underwriters may exercise their option to purchase up to an additional shares from us, at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount, within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The shares will be ready for delivery on or about , 2018 (with any additional shares issued upon exercise of the underwriters option to be delivered on the same or a later date).

Joint Book-Running Managers

Cowen
, 2018

Intrepid Partners

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

| | |
|---|------|
| <u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u> | S-ii |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | S-ii |
| <u>Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | S-iv |
| <u>Summary</u> | S-1 |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | S-10 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | S-12 |
| <u>Capitalization</u> | S-13 |
| <u>Price Range of Common Stock</u> | S-14 |
| <u>Dividend Policy</u> | S-14 |
| <u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations for Non-U.S. Holders</u> | S-15 |
| <u>Certain ERISA Considerations</u> | S-19 |
| <u>Underwriting</u> | S-22 |
| <u>Legal Matters</u> | S-27 |
| <u>Experts</u> | S-27 |

Prospectus

| | |
|---|----|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u> | 1 |
| <u>The Company</u> | 1 |
| <u>About the Subsidiary Guarantors</u> | 1 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | 2 |
| <u>Cautionary Statements Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 3 |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | 5 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | 6 |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u> | 7 |
| <u>Description Of Debt Securities</u> | 8 |
| <u>Description Of Capital Stock</u> | 20 |
| <u>Description of Depositary Shares</u> | 25 |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u> | 27 |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | 28 |
| <u>Legal Matters</u> | 31 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 31 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering of common stock. The second part is the accompanying base prospectus, which provides more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. References in this prospectus supplement to the accompanying base prospectus are to the accompanying base prospectus, as amended by the prospectus supplement dated November 15, 2018. The information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement also adds to, updates and changes information contained or incorporated by reference in the accompanying base prospectus. If information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying base prospectus or the information incorporated by reference therein, then this prospectus supplement or the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede the information in the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference therein.

This prospectus supplement is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may from time to time offer and sell any combination of the securities described in the accompanying base prospectus up to a total dollar amount of \$250 million, of which this offering is a part.

We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell or soliciting an offer to buy these securities under any circumstance in any jurisdiction where the offer or solicitation is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and any free writing prospectus prepared by us or on our behalf is accurate only as of the date of the respective document in which the information appears, and that any information in documents that we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement or any sale of a security. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

Unless otherwise indicated or the context otherwise requires, all references in this prospectus supplement to we, our, us, the Company or Contango are to Contango Oil & Gas Company, a Delaware corporation, and its subsidiaries.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) (File No. 001-16317) pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). You may read and copy any documents that are filed at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may also obtain copies of these documents at prescribed rates from the Public Reference Room of the SEC at its Washington address. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information. Our filings are also available to the public through the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

Table of Contents

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information that we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to documents previously filed with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. The following documents we filed with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act are incorporated herein by reference:

- (a) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, filed with the SEC on March 9, 2018;
- (b) Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018, filed with the SEC on May 4, 2018, for the quarter ended June 30, 2018, filed with the SEC on August 8, 2018, and for the quarter ended September 30, 2018, filed with the SEC on November 7, 2018;
- (c) Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on April 2, 2018, May 15, 2018, July 19, 2018, August 2, 2018, August 15, 2018 and October 12, 2018 (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01); and
- (d) The description of our common stock which is contained in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-16317) filed with the SEC on January 16, 2001, including any amendments or reports we file for purposes of updating that description.

All documents filed pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 on any Current Report on Form 8-K or corresponding information furnished under Item 9.01 or included as an exhibit) subsequent to the date of this prospectus supplement and before the termination of the offering of common stock under this prospectus supplement shall be deemed to be incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. Any statement contained herein, or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus supplement.

You may request a copy of these filings (other than an exhibit to a filing unless that exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into that filing) at no cost by writing or telephoning us at the following address and telephone number:

Contango Oil & Gas Company

Attention: Corporate Secretary

717 Texas Avenue, Suite 2900

Houston, Texas 77002

(713) 236-7400

We maintain a website at <http://www.contango.com>. The information on our website is not part of this prospectus supplement.

S-iii

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in this prospectus supplement may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act, as amended. The words and phrases should be , will be , believe , expect , anticipate , estimate , forecast , goal and similar expressions are used to identify forward-looking statements and express our expectations about future events. Although we believe the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, such expectations may not occur. These forward-looking statements are made subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated. Risks and uncertainties that could cause or contribute to such differences include, without limitation, those discussed in the section entitled Risk Factors included in this prospectus supplement and elsewhere in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 and other filings we make with the SEC that are incorporated by reference herein and those factors summarized below:

our ability to successfully develop our undeveloped acreage in the Southern Delaware Basin and realize the benefits associated therewith;

our financial position, liquidity and ability to comply with covenants in our debt agreements;

our business strategy, including execution of any changes in our strategy;

meeting our forecasts and budgets;

expectations regarding natural gas and oil markets in the United States;

volatility in natural gas, natural gas liquids and oil prices, including regional differentials;

operational constraints, start-up delays and production shut-ins at both operated and non-operated production platforms, pipelines and natural gas processing facilities;

the risks associated with acting as operator of deep high pressure and high temperature wells, including well blowouts and explosions;

the risks associated with exploration, including cost overruns and the drilling of non-economic wells or dry holes, especially in prospects in which we have made a large capital commitment relative to the size of our capitalization structure;

the timing and successful drilling and completion of natural gas and oil wells;

our ability to generate sufficient cash flow from operations, borrowings or other sources to enable us to fund our operations, satisfy our obligations, and fund our drilling program;

our ability to comply with financial covenants in our debt instruments, repay indebtedness and access new sources of indebtedness;

the potential loss of tax benefits if we experience an ownership change under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code);

the cost and availability of rigs and other materials, services and operating equipment;

timely and full receipt of sale proceeds from the sale of our production;

our ability to find, acquire, market, develop and produce new natural gas and oil properties;

interest rate volatility;

our ability to complete strategic dispositions of assets and realize the benefits of such dispositions;

uncertainties in the estimation of proved reserves and in the projection of future rates of production and timing of development expenditures;

the need to take impairments on our properties;

the ability to post additional collateral for current bonds or comply with new supplemental bonding requirements imposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management;

Table of Contents

operating hazards attendant to the natural gas and oil business including weather, environmental risks, accidental spills, blowouts and pipeline ruptures, and other risks;

downhole drilling and completion risks that are generally not recoverable from third parties or insurance;

potential mechanical failure or under-performance of significant wells, production facilities, processing plants or pipeline mishaps;

actions or inactions of third-party operators of our properties;

actions or inactions of third-parties, including operators of pipelines or processing facilities;

the ability to retain key members of senior management and key technical employees and to find and retain skilled personnel;

strength and financial resources of competitors;

federal and state legislative and regulatory developments and approvals (including additional taxes and changes in environmental regulations);

worldwide economic conditions;

the ability to construct and operate infrastructure, including pipeline and production facilities;

the continued compliance by us with various pipeline and gas processing plant specifications for the gas and condensate produced by us;

operating costs, production rates and ultimate reserve recoveries of our natural gas and oil discoveries;

expanded rigorous monitoring and testing requirements;

the ability to obtain adequate insurance coverage on commercially reasonable terms; and

the limited trading value of our common stock and general market volatility.

Any of these factors and other factors described in this prospectus supplement or any documents incorporated by reference could cause our actual results to differ materially from the results implied by these or any other forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf. Although we believe our estimates and assumptions to be reasonable when made, they are inherently uncertain and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that are beyond our control. Our assumptions about future events may prove to be inaccurate. We caution you that the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus are not guarantees of future performance, and we cannot assure you that those statements will be realized or the forward-looking events and circumstances will occur. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

Reserve engineering is a process of estimating underground accumulations of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids that cannot be measured in an exact way. The accuracy of any reserve estimate depends on the quality of available data, the interpretation of such data and price and cost assumptions made by reserve engineers. In addition, the results of drilling, testing and production activities may justify revisions of estimates that were made previously. If significant, such revisions would change the schedule of any further production and development drilling and the stated value of our assets and future cash flows. Accordingly, reserve estimates may differ significantly from the quantities of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids that are ultimately recovered.

We do not intend to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law. These cautionary statements qualify all forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf.

S-v

Table of Contents**SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference. It does not contain all of the information you should consider before making an investment decision. You should read the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference and the other documents to which we refer for a more complete understanding of our business and this offering. Please read the section entitled *Risk Factors* on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and other filings we make with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, and the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus for more information about important factors you should consider before investing in our common stock in this offering.*

Our Business

We are a Houston, Texas based independent oil and natural gas company. Our business is to maximize production and cash flow from our offshore properties in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) and onshore properties in Texas and Wyoming and to use that cash flow to explore, develop, exploit, increase production from and acquire crude oil and natural gas properties in onshore West Texas, the Texas Gulf Coast and the Rocky Mountain regions of the United States.

The following table lists our primary producing areas as of September 30, 2018:

| Location | Formation |
|--|--|
| Gulf of Mexico | Offshore Louisiana water depths less than 300 feet |
| Southern Delaware Basin, Pecos County, Texas | Wolfcamp |
| Madison and Grimes counties, Texas | Woodbine (Upper Lewisville) |
| Other Texas Gulf Coast | Conventional and smaller unconventional formations |
| Zavala and Dimmit counties, Texas | Buda / Eagle Ford |
| Weston County, Wyoming | Muddy Sandstone |
| Sublette County, Wyoming | Jonah Field ⁽¹⁾ |

(1) Through a 37% equity investment in Exaro Energy III LLC (Exaro). Production associated with this investment is not included in our reported production results.

Since October 2013, upon the merger with Crimson Exploration Inc. (Crimson), and prior to the decline in crude oil and natural gas prices in 2015, we focused our drilling efforts on liquids-rich horizontal resource plays. Beginning in the second half of 2015, we reduced our drilling program in response to the challenging commodity price environment, and instead focused on: (i) the preservation of our financial position, including limiting our overall capital expenditure budget; (ii) the identification of opportunities for cost and production efficiencies in all areas of our operations; and (iii) the maintenance of core leases and the continued identification of new resource potential opportunities. As a result, until the latter half of 2016, our only drilling activity was in Weston County, Wyoming, where we completed our third well targeting the Muddy Sandstone formation. During the third quarter of 2016, we acquired a 12,100 gross acre position (5,000 net) in the Southern Delaware Basin in Pecos County, Texas, and as of December 31, 2017, had increased our acreage in the Southern Delaware Basin to

S-1

Table of Contents

16,500 gross acres (6,800 net). Since the acquisition of acreage in the Delaware Basin, we have begun production from 12 wells in the Southern Delaware Basin and are waiting on completion of a thirteenth well.

In addition to our above producing properties, we also have (i) operated producing properties in the Haynesville Shale, Mid Bossier Shale and the James Lime formations in East Texas and (ii) operated conventional producing properties in the south and southeast areas of Texas. In December 2016, we sold our operated producing properties in the Denver Julesburg Basin (DJ Basin) in Weld and Adams counties in Colorado.

During the quarter ended September 30, 2016, in conjunction with the acquisition of acreage in the Delaware Basin, we completed an underwritten public offering of 5,360,000 shares of our common stock for net proceeds of approximately \$50.5 million, which were used to fund the initial purchase of this acreage and provide funding for the costs associated with drilling our initial wells in the Southern Delaware Basin.

Our production for the year ended December 31, 2017 was approximately 20.1 Bcfe (or 55.1 Mmcfe/d) and was 68% from our offshore properties and was 69% natural gas. As of December 31, 2017, our proved reserves were approximately 65% proved developed, were 40% offshore, were 48% natural gas and were 98% attributed to wells and properties operated by us. Our production for the three months ended September 30, 2018 was approximately 4.0 Bcfe (or 43.6 Mmcfe/d) and 62% offshore and 38% onshore. Such production was comprised of 61% natural gas, 21% oil and 18% natural gas liquids. Our production for the three months ended September 30, 2017 was approximately 69% offshore and 31% onshore and was comprised of 68% natural gas, 16% oil and 16% natural gas liquids.

As of December 31, 2017, our proved reserves, as estimated by Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc. (NSAI) and William M. Cobb and Associates (Cobb), our independent petroleum engineering firms, in accordance with reserve reporting guidelines required by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), were approximately 189.3 Bcfe, consisting of 91.7 Bcf of natural gas, 10.6 MMBbl of crude oil and condensate and 5.6 MMBbl of natural gas liquids (NGLs), with a Standardized Measure of Discounted Future Net Cash Flows (Standardized Measure) of \$255.9 million and a present value, discounted at a 10% rate (PV-10), of \$257.3 million. PV-10 as of December 31, 2017 was based on adjusted prices of \$2.92 per MMBtu of natural gas, \$47.41 per barrel of oil, and \$18.59 per barrel of NGLs. PV-10 is not an accounting principle generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) and is therefore classified as a non-GAAP financial measure. A reconciliation of our Standardized Measure to PV-10 is provided under Non-GAAP Measures below.

Table of Contents

The following summary table sets forth certain information with respect to our proved reserves as of December 31, 2017 (excluding reserves attributable to our investment in Exaro), as estimated by NSAI and Cobb, and our average net daily production for the year ended December 31, 2017 and for the three months ended September 30, 2018:

| Region | Estimated Proved Reserves (Bcfe) | Crude Oil / Condensate | Natural Gas | | | % Proved Developed | Year Ended | Three Months Ended |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------|------|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| | | | % | % | % | | December 31, 2017 | September 30, 2018 |
| | | | Gas | Liquids | | | Average Net Daily Production (Mmcfe/d) | |
| Offshore GOM | 75.4 | 3% | 82% | 15% | 100% | 37.7 | 27.2 | |
| Southeast Texas(1) | 30.9 | 41% | 37% | 22% | 63% | 8.0 | 6.0 | |
| South Texas(2) | 25.7 | 46% | 40% | 14% | 64% | 5.6 | 3.1 | |
| West Texas | 55.5 | 64% | 15% | 21% | 19% | 2.6 | 6.4 | |
| Other(3) | 1.8 | 65% | 32% | 3% | 100% | 1.2 | 0.9 | |
| Total | 189.3 | | | | | 55.1 | 43.6 | |

(1) Includes Woodbine production from Madison and Grimes counties and conventional production in others.

(2) Includes Eagle Ford and Buda production from Karnes, Zavala and Dimmit counties, and conventional production in others.

(3) Includes East Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Wyoming.

The following summary table sets forth certain information with respect to the proved reserves attributable to our investment in Exaro, as of December 31, 2017, as estimated by W.D. Von Gonten and Associates (Von Gonten), and our net share of Exaro's average net daily production for the year ended December 31, 2017 and the three months ended September 30, 2018:

| Region | Estimated Proved Reserves (Bcfe) | Crude Oil / Condensate | Natural Gas | | | % Proved Developed | Year Ended | Three Months Ended |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------|-----|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| | | | % | % | % | | December 31, 2017 | September 30, 2018 |
| | | | Gas | Liquids | | | Average Net Daily Production (Mmcfe/d) | |
| Investment in Exaro | 30.7 | 6% | 94% | % | 99% | 26.4 | 22 | |

Recent Developments

Sixth Amendment to Credit Agreement

In October 2013, the Company entered into a \$500 million revolving credit facility with Royal Bank of Canada and other lenders (the RBC Credit Facility), which currently expires on October 1, 2019. The borrowing base under the facility is redetermined each November and May. As of September 30, 2018, the borrowing base under the RBC Credit Facility was \$105 million. On November 2, 2018, the Company entered into the Sixth Amendment to the RBC Credit Facility (the Sixth Amendment), whereby the current borrowing base was reaffirmed at \$105 million and will be reduced to \$90 million on and after January 31, 2019, unless such reduction is waived by all lenders. Any excess of borrowings and letter of credit obligations outstanding after January 31, 2019 over such reduced borrowing base will be due and payable on or prior to March 1, 2019.

S-3

Table of Contents

The Sixth Amendment also provides for, among other things: (i) reducing the letter of credit issuance commitment capacity from \$20.0 million to \$5.0 million; (ii) waiving compliance with the required minimum 1.00 to 1.00 Current Ratio for the fiscal quarters ended September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2018; (iii) eliminating an exception from the restriction on payment of dividends, stock repurchases or redemptions of equity for repurchases under certain circumstances; (iv) waiving advance notice and a requirement for delivery of a revised reserve report related to the Liberty and Hardin County, Texas asset sale; and (v) requires delivery to the administrative agent of the Company's internally-prepared monthly consolidated financial statements within 25 days of the end of such month.

The RBC Credit Facility is collateralized by a lien on substantially all the producing assets of the Company and its subsidiaries, including a security interest in the stock of the Company's subsidiaries and a lien on the Company's oil and gas properties.

The RBC Credit Facility contains restrictive covenants which, among other things, restrict the declaration or payment of dividends by the Company and require a Current Ratio of at least 1.00 to 1.00 and a Leverage Ratio of not more than 3.50 to 1.00, both as defined in the RBC Credit Facility Agreement. As of September 30, 2018, the Company was in compliance with all but the Current Ratio covenant under the RBC Credit Facility. The Company obtained a waiver for such non-compliance effective for September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2018 under the Sixth Amendment. The RBC Credit Facility also contains events of default that may accelerate repayment of any borrowings and/or termination of the facility. Events of default include, but are not limited to, payment defaults, breach of certain covenants including the current ratio covenant, bankruptcy, insolvency or change of control events.

As of September 30, 2018, the Company had approximately \$81.8 million outstanding under the RBC Credit Facility and \$1.9 million in outstanding letters of credit. As of December 31, 2017, the Company had approximately \$85.4 million outstanding under the RBC Credit Facility and \$1.9 million in outstanding letters of credit. As of September 30, 2018, borrowing availability under the RBC Credit Facility was \$21.3 million. The weighted average interest rate in effect at September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 was 6.0% and 5.2%, respectively.

Corporate Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 717 Texas Avenue, Suite 2900, Houston, Texas 77002, and our phone number is (713) 236-7400. Our website is located at <http://www.contango.com>. We make our periodic reports and other information filed with or furnished to the SEC available, free of charge, through our website, as soon as reasonably practicable. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, and you should not consider information contained on our website as part of this prospectus supplement.

For additional information about our business, properties and financial condition, please refer to the documents cited in [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Table of Contents

The Offering

| | |
|---|---|
| Issuer | Contango Oil & Gas Company |
| Shares of common stock offered | _____ shares (_____ shares if the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares is exercised in full). |
| Option to purchase additional shares | The underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional _____ shares from us, at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount, set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement. |
| Shares of common stock outstanding following this offering(1) | _____ shares (_____ shares if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares in full). |
| Use of proceeds | We expect the net proceeds from this offering to be approximately \$ _____ million (or approximately \$ _____ million if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares in full), after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated fees and expenses. We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering to reduce borrowings under our revolving credit facility and for general corporate purposes, including funding future potential acquisitions. For more information about our use of proceeds from this offering, see "Use of Proceeds." |
| Risk factors | Investing in our common stock involves substantial risk. You should carefully consider the risk factors set forth in the section entitled "Risk Factors" and the other information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein prior to making an investment in our common stock. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-10. |
| NYSE American symbol | MCF. |

(1) Based on 25,563,843 shares outstanding as of November 14, 2018.

Unless we indicate otherwise or the context otherwise requires, all of the information in this prospectus supplement assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares.

Entities affiliated with one of our directors, John C. Goff, are expected to purchase an aggregate of up to approximately \$ million in shares of our common stock in this offering at the price offered to the public and on the same terms as the other purchasers in this offering.

S-5

Table of Contents**Summary Historical Financial and Operating Data**

The table below sets forth revenue, production data, average sales prices and average production costs associated with our sales of natural gas, oil and natural gas liquids (NGLs) from operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017 and the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015. Oil, condensate and NGLs are compared with natural gas in terms of cubic feet of natural gas equivalents. One barrel of oil, condensate or NGL is the energy equivalent of six thousand cubic feet (Mcf) of natural gas. Reported operating expenses include production taxes, such as ad valorem and severance taxes. The data set forth below as of and for each of the three years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference herein. The data set forth below as of and for each of the nine month periods ended September 30, 2018 and 2017 have been derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference herein. The data are qualified in their entirety by and should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2018, each of which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement. Historical results are not necessarily indicative of results that may be expected for any future period.

| Selected financial and operating data (unaudited): | Nine Months Ended | | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | September 30, 2018 | 2017 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
| Revenues (thousands): | | | | | |
| Oil and condensate sales | \$ 26,976 | \$ 18,134 | \$ 25,347 | \$ 23,006 | \$ 43,230 |
| Natural gas sales | 21,585 | 31,956 | 41,317 | 43,847 | 59,058 |
| NGL sales | 9,832 | 8,440 | 11,881 | 11,330 | 14,217 |
| Total revenues | \$ 58,393 | \$ 58,530 | \$ 78,545 | \$ 78,183 | \$ 116,505 |
| Production: | | | | | |
| <u>Oil and condensate (thousand barrels)</u> | | | | | |
| Offshore GOM | 56 | 78 | 99 | 136 | 186 |
| Southeast Texas | 89 | 117 | 151 | 239 | 493 |
| South Texas | 66 | 68 | 95 | 128 | 178 |
| West Texas | 192 | 93 | 133 | | |
| Other | 27 | 32 | 40 | 94 | 67 |
| Total oil and condensate | 430 | 388 | 518 | 597 | 924 |
| <u>Natural gas (million cubic feet)</u> | | | | | |
| Offshore GOM | 5,934 | 8,618 | 11,113 | 13,991 | 16,786 |
| Southeast Texas | 825 | 999 | 1,328 | 2,059 | 3,136 |
| South Texas | 584 | 837 | 1,112 | 1,528 | 1,788 |
| West Texas | 200 | 45 | 82 | | |
| Other | 110 | 151 | 275 | 525 | 904 |
| Total natural gas | 7,653 | 10,650 | 13,910 | 18,103 | 22,614 |

S-6

Table of Contents

| Selected financial and operating data (unaudited): | Nine Months Ended | | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | September 30, 2018 | 2017 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
| Natural gas liquids (thousand barrels) | | | | | |
| Offshore GOM | 211 | 254 | 330 | 420 | 514 |
| Southeast Texas | 72 | 89 | 115 | 217 | 359 |
| South Texas | 33 | 43 | 60 | 72 | 87 |
| West Texas | 41 | 10 | 12 | | |
| Other | | 1 | | 7 | 8 |
| Total natural gas liquids | 357 | 397 | 517 | 716 | 968 |
| Total (million cubic feet equivalent) | | | | | |
| Offshore GOM | 7,538 | 10,608 | 13,685 | 17,329 | 20,988 |
| Southeast Texas | 1,788 | 2,239 | 2,924 | 4,792 | 8,249 |
| South Texas | 1,173 | 1,507 | 2,038 | 2,729 | 3,379 |
| West Texas | 1,599 | 655 | 947 | | |
| Other | 275 | 350 | 529 | 1,132 | 1,345 |
| Total production | 12,373 | 15,359 | 20,123 | 25,982 | 33,961 |
| Average Sales Price: | | | | | |
| Oil and condensate (per barrel) | \$ 62.76 | \$ 46.76 | \$ 48.90 | \$ 38.52 | \$ 46.80 |
| Natural gas (per thousand cubic feet) | \$ 2.82 | \$ 3.00 | \$ 2.97 | \$ 2.42 | \$ 2.61 |
| Natural gas liquids (per barrel) | \$ 27.45 | \$ 21.26 | \$ 22.97 | \$ 15.79 | \$ 14.68 |
| Total (per thousand cubic feet equivalent) | \$ 4.72 | \$ 3.81 | \$ 3.90 | \$ 3.01 | \$ 3.43 |
| Expenses (thousands): | | | | | |
| Operating expenses | \$ 19,787 | \$ 20,203 | \$ 27,183 | \$ 29,111 | \$ 37,840 |
| Exploration expenses | \$ 1,288 | \$ 690 | \$ 1,106 | \$ 1,816 | \$ 11,979 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | \$ 32,836 | \$ 35,678 | \$ 47,215 | \$ 63,323 | \$ 133,380 |
| Impairment and abandonment of oil and gas properties | \$ 76,628 | \$ 1,515 | \$ 2,395 | \$ 10,572 | \$ 285,877 |
| General and administrative expenses | \$ 18,804 | \$ 18,648 | \$ 24,161 | \$ 26,802 | \$ 26,402 |
| Gain (loss) from investment in affiliates (net of taxes) | \$ (38) | \$ 2,475 | \$ 2,697 | \$ 1,545 | \$ (30,582) |
| Other (income) expense | \$ 1,239 | \$ (27) | \$ 2,780 | \$ (5,791) | \$ (719) |
| Selected data per Mcfe: | | | | | |
| Operating expenses | \$ 1.60 | \$ 1.32 | \$ 1.35 | \$ 1.12 | \$ 1.11 |
| General and administrative expenses | \$ 1.52 | \$ 1.21 | \$ 1.20 | \$ 1.03 | \$ 0.78 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | \$ 2.65 | \$ 2.32 | \$ 2.35 | \$ 2.44 | \$ 3.93 |

Balance Sheet Data:

| (in thousands) | As of | | As of December 31, | |
|--|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|------|
| | September 30, 2018 | 2017 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Accounts receivable, net | \$ 10,957 | \$ 13,059 | \$ 16,727 | |
| Total property, plant and equipment, net | \$ 270,956 | \$ 345,957 | \$ 340,382 | |
| Total assets | \$ 304,261 | \$ 381,453 | \$ 376,514 | |

Edgar Filing: CONTANGO OIL & GAS CO - Form 424B5

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ | 52,899 | \$ | 46,755 | \$ | 55,135 |
| Asset retirement obligations | \$ | 17,837 | \$ | 20,388 | \$ | 22,618 |
| Long-term debt | \$ | 81,771 | \$ | 85,380 | \$ | 54,354 |

S-7

Table of Contents

| Other Financial Data: (in thousands) | Nine Months Ended | | As of December 31, | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | September 30, 2018 | 2017 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Adjusted EBITDAX | \$ 21,950 | \$ 24,874 | \$ 35,087 | \$ 30,142 |
| <i>Non-GAAP Financial Measures</i> | | | | |

EBITDAX represents net income (loss) before interest expense, taxes, and depreciation, depletion and amortization, and oil & gas exploration expenses. Adjusted EBITDAX represents EBITDAX as further adjusted to reflect the items set forth in the table below and is a measure required to be used in determining our compliance with financial covenants under our credit facility.

We have included EBITDAX and Adjusted EBITDAX in this prospectus supplement to provide investors with a supplemental measure of our operating performance and information about the calculation of some of the financial covenants that are contained in our credit agreement. We believe EBITDAX is an important supplemental measure of operating performance because it eliminates items that have less bearing on our operating performance and therefore highlights trends in our core business that may not otherwise be apparent when relying solely on GAAP financial measures. We also believe that securities analysts, investors and other interested parties frequently use EBITDAX in the evaluation of companies, many of which present EBITDAX when reporting their results. Adjusted EBITDAX is a material component of the covenants that are imposed on us by our credit agreement. We are subject to financial covenant ratios that are calculated by reference to Adjusted EBITDAX. Non-compliance with the financial covenants contained in our credit agreement could result in a default, an acceleration in the repayment of amounts outstanding and a termination of lending commitments. Our management and external users of our financial statements, such as investors, commercial banks, research analysts and others, also use EBITDAX and Adjusted EBITDAX to assess:

the financial performance of our assets without regard to financing methods, capital structure or historical cost basis;

the ability of our assets to generate cash sufficient to pay interest costs and support our indebtedness;

our operating performance and return on capital as compared to those of other companies in our industry, without regard to financing or capital structure; and

the feasibility of acquisitions and capital expenditure projects and the overall rates of return on alternative investment opportunities.

EBITDAX and Adjusted EBITDAX are not presentations made in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP. As discussed above, we believe that the presentation of non-GAAP financial measures in this release is appropriate. However, when evaluating our results, you should not consider the non-GAAP financial measures in isolation of, or as a substitute for, measures of our financial performance as determined in accordance with GAAP, such as net income (loss). For example, EBITDAX and Adjusted EBITDAX have material limitations as performance measures because they exclude items that are necessary elements of our costs and operations. Because other companies may calculate EBITDAX and Adjusted EBITDAX differently than we do, EBITDAX may not be,

and Adjusted EBITDAX as presented in this release is not, comparable to similarly-titled measures reported by other companies.

S-8

Table of Contents

The following table reconciles net income to EBITDAX and Adjusted EBITDAX for the periods presented:

| (in thousands) | Nine Months Ended | | Year Ended | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | September 30, 2018 | 2017 | December 31, 2017 | 2016 |
| Net loss | \$ (87,765) | \$ (12,065) | \$ (17,643) | \$ (58,029) |
| Interest expense | 4,082 | 2,822 | 4,100 | 3,802 |
| Income tax provision (benefit) | 288 | 397 | (395) | 342 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 32,836 | 35,678 | 47,215 | 63,323 |
| Exploration expense | 1,288 | 690 | 1,106 | 1,816 |
| EBITDAX | \$ (49,271) | \$ 27,522 | \$ 34,383 | \$ 11,254 |
| Unrealized loss (gain) on derivative instruments | \$ 2,551 | \$ (3,797) | \$ (2,204) | \$ 3,446 |
| Non-cash stock-based compensation charges | 3,772 | 4,560 | 6,100 | 6,457 |
| Impairment of oil and gas properties | 76,175 | 1,400 | 1,785 | 10,438 |
| Gain on sale of assets and investment in affiliates | (11,277) | (4,811) | (4,977) | (1,453) |
| Adjusted EBITDAX | \$ 21,950 | \$ 24,874 | \$ 35,087 | \$ 30,142 |

PV-10 at year-end is a non-GAAP financial measure and represents the present value, discounted at 10% per year, of estimated future cash inflows from proved natural gas and crude oil reserves, less future development and production costs using pricing assumptions in effect at the end of the period. PV-10 differs from Standardized Measure because it does not include the effects of income taxes on future net revenues. Neither PV-10 nor Standardized Measure represents an estimate of fair market value of our natural gas and crude oil properties. PV-10 is used by the industry and by our management as an arbitrary reserve asset value measure to compare against past reserve bases and the reserve bases of other business entities that are not dependent on the taxpaying status of the entity.

The following table provides a reconciliation of our Standardized Measure to PV-10 (in thousands):

| | December 31, 2017 |
|---|----------------------|
| Pre-tax net present value, discounted at 10% | \$ 257,283 |
| Future income taxes, discounted at 10% | (1,376) |
| Standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows | \$ 255,907 |

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

*Investing in our common stock involves substantial risk. In addition to the risk factors set forth below, you should carefully consider the risk factors set forth in the section entitled *Risk Factors* in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and other filings we make with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, and the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus prior to making an investment in our common stock. If any of the described risks were actually to occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be materially adversely affected. Please read *Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements*.*

The risks described below and those risks described in documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial individually or in the aggregate may also adversely affect our business operations.

The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Although our common stock is listed on the NYSE American, we cannot assure you that an active public market will continue for our common stock. If an active public market for our common stock does not continue, the trading price and liquidity of our common stock will be materially and adversely affected. If there is a thin trading market or float for our common stock, the market price for our common stock may fluctuate significantly more than the stock market as a whole. Without a large float, our common stock would be less liquid than the stock of companies with broader public ownership and, as a result, the trading prices of our common stock may be more volatile. In addition, in the absence of an active public trading market, investors may be unable to liquidate their investment in us. Furthermore, the stock market is subject to significant price and volume fluctuations, and the market price for our common stock could fluctuate significantly for various reasons, including:

our operating and financial performance and prospects;

our quarterly or annual earnings or those of other companies in our industry;

conditions that impact demand for crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids, domestically and globally;

future announcements concerning our business;

changes in financial estimates and recommendations by securities analysts;

actions of competitors;

market and industry perception of our success, or lack thereof, in pursuing our growth strategy;

strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions or restructurings;

changes in government and environmental regulation;

general market, economic and political conditions, domestically and globally;

changes in accounting standards, policies, guidance, interpretations or principles;

sales of common stock by us, our significant stockholders or members of our management team; and

natural disasters, terrorist attacks and acts of war.

Our revenues may vary significantly from year to year depending on production volumes and changes in commodity prices, each of which may fluctuate widely. In addition, in recent years, the stock market has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations. This commodity prices and

S-10

Table of Contents

stock market volatility has had a significant impact on the market price of securities issued by many companies, including companies in our industry. The changes frequently appear to occur without regard to the operating performance of the affected companies. Hence, the price of our common stock could fluctuate based upon factors that have little or nothing to do with our company, and these fluctuations could materially reduce our share price.

We adopted a shareholder rights plan, which though it was designed to preserve the value of our NOLs, may discourage the acquisition and sale of large blocks of our common stock and may result in significant dilution for certain stockholders.

On August 1, 2018, we entered into a net operating loss (NOLs) carryforwards rights plan designed to preserve stockholder value and the value of our NOLs by acting as a deterrent to any person acquiring beneficial ownership of 4.95% or more of our outstanding common stock without the approval of our board of directors. The rights plan may discourage existing 4.95% common stockholders from selling their interest in a single block, which may impact the liquidity of our common stock, may deter institutional investors from investing in our common stock, and may deter potential acquirers from making premium offers to acquire us, factors which may depress the market price of our common stock. We can make no assurances the rights plan will be effective in meeting its intended objectives, including to deter a change in control and protecting or realizing NOLs.

The definition of *Acquiring Person* in the agreement governing the rights plan has important exceptions, including that no person will become an *Acquiring Person* by means of purchases through this offering. However, any such person or group of affiliated or associated persons that becomes the beneficial owner of more than 4.95% of our outstanding common stock through the offering will become an *Acquiring Person* under the rights agreement, and will face substantial dilution, if it subsequently becomes the beneficial owner of any additional shares of common stock without our prior written consent and beneficially owns more than 4.95% of our outstanding common stock at such time.

Our ability to utilize our NOLs is limited by our ability to generate sufficient taxable income from future operations and as a result of ownership changes.

As of December 31, 2017, we had federal NOL carryforwards of \$284.4 million, in part, due to the merger with Crimson Exploration Inc. on October 1, 2013, and in part to subsequent taxable losses in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 due to lower commodity prices, historical depletion, depreciation and amortization rates that were high relative to declining commodity prices and deductible drilling costs incurred in our drilling program. Generally, the future benefit of these NOLs is their ability to reduce future taxable income and is therefore the basis for our net deferred tax assets, subject to having sufficient future taxable income available to offset, and to the limitations set forth in Section 382 of the Code.

Given the uncertainty of our ability to generate sufficient taxable income to utilize these NOL carryforwards in the future, a valuation allowance of \$49.0 million was recorded for the year ended December 31, 2017 against the deferred tax assets described in the previous paragraph.

Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, limits the use of NOL carryforwards in certain situations where changes occur in the stock ownership of a company. Based on assumptions we have made about the size and investors in this offering, we expect that we will have an ownership change as a result of this offering, which will subject our utilization of our existing NOLs to further limitations.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We expect the net proceeds from this offering to be approximately \$ million (or approximately \$ million if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares in full), after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated fees and expenses. We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering to reduce borrowings under our revolving credit facility and for general corporate purposes, including funding future potential acquisitions.

As of September 30, 2018, we had approximately \$81.8 million outstanding under our revolving credit facility, which matures on October 1, 2019, and \$1.9 million in outstanding letters of credit. Borrowings under our revolving credit facility bear interest at a floating or market interest rate that is tied to the prime rate or LIBOR. During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, our effective rates fluctuated between 4.9% and 8.25%, depending on the term of the specific debt drawdowns. As of September 30, 2018, the weighted average interest rate on our variable rate debt was 5.97% per year. Borrowings under our revolving credit facility are incurred for general corporate purposes, including the funding of our capital budget and acquisitions. Any amounts repaid with the proceeds from this offering may be reborrowed in the future.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our capitalization at September 30, 2018:

on an actual basis; and

on an as adjusted basis to give effect to the issuance and sale of our common stock offered hereby and the application of the estimated net proceeds therefrom as set forth under Use of Proceeds, after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated fees and expenses.

This table should be read in conjunction with, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, Use of Proceeds and our historical audited consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and our unaudited consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2018, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.

| | September 30, 2018 | |
|---|---|--------------------|
| | Actual | As Adjusted |
| | (in thousands, except share amounts) | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ | \$ |
| Long-term debt: | | |
| Revolving credit facility(1) | \$ 81,771 | \$ |
| Total long-term debt | 81,771 | |
| Stockholders equity: | | |
| Common stock, \$0.04 par value; 50,000,000 authorized; (i) 31,029,458 shares issued and 25,584,108 shares outstanding and (ii) as adjusted shares issued and shares outstanding, each at September 30, 2018 | 1,229 | |
| Additional paid-in capital | 306,293 | |
| Retained earnings | (38,332) | (38,332) |
| Treasury stock, at cost; 5,445,350 shares at September 30, 2018, actual and as adjusted | (128,953) | (128,953) |
| Total stockholders equity | 140,237 | |
| Total capitalization | \$ 222,008 | \$ |

(1) At November 14, 2018, after giving effect to the issuance and sale of the common stock offered hereby and the application of the estimated net proceeds therefrom, we would have been able to incur an additional \$ of

indebtedness under our revolving credit facility.

S-13

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK**

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE American under the symbol MCF. The following table shows, for the periods indicated, the high and low reported sale prices for our common stock, as reported on the NYSE American.

| | Sales Price | |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| | High | Low |
| Year Ended December 31, 2016: | | |
| Quarter Ended March 31, 2016 | \$ 12.84 | \$ 3.68 |
| Quarter Ended June 30, 2016 | \$ 14.14 | \$ 10.52 |
| Quarter Ended September 30, 2016 | \$ 12.85 | \$ 8.25 |
| Quarter Ended December 31, 2016 | \$ 11.98 | \$ 7.43 |
| Year Ended December 31, 2017: | | |
| Quarter Ended March 31, 2017 | \$ 10.15 | \$ 5.62 |
| Quarter Ended June 30, 2017 | \$ 8.19 | \$ 5.83 |
| Quarter Ended September 30, 2017 | \$ 6.89 | \$ 3.97 |
| Quarter Ended December 31, 2017 | \$ 5.43 | \$ 2.22 |
| Year Ended December 31, 2018: | | |
| Quarter Ended March 31, 2018 | \$ 5.97 | \$ 2.80 |
| Quarter Ended June 30, 2018 | \$ 6.13 | \$ 3.00 |
| Quarter Ended September 30, 2018 | \$ 7.25 | \$ 4.37 |
| Quarter Ended December 31, 2018 (through November 14, 2018) | \$ 7.32 | \$ 4.46 |

On November 14, 2018, the last sales price of our common stock as reported on the NYSE American was \$4.68 per share.

As of November 14, 2018, there were approximately 212 holders of record of our common stock.

DIVIDEND POLICY

Holders of our common stock have no preemptive or other rights to subscribe for shares. Holders of our common stock are entitled to such dividends as may be declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available therefor. Our board of directors presently intends to retain all of our earnings for the expansion of our business; therefore, we have no plans to pay regular dividends on our common stock. Any payment of future dividends will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on, among other things, our earnings, financial condition, capital requirements, level of indebtedness, statutory and contractual restrictions applying to the payment of dividends, and other considerations that our board of directors deems relevant. Also, the provisions of our senior secured revolving credit agreement restrict the payment of dividends, and we may also enter into credit agreements or other borrowing arrangements in the future that restrict or limit our ability to pay cash dividends on our common stock.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations related to the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock by a non-U.S. holder (as defined below) that holds our common stock as a capital asset (generally property held for investment). This summary is based on the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), U.S. Treasury regulations, administrative rulings and judicial decisions, all as in effect on the date hereof, and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. We have not sought any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) with respect to the statements made and the conclusions reached in the following summary, and there can be no assurance that the IRS or a court will agree with such statements and conclusions.

This summary does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to non-U.S. holders in light of their personal circumstances. In addition, this summary does not address the net investment income tax, U.S. federal estate or gift tax laws, any state, local or non-U.S. tax laws or any tax treaties. This summary also does not address tax considerations applicable to investors that may be subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, such as:

banks, insurance companies or other financial institutions;

tax-exempt or governmental organizations;

qualified foreign pension funds;

dealers in securities or foreign currencies;

traders in securities that use the mark-to-market method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes;

persons subject to the alternative minimum tax;

partnerships or other pass-through entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes or holders of interests therein;

real estate investment trusts or regulated investment companies;

controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies or corporations that accumulate earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax;

persons that own, or are deemed to own, more than five percent (5%) of our common stock (except to the extent specifically set forth below);

persons deemed to sell our common stock under the constructive sale provisions of the Code;

persons that acquired our common stock through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation or through a tax-qualified retirement plan;

certain former citizens or long-term residents of the United States; and

persons that hold our common stock as part of a straddle, appreciated financial position, synthetic security, hedge, conversion transaction or other integrated investment or risk reduction transaction.

PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICATION OF THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS TO THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATION, AS WELL AS ANY TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF OUR COMMON STOCK ARISING UNDER THE U.S. FEDERAL ESTATE OR GIFT TAX LAWS OR UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY STATE, LOCAL, NON-U.S. OR OTHER TAXING JURISDICTION OR UNDER ANY APPLICABLE INCOME TAX TREATY.

Table of Contents

Non-U.S. Holder Defined

For purposes of this discussion, a non-U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of our common stock that is not for U.S. federal income tax purposes a partnership or any of the following:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source; or

a trust (i) the administration of which is subject to the primary supervision of a U.S. court and that has one or more United States persons that have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (ii) that has made a valid election under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

If a partnership (including an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner, upon the activities of the partnership and upon certain determinations made at the partner level. Accordingly, we urge partners in partnerships (including entities or arrangements treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes) considering the purchase of our common stock to consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax considerations of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock by such partnership.

Distributions

We do not expect to pay any distributions on our common stock in the foreseeable future. However, in the event we do make distributions of cash or other property on our common stock, such distributions will constitute dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent paid from our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. To the extent those distributions exceed our current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distributions will be treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of the non-U.S. holder's tax basis in our common stock and thereafter as capital gain from the sale or exchange of such common stock. See **Gain on Disposition of Common Stock**. Subject to the withholding requirements under FATCA (as defined below) and with respect to effectively connected dividends, each of which is discussed below, any dividend made to a non-U.S. holder on our common stock generally will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30 percent of the gross amount of the dividend unless an applicable income tax treaty provides for a lower rate. To receive the benefit of a reduced treaty rate, a non-U.S. holder must provide the applicable withholding agent with an IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E (or other applicable or successor form) certifying qualification for the reduced rate.

Dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder that are effectively connected with a trade or business conducted by the non-U.S. holder in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, are treated as attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States) generally will be taxed on a net income basis at the rates and in the manner generally applicable to United States persons (as defined under the Code). Such effectively connected dividends will not be subject to U.S. withholding tax if the non-U.S. holder satisfies

certain certification requirements by providing the applicable withholding agent a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI certifying eligibility for exemption. If the non-U.S. holder is a non-U.S. corporation, it may also be subject to a branch profits tax (at a 30 percent rate or such lower rate as specified by an applicable income tax treaty) on its effectively connected earnings and profits (as adjusted for certain items), which will include effectively connected dividends.

S-16

Table of Contents

Gain on Disposition of Common Stock

Subject to the discussion below under **Additional Withholding Requirements under FATCA**, a non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on any gain realized upon the sale or other disposition of our common stock unless:

the non-U.S. holder is an individual who is present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the calendar year in which the sale or disposition occurs and certain other conditions are met;

the gain is effectively connected with a trade or business conducted by the non-U.S. holder in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States); or

our common stock constitutes a United States real property interest by reason of our status as a United States real property holding corporation (**USRPHC**) for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

A non-U.S. holder described in the first bullet point above will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30 percent (or such lower rate as specified by an applicable income tax treaty) on the amount of such gain, which generally may be offset by U.S. source capital losses.

A non-U.S. holder whose gain is described in the second bullet point above or, subject to the exceptions described in the next paragraph, the third bullet point above, generally will be taxed on a net income basis at the rates and in the manner generally applicable to United States persons (as defined under the Code) unless an applicable income tax treaty provides otherwise. If the non-U.S. holder is a corporation, it may also be subject to a branch profits tax (at a 30 percent rate or such lower rate as specified by an applicable income tax treaty) on its effectively connected earnings and profits (as adjusted for certain items), which will include such gain.

Generally, a corporation is a **USRPHC** if the fair market value of its United States real property interests equals or exceeds 50 percent of the sum of the fair market value of its worldwide real property interests and its other assets used or held for use in a trade or business. We believe that we currently are, and expect to remain for the foreseeable future, a **USRPHC** for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, as long as our common stock continues to be regularly traded on an established securities market, only a non-U.S. holder that actually or constructively owns, or owned at any time during the shorter of the five-year period ending on the date of the disposition or the non-U.S. holder's holding period for the common stock, more than five percent (5%) of our common stock will be taxable on gain realized on the disposition of our common stock as a result of our status as a **USRPHC**. If our common stock were not considered to be regularly traded on an established securities market during the calendar year in which the relevant disposition by a non-U.S. holder occurs, such holder (regardless of the percentage of stock owned) would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a taxable disposition of our common stock (as described in the preceding paragraph), and a 15 percent (15%) withholding tax would apply to the gross proceeds from such disposition. Our common stock is currently listed on the NYSE American, and we expect that, for as long as our common stock continues to be so listed, the common stock will be treated as regularly traded on an established securities market.

Non-U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the application of the foregoing rules to their ownership and disposition of our common stock.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Any dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder must be reported annually to the IRS and to the non-U.S. holder. Copies of these information returns may be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the non-U.S. holder resides or is established. Payments of dividends to a non-U.S. holder

S-17

Table of Contents

generally will not be subject to backup withholding if the non-U.S. holder establishes an exemption by properly certifying its non-U.S. status on an IRS Form W-8BEN, IRS Form W-8BEN-E or other appropriate version of IRS Form W-8.

Payments of the proceeds from a sale or other disposition by a non-U.S. holder of our common stock effected by or through a U.S. office of a broker generally will be subject to information reporting and backup withholding (at the applicable rate) unless the non-U.S. holder establishes an exemption by properly certifying its non-U.S. status on an IRS Form W-8BEN, IRS Form W-8BEN-E or other appropriate version of IRS Form W-8 and certain other conditions are met. Information reporting and backup withholding generally will not apply to any payment of the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of our common stock effected outside the United States by a non-U.S. office of a broker. However, unless such broker has documentary evidence in its records that the holder is not a United States person and certain other conditions are met, or the non-U.S. holder otherwise establishes an exemption, information reporting will apply to a payment of the proceeds of the disposition of our common stock effected outside the United States by such a broker if it has certain relationships within the United States.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Rather, the U.S. income tax liability (if any) of persons subject to backup withholding will be reduced by the amount of tax withheld. If backup withholding results in an overpayment of taxes, a refund may be obtained, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Additional Withholding Requirements under FATCA

Sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code, and the Treasury regulations and administrative guidance issued thereunder (FATCA), impose a 30 percent withholding tax on any dividends paid on our common stock and on the gross proceeds from a disposition of our common stock (if such disposition occurs after December 31, 2018), in each case if paid to a foreign financial institution or a non-financial foreign entity (each as defined in the Code) (including, in some cases, when such foreign financial institution or non-financial foreign entity is acting as an intermediary), unless (i) in the case of a foreign financial institution, such institution enters into an agreement with the U.S. government to withhold on certain payments, and to collect and provide to the U.S. tax authorities substantial information regarding U.S. account holders of such institution (which includes certain equity and debt holders of such institution, as well as certain account holders that are non-U.S. entities with U.S. owners), (ii) in the case of a non-financial foreign entity, such entity certifies that it does not have any substantial United States owners (as defined in the Code) or provides the applicable withholding agent with a certification identifying the direct and indirect substantial United States owners of the entity (in either case, generally on an IRS Form W-8BEN-E), or (iii) the foreign financial institution or non-financial foreign entity otherwise qualifies for an exemption from these rules and provides appropriate documentation (such as an IRS Form W-8BEN-E). Foreign financial institutions located in jurisdictions that have an intergovernmental agreement with the United States governing these rules may be subject to different rules. Under certain circumstances, a holder might be eligible for refunds or credits of such taxes.

INVESTORS CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE OF OUR COMMON STOCK ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS TO THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATIONS AND THE APPLICABILITY AND EFFECT OF U.S. FEDERAL ESTATE AND GIFT TAX LAWS AND ANY STATE, LOCAL OR NON-U.S. TAX LAWS AND TAX TREATIES, INCLUDING THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY PROPOSED CHANGE IN APPLICABLE LAW.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain considerations associated with the purchase of our common stock by employee benefit plans that are subject to Title I of the U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), plans, individual retirement accounts and other arrangements that are subject to Section 4975 of the Code or provisions under any federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to such provisions of ERISA or the Code (collectively, Similar Laws), and entities whose underlying assets are considered to include plan assets of any such plan, account or arrangement (each, a Plan).

General Fiduciary Matters

ERISA and the Code impose certain duties on persons who are fiduciaries of a Plan subject to Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (an ERISA Plan) and prohibit certain transactions involving the assets of an ERISA Plan and its fiduciaries or other interested parties. Under ERISA and the Code, any person who exercises any discretionary authority or control over the administration of such an ERISA Plan or the management or disposition of the assets of such an ERISA Plan, or who renders investment advice for a fee or other compensation to such an ERISA Plan, is generally considered to be a fiduciary of the ERISA Plan.

In considering an investment in our common stock of a portion of the assets of any Plan, a fiduciary should determine whether the investment is in accordance with the documents and instruments governing the Plan and the applicable provisions of ERISA, the Code or any Similar Law relating to the fiduciary s duties to the Plan including, without limitation, the prudence, diversification, delegation of control and prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA, the Code and any other applicable Similar Laws.

Prohibited Transaction Issues

Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit ERISA Plans from engaging in specified transactions involving plan assets with persons or entities who are parties in interest, within the meaning of ERISA, or disqualified persons, within the meaning of Section 4975 of the Code, unless an exemption is available. A party in interest or disqualified person who engages in a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to excise taxes and other penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code. In addition, the fiduciary of the ERISA Plan that engaged in such a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code. The acquisition and/or holding of our common stock by an ERISA Plan with respect to which we or the underwriters are considered a party in interest or a disqualified person may constitute or result in a direct or indirect prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA and/or Section 4975 of the Code, unless the investment is acquired and is held in accordance with an applicable statutory, class or individual prohibited transaction exemption. In this regard, the U.S. Department of Labor has issued prohibited transaction class exemptions, or PTCEs, that may apply to the acquisition and holding of our common stock. These class exemptions include, without limitation, PTCE 75-1 respecting certain transactions involving broker-dealers, reporting dealers and banks, PTCE 84-14 respecting transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers, PTCE 90-1 respecting insurance company pooled separate accounts, PTCE 91-38 respecting bank collective investment funds, PTCE 95-60 respecting life insurance company general accounts and PTCE 96-23 respecting transactions determined by in-house asset managers. In addition, Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code provide relief from the prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code for certain transactions, *provided* that neither the issuer of the securities nor any of its affiliates (directly or indirectly) have or exercise any discretionary authority or control or render any investment advice with respect to the assets of any ERISA Plan involved in the transaction and *provided further* that the ERISA Plan pays no more than adequate consideration in connection with

S-19

Table of Contents

the transaction. There can be no assurance that all of the conditions of any such exemptions will be satisfied. Moreover, even if the conditions specified in one or more of these exemptions are met, the scope of the relief provided by these exemptions might or might not cover all acts which might be construed as prohibited transactions.

Because of the foregoing, our common stock should not be purchased or held by any person investing plan assets of any Plan, unless such purchase and holding will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under ERISA and the Code or similar violation of any applicable Similar Laws.

Plan Asset Issues

In addition to considering whether the purchase of our common stock is a prohibited transaction, a fiduciary of an employee benefit plan should consider whether the employee benefit plan will, by investing in our common stock, be deemed to own an undivided interest in our assets, with the result that our operations may be subject to the regulatory restrictions of ERISA, including its prohibited transaction rules, as well as the prohibited transaction rules of the Code and any other applicable Similar Laws.

Certain Department of Labor regulations provide guidance with respect to whether the assets of an entity in which employee benefit plans acquire equity interests would be deemed plan assets under certain circumstances. Under these regulations, an entity's underlying assets generally would not be considered to be plan assets if, among other things:

- (1) the equity interests acquired by the employee benefit plan are publicly offered securities i.e., the equity interests are widely held by 100 or more investors independent of the issuer and each other, are freely transferable (as defined in the applicable Department of Labor regulations) and are either registered pursuant to certain provisions of the federal securities laws or sold to the employee benefit plan as part of a public offering under certain conditions;
- (2) the entity is an operating company i.e., it is primarily engaged in the production or sale of a product or service other than the investment of capital either directly or through a majority-owned subsidiary or subsidiaries; or
- (3) there is no significant investment by benefit plan investors, which is defined to mean that less than 25% of the value of each class of equity interest, disregarding any person or entity who has discretionary authority or control over our assets or who provides investment advice for any direct or indirect fee with respect to our assets, is held by the employee benefit plans referred to above (but not including governmental plans, foreign plans and certain church plans, in each case, as defined under ERISA).

Each benefit plan investor (as such term is defined in Section 3(42) of ERISA) (a Benefit Plan Investor) should consider the fact that none of we, the underwriters, nor any of our or their respective affiliates (collectively, the Applicable Entities) will act as a fiduciary to any Benefit Plan Investor with respect to the decision to acquire our common stock and that none of the Applicable Entities is undertaking to provide impartial investment advice, or to give advice in a fiduciary capacity, with respect to such decision. The decision to acquire our common stock must be made by each prospective Benefit Plan Investor on an arm's length basis. In addition, each Benefit Plan Investor acquiring our common stock must generally be represented by a fiduciary that (i) is capable of evaluating investment risks independently, both in general and with regard to the prospective investment in our common stock, and (ii) has exercised independent judgment in evaluating whether to invest the assets of such Benefit Plan Investor in our common stock.

The foregoing discussion is general in nature, is based on the provisions of ERISA and the Code (and related regulations and administrative and judicial interpretations) as of the date of this prospectus

S-20

Table of Contents

supplement, and is not intended to be all inclusive, nor should it be construed as legal advice. Employee benefit plan fiduciaries contemplating a purchase of our common stock should consult with their own counsel regarding the consequences under ERISA, the Code, and any other applicable Similar Laws in light of the complexity of these rules and the serious penalties imposed on persons who engage in prohibited transactions or other violations. This summary does not purport to be complete, and no assurance can be given that future legislation, court decisions, administrative regulations, rulings or administrative pronouncements will not significantly modify the requirements summarized above. Any of these changes may be retroactive and may thereby apply to transactions entered into prior to the date of their enactment or release.

Representations

By purchasing our common stock, each acquiror and subsequent transferee will be deemed to have represented and warranted that either (i) it is not itself a Plan, is not acting on behalf of a Plan, and for so long as it holds our common stock will not itself be a Plan or be acting on behalf of a Plan, and no portion of the assets used by such investor to acquire and/or hold our common stock constitutes or will constitute assets of a Plan, or (ii) the acquisition and holding of our common stock by such acquiror or transferee, throughout the period that it holds our common stock, and the disposition of such common stock, will not constitute or result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or any comparable provisions of Similar Laws.

By purchasing our common stock, each Benefit Plan Investor will be deemed to have acknowledged and represented that: (i) none of the Applicable Entities has been relied upon for any advice with respect to the Benefit Plan Investor's decision to purchase or hold our common stock and none of the Applicable Entities shall at any time be relied upon as the Benefit Plan Investor's fiduciary with respect to any decision to purchase, hold, transfer or otherwise dispose of our common stock; (ii) the Benefit Plan Investor's decision to invest and any decision to continue investment in or to transfer or otherwise dispose of our common stock has been made at the recommendation or direction of a fiduciary that is: (a) capable of evaluating investment risks independently, both in general and with respect to particular transactions and investment strategies, including the transactions contemplated by this prospectus supplement; and (b) a fiduciary (under ERISA and/or Section 4975 of the Code) with respect to the Benefit Plan Investor's investment in us and any related transactions and is responsible for exercising independent judgment in evaluating the Benefit Plan Investor's investment in us and any related transactions; (iii) its fiduciary is aware of and acknowledges that: (a) none of the Applicable Entities is undertaking to provide impartial investment advice, or to give advice in a fiduciary capacity, in connection with the Benefit Plan Investor's initial or continued investment in, or transfer or other disposition of, our common stock; (b) the Applicable Entities have a financial interest in the Benefit Plan Investor's investment in our common stock; and (c) any compensation received by the Applicable Entities does not constitute fees rendered for the provision of investment advice to the Benefit Plan Investor; and (iv) its fiduciary is aware of and acknowledges that the Applicable Entities have not provided and will not provide investment advice (within the meaning of ERISA) to the Benefit Plan Investor or the fiduciary with respect to any communications made to the Benefit Plan Investor or the fiduciary concerning the Benefit Plan Investor's initial and continued investment in our common stock or any decision to transfer or otherwise dispose of our common stock.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

We and the underwriters for the offering named below have entered into an underwriting agreement with respect to the shares of our common stock being offered. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase from us the number of shares of our common stock set forth opposite its name below. Cowen and Company, LLC and Intrepid Partners, LLC are the representatives of the underwriters.

| Underwriter | Number of shares |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cowen and Company, LLC | |
| Intrepid Partners, LLC | |

Total

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters are subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriters have agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase all of the shares of our common stock sold under the underwriting agreement if any of these shares of our common stock are purchased. If an underwriter defaults, the underwriting agreement provides that the purchase commitments of the non-defaulting underwriters may be increased or the underwriting agreement may be terminated.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against specified liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, and to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect thereof.

The underwriters are offering the shares of our common stock, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by them, subject to approval of legal matters by their counsel and other conditions specified in the underwriting agreement. The underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

Discounts and Commissions. The following table shows the public offering price, underwriting discount and proceeds, before expenses to us.

| | Per Share | Total |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Public offering price | \$ | \$ |
| Underwriting Discount | \$ | \$ |
| Proceeds, before expenses, to us | \$ | \$ |

In addition, we have agreed to reimburse the underwriters for certain legal expenses relating to Financial Industry Regulatory Authority matters. We estimate that our total expenses of the offering, excluding the estimated underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$300,000.

The underwriters propose to offer the shares of our common stock to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus. The underwriters may offer the shares of our common stock to securities dealers at the public offering price less a concession not in excess of \$ per share. If all of the shares of our common stock are not sold at the public offering price, the underwriters may change the offering price and other selling terms.

S-22

Table of Contents

Stabilization. In connection with this offering, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, overallotment transactions, syndicate covering transactions, penalty bids and purchases to cover positions created by short sales.

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase shares of common stock so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum, and are engaged in for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock while the offering is in progress.

Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. If the underwriters have a naked short position, the position can only be closed by buying securities in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that after pricing there could be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

Penalty bids permit the representatives to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the common stock originally sold by that syndicate member is purchased in stabilizing or syndicate covering transactions to cover syndicate short positions.

These stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common stock. As a result, the price of our common stock in the open market may be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of these transactions. Neither we nor the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of our common stock. These transactions may be effected on the NYSE American, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Passive Market Making. In connection with this offering, underwriters and selling group members may engage in passive market making transactions in our common stock on the NYSE American in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, during a period before the commencement of offers or sales of common stock and extending through the completion of the distribution. A passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid of that security. However, if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, that bid must then be lowered when specified purchase limits are exceeded.

Lock-Up Agreements. Pursuant to certain lock-up agreements, we and certain of our executive officers, directors and other stockholders, have agreed, subject to certain exceptions, not to offer, sell, assign, transfer, pledge, contract to sell, or otherwise dispose of or announce the intention to otherwise dispose of, or enter into any swap, hedge or similar agreement or arrangement that transfers, in whole or in part, the economic consequence of ownership of, directly or indirectly, or make any demand or request or exercise any right with respect to the registration of, or file with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act relating to, any common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any common stock without the prior written consent of the representatives, for a period of 90 days after the date of the pricing of the offering.

This lock-up provision applies to common stock and to securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for common stock. It also applies to common stock owned now or acquired later by the person executing the agreement or for which the person executing the agreement later acquires the power of disposition. The exceptions permit parties to the lock-up agreements, among other things and subject to restrictions, to: (a) make certain gifts and (b) makes sales under any existing 10b5-1

S-23

Table of Contents

program. In addition, the lock-up provision will not restrict broker-dealers from engaging in market making and similar activities conducted in the ordinary course of their business.

Notice to Non-U.S. Investors

Canada. The securities may be sold only to purchasers purchasing, or deemed to be purchasing, as principal that are accredited investors, as defined in National Instrument 45-106 *Prospectus Exemptions* or subsection 73.3(1) of the *Securities Act* (Ontario), and are permitted clients, as defined in National Instrument 31-103 *Registration Requirements, Exemptions and Ongoing Registrant Obligations*. Any resale of the securities must be made in accordance with an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the prospectus requirements of applicable securities laws.

Securities legislation in certain provinces or territories of Canada may provide a purchaser with remedies for rescission or damages if this prospectus supplement (including any amendment thereto) contains a misrepresentation, provided that the remedies for rescission or damages are exercised by the purchaser within the time limit prescribed by the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory. The purchaser should refer to any applicable provisions of the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory for particulars of these rights or consult with a legal advisor.

Pursuant to section 3A.3 of National Instrument 33-105 *Underwriting Conflicts* (NI 33-105), the underwriters are not required to comply with the disclosure requirements of NI 33-105 regarding underwriter conflicts of interest in connection with this offering.

United Kingdom. Each of the underwriters has represented and agreed that:

it has not made or will not make an offer of the securities to the public in the United Kingdom within the meaning of section 102B of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended) (FSMA) except to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities or otherwise in circumstances which do not require the publication by us of a prospectus pursuant to the Prospectus Rules of the Financial Services Authority (FSA);

it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of FSMA) to persons who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 or in circumstances in which section 21 of FSMA does not apply to us; and

it has complied with and will comply with all applicable provisions of FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the securities in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Switzerland. The securities will not be offered, directly or indirectly, to the public in Switzerland and this prospectus does not constitute a public offering prospectus as that term is understood pursuant to article 652a or 1156 of the Swiss Federal Code of Obligations.

European Economic Area. In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area (the "EEA") which has implemented the European Prospectus Directive (each, a "Relevant Member State"), an offer of our shares may not be made to the public in a Relevant Member State other than:

to any legal entity which is a qualified investor, as defined in the European Prospectus Directive;

to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as

Table of Contents

defined in the European Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant dealer or dealers nominated by us for any such offer, or;

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the European Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of our shares shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the European Prospectus Directive or supplement prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the European Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this description, the expression an offer to the public in relation to the securities in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the securities to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the securities, as the expression may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the European Prospectus Directive in that member state, and the expression European Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments hereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State) and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State. The expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

Israel. In the State of Israel this prospectus shall not be regarded as an offer to the public to purchase securities under the Israeli Securities Law, 5728 1968, which requires a prospectus to be published and authorized by the Israel Securities Authority, if it complies with certain provisions of Section 15 of the Israeli Securities Law, 5728 1968, including, inter alia, if: (i) the offer is made, distributed or directed to not more than 35 investors, subject to certain conditions (the Addressed Investors); or (ii) the offer is made, distributed or directed to certain qualified investors defined in the First Addendum of the Israeli Securities Law, 5728 1968, subject to certain conditions (the Qualified Investors). The Qualified Investors shall not be taken into account in the count of the Addressed Investors and may be offered to purchase securities in addition to the 35 Addressed Investors. The company has not and will not take any action that would require it to publish a prospectus in accordance with and subject to the Israeli Securities Law, 5728 1968. We have not and will not distribute this prospectus or make, distribute or direct an offer to subscribe for our securities to any person within the State of Israel, other than to Qualified Investors and up to 35 Addressed Investors.

Qualified Investors may have to submit written evidence that they meet the definitions set out in of the First Addendum to the Israeli Securities Law, 5728 1968. In particular, we may request, as a condition to be offered securities, that Qualified Investors will each represent, warrant and certify to us and/or to anyone acting on our behalf: (i) that it is an investor falling within one of the categories listed in the First Addendum to the Israeli Securities Law, 5728 1968; (ii) which of the categories listed in the First Addendum to the Israeli Securities Law, 5728 1968 regarding Qualified Investors is applicable to it; (iii) that it will abide by all provisions set forth in the Israeli Securities Law, 5728 1968 and the regulations promulgated thereunder in connection with the offer to be issued securities; (iv) that the securities that it will be issued are, subject to exemptions available under the Israeli Securities Law, 5728 1968: (a) for its own account; (b) for investment purposes only; and (c) not issued with a view to resale within the State of Israel, other than in accordance with the provisions of the Israeli Securities Law, 5728 1968; and (v) that it is willing to provide further evidence of its Qualified Investor status. Addressed Investors may have to submit written evidence in respect of their identity and may have to sign and submit a declaration containing, inter alia, the Addressed Investor s name, address and passport number or Israeli identification number.

We have not authorized and do not authorize the making of any offer of securities through any financial intermediary on our behalf, other than offers made by the underwriters and their respective affiliates, with a view to the final placement of the securities as contemplated in this document. Accordingly, no purchaser of the shares, other than the underwriters, is authorized to make any further offer of shares on our behalf or on behalf of the underwriters.

S-25

Table of Contents

Electronic Offer, Sale and Distribution of Shares. A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the websites maintained by one or more of the underwriters or selling group members, if any, participating in this offering and one or more of the underwriters participating in this offering may distribute prospectuses electronically. The representatives may agree to allocate a number of shares to underwriters and selling group members for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the underwriters and selling group members that will make internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations. Other than the prospectus in electronic format, the information on these websites is not part of this prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, has not been approved or endorsed by us or any underwriter in its capacity as underwriter, and should not be relied upon by investors.

Other Relationships. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have provided, and may in the future provide, various investment banking, commercial banking and other financial services for us and our affiliates for which they have received, and may in the future receive, customary fees.

S-26

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with the common stock offered hereby will be passed upon by Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Houston, Texas, as our counsel. Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Proskauer Rose LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The audited consolidated financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of Contango Oil & Gas Company incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the reports of Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accountants, upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Certain estimates of proved oil and gas reserves for Contango incorporated by reference herein were based in part upon reports by Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc. and William M. Cobb & Associates, Inc., independent petroleum engineering firms. Certain estimates of proved oil and gas reserves for Exaro Energy III, LLC incorporated by reference herein were based in part upon reports by W.D. Von Gonten & Co., an independent petroleum engineering firm. These estimates are included and incorporated herein in reliance on the authority of such firms as experts in such matters.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

CONTANGO OIL & GAS COMPANY

Debt Securities

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Depository Shares

Warrants

Guarantee of Debt Securities of Contango Oil & Gas Company by:

Crimson Exploration Inc.

Crimson Exploration Operating, Inc.

Contango Energy Company

Contango Operators, Inc.

Contango Mining Company

Conterra Company

Contaro Company

Contango Alta Investments, Inc.

Contango Venture Capital Corporation

Contango Rocky Mountain Inc.

We may offer and sell the securities listed above from time to time in one or more classes or series and in amounts, at prices and on terms that we will determine at the time of the offering. Any debt securities we issue under this prospectus may be guaranteed by certain of our subsidiaries. We refer to the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, depository shares and warrants collectively as the securities. The aggregate initial offering price of all securities

sold by us under this prospectus will not exceed \$250,000,000.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that may be offered. Each time securities are offered, we will provide a prospectus supplement and attach it to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will contain more specific information about the offering and the terms of the securities being offered, including any guarantees by our subsidiary. The supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell securities without a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering.

We may sell these securities directly or through agents, underwriters or dealers, or through a combination of these methods. See Plan of Distribution. The prospectus supplement will list any agents, underwriters or dealers that may be involved and the compensation they will receive. The prospectus supplement will also show you the total amount of money that we will receive from selling the securities being offered, after the expenses of the offering.

You should carefully read this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, together with the documents we incorporate by reference, before you invest in any of our securities.

Investing in our securities involves risk. Please see Risk Factors for a discussion of certain risks that you should consider in connection with an investment in the securities.

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE MKT under the symbol MCF.

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

This prospectus is dated February 8, 2017, as amended by the prospectus supplement relating to our Description of Capital Stock dated November 15, 2018

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

| | |
|---|----|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u> | 1 |
| <u>The Company</u> | 1 |
| <u>About the Subsidiary Guarantors</u> | 1 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | 2 |
| <u>Cautionary Statements Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 3 |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | 5 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | 6 |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u> | 7 |
| <u>Description Of Debt Securities</u> | 8 |
| <u>Description Of Capital Stock</u> | 20 |
| <u>Description of Depositary Shares</u> | 25 |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u> | 27 |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | 28 |
| <u>Legal Matters</u> | 31 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 31 |

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

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may, from time to time, offer and sell up to \$250,000,000 in total aggregate offering price of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of the offering and the offered securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Any statement that we make in this prospectus will be modified or superseded by any inconsistent statement made by us in a 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**.

Unless the context requires otherwise or unless otherwise noted, all references in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement to **Contango**, **we** or **our** are to Contango Oil & Gas Company and its subsidiaries and all references to **Crimson** are to our subsidiaries, Crimson Exploration Inc. and Crimson Exploration Operating, Inc.

THE COMPANY

We are a Houston, Texas based, independent oil and natural gas company. Our business is to maximize production and cash flow from our onshore properties in Texas and Wyoming and offshore properties in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico and to use that cash flow to explore, develop, exploit and acquire crude oil and natural gas properties in the onshore Texas Gulf Coast and Rocky Mountain regions of the United States.

Our principal executive offices are located at 717 Texas Avenue, Suite 2900, Houston, Texas 77002, and our phone number is (713) 236-7400. Our website is located at <http://www.contango.com>. We make our periodic reports and other information filed with or furnished to the SEC available, free of charge, through our website, as soon as reasonably practicable. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should not consider information contained on our website as part of this prospectus.

For additional information as to our business, properties, and financial condition, please refer to the documents cited in **Where You Can Find More Information**.

ABOUT THE SUBSIDIARY GUARANTORS

If specified in any accompanying prospectus supplement respecting a series of debt securities, Crimson Exploration Inc., Crimson Exploration Operating, Inc., Contango Energy Company, Contango Operators, Inc., Contango Mining Company, Conterra Company, Contaro Company, Contango Alta Investments, Inc., Contango Venture Capital Corporation, Contango Rocky Mountain Inc. and any other of our future subsidiaries specified in any prospectus supplement (the **Subsidiary Guarantors**) may jointly and severally, fully, irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee our payment obligations under any series of debt securities offered by this prospectus. Financial information concerning our Subsidiary Guarantors and non-guarantor subsidiaries, if any, will be included in our consolidated financial statements filed as a part of our periodic reports filed pursuant to the Exchange Act to the extent required by the rules and regulations of the SEC.

For additional information as to our and our subsidiaries' business, properties, and financial condition, please refer to the documents cited in **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports and other information with the SEC (File No. 001-12108) pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). You may read and copy any documents that are filed at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may also obtain copies of these documents at prescribed rates from the Public Reference Section of the SEC at its Washington address. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information. Our filings are also available to the public through the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information that we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to documents previously filed with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. The following documents we filed with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act are incorporated herein by reference:

- (a) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, including information specifically incorporated by reference from our Proxy Statement for our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;
- (b) Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2016, June 30, 2016 and September 30, 2016;
- (c) Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 8, 2016, May 25, 2016, July 21, 2016, July 27, 2016, July 29, 2016, October 14, 2016, December 6, 2016 and January 17, 2017 (in each case excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01);
- (d) The description of our common stock which is contained in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-16317) filed with the SEC on January 16, 2001, including any amendments or reports we file for purposes of updating that description; and
- (e) The description of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock which is contained in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-16317) filed with the SEC on August 2, 2018, including any amendments or reports we file for purposes of updating that description.

In addition, we incorporate by reference in this prospectus any future filings made by Contango with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act) (excluding any information furnished and not filed with the SEC) after the date on which the registration statement that includes this prospectus was initially filed with the SEC (including all such documents that we may file with the SEC after the date of the initial registration statement and prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement) and until all offerings under this registration statement are terminated shall be deemed to be incorporated in this prospectus by reference and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

Edgar Filing: CONTANGO OIL & GAS CO - Form 424B5

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

You may request a copy of these filings (other than an exhibit to a filing unless that exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into that filing) at no cost by writing or telephoning us at the following address and telephone number:

Contango Oil & Gas Company

Attention: Corporate Secretary

717 Texas Avenue, Suite 2900

Houston, Texas 77002

(713) 236-7400

We also maintain a website at <http://www.contango.com>. However, the information on our website is not part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, or filings with the SEC and our public releases may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The words and phrases should be , will be , believe , expect , anticipate , estimate , forecast , goal and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements that express our expectations about future events. Although we believe the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, such expectations may not occur. These forward-looking statements are made subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated. Risks and uncertainties that could cause or contribute to such differences include, without limitation, those discussed in the section entitled Risk Factors included in this prospectus and elsewhere in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2016 and our subsequent SEC filings and those factors summarized below:

our ability to successfully develop our recent acquisition of undeveloped acreage in the Southern Delaware Basin, integrate the operations relating thereto with our existing operations and realize the benefits of such acquisition;

our financial position;

our business strategy, including outsourcing;

meeting our forecasts and budgets;

expectations regarding natural gas and oil markets in the United States;

natural gas and oil price volatility;

operational constraints, start-up delays and production shut-ins at both operated and non-operated production platforms, pipelines and natural gas processing facilities;

the risks associated with operating deep high pressure and temperature wells, including well blowouts and explosions;

the risks associated with exploration, including cost overruns and the drilling of non-economic wells or dry holes, especially in prospects in which we have made a large capital commitment relative to the size of our capitalization structure;

the timing and successful drilling and completion of natural gas and oil wells;

availability of capital and the ability to repay indebtedness when due;

availability and cost of rigs and other materials and operating equipment;

timely and full receipt of sale proceeds from the sale of our production;

the ability to find, acquire, market, develop and produce new natural gas and oil properties;

interest rate volatility;

uncertainties in the estimation of proved reserves and in the projection of future rates of production and timing of development expenditures;

operating hazards attendant to the natural gas and oil business including weather, environmental risks, accidental spills, blowouts and pipeline ruptures, and other risks;

downhole drilling and completion risks that are generally not recoverable from third parties or insurance;

potential mechanical failure or under-performance of significant wells, production facilities, processing plants or pipeline mishaps;

Table of Contents

actions or inactions of third-party operators of our properties;

actions or inactions of third-party operators of pipelines or processing facilities;

the ability to find and retain skilled personnel;

strength and financial resources of competitors;

federal and state legislative and regulatory developments and approvals;

worldwide economic conditions;

the ability to construct and operate infrastructure, including pipeline and production facilities;

the continued compliance by us with various pipeline and gas processing plant specifications for the gas and condensate produced by us;

operating costs, production rates and ultimate reserve recoveries of our natural gas and oil discoveries;

expanded rigorous monitoring and testing requirements; and

our ability to obtain insurance coverage on commercially reasonable terms.

Any of these factors and other factors contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any documents incorporated by reference could cause our actual results to differ materially from the results implied by these or any other forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf. Although we believe our estimates and assumptions to be reasonable when made, they are inherently uncertain and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that are beyond our control. Our assumptions about future events may prove to be inaccurate. We caution you that the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus are not guarantees of future performance, and we cannot assure you that those statements will be realized or the forward-looking events and circumstances will occur. All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus.

Reserve engineering is a process of estimating underground accumulations of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids that cannot be measured in an exact way. The accuracy of any reserve estimate depends on the quality of available data, the interpretation of such data and price and cost assumptions made by reserve engineers. In addition, the results of drilling, testing and production activities may justify revisions of estimates that were made previously. If significant, such revisions would change the schedule of any further production and development drilling. Accordingly, reserve estimates may differ significantly from the quantities of oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids that are ultimately recovered.

We do not intend to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law. These cautionary statements qualify all forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risk factors and all of the other information included in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus, including those included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and, if applicable, in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, 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 stock 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.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as may be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds we receive from any sales of securities by us under this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement for general corporate purposes, which may include, among other things:

reduction or refinancing of debt or other corporate obligations;

additions to our working capital;

capital expenditures; and

potential future acquisitions.

Any specific allocation of the net proceeds of an offering of securities to a specific purpose will be determined at the time of the offering and will be described in an accompanying prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

For purposes of determining the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings are defined as earnings (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes, plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of net interest expense (inclusive of credit facility commitment fees) on all indebtedness and including capitalized interest expense, the amortization of deferred financing costs and discounts, and a reasonable estimation of interest associated with operating leases. In connection with the closing of our merger with Crimson on October 1, 2013, we changed our fiscal year end from June 30, to December 31, commencing with the twelve month period beginning on January 1, 2014. As a result of this change, we recast certain of our historical financial information to reflect consolidated results of operation of both Contango and Crimson for periods beginning December 31, 2013. The below ratios for the periods presented prior to this recast reflect only the historical financials of Contango and have not been adjusted to reflect the Merger.

| | Nine Months | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Ended | | | | | |
| | September 30, | | Years Ended December 31, | | | |
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges | (1) | (2) | (3) | 41.3 | (4) | 333.0 |

- 1 During the nine months ended September 30, 2016, the coverage ratio was less than 1:1. The Company would have needed to generate additional earnings of approximately \$42.6 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2016 to achieve a coverage ratio of 1:1.
- 2 During the year ended December 31, 2015, the coverage ratio was less than 1:1. The Company would have needed to generate additional earnings of approximately \$379.7 million during the year ended December 31, 2015 to achieve a coverage ratio of 1:1.
- 3 During the year ended December 31, 2014, the coverage ratio was less than 1:1. The Company would have needed to generate additional earnings of approximately \$44.7 million during the year ended December 31, 2014 to achieve a coverage ratio of 1:1.
- 4 During the year ended December 31, 2012, the coverage ratio was less than 1:1. The Company would have needed to generate additional earnings of approximately \$0.4 million during the year ended December 31, 2012 to achieve a coverage ratio of 1:1.

We did not have any preferred stock outstanding and there were no preferred stock dividends paid or accrued during the periods presented above.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The Debt Securities will be either our senior debt securities (Senior Debt Securities) or our subordinated debt securities (Subordinated Debt Securities). The Senior Debt Securities and the Subordinated Debt Securities will be issued under separate indentures among us, the Subsidiary Guarantors of such Debt Securities, if any, and a trustee to be determined (the Trustee). Senior Debt Securities will be issued under a Senior Indenture and Subordinated Debt Securities will be issued under a Subordinated Indenture. Together, the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture are called Indentures.

The Debt Securities may be issued from time to time in one or more series. The particular terms of each series that are offered by a prospectus supplement will be described in the prospectus supplement.

Unless the Debt Securities are guaranteed by our subsidiaries as described below, the rights of Contango Oil & Gas Company and our creditors, including holders of the Debt Securities, to participate in the assets of any subsidiary upon the latter's liquidation or reorganization, will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against such subsidiary.

We have summarized selected provisions of the Indentures below. The summary is not complete. The form of each Indenture has been filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you should read the Indentures for provisions that may be important to you. Capitalized terms used in the summary have the meanings specified in the Indentures.

General

The Indentures provide that Debt Securities in separate series may be issued thereunder from time to time without limitation as to aggregate principal amount. We may specify a maximum aggregate principal amount for the Debt Securities of any series. We will determine the terms and conditions of the Debt Securities, including the maturity, principal and interest, but those terms must be consistent with the Indenture. The Debt Securities will be our unsecured obligations.

The Subordinated Debt Securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our Senior Debt (as defined) as described under Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities and in the prospectus supplement applicable to any Subordinated Debt Securities. If the prospectus supplement so indicates, the Debt Securities will be convertible into our common stock.

If specified in the prospectus supplement respecting a particular series of Debt Securities, Crimson Exploration Inc., Crimson Exploration Operating, Inc., Contango Energy Company, Contango Operators, Inc., Contango Mining Company, Conterra Company, Contaro Company, Contango Alta Investments, Inc., Contango Venture Capital Corporation, Contango Rocky Mountain Inc. and any other of our future subsidiaries specified in the prospectus supplement (each a Subsidiary Guarantor) will fully and unconditionally guarantee (the Subsidiary Guarantee) that series as described under Subsidiary Guarantee and in the prospectus supplement. Each Subsidiary Guarantee will be an unsecured obligation of the Subsidiary Guarantor. A Subsidiary Guarantee of Subordinated Debt Securities will be subordinated to the Senior Debt of the Subsidiary Guarantor on the same basis as the Subordinated Debt Securities are subordinated to our Senior Debt.

The Subsidiary Guarantors are wholly-owned by the Company, either directly or indirectly, and any guarantee by the Subsidiary Guarantors will be full and unconditional. The Company has no assets or operations independent of the Subsidiary Guarantors, and there are no significant restrictions upon the ability of the Subsidiary Guarantors to

distribute funds to the Company. The Company has one other wholly-owned subsidiary that is inactive. Finally, the Company's wholly-owned subsidiaries do not have restricted assets that exceed 25% of net assets as of the most recent fiscal year end that may not be transferred to the Company in the form of loans, advances or cash dividends by such subsidiary without the consent of a third party.

Table of Contents

The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the price or prices at which the Debt Securities to be issued will be offered for sale and will describe the following terms of such Debt Securities:

- (1) the title of the Debt Securities;
- (2) whether the Debt Securities are Senior Debt Securities or Subordinated Debt Securities and, if Subordinated Debt Securities, the related subordination terms;
- (3) whether any Subsidiary Guarantor will provide a Subsidiary Guarantee of the Debt Securities;
- (4) any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the Debt Securities;
- (5) each date on which the principal of the Debt Securities will be payable;
- (6) the interest rate that the Debt Securities will bear and the interest payment dates for the Debt Securities;
- (7) each place where payments on the Debt Securities will be payable;
- (8) any terms upon which the Debt Securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;
- (9) any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to redeem or otherwise repurchase the Debt Securities;
- (10) the portion of the principal amount, if less than all, of the Debt Securities that will be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the Maturity of the Debt Securities;
- (11) whether the Debt Securities are defeasible;
- (12) any addition to or change in the Events of Default;
- (13) whether the Debt Securities are convertible into our common stock and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which conversion will be effected, including the initial conversion price or conversion rate and any adjustments thereto and the conversion period;

(14) any addition to or change in the covenants in the Indenture applicable to the Debt Securities; and

(15) any other terms of the Debt Securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the Indenture.

Debt Securities, including any Debt Securities that provide for an amount less than the principal amount thereof to be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the Maturity thereof (Original Issue Discount Securities), may be sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount. Special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to Debt Securities sold at an original issue discount may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. In addition, special United States federal income tax or other considerations applicable to any Debt Securities that are denominated in a currency or currency unit other than United States dollars may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities

The indebtedness evidenced by the Subordinated Debt Securities will, to the extent set forth in the Subordinated Indenture with respect to each series of Subordinated Debt Securities, be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our Senior Debt, including the Senior Debt Securities, and it may also be senior in right of payment to all of our Subordinated Debt. The prospectus supplement relating to any Subordinated Debt Securities will summarize the subordination provisions of the Subordinated Indenture applicable to that series including:

the applicability and effect of such provisions upon any payment or distribution respecting that series following any liquidation, dissolution or other winding-up, or any assignment for the benefit of creditors or other marshalling of assets or any bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceedings;

the applicability and effect of such provisions in the event of specified defaults with respect to any Senior Debt, including the circumstances under which and the periods during which we will be prohibited from making payments on the Subordinated Debt Securities; and

Table of Contents

the definition of Senior Debt applicable to the Subordinated Debt Securities of that series and, if the series is issued on a senior subordinated basis, the definition of Subordinated Debt applicable to that series.

The prospectus supplement will also describe as of a recent date the approximate amount of Senior Debt to which the Subordinated Debt Securities of that series will be subordinated.

The failure to make any payment on any of the Subordinated Debt Securities by reason of the subordination provisions of the Subordinated Indenture described in the prospectus supplement will not be construed as preventing the occurrence of an Event of Default with respect to the Subordinated Debt Securities arising from any such failure to make payment.

The subordination provisions described above will not be applicable to payments in respect of the Subordinated Debt Securities from a defeasance trust established in connection with any legal defeasance or covenant defeasance of the Subordinated Debt Securities as described under Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance.

Subsidiary Guarantee

If specified in the prospectus supplement, one or more of the Subsidiary Guarantors will guarantee the Debt Securities of a series. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply to the Subsidiary Guarantee of the Subsidiary Guarantors.

Subject to the limitations described below and in the prospectus supplement, one or more of the Subsidiary Guarantors will jointly and severally, fully and unconditionally guarantee the punctual payment when due, whether at Stated Maturity, by acceleration or otherwise, of all our payment obligations under the Indentures and the Debt Securities of a series, whether for principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the Debt Securities or otherwise (all such obligations guaranteed by a Subsidiary Guarantor being herein called the Guaranteed Obligations). The Subsidiary Guarantors will also pay all expenses (including reasonable counsel fees and expenses) incurred by the applicable Trustee in enforcing any rights under a Subsidiary Guarantee with respect to a Subsidiary Guarantor.

In the case of Subordinated Debt Securities, a Subsidiary Guarantor's Subsidiary Guarantee will be subordinated in right of payment to the Senior Debt of such Subsidiary Guarantor on the same basis as the Subordinated Debt Securities are subordinated to our Senior Debt. No payment will be made by any Subsidiary Guarantor under its Subsidiary Guarantee during any period in which payments by us on the Subordinated Debt Securities are suspended by the subordination provisions of the Subordinated Indenture.

Each Subsidiary Guarantee will be limited in amount to an amount not to exceed the maximum amount that can be guaranteed by the relevant Subsidiary Guarantor without rendering such Subsidiary Guarantee voidable under applicable law relating to fraudulent conveyance or fraudulent transfer or similar laws affecting the rights of creditors generally.

Each Subsidiary Guarantee will be a continuing guarantee and will:

- (1) remain in full force and effect until either (a) payment in full of all the applicable Debt Securities (or such Debt Securities are otherwise satisfied and discharged in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Indenture) or (b) released as described in the following paragraph;

- (2) be binding upon each Subsidiary Guarantor; and

- (3) inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the applicable Trustee, the Holders and their successors, transferees and assigns.

Table of Contents

In the event that (a) a Subsidiary Guarantor ceases to be a Subsidiary, (b) either legal defeasance or covenant defeasance occurs with respect to the series or (c) all or substantially all of the assets or all of the Capital Stock of such Subsidiary Guarantor is sold, including by way of sale, merger, consolidation or otherwise, such Subsidiary Guarantor will be released and discharged of its obligations under its Subsidiary Guarantee without any further action required on the part of the Trustee or any Holder, and no other person acquiring or owning the assets or Capital Stock of such Subsidiary Guarantor will be required to enter into a Subsidiary Guarantee. In addition, the prospectus supplement may specify additional circumstances under which a Subsidiary Guarantor can be released from its Subsidiary Guarantee.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

The Debt Securities of each series will be issuable only in fully registered form, without coupons, and, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, only in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof.

At the option of the Holder, subject to the terms of the applicable Indenture and the limitations applicable to Global Securities, Debt Securities of each series will be exchangeable for other Debt Securities of the same series of any authorized denomination and of a like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

Subject to the terms of the applicable Indenture and the limitations applicable to Global Securities, Debt Securities may be presented for exchange as provided above or for registration of transfer (duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed) at the office of the Security Registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for such purpose. No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of Debt Securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in that connection. Such transfer or exchange will be effected upon the Security Registrar or such transfer agent, as the case may be, being satisfied with the documents of title and identity of the person making the request. The Security Registrar and any other transfer agent initially designated by us for any Debt Securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each Place of Payment for the Debt Securities of each series.

If the Debt Securities of any series (or of any series and specified tenor) are to be redeemed in part, we will not be required to (1) issue, register the transfer of or exchange any Debt Security of that series (or of that series and specified tenor, as the case may be) during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any such Debt Security that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing or (2) register the transfer of or exchange any Debt Security so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any such Debt Security being redeemed in part.

Global Securities

Some or all of the Debt Securities of any series may be represented, in whole or in part, by one or more Global Securities that will have an aggregate principal amount equal to that of the Debt Securities they represent. Each Global Security will be registered in the name of a Depository or its nominee identified in the applicable prospectus supplement, will be deposited with such Depository or nominee or its custodian and will bear a legend regarding the restrictions on exchanges and registration of transfer thereof referred to below and any such other matters as may be provided for pursuant to the applicable Indenture.

Notwithstanding any provision of the Indentures or any Debt Security described in this prospectus, no Global Security may be exchanged in whole or in part for Debt Securities registered, and no transfer of a Global

Table of Contents

Security in whole or in part may be registered, in the name of any Person other than the Depositary for such Global Security or any nominee of such Depositary unless:

- (1) the Depositary has notified us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as Depositary for such Global Security or has ceased to be qualified to act as such as required by the applicable Indenture, and in either case we fail to appoint a successor Depositary within 90 days;
- (2) an Event of Default with respect to the Debt Securities represented by such Global Security has occurred and is continuing and the Trustee has received a written request from the Depositary to issue certificated Debt Securities;
- (3) subject to the rules of the Depositary, we shall have elected to terminate the book-entry system through the Depositary; or
- (4) other circumstances exist, in addition to or in lieu of those described above, as may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

All certificated Debt Securities issued in exchange for a Global Security or any portion thereof will be registered in such names as the Depositary may direct.

As long as the Depositary, or its nominee, is the registered holder of a Global Security, the Depositary or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner and Holder of such Global Security and the Debt Securities that it represents for all purposes under the Debt Securities and the applicable Indenture. Except in the limited circumstances referred to above, owners of beneficial interests in a Global Security will not be entitled to have such Global Security or any Debt Securities that it represents registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificated Debt Securities in exchange for those interests and will not be considered to be the owners or Holders of such Global Security or any Debt Securities that it represents for any purpose under the Debt Securities or the applicable Indenture. All payments on a Global Security will be made to the Depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the Holder of the security. The laws of some jurisdictions may require that some purchasers of Debt Securities take physical delivery of such Debt Securities in certificated form. These laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a Global Security.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a Global Security will be limited to institutions that have accounts with the Depositary or its nominee (participants) and to persons that may hold beneficial interests through participants. In connection with the issuance of any Global Security, the Depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of Debt Securities represented by the Global Security to the accounts of its participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in a Global Security will be shown only on, and the transfer of those ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the Depositary (with respect to participants interests) or any such participant (with respect to interests of Persons held by such participants on their behalf). Payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to beneficial interests in a Global Security may be subject to various policies and procedures adopted by the Depositary from time to time. None of us, the Subsidiary Guarantors, the Trustees or the agents of us, the Subsidiary Guarantors or the Trustees will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the Depositary s or any participant s records relating to, or for payments made on account of, beneficial interests in a Global Security, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such

beneficial interests.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of interest on a Debt Security on any Interest Payment Date will be made to the Person in whose name such Debt Security (or one or more Predecessor Securities) is registered at the close of business on the Regular Record Date for such interest.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, principal of and any premium and interest on the Debt Securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of such Paying Agent or Paying

Table of Contents

Agents as we may designate for such purpose from time to time, except that at our option payment of any interest on Debt Securities in certificated form may be made by check mailed to the address of the Person entitled thereto as such address appears in the Security Register. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the corporate trust office of the Trustee under the Senior Indenture in The City of New York will be designated as sole Paying Agent for payments with respect to Senior Debt Securities of each series, and the corporate trust office of the Trustee under the Subordinated Indenture in The City of New York will be designated as the sole Paying Agent for payment with respect to Subordinated Debt Securities of each series. Any other Paying Agents initially designated by us for the Debt Securities of a particular series will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may at any time designate additional Paying Agents or rescind the designation of any Paying Agent or approve a change in the office through which any Paying Agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a Paying Agent in each Place of Payment for the Debt Securities of a particular series.

All money paid by us to a Paying Agent for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any Debt Security which remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the Holder of such Debt Security thereafter may look only to us for payment.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, we may not consolidate with or merge into, or transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets to, any Person (a successor Person), and may not permit any Person to consolidate with or merge into us, unless:

- (1) the successor Person (if not us) is a corporation, partnership, trust or other entity organized and validly existing under the laws of any domestic jurisdiction and assumes our obligations on the Debt Securities and under the Indentures;
- (2) immediately before and after giving pro forma effect to the transaction, no Event of Default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default, has occurred and is continuing; and
- (3) several other conditions, including any additional conditions with respect to any particular Debt Securities specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, are met.

The successor Person (if not us) will be substituted for us under the applicable Indenture with the same effect as if it had been an original party to such Indenture, and, except in the case of a lease, we will be relieved from any further obligations under such Indenture and the Debt Securities.

Events of Default

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, each of the following will constitute an Event of Default under the applicable Indenture with respect to Debt Securities of any series:

- (1)

failure to pay principal of or any premium on any Debt Security of that series when due, whether or not, in the case of Subordinated Debt Securities, such payment is prohibited by the subordination provisions of the Subordinated Indenture;

- (2) failure to pay any interest on any Debt Securities of that series when due, continued for 30 days, whether or not, in the case of Subordinated Debt Securities, such payment is prohibited by the subordination provisions of the Subordinated Indenture;
- (3) failure to deposit any sinking fund payment, when due, in respect of any Debt Security of that series, whether or not, in the case of Subordinated Debt Securities, such deposit is prohibited by the subordination provisions of the Subordinated Indenture;

Table of Contents

- (4) failure to perform or comply with the provisions described under Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets ;
- (5) failure to perform any of our other covenants in such Indenture (other than a covenant included in such Indenture solely for the benefit of a series other than that series), continued for 60 days after written notice has been given by the applicable Trustee, or the Holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of that series, as provided in such Indenture;
- (6) any Debt of ourself, any Significant Subsidiary or, if a Subsidiary Guarantor has guaranteed the series, such Subsidiary Guarantor, is not paid within any applicable grace period after final maturity or is accelerated by its holders because of a default and the total amount of such Debt unpaid or accelerated exceeds \$20.0 million;
- (7) any judgment or decree for the payment of money in excess of \$20.0 million is entered against us, any Significant Subsidiary or, if a Subsidiary Guarantor has guaranteed the series, such Subsidiary Guarantor, remains outstanding for a period of 60 consecutive days following entry of such judgment and is not discharged, waived or stayed;
- (8) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization affecting us, any Significant Subsidiary or, if a Subsidiary Guarantor has guaranteed the series, such Subsidiary Guarantor; and
- (9) if any Subsidiary Guarantor has guaranteed such series, the Subsidiary Guarantee of any such Subsidiary Guarantor is held by a final non-appealable order or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable or invalid or ceases for any reason to be in full force and effect (other than in accordance with the terms of the applicable Indenture) or any Subsidiary Guarantor or any Person acting on behalf of any Subsidiary Guarantor denies or disaffirms such Subsidiary Guarantor's obligations under its Subsidiary Guarantee (other than by reason of a release of such Subsidiary Guarantor from its Subsidiary Guarantee in accordance with the terms of the applicable Indenture).

If an Event of Default (other than an Event of Default with respect to Contango Oil & Gas Company described in clause (8) above) with respect to the Debt Securities of any series at the time Outstanding occurs and is continuing, either the applicable Trustee or the Holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of that series by notice as provided in the Indenture may declare the principal amount of the Debt Securities of that series (or, in the case of any Debt Security that is an Original Issue Discount Debt Security, such portion of the principal amount of such Debt Security as may be specified in the terms of such Debt Security) to be due and payable immediately, together with any accrued and unpaid interest thereon. If an Event of Default with respect to Contango Oil & Gas Company described in clause (8) above with respect to the Debt Securities of any series at the time Outstanding occurs, the principal amount of all the Debt Securities of that series (or, in the case of any such Original Issue Discount Security, such specified amount) will automatically, and without any action by the applicable Trustee or any Holder, become immediately due and payable, together with any accrued and unpaid interest thereon. After any such acceleration and its consequences, but before a judgment or decree based on acceleration, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration if all Events of Default with respect to that series, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal (or other specified amount), have been cured or waived as provided in the applicable Indenture. For information as to waiver of defaults, see Modification and Waiver below.

Subject to the provisions of the Indentures relating to the duties of the Trustees in case an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, no Trustee will be under any obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the applicable Indenture at the request or direction of any of the Holders, unless such Holders have offered to such Trustee reasonable security or indemnity. Subject to such provisions for the indemnification of the

Trustees, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to such Trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee with respect to the Debt Securities of that series.

Table of Contents

No Holder of a Debt Security of any series will have any right to institute any proceeding with respect to the applicable Indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or a trustee, or for any other remedy thereunder, unless:

- (1) such Holder has previously given to the Trustee under the applicable Indenture written notice of a continuing Event of Default with respect to the Debt Securities of that series;
- (2) the Holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of that series have made written request, and such Holder or Holders have offered reasonable security or indemnity, to the Trustee to institute such proceeding as trustee; and
- (3) the Trustee has failed to institute such proceeding, and has not received from the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of that series a direction inconsistent with such request, within 60 days after such notice, request and offer.

However, such limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a Holder of a Debt Security for the enforcement of payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on such Debt Security on or after the applicable due date specified in such Debt Security or, if applicable, to convert such Debt Security.

We will be required to furnish to each Trustee annually a statement by certain of our officers, to their knowledge, as to whether or not we are in default in the performance or observance of any of the terms, provisions and conditions of the applicable Indenture and, if so, specifying all such known defaults.

Modification and Waiver

We may modify or amend an Indenture without the consent of any holders of the Debt Securities in certain circumstances, including:

- (1) to evidence the succession under the Indenture of another Person to us or any Subsidiary Guarantor and to provide for its assumption of our or such Subsidiary Guarantor's obligations to holders of Debt Securities;
- (2) to make any changes that would add any additional covenants of us or the Subsidiary Guarantors for the benefit of the holders of Debt Securities or that do not adversely affect the rights under the Indenture of the Holders of Debt Securities in any material respect;
- (3) to add any additional Events of Default;
- (4) to provide for uncertificated notes in addition to or in place of certificated notes;
- (5) to secure the Debt Securities;

- (6) to establish the form or terms of any series of Debt Securities;
- (7) to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment under the Indenture of a successor Trustee;
- (8) to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency;
- (9) to add Subsidiary Guarantors; or

(10) in the case of any Subordinated Debt Security, to make any change in the subordination provisions that limits or terminates the benefits applicable to any Holder of Senior Debt.

Other modifications and amendments of an Indenture may be made by us, the Subsidiary Guarantors, if applicable, and the applicable Trustee with the consent of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the

Outstanding Debt Securities of each series affected by such modification or amendment; provided, however, that no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Debt Security affected thereby:

- (1) change the Stated Maturity of the principal of, or any installment of principal of or interest on, any Debt Security;

Table of Contents

- (2) reduce the principal amount of, or any premium or interest on, any Debt Security;
- (3) reduce the amount of principal of an Original Issue Discount Security or any other Debt Security payable upon acceleration of the Maturity thereof;
- (4) change the place or currency of payment of principal of, or any premium or interest on, any Debt Security;
- (5) impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment due on or any conversion right with respect to any Debt Security;
- (6) modify the subordination provisions in the case of Subordinated Debt Securities, or modify any conversion provisions, in either case in a manner adverse to the Holders of the Subordinated Debt Securities;
- (7) except as provided in the applicable Indenture, release the Subsidiary Guarantee of a Subsidiary Guarantor;
- (8) reduce the percentage in principal amount of Outstanding Debt Securities of any series, the consent of whose Holders is required for modification or amendment of the Indenture;
- (9) reduce the percentage in principal amount of Outstanding Debt Securities of any series necessary for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the Indenture or for waiver of certain defaults;
- (10) modify such provisions with respect to modification, amendment or waiver; or
- (11) following the making of an offer to purchase Debt Securities from any Holder that has been made pursuant to a covenant in such Indenture, modify such covenant in a manner adverse to such Holder.

The Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of any series may waive compliance by us with certain restrictive provisions of the applicable Indenture. The Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of any series may waive any past default under the applicable Indenture, except a default in the payment of principal, premium or interest and certain covenants and provisions of the Indenture which cannot be amended without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Debt Security of such series.

Each of the Indentures provides that in determining whether the Holders of the requisite principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities have given or taken any direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action under such Indenture as of any date:

- (1) the principal amount of an Original Issue Discount Security that will be deemed to be Outstanding will be the amount of the principal that would be due and payable as of such date upon acceleration of maturity to

such date;

- (2) if, as of such date, the principal amount payable at the Stated Maturity of a Debt Security is not determinable (for example, because it is based on an index), the principal amount of such Debt Security deemed to be Outstanding as of such date will be an amount determined in the manner prescribed for such Debt Security;
- (3) the principal amount of a Debt Security denominated in one or more foreign currencies or currency units that will be deemed to be Outstanding will be the United States-dollar equivalent, determined as of such date in the manner prescribed for such Debt Security, of the principal amount of such Debt Security (or, in the case of a Debt Security described in clause (1) or (2) above, of the amount described in such clause); and
- (4) certain Debt Securities, including those owned by us, any Subsidiary Guarantor or any of our other Affiliates, will not be deemed to be Outstanding.

Except in certain limited circumstances, we will be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the Holders of Outstanding Debt Securities of any series entitled to give or take any direction,

Table of Contents

notice, consent, waiver or other action under the applicable Indenture, in the manner and subject to the limitations provided in the Indenture. In certain limited circumstances, the Trustee will be entitled to set a record date for action by Holders. If a record date is set for any action to be taken by Holders of a particular series, only persons who are Holders of Outstanding Debt Securities of that series on the record date may take such action. To be effective, such action must be taken by Holders of the requisite principal amount of such Debt Securities within a specified period following the record date. For any particular record date, this period will be 180 days or such other period as may be specified by us (or the Trustee, if it set the record date), and may be shortened or lengthened (but not beyond 180 days) from time to time.

Satisfaction and Discharge

Each Indenture will be discharged and will cease to be of further effect as to all outstanding Debt Securities of any series issued thereunder, when:

- (1) either:
 - (a) all outstanding Debt Securities of that series that have been authenticated (except lost, stolen or destroyed Debt Securities that have been replaced or paid and Debt Securities for whose payment money has theretofore been deposited in trust and thereafter repaid to us) have been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation; or
 - (b) all outstanding Debt Securities of that series that have been not delivered to the Trustee for cancellation have become due and payable or will become due and payable at their Stated Maturity within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee and in any case we have irrevocably deposited with the Trustee as trust funds money in an amount sufficient, without consideration of any reinvestment of interest, to pay the entire indebtedness of such Debt Securities not delivered to the Trustee for cancellation, for principal, premium, if any, and accrued interest to the Stated Maturity or redemption date;
- (2) we have paid or caused to be paid all other sums payable by us under the Indenture with respect to the Debt Securities of that series; and
- (3) we have delivered an Officers Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel to the Trustee stating that all conditions precedent to satisfaction and discharge of the Indenture with respect to the Debt Securities of that series have been satisfied.

Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

To the extent indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may elect, at our option at any time, to have our obligations discharged under provisions relating to defeasance and discharge of indebtedness, which we call legal defeasance, or relating to defeasance of certain restrictive covenants applied to the Debt Securities of any series, or to any specified part of a series, which we call covenant defeasance .

Legal Defeasance. The Indentures provide that, upon our exercise of our option (if any) to have the legal defeasance provisions applied to any series of Debt Securities, we and, if applicable, each Subsidiary Guarantor will be discharged from all our obligations, and, if such Debt Securities are Subordinated Debt Securities, the provisions of the Subordinated Indenture relating to subordination will cease to be effective, with respect to such Debt Securities (except for certain obligations to convert, exchange or register the transfer of Debt Securities, to replace stolen, lost or mutilated Debt Securities, to maintain paying agencies and to hold moneys for payment in trust) upon the deposit in trust for the benefit of the Holders of such Debt Securities of money or U.S. Government Obligations, or both, which, through the payment of principal and interest in respect thereof in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient (in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants) to pay the principal of and any premium and interest on such

Table of Contents

Debt Securities on the respective Stated Maturities in accordance with the terms of the applicable Indenture and such Debt Securities. Such defeasance or discharge may occur only if, among other things:

- (1) we have delivered to the applicable Trustee an Opinion of Counsel to the effect that we have received from, or there has been published by, the United States Internal Revenue Service a ruling, or there has been a change in tax law, in either case to the effect that Holders of such Debt Securities will not recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit and legal defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit and legal defeasance were not to occur;
- (2) no Event of Default or event that with the passing of time or the giving of notice, or both, shall constitute an Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing at the time of such deposit or, with respect to any Event of Default described in clause (8) under Events of Default, at any time until 121 days after such deposit;
- (3) such deposit and legal defeasance will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any agreement or instrument (other than the applicable Indenture) to which we are a party or by which we are bound;
- (4) in the case of Subordinated Debt Securities, at the time of such deposit, no default in the payment of all or a portion of principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on any Senior Debt shall have occurred and be continuing, no event of default shall have resulted in the acceleration of any Senior Debt and no other event of default with respect to any Senior Debt shall have occurred and be continuing permitting after notice or the lapse of time, or both, the acceleration thereof; and
- (5) we have delivered to the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel to the effect that such deposit shall not cause the Trustee or the trust so created to be subject to the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Covenant Defeasance. The Indentures provide that, upon our exercise of our option (if any) to have the covenant defeasance provisions applied to any Debt Securities, we may fail to comply with certain restrictive covenants (but not with respect to conversion, if applicable), including those that may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, and the occurrence of certain Events of Default, which are described above in clause (5) (with respect to such restrictive covenants) and clauses (6), (7) and (9) under Events of Default and any that may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, will not be deemed to either be or result in an Event of Default and, if such Debt Securities are Subordinated Debt Securities, the provisions of the Subordinated Indenture relating to subordination will cease to be effective, in each case with respect to such Debt Securities. In order to exercise such option, we must deposit, in trust for the benefit of the Holders of such Debt Securities, money or U.S. Government Obligations, or both, which, through the payment of principal and interest in respect thereof in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient (in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants) to pay the principal of and any premium and interest on such Debt Securities on the respective Stated Maturities in accordance with the terms of the applicable Indenture and such Debt Securities. Such covenant defeasance may occur only if we have delivered to the applicable Trustee an Opinion of Counsel to the effect that Holders of such Debt Securities will not recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such

deposit and covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit and covenant defeasance were not to occur, and the requirements set forth in clauses (2), (3), (4) and (5) above are satisfied. If we exercise this option with respect to any series of Debt Securities and such Debt Securities were declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any Event of Default, the amount of money and U.S. Government Obligations so deposited in trust would be sufficient to pay amounts due on such Debt Securities at the time of their respective Stated Maturities but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on such Debt Securities upon any acceleration resulting from such Event of Default. In such case, we would remain liable for such payments.

If we exercise either our legal defeasance or covenant defeasance option, any Subsidiary Guarantee will terminate.

Table of Contents

No Personal Liability of Directors, Officers, Employees and Shareholders

No director, officer, employee, incorporator, shareholder, member, partner or trustee of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor, as such, shall have any liability for any obligations of the Company or any Subsidiary Guarantor under the Debt Securities, the Indentures or any Subsidiary Guarantees or for any claim based on, in respect of, or by reason of, such obligations or their creation. By accepting a Debt Security, each Holder shall be deemed to have waived and released all such liability. The waiver and release shall be a part of the consideration for the issue of the Debt Securities. The waiver may not be effective to waive liabilities under the federal securities laws, and it is the view of the SEC that such a waiver is against public policy.

Notices

Notices to Holders of Debt Securities will be given by mail to the addresses of such Holders as they may appear in the Security Register.

Title

We, the Subsidiary Guarantors, the Trustees and any agent of us, the Subsidiary Guarantors or a Trustee may treat the Person in whose name a Debt Security is registered as the absolute owner of the Debt Security (whether or not such Debt Security may be overdue) for the purpose of making payment and for all other purposes.

Governing Law

The Indentures and the Debt Securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the law of the State of New York.

The Trustee

We will enter into the Indentures with a Trustee that is qualified to act under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, and with any other Trustees chosen by us and appointed in a supplemental indenture for a particular series of Debt Securities. We may maintain a banking relationship in the ordinary course of business with our Trustee and one or more of its affiliates.

Resignation or Removal of Trustee. If the Trustee has or acquires a conflicting interest within the meaning of the Trust Indenture Act, the Trustee must either eliminate its conflicting interest or resign, to the extent and in the manner provided by, and subject to the provisions of, the Trust Indenture Act and the applicable Indenture. Any resignation will require the appointment of a successor Trustee under the applicable Indenture in accordance with the terms and conditions of such Indenture.

The Trustee may resign or be removed by us with respect to one or more series of Debt Securities and a successor Trustee may be appointed to act with respect to any such series. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Debt Securities of any series may remove the Trustee with respect to the Debt Securities of such series.

Limitations on Trustee if It Is Our Creditor. Each Indenture will contain certain limitations on the right of the Trustee, in the event that it becomes our creditor, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize on certain property received in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise.

Certificates and Opinions to Be Furnished to Trustee. Each Indenture will provide that, in addition to other certificates or opinions that may be specifically required by other provisions of an Indenture, every application by us for action by the Trustee must be accompanied by an Officers Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel stating that, in the opinion of the signers, all conditions precedent to such action have been complied with by us.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following descriptions are summaries of material terms of our common stock, preferred stock, certificate of incorporation and bylaws. This summary is qualified by reference to our certificate of incorporation, bylaws and the rights agreement we have entered into with Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as rights agent, which are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and our other filings with the SEC incorporated by reference herein, and by the provisions of applicable law.

We are authorized to issue 50.0 million shares of common stock, par value \$0.04 per share, and 5.0 million shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.04 per share. As of November 14, 2018, there were 25,563,843 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding and held by approximately 212 record owners.

Common Stock

Holder of common stock are entitled to one vote per share with respect to each matter presented to our stockholders on which the holders of common stock are entitled to vote. Because holders of common stock do not have cumulative voting rights, the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock can elect all of the members of the board of directors standing for election, subject to the rights, powers and preferences of any outstanding series of preferred stock. No share of common stock affords any preemptive rights or is convertible, redeemable, assessable or entitled to the benefits of any sinking or repurchase fund.

Subject to the prior rights of holders of preferred stock, if any, holders of common stock are entitled to receive dividends as may be lawfully declared from time to time by our board of directors. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, holders of common stock will be entitled to receive such assets as are available for distribution to our stockholders after there shall have been paid or set apart for payment the full amounts necessary to satisfy any preferential or participating rights to which the holders of each outstanding series of preferred stock are entitled by the express terms of the series.

The shares of our common stock presently outstanding are fully paid and non-assessable, and any shares issued by us pursuant to this prospectus will be fully paid and non-assessable when issued. Our common stock trades on the NYSE American under the symbol MCF.

Preferred Stock

Our board of directors has the authority to issue preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the designations, powers, preferences and rights, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof including dividend rights, dividend rates, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, redemption prices, liquidation preferences and the number of shares constituting any class or series, without further vote or action by the stockholders. The issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of us without further action by the stockholders and may adversely affect the voting and other rights of the holders of common stock. Our preferred stock is senior to our common stock regarding liquidation. As of November 14, 2018, we had no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding.

Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock

On August 1, 2018, our board of directors designated 27,000 shares of preferred stock to constitute the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (the Series A Preferred Stock), in connection with the our adoption of a stockholder rights plan. The terms of the Series A Preferred Stock are further described below under Stockholder Rights

Plan Series A Preferred Stock Provisions.

Table of Contents

Anti-Takeover Provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws

Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws. Certain provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws summarized below may be deemed to have an anti-takeover effect and may delay, deter, or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that a stockholder might consider to be in its best interests, including attempts that might result in a premium being paid over the market price for the shares held by stockholders.

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that (unless, as a general matter, a preferred stock designation provides otherwise for that series of preferred stock):

permit us to issue, without any further vote or action by the stockholders, additional shares of preferred stock in one or more series and, with respect to each such series, to fix the number of shares constituting the series and the designation of the series, the voting powers (if any) of the shares of the series, and the preferences and relative, participating, optional, and other special rights, if any, and any qualification, limitations or restrictions of the shares of such series;

require special meetings of the stockholders to be called by the board of directors or the holder or holders of one-half of all the shares outstanding and entitled to vote thereat;

require business at special meetings requested by stockholders to be limited to the stated purpose or purposes of that meeting, except that the board of directors shall have the authority, in its discretion, to submit additional matters to the stockholders and cause other business to be transacted;

require that stockholder action be taken at a meeting rather than by written consent;

require that stockholders follow certain procedures, including advance notice procedures, to bring certain matters before an annual meeting or to nominate a director for election; and

permit directors to fill vacancies in our board of directors.

The foregoing provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws could discourage potential acquisition proposals and could delay or prevent a change of control. These provisions are intended to enhance the likelihood of continuity and stability in the composition of the board of directors and in the policies formulated by the board of directors and to discourage certain types of transactions that may involve an actual or threatened change of control. These provisions are designed to reduce our vulnerability to an unsolicited acquisition proposal. The provisions also are intended to discourage certain tactics that may be used in proxy fights. However, such provisions could have the effect of discouraging others from making tender offers for our shares and, as a consequence, they also may inhibit fluctuations in the market price of our common stock that could result from actual or rumored takeover attempts. Such provisions also may have the effect of preventing changes in our management.

Business Combinations. We are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. In general, Section 203 prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an

interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless the business combination is approved in a prescribed manner.

Section 203 defines a business combination as a merger, asset sale or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholders. Section 203 defines an interested stockholder as a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns, or, in some cases, within three years prior, did own, 15% or more of the corporation's voting stock. Under Section 203, a business combination between us and an interested stockholder is prohibited unless:

our board of directors approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholders becoming an interested stockholder prior to the date the person attained the status;

Table of Contents

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of our voting stock outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding, for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding, shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and issued employee stock plans, under which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held under the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

the business combination is approved by our board of directors on or subsequent to the date the person became an interested stockholder and authorized at an annual or special meeting of the stockholders by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

This statutory provision has an anti-takeover effect with respect to transactions not approved in advance by our board of directors, including discouraging takeover attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares of our common stock.

Stockholder Rights Plan

On August 1, 2018, we adopted a net operating loss carryforwards rights plan and our board of directors authorized and declared a dividend distribution of one right (a Right) for each issued and outstanding share of our common stock, which was payable to stockholders of record as of the close of business on August 13, 2018.

The Rights. The Rights initially trade with, and are inseparable from, the common stock. New Rights will accompany any new shares of common stock issued until the earlier of the Distribution Date and the expiration date of the Rights, as described below. Prior to exercise, a Right does not give its holder any dividend, voting or liquidation rights.

Exercise Price. Each Right will allow its registered holder to purchase from us one one-thousandth of a share of Series A Preferred Stock for \$33.72, subject to adjustment under certain circumstances (the Exercise Price), upon certain triggering events.

Exercisability. The Rights are not exercisable until the earlier of (1) public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, beneficial ownership of 4.95% or more of our outstanding common stock or (2) the commencement of, or announcement of an intention to commence, a tender offer or exchange offer that would result in a person s acquiring beneficial ownership of 4.95% or more of our outstanding common stock (the earlier of such dates being called the Distribution Date).

Consequences of a Person or Group Becoming an Acquiring Person. Subject to certain exceptions, a 4.95% or more beneficial owner is referred to as an Acquiring Person under the rights agreement. If a person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an Acquiring Person (the first occurrence of such event being referred to as a flip-in event), each holder of a Right may, upon exercise of such Right, purchase for the Exercise Price shares of common stock with a market value equal to the result obtained by (A) multiplying the then-current exercise price by the then number of one one-thousandths of a share of Series A Preferred Stock for which a Right was or would have been exercisable immediately prior to the first occurrence of a flip-in event, whether or not such Right was then exercisable; and (B) dividing that product by 50% of the current market price of our common stock on the date of such first occurrence. To the extent that a person s exercise of Rights under a flip-in event would cause them to become the beneficial owner of more than 4.95% of our common stock, such person will only be entitled to receive alternate consideration for the excess, such as cash or evidence of indebtedness as provided in the rights agreement.

Exchange. At any time after any person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an Acquiring Person and prior to the acquisition of beneficial ownership by such Acquiring Person of 50% or more of the

Table of Contents

outstanding shares of common stock, the board of directors, at its option, may exchange each Right (other than Rights owned by such person or group of affiliated or associated persons, which will have become void), in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of two shares of common stock per outstanding Right (subject to adjustment).

Redemption. At any time before any person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an Acquiring Person, the board of directors may redeem the Rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$0.001 per Right (subject to certain adjustments). The redemption of the Rights may be made effective at such time, on such basis and with such conditions as the board of directors in its sole discretion may establish.

Business Combination. In the event that, after a person or a group of affiliated or associated persons has become an Acquiring Person, we are acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction, or 50% or more of our assets or earning power are sold, proper provision will be made so that each holder of a Right will thereafter have the right to receive, upon the exercise thereof at the then-current exercise price of the Right, that number of shares of common stock of the acquiring company having a market value at the time of that transaction equal to two times the Exercise Price.

Series A Preferred Stock Provisions. Each share of Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled, when, as and if declared, to a preferential per share quarterly dividend payment equal to the greater of (i) \$1.00 per share or (ii) an amount equal to 1,000 times the dividend declared per share of common stock. Each share of Series A Preferred Stock will entitle the holder thereof to 1,000 votes on all matters submitted to a vote of our stockholders. In the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which shares of common stock are converted or exchanged, each share of Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive 1,000 times the amount received per one share of common stock.

Until a Right is exercised or exchanged, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a stockholder of our company, including, the right to vote or to receive dividends.

Expiration. The Rights, which are not exercisable until the Distribution Date, will expire prior to the earliest of (i) August 1, 2021 or such later day as may be established by our board of directors prior to the expiration of the Rights, provided that the extension is submitted to the our stockholders for ratification at the next annual meeting of stockholders of the Company succeeding such extension; (ii) the time at which the Rights are redeemed pursuant to the rights agreement; (iii) the time at which the Rights are exchanged pursuant to the rights agreement; (iv) the time at which the Rights are terminated upon the occurrence of certain transactions; (v) the close of business on the first day after our 2020 annual meeting of stockholders, if approval by our stockholders of the rights agreement has not been obtained at such meeting; (vi) the close of business on the effective date of the repeal of Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code, if the board of directors determines that the rights agreement is no longer necessary or desirable for the preservation of our ability to use our net operating losses and certain other tax assets (collectively, the Tax Benefits); and (vii) the close of business on the first day of a taxable year of our company to which the board of directors determines that no Tax Benefits are available to be carried forward, (the earliest of (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) is referred to as the Expiration Date).

Anti-Dilution Provisions. The Exercise Price payable, and the number of shares of Series A Preferred Stock or other securities or property issuable, upon exercise of the Rights are subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution (i) in the event of a stock dividend on, or a subdivision, combination or reclassification of the Series A Preferred Stock, (ii) upon the grant to holders of the Series A Preferred Stock of certain rights or warrants to subscribe for or purchase Series A Preferred Stock or convertible securities at less than the then-current market price of the Series A Preferred Stock or (iii) upon the distribution to holders of the Series A Preferred Stock of evidences of indebtedness or assets (excluding regular periodic cash dividends or dividends payable in Series A Preferred Stock) or of subscription rights or warrants (other than those referred to above). The number of outstanding Rights and the

number of one one-thousandths of a share of Series A Preferred Stock issuable upon exercise of each Right are also subject to adjustment in the event of a stock split, reverse stock split, stock dividends and other similar transactions.

Table of Contents

Amendments. The board of directors may amend or supplement the rights agreement without the approval of any holders of Rights, including, to (a) cure any ambiguity, (b) correct inconsistent provisions, (c) alter time period provisions or (d) make additional changes to the rights agreement that the board of directors deems necessary or desirable. However, from and after any person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an Acquiring Person, the rights agreement may not be supplemented or amended in any manner that would adversely affect the interests of the holders of Rights.

Anti-takeover Effects. The Rights have certain anti-takeover effects. The Rights will cause substantial dilution to any person or group that attempts to acquire beneficial ownership of more than 4.95% of our common stock without the approval of our board of directors. As a result, the overall effect of the Rights may be to render more difficult or discourage any attempt to acquire us even if the acquisition may be favorable to the interests of our stockholders. In addition, the rights plan may discourage existing 4.95% common stockholders from selling their interest in a single block, which may impact the liquidity of our common stock and may deter institutional investors from investing in our common stock, which may depress the market price of our common stock. Because the board of directors can redeem the Rights or approve a tender or exchange offer, the Rights should not interfere with a merger or other business combination approved by the board. We can make no assurances the rights plan will be effective in meeting its intended objectives, including to deter a change in control and protecting or realizing net operating loss carryforwards.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

We may offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we decide to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, we will issue receipts for depositary shares. Each depositary share will represent a fraction of a share of a particular series of preferred stock. The prospectus supplement will indicate that fraction. The shares of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a depositary agreement between us and a bank or trust company that meets certain requirements and is selected by us (the Bank Depositary). Each owner of a depositary share will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by the depositary share. The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the depositary agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock in accordance with the terms of the offering.

We have summarized selected provisions of a depositary agreement and the related depositary receipts. The summary is not complete. The forms of the depositary agreement and the depositary receipts relating to any particular issue of depositary shares will be filed with the SEC via a Current Report on Form 8-K prior to our offering of the depositary shares, and you should read such documents for provisions that may be important to you.

Dividends and Other Distributions

If we pay a cash distribution or dividend on a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the Bank Depositary will distribute such dividends to the record holders of such depositary shares. If the distributions are in property other than cash, the Bank Depositary will distribute the property to the record holders of the depositary shares. However, if the Bank Depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution of property, the Bank Depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to the record holders of the depositary shares.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If we redeem a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the Bank Depositary will redeem the depositary shares from the proceeds received by the Bank Depositary in connection with the redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will equal the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share of the preferred stock. If fewer than all the depositary shares are redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as the Bank Depositary may determine.

Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock represented by depositary shares are entitled to vote, the Bank Depositary will mail the notice to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to such preferred stock. Each record holder of these depositary shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock) may instruct the Bank Depositary as to how to vote the preferred stock represented by such holder's depositary shares. The Bank Depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the amount of the preferred stock represented by such depositary shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will take all action which the Bank Depositary deems necessary in order to enable the Bank Depositary to do so. The Bank Depositary will abstain from voting shares of the preferred stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing such preferred stock.

Amendment and Termination of the Depositary Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the depositary agreement may be amended by agreement between the Bank Depositary and us. However, any amendment that

Table of Contents

materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. The depositary agreement may be terminated by the Bank Depositary or us only if (1) all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or (2) there has been a final distribution in respect of the preferred stock in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company and such distribution has been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts.

Charges of Bank Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the Bank Depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges, including a fee for the withdrawal of shares of preferred stock upon surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the depositary agreement to be for their accounts.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

Upon surrender of depositary receipts at the principal office of the Bank Depositary, subject to the terms of the depositary agreement, the owner of the depositary shares may demand delivery of the number of whole shares of preferred stock and all money and other property, if any, represented by those depositary shares. Partial shares of preferred stock will not be issued. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the Bank Depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. Holders of preferred stock thus withdrawn may not thereafter deposit those shares under the depositary agreement or receive depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares therefor.

Miscellaneous

The Bank Depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications from us that are delivered to the Bank Depositary and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock.

Neither the Bank Depositary nor we will be liable if we are prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our obligations under the depositary agreement. The obligations of the Bank Depositary and us under the depositary agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of our duties thereunder, and neither of us will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. Further, both of us may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

Resignation and Removal of Bank Depositary

The Bank Depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the Bank Depositary. Any such resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor Bank Depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. Such successor Bank Depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50 million.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our common stock and/or preferred stock. Warrants may be issued independently or together with debt securities, preferred stock or common stock offered by any prospectus supplement. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular issue of warrants. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of warrants or beneficial owners of warrants. The following summary of certain provisions of the warrants does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, all provisions of the warrant agreements.

You should refer to the prospectus supplement relating to a particular issue of warrants for the terms of and information relating to the warrants, including, where applicable:

- (1) the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of the warrants and the price at which such number of shares of common stock or preferred stock may be purchased upon exercise of the warrants;
- (2) the date on which the right to exercise the warrants commences and the date on which such right expires (the Expiration Date);
- (3) United States federal income tax consequences applicable to the warrants;
- (4) the amount of the warrants outstanding as of the most recent practicable date; and
- (5) any other terms of the warrants.

Warrants will be offered and exercisable for United States dollars only. Warrants will be issued in registered form only. Each warrant will entitle its holder to purchase such number of shares of common stock or preferred stock at such exercise price as is in each case set forth in, or calculable from, the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants. The exercise price may be subject to adjustment upon the occurrence of events described in such prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the Expiration Date (or such later date to which we may extend such Expiration Date), unexercised warrants will become void. The place or places where, and the manner in which, warrants may be exercised will be specified in the prospectus supplement relating to such warrants.

Prior to the exercise of any warrants, holders of the warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of common stock, including the right to receive payments of any dividends on the common stock purchasable upon exercise of the warrants, or to exercise any applicable right to vote.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities on a delayed or continuous basis in and outside the United States through underwriters or dealers as designated from time to time, directly to purchasers, through agents or through a combination of these methods.

We, or agents designated by us, may directly solicit, from time to time, offers to purchase the securities. Any such agent may be deemed to be an underwriter as that term is defined in the Securities Act. We will name the agents involved in the offer or sale of the securities and describe any commissions payable by us to these agents in the prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, these agents will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of their appointment. The agents may be entitled under agreements they may enter into with us to indemnification by us against specified civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. The agents may also be our customers or may engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

Sales Through Underwriters or Dealers

If we use underwriters in the sale of securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale.

Underwriters may offer securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement and except as described below, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the offered securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers.

During and after an offering through underwriters, the underwriters may purchase and sell the securities in the open market. These transactions may include overallotment and stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover syndicate short positions created in connection with the offering. The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid, which means that selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other broker-dealers for the offered securities sold for their account may be reclaimed by the syndicate if the offered securities are repurchased by the syndicate in stabilizing or covering transactions. These activities may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered securities, which may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue these activities at any time.

If we use dealers in the sale of securities, we will sell the securities to them as principals. They may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. The dealers participating in any sale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. We will include in the prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

At-the-Market Offerings

Underwriters or agents could make sales in privately negotiated transactions and/or any other method permitted by law, including sales deemed to be an at-the-market offering as defined in Rule 415 under the Securities Act, which includes sales made directly on or through the New York Stock Exchange, the existing trading market for our

common stock, or sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange.

To the extent that we make sales through one or more underwriters or agents in at-the-market offerings, we will do so pursuant to the terms of a sales agency financing agreement or other at-the-market offering

Table of Contents

arrangement with such underwriters or agents. If we engage in at-the-market sales pursuant to any such agreement, we will issue and sell securities through one or more underwriters or agents, which may act on an agency basis or on a principal basis. During the term of any such agreement, we may sell securities on a daily basis in exchange transactions or otherwise as we agree with the underwriters or agents. The agreement will provide that any securities sold will be sold at prices related to the then prevailing market prices for such securities. Therefore, exact figures regarding proceeds that will be raised or commissions to be paid cannot be determined at this time. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, we also may agree to sell, and the relevant underwriters or agents may agree to solicit offers to purchase, blocks of securities. The terms of each such agreement will be set forth in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus. In the event that any underwriter or agent acts as principal, or any broker-dealer acts as underwriter, it may engage in certain transactions that stabilize, maintain, or otherwise affect the price of the securities. Any such activities will be described in the prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus relating to the transaction.

Direct Sales and Sales Through Agents

We may sell the securities directly. In that event, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We may also sell the securities through agents we designate from time to time. In the prospectus supplement, we will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities, and we will describe any commissions payable by us to the agent. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

We may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. We will describe the terms of any such sales in the prospectus supplement.

Remarketing Arrangements

We may offer and sell any of the securities in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment by their terms or otherwise, by one or more remarketing firms acting as principals for their own accounts or as our agents. We will identify any remarketing firm, the terms of any remarketing agreement and the compensation to be paid to the remarketing firm in the prospectus supplement. Remarketing firms may be deemed underwriters under the Securities Act.

Delayed Delivery Contracts

If we so indicate in the prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

Derivative Transactions

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third parties may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from

us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third parties in these sale transactions will be underwriters and will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement or in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Table of Contents

General Information

We may have agreements with the agents, dealers, underwriters and remarketing firms to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments that the agents, dealers, underwriters or remarketing firms may be required to make. Agents, dealers, underwriters and remarketing firms may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us in the ordinary course of their businesses.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities will be passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Houston, Texas. Legal counsel to any underwriters may pass upon legal matters for such underwriters.

EXPERTS

The audited consolidated financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of Contango Oil & Gas Company incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the reports of Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accountants, upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The audited consolidated financial statements of Exaro Energy III LLC incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the report of BDO USA, LLP, independent registered public accountants, upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Certain estimates of proved oil and gas reserves for Contango incorporated by reference herein were based in part upon reports by Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc. and William M. Cobb & Associates, Inc., independent petroleum engineering firms. Certain estimates of proved oil and gas reserves for Exaro Energy III, LLC incorporated by reference herein were based in part upon reports by W.D. Von Gonten & Co., an independent petroleum engineering firm. These estimates are included and incorporated herein in reliance on the authority of such firms as experts in such matters.

Table of Contents

Shares

Contango Oil & Gas Company

Common Stock

Joint Book-Running Managers

Cowen

Intrepid Partners

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement

November 15, 2018