

HALCON RESOURCES CORP  
Form PRE 14A  
March 19, 2015

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

**SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

**Halcón Resources Corporation**

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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## **Halcón Resources Corporation**

**1000 Louisiana St., Suite 6700  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Telephone (832) 538-0300**

### **Annual meeting of stockholders to be held on May 6, 2015**

March , 2015

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend Halcón Resources Corporation's 2015 annual meeting of stockholders on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., Central Daylight Time, to be held at the Wells Fargo Plaza Auditorium, 1000 Louisiana St., Houston, Texas 77002.

The attached notice of annual meeting and the proxy statement describe the matters to be acted upon during the annual meeting. In addition, there will be a report on the state of Halcón's business and an opportunity for you to ask questions of Halcón's management.

You may vote your shares by Internet or by telephone using the instructions on the proxy card, or by completing, signing, dating and returning the proxy card, or by voting your shares in person at the meeting. The proxy card describes your voting options in more detail. If you need assistance, please contact Scott Zuehlke, Vice President, Investor Relations, at (832) 538-0314. Our annual report on Form 10-K, as amended by the Form 10-K/A, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, accompanies the proxy materials.

The annual meeting gives us an opportunity to review Halcón's results and discuss the steps Halcón has taken to position itself for the future. We appreciate your ownership of Halcón common stock, and I hope you will be able to join us at the annual meeting.

Sincerely,

Floyd C. Wilson  
*Chairman of the Board of Directors  
and Chief Executive Officer*

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**Halcón Resources Corporation**

**1000 Louisiana St., Suite 6700**

**Houston, Texas 77002**

**Telephone (832) 538-0300**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON MAY 6, 2015**

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of stockholders of Halcón Resources Corporation will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., Central Daylight Time, at the Wells Fargo Plaza Auditorium, 1000 Louisiana St., Houston, Texas 77002, for the following purposes:

1. To elect three directors to our board of directors to serve as Class B directors to serve until the 2018 meeting of stockholders in accordance with our bylaws, or to serve until the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders upon approval of Proposal No. 5;
2. To approve an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to effect a one-for-five (1:5) reverse stock split of our common stock;
3. To ratify and approve an amendment to our First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan to increase the number of shares of Halcón common stock that may be issued under the Plan by 40 million shares, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms of the Plan upon approval of Proposal No. 2;
4. To approve, in accordance with Section 312.03 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual, the issuance of additional shares of Halcón common stock to HALRES LLC upon conversion of our 8.0% senior convertible note and exercise of the warrants in connection with an amendment to extend the maturity thereof;
5. To approve the declassification of our board of directors and provide for an annual election of directors;
6. To ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as our independent registered public accountant for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015; and
7. To transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

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The board of directors has approved the close of business on March 17, 2015, as the record date for determining the stockholders of Halcón entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on the record date are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting. A complete list of our stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting will be available for examination at our offices in Houston, Texas during ordinary business hours for a period of ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting.

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**All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the meeting. You may vote your shares by Internet or by telephone using the instructions on the proxy card, or by completing, signing, dating and returning the proxy card, or by voting your shares in person at the meeting. If you attend the meeting, and if you so choose, you may withdraw your proxy and vote in person.** If your shares are held in "street name" by your broker or other nominee, only that holder can vote your shares and the vote cannot be cast for any proposal, except for the ratification of our independent registered public accounting firm, unless you provide instructions to your broker. You should follow the directions provided by your broker regarding how to instruct your broker to vote your shares. Please review the proxy statement accompanying this notice for more complete information regarding the matters to be voted on at the meeting. You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted.

By order of the Board of Directors of  
Halcón Resources Corporation:

Floyd C. Wilson  
*Chairman of the Board of Directors  
and Chief Executive Officer*

March , 2015

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR  
THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 6, 2015**

Halcón's Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, as amended by the Form 10-K/A, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 are available at <http://investors.halconresources.com/annual-proxy.cfm>.

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**Halcón Resources Corporation**

**1000 Louisiana St., Suite 6700  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Telephone (832) 538-0300**

**PROXY STATEMENT  
FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON MAY 6, 2015**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

These proxy materials are furnished to you in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the board of directors of Halcón Resources Corporation, a Delaware corporation (referred to in this proxy statement as Halcón, the Company, we, us, or our), for the annual meeting of our stockholders to be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., Central Daylight Time, at the Wells Fargo Plaza Auditorium, 1000 Louisiana St., Houston, Texas 77002. The proxies also may be voted at any adjournments or postponements of the annual meeting.

***Voting and Revocation of Proxies***

If you provide specific voting instructions, your shares will be voted as you instruct. Whether you hold shares directly as a stockholder of record, or beneficially in street name, you may direct how your shares are voted at the annual meeting. If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote by submitting a proxy or by voting in person at the annual meeting, and if you hold your shares in street name, you may vote by submitting voting instructions to your broker or trustee or nominee. You may cast your vote by proxy as follows:

By Internet you may vote using the Internet at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com). Simply follow the instructions on the proxy card;

By telephone you may vote by calling 1-800-690-6903 and follow the voice prompts; or

By mailing the proxy card you may vote by completing, signing, dating and mailing the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed pre-addressed postage-paid envelope.

Unless you otherwise direct in your proxy, the individuals named in the proxy card will vote the shares represented by such proxy in accordance with the recommendations of our board of directors unless otherwise indicated. If you hold your shares in street name, please refer to the proxy card forwarded by your bank, broker, or other nominee to see which voting options are available to you and for directions on how to vote. If you vote by Internet or by telephone, you need not return your proxy





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card. Proxies granted by telephone or over the Internet, in accordance with the procedures set forth on the proxy card, will be valid under Delaware law.

If you sign the proxy card of your broker, trustee or other nominee but do not provide voting instructions, your shares will not be voted unless your broker, trustee or other nominee has discretionary authority to vote. When a broker, trustee, or other nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner is unable to vote on a particular proposal because the broker does not have discretionary authority to vote in the absence of timely instructions from the beneficial owner, this is referred to as a "broker non-vote." **Out of the six proposals that will be brought to a vote at our annual meeting, brokers will have discretionary voting authority only with respect to the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accountant. It is therefore very important that you indicate on the proxy card of your broker how you want your shares to be voted in the election of the three director nominees named in this proxy statement each of the other proposals to be voted upon at our annual meeting.**

The board of directors is not aware of any business to be brought before the annual meeting other than as indicated in the notice of annual meeting of stockholders. If any other matter does come before the meeting, the persons named in the proxy card will vote the shares represented by the proxy in his or her best judgment.

**Revocation of Proxy.** A proxy may be revoked by a stockholder at any time prior to it being voted by:

delivering a revised proxy (by one of the methods described above) bearing a later date;

voting in person at the annual meeting; or

notifying our Corporate Secretary of the revocation in writing at our address set forth above in time to be received before the annual meeting.

Attendance at the meeting alone will not effectively revoke a previously executed and delivered proxy. If a proxy is properly executed and is not revoked by the stockholder, the shares it represents will be voted at the meeting in accordance with the instructions from the stockholder. If the proxy card is signed and returned without specifying choices, the shares will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of our board of directors.

If your shares are held in an account at a broker or other nominee, you should contact your broker or other nominee to change your vote.

**Record Date and Vote Required for Approval.** The record date with respect to this solicitation is March 17, 2015. All holders of record of our common stock as of the close of business on March 17, 2015 are entitled to vote at the annual meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof for which a new record date has not been established. As of March 17, 2015, we had 431,357,746 shares of common stock outstanding. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote. Our stockholders do not have cumulative voting rights. In accordance with our bylaws, the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock entitled to vote, represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at the annual meeting. If a quorum is not present at the annual meeting, a vote for adjournment will be taken among the stockholders present or represented by proxy. If a majority of the stockholders present or represented by proxy vote for adjournment, it is our intention to adjourn the meeting until a later date and to vote proxies received at such adjourned meeting. The place and date to which the annual meeting would be adjourned would be announced at the meeting, but would in no event be expected to be more than 30 days after the date of the annual meeting.

Assuming that a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast is required for the election of directors at the annual meeting. This means that the director nominees receiving the

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most affirmative votes are elected for the available board positions. Any shares not voted (whether by withholding the vote, broker non-vote or otherwise) have no impact in the election of directors.

The vote to approve the amendments to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to effect a one-for-five (1:5) reverse stock split of our common stock and the declassification of our board of directors will require the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as a vote "against" Proposal No. 2 and Proposal No. 5.

Approval of the proposed amendment to our First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of the majority of votes cast for such proposal, provided that the total votes cast represent a majority of all shares entitled to vote. An affirmative vote of the majority of votes cast for such proposal will be achieved if votes "for" represent a majority of the aggregate number of votes "for," "against" and "abstain." Total votes cast will represent a majority of all shares entitled to vote if the aggregate number of votes "for," "against" and "abstain" represent a majority of our outstanding shares of common stock.

Pursuant to Section 312.07 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual, approval of Proposal No. 4 requires the affirmative vote of the holders of our common stock representing a majority of the votes cast at the annual meeting, provided that the total votes cast on the proposal represent over 50% of all outstanding securities entitled to vote to approve each of the proposals. Abstentions will be treated as "votes cast" for purposes of determining whether the total votes cast on Proposal No. 4 represents over 50% in interest of all securities entitled to vote on each proposal as required by Section 312.07 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual. Accordingly, an abstention will have the same effect as a vote "against" Proposal No. 4 for purposes of determining whether Proposal No. 4 has been approved by a majority of votes cast on such proposal. A broker non-vote will not count as a "vote cast" for purposes of determining whether Proposal No. 4 has been approved by a majority of votes cast on such proposal and, assuming that the total votes cast on Proposal No. 4 represents over 50% in interest of all securities entitled to vote, broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the vote on Proposal No. 4.

Ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accountant requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on this matter.

**Proxy Solicitation.** We will bear all costs relating to the solicitation of proxies. We have retained Okapi Partners LLC to aid in the solicitation of proxies, at an estimated cost of \$8,000 plus reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, custodial charges in connection with payment by Okapi Partners of charges of brokers and banks on our behalf, and additional charges which may be incurred in connection with the solicitation of proxies by telephone. Proxies may also be solicited by officers, directors and employees personally, by mail, or by telephone, facsimile transmission or other electronic means. On request, we will pay brokers and other persons holding shares of stock in their names or in those of their nominees, which in each case are beneficially owned by others, for their reasonable expenses in sending soliciting material to, and seeking instructions from, their principals.

**Submission of Stockholder Proposals.** The deadline for submitting stockholder proposals for inclusion in our 2016 proxy statement and form of proxy for our annual meeting in 2016 is December 1, 2015. See "*Submission of Stockholder Proposals for Our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders*" below for additional information.

**We will provide to any stockholder, without charge and upon written request, a copy (without exhibits, unless otherwise requested) of our annual report on Form 10-K, as amended by the Form 10-K/A, as filed with the SEC for our fiscal year ended December 31, 2014. Any such request should be directed to Scott Zuehlke, Vice President, Investor Relations at 1000 Louisiana St., Suite 6700, Houston, Texas 77002, telephone number: (832) 538-0314. The annual report to the**

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stockholders on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, as amended by the Form 10-K/A, accompanying this proxy statement is not part of the proxy solicitation materials.

**OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ITS COMMITTEES**

*The Board of Directors*

Our business and affairs are managed under the direction of our board of directors, or board. Our bylaws specify that we shall not have less than one nor more than fifteen directors, and our board currently has ten members. Under our bylaws, each director holds office until the annual stockholders' meeting at which such director's class stands for re-election and until the director's successor is duly elected and qualified, or until such director's earlier death, resignation or removal. Our certificate of incorporation provides that our board of directors is classified into three classes: Class A, Class B and Class C, with the number of directors in each class being as nearly equal as possible, and each class having a three-year term of office. Our board of directors is recommending that stockholders approve the declassification of our board of directors. See "*Proposal 5 Approval to declassify our board of directors and provide for an annual election of directors.*" If approved by our stockholders, the directors elected at the 2015 annual meeting and at each subsequent meeting thereafter will be elected for one-year terms resulting in the entire board of directors being elected annually beginning with the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders. If the proposal is not approved by stockholders, the directors elected in 2015 and thereafter will continue to be elected for three-year staggered terms.

On February 8, 2012, HALRES LLC (formerly Halcón Resources, LLC), a newly-formed limited liability company led by Floyd C. Wilson, recapitalized us with a \$550.0 million investment. We refer to this transaction as the "Recapitalization."

In connection with the closing of the Recapitalization, Floyd C. Wilson, Tucker S. Bridwell, James W. Christmas, Thomas R. Fuller, James L. Irish III, E. Murphy Markham IV, David B. Miller, Daniel A. Rioux, Stephen P. Smiley and Mark A. Welsh IV, were appointed as directors. In August 2012, Michael A. Vlastic was appointed to our board of directors. In December 2012, Mr. Markham resigned from our board of directors and Kevin E. Godwin and David S. Hunt were appointed to our board of directors. In January 2015, Messrs. Irish and Smiley resigned from our board of directors. In March 2015, Mr. Hunt, a Class B director, informed the board of directors that he will serve out his term but not stand for re-election at the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders. Mr. Hunt's decision not to stand for re-election is not related to any disagreement with management or the board of directors.

Also in connection with the closing of the Recapitalization, our newly appointed board of directors appointed Floyd C. Wilson as Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President and Mark J. Mize as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. In the months that followed, our board of directors appointed several additional executive officers, including Stephen W. Herod as our new President, and other members of senior management.

As discussed more fully under "*Proposal 1 Election of Directors,*" three of our current directors, Tucker S. Bridwell, Kevin E. Godwin and Mark A. Welsh IV, have been nominated for re-election at the 2015 annual meeting because of the expiration of the term of their class, Class B, on our board of directors. If Messrs. Bridwell, Godwin and Welsh receive a majority of votes cast in favor of his continued service on the board of directors, and Proposal No. 5 is approved by our stockholders, each will serve a one-year term expiring in 2016; however, if Proposal No. 5 is not approved, each will serve a three-year term expiring in 2018.

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The following table sets forth the names and ages of all current directors, the positions and offices with us held by such persons, the years in which their current terms as directors expire and the length of their continuous service as a director:

| Name               | Director Since | Age | Position  | Expiration of Term |
|--------------------|----------------|-----|---|--------------------|
| Floyd C. Wilson    | Feb. 2012      | 68  | Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer | 2016               |
| Tucker S. Bridwell | Feb. 2012      | 63  | Director  | 2015               |
| James W. Christmas | Feb. 2012      | 66  | Lead Director                                     | 2017               |
| Thomas R. Fuller   | Feb. 2012      | 67  | Director  | 2017               |
| Kevin E. Godwin    | Dec. 2012      | 48  | Director  | 2015               |
| David S. Hunt      | Dec. 2012      | 52  | Director  | 2015               |
| David B. Miller.   | Feb. 2012      | 65  | Director  | 2017               |
| Daniel A. Rioux    | Feb. 2012      | 46  | Director  | 2016               |
| Michael A. Vlasic  | Aug. 2012      | 54  | Director  | 2016               |
| Mark A. Welsh IV   | Feb. 2012      | 35  | Director  | 2015               |

**Floyd C. Wilson** became our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer in February 2012 as a result of the Recapitalization. Prior to February 2012, he was President of HALRES LLC, an oil and natural gas company that he founded in October 2011. Mr. Wilson served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Petrohawk Energy Corporation from May 25, 2004 until BHP Billiton acquired Petrohawk for \$15.1 billion, including assumed debt, in August 2011. Mr. Wilson also served as President of Petrohawk from May 25, 2004 until September 8, 2009. Prior to May 25, 2004, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of PHAWK, LLC which he founded in June 2003. Mr. Wilson was the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of 3TEC Energy Corporation from August 1999 until its merger with Plains Exploration & Production Company in June 2003. Mr. Wilson founded W/E Energy Company L.L.C., formerly known as 3TEC Energy Company L.L.C. in 1998 and served as its President until August 1999. Mr. Wilson began his career in the energy business in Houston, Texas in 1970 as a completion engineer. He moved to Wichita, Kansas in 1976 to start an oil and gas operating company, one of several private energy ventures which preceded the formation of Hugoton Energy Corporation in 1987, where he served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. In 1994, Hugoton completed an initial public offering and was merged into Chesapeake Energy Corporation in 1998.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, in reviewing and assessing Mr. Wilson's contributions to the board, determined that his role as the Company's Chief Executive Officer, his experience in the energy industry and his many years of service as a director and chief executive officer of oil and natural gas exploration and production companies provide significant contributions to the Company's board of directors.

**Tucker S. Bridwell** became a director in February 2012 as a result of the Recapitalization. Mr. Bridwell served as a director of Petrohawk Energy Corporation from May 2004 until December 2010. Mr. Bridwell has been the President of Mansefeldt Investment Corporation and the Dian Graves Owen Foundation since September 1997 and manages investments in both entities. He has been in the energy business in various capacities for over 27 years, focusing on oil and gas private equity and public oil and gas investments with extensive experience in managing both public and private energy companies. Mr. Bridwell is a Certified Public Accountant and has practiced public accountancy, specializing in oil and gas. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and a Master of Business Administration degree from Southern Methodist University. He has also served on the audit committees of numerous businesses, including Petrohawk and non-profit organizations. Currently, he serves on the board of directors of Concho Resources, Inc. and First Financial Bankshares, Inc. He is also Lead Director and Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of First Financial Bankshares, Inc. Mr. Bridwell previously served as Chairman of First Permian, LLC from 2000 until its sale to Energen Corporation in April 2002.

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The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, in reviewing and assessing Mr. Bridwell's contributions to the board, determined that his experience in accounting, investing and management provide significant contributions to the Company's board of directors.

**James W. Christmas** became a director in February 2012 as a result of the Recapitalization. Mr. Christmas began serving as a director of Petrohawk Energy Corporation on July 12, 2006, effective upon the merger of KCS Energy, Inc. ("KCS") into Petrohawk. He continued to serve as a director, and as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, for Petrohawk until BHP Billiton acquired all of Petrohawk in August 2011. He also served on the Audit Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Mr. Christmas served as a member of the Board of Directors of Petrohawk, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BHP Billiton, and as chair of the Financial Reporting Committee of such board until September 2014. Mr. Christmas serves as a director of Rice Energy, as chairman of its audit committee and a member of its compensation and nominating and corporate governance committees, and as a director and member of the audit committee and compensation committee of Yuma Energy. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the Tobin School of Business of St. John's University. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer of KCS from 1988 until April 2003 and Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of KCS until its merger into Petrohawk. Mr. Christmas was a Certified Public Accountant in New York and was with Arthur Andersen & Co. from 1970 until 1978 before leaving to join National Utilities & Industries ("NUI"), a diversified energy company, as Vice President and Controller. He remained with NUI until 1988, when NUI spun out its unregulated activities that ultimately became part of KCS. As an auditor and audit manager, controller and in his role as CEO of KCS, Mr. Christmas was directly or indirectly responsible for financial reporting and compliance with SEC regulations, and as such has extensive experience in reviewing and evaluating financial reports, as well as in evaluating executive and board performance and in recruiting directors.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, in reviewing and assessing Mr. Christmas's contributions to the board, determined that his prior experience as an executive and director and his past audit, accounting and financial reporting experience provide significant contributions to the Company's board of directors.

**Thomas R. Fuller** became a director in February 2012 as a result of the Recapitalization. Mr. Fuller served as a director at Petrohawk Energy Corporation from March 6, 2006 until BHP Billiton acquired Petrohawk in August 2011. Mr. Fuller served on Petrohawk's Reserves Committee and was the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Since December 1988, Mr. Fuller has been a principal of Diverse Energy Management Co. (or related "Diverse" companies), a private upstream acquisition, drilling and production company which also invests in other energy-related companies. Mr. Fuller has earned degrees from the University of Wyoming and the Louisiana State University School of Banking of the South and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas. He has 48 years of experience as a petroleum engineer, specializing in economic and reserves evaluation. He has served as an employee, officer, partner or director of various companies, including ExxonMobil, First City National Bank, Hillin Oil Co., Diverse Energy Management Co. and Rimco Royalty Partners. Mr. Fuller has served on the Board of Directors of Azure Midstream Energy, LLC, a privately held company, since November 2013. On February 27, 2015, Mr. Fuller became a director of Marlin Midstream GP, LLC. Mr. Fuller also has extensive experience in energy-related merger and acquisition transactions, having generated and closed over 90 producing property acquisitions during his career. As a primary lending officer to many independent energy companies, Mr. Fuller has extensive experience in analyzing and evaluating financial, business and operational strategies for energy companies.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, in reviewing and assessing Mr. Fuller's contributions to the board, determined that his petroleum engineering and energy-related acquisitions and analytical experience provide significant contributions to the Company's board of directors.

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**Kevin E. Godwin** became a director in December 2012 in connection with the closing of the private placement of common stock to Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. Mr. Godwin currently serves as a Senior Portfolio Manager of Canada Pension Plan Investment Board in its Relationship Investments group, a position he has held since 2008. From 2005 to 2008, Mr. Godwin served as a Principal of Birch Hill Equity Partners L.P. From 1995 to 2005, he worked at TD Securities then TD Capital Group Limited, ultimately serving as Vice President and Director. Mr. Godwin began his professional career in 1989 with ICI Explosives then Stuart Energy serving as a Project Engineer. Mr. Godwin is a graduate of Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario), having received a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Science (Mechanical Engineering) in 1989. He also received a Masters Degree in Business Administration in 1995 from the Richard Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario. In 2012, Mr. Godwin received the ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors. Mr. Godwin has served on the board of directors of several private companies.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, in reviewing and assessing Mr. Godwin's contributions to the board, determined that his background in finance and investment provide significant contributions to the Company's board of directors.

**David S. Hunt** became a director in December 2012 in connection with the closing of the acquisition of the Williston Basin Assets. Mr. Hunt has been a member of the Reserves Committee since April 2013. Mr. Hunt has informed the board of directors that he will not stand for re-election upon expiration of his current term at the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders.

**David B. Miller** became a director in February 2012 as a result of the Recapitalization. Mr. Miller currently serves as a Managing Partner of EnCap Investments L.P. From 1988 to 1996, Mr. Miller served as President of PMC Reserve Acquisition Company, a partnership jointly-owned by EnCap and Pitts Energy Group. Prior to the establishment of EnCap, he served as Co-Chief Executive Officer of MAZE Exploration Inc., a Denver-based oil and gas company he co-founded in 1981. Mr. Miller began his professional career with Republic National Bank of Dallas, ultimately serving as Vice President and Manager of the bank's wholly-owned subsidiary, Republic Energy Finance Corporation. Mr. Miller is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, having received Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Business Administration in 1972 and 1973, respectively. He serves on the Board of Trustees at Southern Methodist University and also is a member of the Executive Board of the Edwin L. Cox School of Business. Mr. Miller is a recipient of Distinguished Alumnus Awards from both Southern Methodist University and the Cox School. In 2004, Mr. Miller was appointed to the National Petroleum Council, an advisory body to the Secretary of Energy, and he is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Maguire Energy Institute. Additionally, he is a member of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association, the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States and the Dallas Wildcat Committee. Mr. Miller currently serves on the board of directors of several EnCap portfolio companies.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, in reviewing and assessing Mr. Miller's contributions to the board, determined that his experience in upstream and midstream energy investments and energy-related acquisitions and financing provides significant contributions to the Company's board of directors.

**Daniel A. Rioux** became a director in February 2012 as a result of the Recapitalization. Mr. Rioux is a Founder and Managing Partner of Old Ironsides Energy, LLC, an oil and gas investment firm that manages a multi-billion dollar portfolio. From April 2009 to August 2013, Mr. Rioux was Co-President and Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Energy Holdings, LLC. From 2001 to 2008, Mr. Rioux served as Vice President of Liberty Energy Holdings, LLC, where he had responsibility for all of the company's investment and management decisions. From 1993 until 2000, Mr. Rioux was employed by Liberty Energy Corporation, a subsidiary of Liberty Energy Holdings, LLC. Mr. Rioux currently serves as a director of Vermilion Cliffs Partners, a Fort Worth, Texas-based exploration and production company,

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and Axia Energy, LLC, a Denver-based exploration and production company, as well as a manager of Wildcat Midstream Holdings LLC, a company focused on the development, acquisition and operation of gas gathering and midstream oil and gas assets. Mr. Rioux previously served as a Director of Petrohawk Energy Corporation from 2004 to 2006 and as a director of Energy Transfer Equity from 2002 to 2006. He also served as a director of the Independent Petroleum Association of America from 2003 to 2011. Mr. Rioux holds a B.S. in Finance from Bryant College and an M.B.A from Babson College.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, in reviewing and assessing Mr. Rioux's contributions to the board, determined that his experience in energy banking, finance and service as a director of energy companies provide a significant contribution to the Company's board of directors.

**Michael A. Vlastic** became a director in August 2012 as a result of the GeoResources Merger. Immediately prior to his election to the Company's board of directors, Mr. Vlastic had served on the board of directors of GeoResources, Inc. since April 2007. He also served on the board of managers of Southern Bay Energy, LLC from its inception in 2004 until it was acquired by GeoResources in April 2007. He previously was a Director of Texoil, Inc., a company with a class of equity securities registered under the Exchange Act, where he served on its executive committee from 1997 until its sale to Ocean Energy Inc. in 2001. From July 1989 to December 2013 he served as Chief Executive Manager of Vlastic Investments L.L.C. In January 2014 he founded a private investment company, NBT Investments LLC. He is the founder and a Director of MAV Development Company. Mr. Vlastic has served in various executive positions, including CFO and President, of private companies in a variety of industries; including automobile and truck fleet leasing, computer equipment leasing and services, oil and gas exploration and production, aircraft maintenance, management and leasing, and real estate development and construction. He has served on the investment committee of venture capital, private equity and direct lending investment funds. Mr. Vlastic serves on the board of Bessemer Trust Company and some of its affiliates. He also serves on the investment committee of HV Capital Investors. He is a 1982 graduate of Brown University and holds an MBA from the University of Michigan.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, in reviewing and assessing Mr. Vlastic's contributions to the board, determined that his industry experience and his previous board experience provide significant contributions to the Company's board of directors.

**Mark A. Welsh IV** became a director in February 2012 as a result of the Recapitalization. Mr. Welsh currently serves as a Managing Director of EnCap Investments L.P. Mr. Welsh has 13 years of experience in private equity, including nine years with EnCap. Prior to joining EnCap, Mr. Welsh served as a financial analyst with The Blackstone Group L.P. and as a Vice President with Adam Corporation. Mr. Welsh serves on the board of directors of several EnCap portfolio companies. Mr. Welsh received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance from Texas A&M University, where he was recognized with the Brown-Rudder Award as the outstanding graduate in his class.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, in reviewing and assessing Mr. Welsh's contributions to the board, determined that his experience in upstream and midstream energy investments and energy-related acquisitions and financing provides significant contributions to the Company's board of directors.

*Meetings of Our Board of Directors and Committees of the Board*

Our board of directors has the responsibility for establishing our broad corporate policies and for our overall performance. However, the board of directors is not involved in our day-to-day operations. The board of directors is kept informed of our business through discussions with our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and other officers, by reviewing analyses and reports provided to it on a regular basis, and by participating in board of directors and



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committee meetings. Our board of directors held six (6) meetings during 2014, including telephonic meetings, and acted by unanimous written consent six (6) times, and all directors attended at least 75% of the total meetings of the board of directors and the committees on which such director served during the fiscal year.

Our board of directors currently has four standing committees: Audit, Compensation, Nominating and Corporate Governance, and Reserves. Actions taken by our committees are reported to the full board of directors. Each committee conducts an annual evaluation of its duties and is expected to conduct an annual review of its charter. Each committee has authority to retain, set the compensation for, and terminate consultants, outside counsel and other advisers as that committee determines to be appropriate. As discussed in more detail below, the composition of the Audit, Compensation, Nominating and Corporate Governance, and Reserves committees changed following the January 2015 resignations of Messrs. Irish and Smiley.

**Audit Committee.** The members of our Audit Committee are James W. Christmas, Kevin E. Godwin and Mark A. Welsh IV, with Mr. Christmas serving as the chairman. Messrs. Irish and Smiley also served on the Audit Committee prior to their resignation from our board of directors in January 2015, with Mr. Irish serving as the chairman until January 2015. Our board of directors has determined that all members of our audit committee are financially literate within the meaning of SEC rules, under the current listing standards of the NYSE and in accordance with our audit committee charter. Our board of directors has also determined that all members of the audit committee are independent, within the meaning of SEC and NYSE regulations for independence for audit committee members, under our corporate governance guidelines, and in accordance with our audit committee charter. The board of directors has also determined that Mr. Christmas is an "audit committee financial expert" (as defined in the SEC rules) because he has the following attributes: (i) an understanding of generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America and financial statements; (ii) the ability to assess the general application of such principles in connection with the accounting for estimates, accruals and reserves; (iii) experience analyzing and evaluating financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by our financial statements; (iv) an understanding of internal control over financial reporting; and (v) an understanding of audit committee functions. Mr. Christmas has acquired these attributes by his educational background and by having held various positions that provided relevant experience, as described in his biographical information under "*Our Board of Directors and Its Committees The Board of Directors*" above.

The Audit Committee is responsible for oversight of Company risks relating to accounting matters, financial reporting and related legal and regulatory compliance. The Audit Committee annually considers the qualifications and evaluates the performance of our independent auditor and selects and engages our independent auditor. The Audit Committee meets quarterly with representatives of the independent auditor and is available to meet at the request of the independent auditor. During these meetings, the Audit Committee receives reports regarding our books of accounts, accounting procedures, financial statements, audit policies and procedures, internal accounting and financial controls, and other matters within the scope of the Audit Committee's duties. The Audit Committee reviews the plans for and the results of audits for us and our subsidiaries. The Audit Committee reviews the independence of the independent auditor, and considers and authorizes the fees for both audit and non-audit services provided by the independent auditor. In 2014, our Audit Committee held five meetings, including telephonic meetings.

The written charter adopted by our Audit Committee is available on our website at [www.halconresources.com](http://www.halconresources.com).

**Compensation Committee.** The members of our Compensation Committee are Tucker S. Bridwell, Daniel A. Rioux, Michael A. Vlastic and Mark A. Welsh IV, with Mr. Vlastic serving as the

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chairman. Mr. Smiley also served on the Compensation Committee prior to his resignation from our board of directors in January 2015 and also served as the chairman until November 2014. Our board of directors has determined that each member of the Compensation Committee meets the NYSE standards for independence, and is a "Non-Employee Director" as defined in Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act and an "outside director" as defined for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

The Compensation Committee is entrusted with the overall responsibility for establishing, implementing and monitoring the compensation for our executive officers (our chief executive officer, president, each executive vice president, and each senior vice president). The Compensation Committee also administers our First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan, or Plan, and approves restricted stock awards, SAR awards and other stock-based grants for our executive officers. In 2014, our Compensation Committee held eleven meetings, including telephonic meetings, and acted by unanimous written consent one time.

Our Compensation Committee engaged Longnecker & Associates, Inc. ("Longnecker"), an outside independent compensation consulting firm, to assist the board of directors and the Compensation Committee in crafting our total compensation program for our executive officers for 2014 and to assist the board of directors in determining compensation for our non-employee directors. In connection with its engagement, Longnecker was tasked with, among other things, making recommendations to the Compensation Committee regarding an appropriate compensation peer group, assisting the Compensation Committee in establishing a competitive executive compensation program and making recommendations and providing analysis regarding the compensation of our executive officers, including the named executive officers, discussed below under the heading "*Executive Compensation*."

On February 25, 2015, the board of directors approved an amendment to the charter of the Compensation Committee to re-define the term "Executive Officers" to include the Company's chief executive officer, president, each executive vice president and each senior vice president. The current version of the written charter adopted by our Compensation Committee is available on our website at [www.halconresources.com](http://www.halconresources.com).

**Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.** The members of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are Thomas R. Fuller, Daniel A. Rioux and Michael A. Vlastic, with Mr. Rioux serving as the chairman. Messrs. Christmas and Welsh also served on the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, with Mr. Christmas serving as its chairman, prior to the resignations of Messrs. Irish and Smiley from our board of directors in January 2015. Our board of directors has determined that all members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee who currently serve are independent pursuant to the NYSE rules and in accordance with our nominating and corporate governance committee charter.

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for identifying qualified candidates to be presented to our board of directors for nomination as directors, ensuring that our board of directors and our organizational documents are structured in a way that best serves our practices and objectives, and developing and recommending a set of corporate governance principles. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may consider candidates for our board of directors from any reasonable source, including a search firm engaged by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, recommendations of the board of directors, management or, in accordance with the procedures set forth in our bylaws, our stockholders. In 2014, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held three meetings and acted by unanimous written consent one time.

The written charter adopted by our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is available on our website at [www.halconresources.com](http://www.halconresources.com).

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**Reserves Committee.** The members of our Reserves Committee are Tucker S. Bridwell, Thomas R. Fuller, Kevin E. Godwin and David S. Hunt, with Mr. Fuller serving as the chairman. Mr. Welsh served on the Reserves Committee prior to the resignations of Messrs. Irish and Smiley from our board of directors in January 2015. Mr. Hunt will no longer serve on the Reserves Committee when his term expires at the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders. Our Reserves Committee is composed solely of non-employee directors who meet the "independence" standards of the NYSE. Our Reserves Committee has been formed to assist our board of directors with oversight in the preparation by independent petroleum engineers of annual and any special reserve reports and/or audits of the estimated amounts of our consolidated hydrocarbon reserves and related information. The Reserves Committee selects, engages and determines funding for the independent petroleum engineers who evaluate our hydrocarbon reserves and also determines their independence from Halcón in accordance with, among other things, the Standards Pertaining to the Estimating and Auditing of Oil and Gas Reserves Information promulgated by the Society of Petroleum Engineers. In 2014, our Reserves Committee held six meetings, including telephonic meetings.

On February 27, 2013, the board of directors approved amendments to the charter of the Reserves Committee to clarify certain procedural matters relating to operation, responsibilities and authority of the Reserves Committee, including the authority of the Reserves Committee to expend such Company funds as it deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities under its charter. The current version of the written charter adopted by our Reserves Committee is available on our website at [www.halconresources.com](http://www.halconresources.com).

*Corporate Governance Matters*

**Corporate Governance Web Page and Available Documents.** We maintain a corporate governance page on our website at [www.halconresources.com](http://www.halconresources.com) where you can find the following documents:

our corporate governance guidelines;

our code of ethics;

our code of conduct;

our insider trading policy and guidelines with respect to certain transactions in company securities; and

the charters of our Audit, Compensation, Nominating and Corporate Governance, and Reserves Committees.

We will also provide a printed copy of these documents, without charge, to stockholders who request copies in writing from Scott Zuehlke, Vice President, Investor Relations, Halcón Resources Corporation, 1000 Louisiana St., Suite 6700, Houston, Texas 77002.

**Director Independence.** The current listing standards of the NYSE require our board to affirmatively determine the independence of each director and to disclose such determination in the proxy statement for each annual meeting of our stockholders. The board, at its meeting held on February 25, 2015, affirmatively determined that each of Messrs. Bridwell, Christmas, Fuller, Godwin, Hunt, Miller, Rioux, Vlasic and Welsh is an "independent director" under the guidelines described below and the independence rules of the NYSE codified in Section 303A of the NYSE Listed Company Manual.

In connection with its assessment of independence, our board reviewed information regarding relevant relationships, arrangements or transactions between the Company and each director or parties affiliated with such director.

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Our board has established the following standards for determining director independence in our corporate governance guidelines:

A majority of the directors on our board must be "independent." No director qualifies as "independent" unless the board affirmatively determines that the director has no "material relationship" with Halcón, either directly, or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with Halcón. A "material relationship" is a relationship that the board determines, after a consideration of all relevant facts and circumstances, compromises the director's independence from management. Our board's determination of independence must be consistent with all applicable requirements of the NYSE, the SEC, and any other applicable legal requirements. Our board may adopt specific standards or guidelines for independence in its discretion from time to time, consistent with those requirements. As set forth in the NYSE Listed Company Manual Section 303A.02, our board must consider the following factors that preclude a finding by the board of a member's or prospective member's "independence" from Halcón:

1. A director who is, or who has been within the last three years, an employee of Halcón (including in each case subsidiaries or parent entities in a consolidated group), or an immediate family member who is, or has been within the last three years, an executive officer, of Halcón;
2. A director who has received, or has an immediate family member who has received, during any twelve-month period within the last three years, more than \$120,000 in direct compensation from Halcón, other than director and committee fees and pension or other forms of deferred compensation for prior service (provided such compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service); provided, that, compensation received by a director for former service as an interim Chairman or CEO or other executive officer need not be considered in determining independence under this test, and compensation received by an immediate family member for service as an employee of Halcón need not be considered in determining independence under this test;
3. (A) A director is a current partner or employee of a firm that is Halcón's internal or external auditor; (B) a director who has an immediate family member who is a current partner of such a firm; (C) a director who has an immediate family member who is a current employee of such a firm and who participates in Halcón's audit; or (D) a director or an immediate family member who was within the last three years (but is no longer) a partner or employee of such a firm and personally worked on Halcón's audit within that time;
4. A director or an immediate family member who is, or who has been within the last three years, employed as an executive officer of another company where any of Halcón's present executive officers at the same time serves or served on that company's Compensation Committee;

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5. A director who is a current employee, or an immediate family member who is a current executive officer, of a company that has made payments to, or received payments from, Halcón for property or services in an amount which, in any of the last three fiscal years, exceeds the greater of \$200,000, or 2% of such other company's consolidated gross revenues;
6. Whether the director has any other relationship with Halcón, either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with Halcón; and
7. Whether the director is aware of any other relationships that could potentially interfere, or could appear to interfere, with his exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director, including (i) any transaction, arrangement or relationship, in the last fiscal year, involving the director, including any family members, and any other officer or director of Halcón; or (ii) any other relationship with Halcón, either directly or as a shareholder, executive officer or partner or an organization that has such a relationship, including any relationships with charitable, educational, political or other not-for-profit organizations.

For purposes of determining "independence" of a director based on the tests set forth above, among other things, the following applies:

- A. In applying the test in paragraph 5 above, both the payments and the consolidated gross revenues to be measured are those reported in the last completed fiscal year. The look-back provision for this test applies solely to the financial relationship between Halcón and the director or immediate family member's current employer; Halcón is not required to consider former employment of the director or the immediate family member.
- B. For purposes of paragraph 5 above, contributions to tax exempt organizations are not considered "payments," although Halcón still considers the "materiality" of any such relationship in determining the "independence" of a director.
- C. For purposes of determining "independence," an "immediate family member" includes a person's spouse, parents, children, siblings, mothers and fathers-in-law, sons and daughters-in-law, brothers and sisters-in-law, and anyone (other than a domestic employee) who shares such person's home, and does not include individuals who are no longer immediate family members as a result of legal separation or divorce, or those who have died or become incapacitated.

Our corporate governance guidelines set forth our policy with respect to qualifications of the members of the board, the standards of director independence, director responsibilities, board meetings, director access to management and independent advisors, director orientation and continuing education, director compensation, Chairman and CEO dual responsibilities, management evaluation and succession, annual performance evaluation of the board, and executive sessions.

**Nomination Process.** The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider stockholder nominees for election as directors. Any stockholder nominations must be received by us not less than sixty (60) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting; provided however, that in the event that less than seventy (70) days notice or prior public disclosure of the date of the meeting is given or made to stockholders, notice by the stockholder, to be timely, must be received no later than the close of business on the tenth (10th) day following the day on which such notice of the date of the meeting was mailed or such public disclosure was made, whichever first occurs. Nominations should be delivered to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee at the following address: The Halcón Resources Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, c/o Daniel A. Rioux, Committee Chairman, Halcón Resources Corporation, 1000 Louisiana St., Suite 6700, Houston, Texas 77002. The stockholder's nomination notice must set forth: (i) as to each person whom the stockholder proposes to nominate for election or re-election as a director: (a) the

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name, age, business address and residence address of the person; (b) the principal occupation or employment and business experience of the person for at least the previous five years; (c) the class and number of shares of our capital stock which are beneficially owned by the person; and (d) any other information relating to the person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations for proxies for election of directors pursuant to the rules and regulations of the SEC under Section 14 of the Exchange Act; and (ii) as to the stockholder giving the notice: (a) the name and record address of the stockholder; and (b) the class and number of shares of our capital stock beneficially owned by the stockholder. Such submission must be accompanied by the written consent of the proposed nominee to be named as a nominee and to serve as a director, if elected. We may require any proposed nominee to furnish such other information as may reasonably be required by us to determine the eligibility of such proposed nominee to serve as a director.

In considering possible candidates for election as a director, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is guided by the principles that each director should be an individual of high character and integrity and have:

independence;

wisdom;

an understanding and general acceptance of our corporate philosophies;

business or professional knowledge and experience that can address our challenges and opportunities, and contribute meaningfully to the deliberations of our board of directors;

a proven record of accomplishment with an excellent organization;

an inquiring mind;

a willingness to speak one's mind;

an ability to challenge and stimulate management; and

a willingness to commit time and energy to our business affairs.

In addition to considering possible candidates for election as directors, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may, in its discretion, review the qualifications and backgrounds of existing directors and other nominees (without regard to whether a nominee has been recommended by stockholders), as well as the overall composition of our board of directors, and recommend the slate of directors to be nominated for election at the ensuing annual meeting of stockholders. Currently, we do not employ or pay a fee to any third party to identify or evaluate, or assist in identifying or evaluating, potential director nominees.

The charter of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee provides that the Committee will evaluate our corporate governance effectiveness and recommend such revisions as it deems appropriate to improve our corporate governance. The areas of evaluation may include such matters as the size and independence requirements of our board of directors, board committees, management succession and planning, and regular meetings of our non-employee directors without management in executive sessions.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee did not receive any stockholder recommendations for nomination to our board of directors in connection with this year's annual meeting. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has recommended Messrs. Bridwell, Godwin and Welsh, who are current Class B directors, for re-election as the term of their class is expiring on our classified board of directors. Mr. Hunt, a Class B director, informed the board of directors in March 2015 that he would serve out his term but not stand for re-election at the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders. If Proposal No. 5 is approved by our stockholders, Messrs. Bridwell,



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Godwin and Welsh would each serve a one-year term if elected by the stockholders; however, if Proposal No. 5 is not approved, they will serve a three-year term expiring in 2018 if elected by the stockholders.

**Board Diversity.** Our board of directors does not have a formal written policy with regard to the consideration of diversity in identifying director nominees. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charter, however, requires the committee to review the composition of the board as a whole and recommend, if necessary, measures to be taken so that our board not only contains the required number of independent directors, but also reflects the balance of knowledge, experience, skills, expertise, integrity, analytical ability and diversity as a whole that the committee deems appropriate. This review includes an assessment as to our board's current and anticipated need for directors with specific qualities, skills, experience or backgrounds; the availability of highly qualified candidates; committee workloads and membership needs; and anticipated director retirements.

**Leadership Structure.** Our board currently combines the role of Chairman with the role of Chief Executive Officer, or CEO, and maintains a separate empowered lead independent director position ("Lead Director") to further strengthen our governance structure. Our board believes this provides an efficient and effective leadership model for the Company. Combining the Chairman and CEO roles fosters clear accountability, effective decision-making and alignment on corporate strategy while reducing the potential for fractured leadership that can undermine successful implementation of policy.

Our board believes that the Company is strengthened by the chairmanship of Mr. Wilson, who provides strategic, operational and technical expertise, vision and a proven ability to lead the Company. Our board believes that, under the present circumstances, the interests of the Company and its stockholders are best served by the leadership and direction of Mr. Wilson as Chairman and CEO. Our board recognizes that no single leadership model is right for all companies and at all times and that, depending on the circumstances, other leadership models, such as a separate independent chairman of the board, might be appropriate.

Mr. James W. Christmas, who is an independent and non-management director, was elected by the board at its meeting held on January 21, 2015 to serve as our Lead Director following Mr. Irish's resignation from our board of directors in January 2015. During 2014, Mr. Irish served as our Lead Director following his re-election by the board at its meeting held on July 29, 2014. A Lead Director will be elected annually by our board. Our Lead Director serves as a key component of our governance structure, subject to oversight by the independent members of our board. The Lead Director's responsibilities and authority generally include:

presiding over all executive sessions of the independent directors and all other board meetings at which the Chairman is not present;

calling special meetings of the independent directors when necessary and appropriate;

coordinating the agenda for, and moderating sessions of, the board's independent directors;

serving as a liaison between the Chairman and the independent directors;

consulting with the Chairman to include and provide at meetings of the directors specific agenda items and additional materials suggested by independent board members;

approving the scheduling of regular and, where feasible, special meetings of the board to ensure that there is sufficient time for discussion of all agenda items;

facilitating communications among the other members of the board;

consulting with the chairs of the board committees and soliciting their participation to avoid diluting their authority or responsibilities; and





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performing other duties as the board may from time to time delegate.

Our corporate governance guidelines currently provide that non-management directors must meet at regularly scheduled executive sessions without management. Mr. Irish, as Lead Director, presided over the executive sessions of our non-management directors during 2014. During 2014, our non-management directors held six executive sessions without management present, and Mr. Irish presided over each executive session.

**Risk Oversight.** It is the job of our CEO, President, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Legal Officer, and other members of our senior management to identify, assess, and manage our exposure to risk. In conjunction with our risk oversight program, senior management has retained outside consultants to assist in identifying, assessing, analyzing and developing plans to mitigate enterprise risks. Our board plays an important role in overseeing management's performance of these functions. Our board of directors has approved the charter of its Audit Committee, which lists the primary responsibilities of the Audit Committee. Those responsibilities require the Audit Committee to discuss with management our major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including the substance of any significant litigation, contingencies or claims that had, or may have, a significant impact on the financial statements. The Audit Committee is also required to discuss with management and review the mechanisms, guidelines and policies that govern the processes by which risk assessment and management are undertaken.

Each of the board's other committees also oversees the management of risks that fall within such committee's area of responsibility. Our Compensation Committee incorporates risk considerations, including the risk of loss of key personnel, as it evaluates the performance of our CEO and other executive officers, reviews management development and determines compensation structure and amounts. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee focuses on issues and risks relating to board composition, leadership structures, succession planning and corporate governance matters. The focus of our Reserves Committee is on the integrity of the process of selecting our independent petroleum engineers and whether reports prepared by our independent petroleum engineers are prepared in accordance with the accepted or required petroleum engineering standards.

Our board receives reports from its committees regarding the risks considered in their respective areas to ensure that our board has a broad view of our strategy and overall risk management process. In performing its risk oversight function, each committee has full access to management, as well as the ability to engage advisors. Each committee's charter is available on our website at [www.halconresources.com](http://www.halconresources.com).

**Communications with the Board.** Our stockholders may communicate concerns to any director, board committee or to the full board of directors by sending letters addressed to such directors, board committees or the full board of Halcón Resources Corporation at 1000 Louisiana St., Suite 6700, Houston, Texas 77002, Attention: Larry L. Helm, Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs. Mr. Helm will then, as appropriate, forward the communication to the intended director or directors, board committee or the full board of directors. If the stockholder wishes the communication to be confidential, then the communication should be provided in a form that will maintain confidentiality such as stamping the envelope and the contents as "confidential."

**Communications with the Non-Management Directors.** Interested parties may communicate concerns to the non-management members of our board of directors by sending a communication to the Lead Director and chairman of the Audit Committee, James W. Christmas, 1000 Louisiana St., Suite 6700, Houston, Texas 77002. Mr. Christmas will then forward such communication to all of our other non-management directors.

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**Directors' Attendance at Stockholder Meetings.** Our corporate governance guidelines provide that our directors are encouraged to attend annual meetings of our stockholders. None of our directors attended last year's annual meeting of stockholders.

**CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

**Charter of Aircraft.** In the ordinary course of its business, the Company occasionally charters private aircraft from unaffiliated air charter companies. Floyd C. Wilson, the Company's Chairman and CEO, indirectly owns an aircraft which is managed by an independent air charter company unaffiliated with both Mr. Wilson and the Company. The Company occasionally charters private aircraft, including the aircraft owned indirectly by Mr. Wilson, from this company. The aircraft in the air charter company's fleet, including the aircraft indirectly owned by Mr. Wilson, are available to the public for charter based upon a standard fee schedule established by the air charter company, with the fees dependent primarily upon the type and size of the aircraft utilized and the duration of the flight. During 2014, the Company paid a total of approximately \$0.8 million to the air charter company that manages Mr. Wilson's aircraft, all of which was related to the use of the aircraft indirectly owned by Mr. Wilson. Because the air charter company establishes fees for the use of the aircraft in its fleet, Mr. Wilson does not receive any greater benefit from the Company's charter of the aircraft indirectly owned by him than he does if any third party were to charter the aircraft. Any fees related to the charter of the aircraft are paid to the air charter company, which deducts from revenues received from charter customers a variety of expenses incidental to use of the aircraft (such as personnel, fuel and commissions) and recurring charges (such as for inspections, maintenance, storage and service).

The use of charter and Company-owned aircraft by Company personnel is governed by the Company's Aircraft Policy. Our policies do not require that a special committee of the Company's independent directors approve the use of aircraft chartered through an unaffiliated air charter company that independently establishes the amount charged under arrangements that otherwise comply with our Aircraft Policy.

**Amendment to 8% Convertible Note and 2012 Warrants.** As previously disclosed, in connection with the Recapitalization, the Company entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement on December 21, 2011, with HALRES LLC, formerly Halcón Resources, LLC ("HALRES"), pursuant to which, among other things, HALRES purchased and we issued a senior convertible promissory note in the principal amount of \$275 million (the "8.0% Convertible Note"), together with five year warrants to purchase 36.7 million shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$4.50 per share, subject to adjustment under certain circumstances (the "2012 Warrants"). As discussed below under *"Proposal 4 Approval of, in accordance with Section 312.03 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual, the issuance of additional shares of Halcón common stock to HALRES LLC upon conversion of our 8.0% senior convertible note and exercise of the warrants,"* the Company is seeking approval from its stockholders for the issuance of an increased number of shares of common stock upon conversion of the 8.0% Convertible Note and the exercise of the 2012 Warrants held by HALRES in connection with an amendment of those instruments that, among other things, extends the maturity of the 8.0% Convertible Note by three years.

Various members of our board of directors and management hold indirect investments in entities that own membership interests in HALRES. In January 2015, our board of directors appointed a special committee consisting of Mr. Vlasic and Mr. Godwin, who are independent directors that are disinterested with respect to HALRES ("Special Committee"), for the purpose of negotiating and evaluating a possible restructuring of the 8.0% Convertible Note as part of a larger effort to improve the Company's balance sheet. The Special Committee, together with its independent financial advisor, Evercore Group L.L.C. ("Evercore"), and its outside legal counsel, reviewed, analyzed and negotiated with HALRES the final terms of the restructuring of the 8.0% Convertible Note and the 2012 Warrants. After receiving opinions from Evercore as described below, on each of March 9 and March 13, 2015, the Special Committee approved a proposal to amend the 8.0% Convertible Note

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("Amended Note") and the 2012 Warrants ("Amended Warrants"), each as described below, and recommended that our board of directors approve the Amended Note and Amended Warrants. On each of March 9 and March 12, 2015, Evercore rendered to the Special Committee its oral opinions (confirmed in writing) that, as of the date on which the applicable opinion was rendered, and based upon and subject to the factors, procedures, assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in its opinion, the amendments to the 8.0% Convertible Note and the 2012 Warrants were on terms no less favorable to the Company than could reasonably be available to the Company from an unaffiliated third party. On each of March 9 and March 15, 2015, upon the recommendation of the Special Committee, our board of directors adopted a resolution that approved and authorized, subject to stockholder approval, the Amended Note and Amended Warrants.

If Proposal No. 4 is approved by the Company's stockholders, the terms of the 8.0% Convertible Note will be amended such that (i) the maturity date will be extended from February 8, 2017 to February 8, 2020, (ii) the conversion price of \$4.50 per share will be modified to \$2.44 per share ("Reset Conversion Price"), such price representing a 30% premium above the volume weighted average price of the Company's common stock on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") for the three trading days immediately preceding the acceptance of the proposal from HALRES in writing by the Company rounded to the nearest cent, and (iii) the two year no call/no convert period, which expired as of February 8, 2014, will recommence and expire in March 2017; and the 2012 Warrants will be amended to provide that (i) the exercise price of \$4.50 per share will be modified to the Reset Conversion Price and (ii) the expiration date will be extended from February 8, 2017 to February 8, 2020.

**RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION REVIEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

A transaction or series of similar transactions to which we are a party in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and involves a director, executive officer, 5% stockholder or any immediate family members of these persons is evaluated by a special committee of disinterested directors formed by our board of directors to evaluate such transactions. In addition, our code of conduct provides that every employee should disclose any material transaction or relationship that could reasonably be expected to give rise to a conflict of interest to upper management or the Company's Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has the authority to evaluate any such conflicts of interest and recommend actions to be taken by our board in connection with such conflicts of interest or to report the existence of any such conflicts of interest to the full board for it to take action.

**SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors, executive officers and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of our common stock to file certain reports with the SEC concerning their beneficial ownership of our equity securities. The SEC's regulations also require that a copy of all such Section 16(a) forms filed must be furnished to us by the executive officers, directors and greater than 10% stockholders. To our knowledge based solely on a review of copies of reports filed under Section 16(a) during the 2014 fiscal year and furnished to us, our directors, executive officers and holders of 10% or more of our shares complied with these requirements.

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The following table sets forth the names and ages of all of our executive officers, the positions and offices with us held by such persons and the months and years in which continuous service as officers began:

| Name                   | Executive Officer Since | Age | Position   |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----|--|
| Floyd C. Wilson        | Feb. 2012               | 68  | Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer                    |
| Stephen W. Herod       | May 2012                | 56  | President  |
| Mark J. Mize           | Feb. 2012               | 43  | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer      |
| Charles E. Cusack III  | Oct. 2012               | 56  | Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer                 |
| David S. Elkouri       | May 2012                | 61  | Executive Vice President, Corporate Strategy and Chief Legal Officer |
| Larry L. Helm          | Feb. 2013               | 67  | Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Corporate Secretary  |
| Leah R. Kasparek       | May 2012                | 45  | Senior Vice President, Human Resources                               |
| Tina S. Obut           | Feb. 2013               | 50  | Senior Vice President, Corporate Reserves                            |
| Joseph S. Rinando, III | May 2012                | 43  | Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Controller       |

Our executive officers are appointed to serve until the meeting of the board of directors following the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors have been elected and qualified. The following paragraphs contain certain information about each of our executive officers other than Mr. Wilson, whose biographical information is included under the heading "*Our Board of Directors and Its Committees The Board of Directors*" above.

**Stephen W. Herod** has served as President since May 2012. Mr. Herod served as Executive Vice President Corporate Development and Assistant Secretary of Petrohawk Energy Corporation from August 2005 until BHP Billiton acquired Petrohawk in August 2011. Mr. Herod served as Vice President Corporate Development of Petrohawk from May 2004 until August 2005. Prior to joining Petrohawk, he was employed by PHAWK, LLC from its formation in June 2003 until May 2004. He served as Executive Vice President Corporate Development for 3TEC Energy Corporation from December 1999 until its merger with Plains Exploration & Production Company in June 2003 and as Assistant Secretary from May 2001 until June 2003. Mr. Herod served as a director of 3TEC from July 1997 until January 2002. Mr. Herod served as the Treasurer of 3TEC from 1999 until 2001. From July 1997 to December 1999, Mr. Herod was Vice President Corporate Development of 3TEC. Mr. Herod served as President and a director of Shore Oil Company from April 1992 until the merger of Shore with 3TEC's predecessor in June 1997. He joined Shore's predecessor as Controller in February 1991. Mr. Herod was employed by Conquest Exploration Company from 1984 until 1991 in various financial management positions, including Operations Accounting Manager. From 1981 to 1984, Superior Oil Company employed Mr. Herod as a financial analyst. Mr. Herod is a graduate of Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and management.

**Mark J. Mize** has served as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer since February 2012. Mr. Mize served as Executive Vice President Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Petrohawk Energy Corporation from August 2007 until BHP Billiton acquired Petrohawk in August 2011. Mr. Mize served as the Chief Ethics Officer and Insider Trading Compliance Officer for Petrohawk until June 2009. Additionally, he served as Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Controller at Petrohawk from July 2005 until August 2007. Mr. Mize first joined Petrohawk in November 2004 as Controller. Prior to working at Petrohawk, Mr. Mize was the Manager of Financial Reporting of Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation, a public oil and gas exploration company, from January 2003 to November 2004. Prior to his employment at Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation, he was an Audit Manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP from 1996 to 2002. Mr. Mize is a Certified Public Accountant with a Bachelor degree in Accounting from the University of Houston.

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**Charles E. Cusack III** has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since May 2013. Mr. Cusack served as Executive Vice President, Exploration from November 2012 to May 2013. His responsibilities include overseeing all of the geological efforts for all of the areas where Halcón is active, as well as bringing in new opportunities. Mr. Cusack served as Vice President Exploration at Petrohawk Energy Corporation from 2005 until its sale to BHP Billiton in 2011, where he continued his role until joining Halcón in 2012. Prior to joining Petrohawk, he was employed by PHAWK, LLC from its formation in 2003 until 2004. Mr. Cusack held various technical and management positions at 3TEC Energy Corporation, Cockrell Oil, Amerada Hess, Chevron and Tenneco Oil. Mr. Cusack began his career as a geologist with Gulf Oil in 1983 and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Geology from Texas A&M University.

**David S. Elkouri** has served as Executive Vice President, Corporate Strategy and Chief Legal Officer since April 2014. Mr. Elkouri served as Executive Vice President, General Counsel from May 2012 to April 2014. Mr. Elkouri served as EVP General Counsel and Secretary of Petrohawk Energy Corporation from 2007 until BHP Billiton acquired Petrohawk in August 2011. He also served as Chief Ethics Officer and Insider Trading Compliance Officer of Petrohawk. From 2004 to 2007, he served as lead outside counsel for Petrohawk. Prior to that, Mr. Elkouri served as lead outside counsel for 3TEC Energy Corporation from 1999 to 2003. He also served as lead outside counsel for Hugoton Energy Corporation from 1994 to 1998. Mr. Elkouri is a co-founder of Hinkle Law Firm LLC where he practiced for 20 years prior to joining Petrohawk. Mr. Elkouri is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law where he served as a Research Editor of the Kansas Law Review.

**Larry L. Helm** has served as Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs since February 2013 and as Corporate Secretary since January 2015. Mr. Helm served as Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration of Petrohawk Energy Corporation from August 2007 until its sale to BHP Billiton in August 2011, where he served as Vice President, Transition until joining Halcón in 2013. Mr. Helm served as Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer of Petrohawk from July 2004 until August 2005, and as Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer of Petrohawk from August 2005 until August 2007. Prior to serving as an executive officer, Mr. Helm served on Petrohawk's board of directors for approximately two months. Mr. Helm was employed with Bank One Corporation from December 1989 through December 2003. Mr. Helm served as Executive Vice President of Middle Market Banking from October 2001 to December 2003. From April 1998 to August 1999, he served as Executive Vice President of the Energy and Utilities Banking Group. Prior to joining Bank One, he worked for 16 years in the banking industry primarily serving the oil and gas sector. He served as director of 3TEC Energy Corporation from 2000 to June 2003.

**Leah R. Kasperek** has served as Senior Vice President, Human Resources since January 2015. Ms. Kasperek served as Vice President, Human Resources from May 2012 to January 2015. Ms. Kasperek initially joined Halcón as Director, Human Resources in February 2012. Ms. Kasperek served as Director of Human Resources at Southwestern Energy from 2009 to 2012. She served as Division Vice President of Human Resources for CenterPoint Energy from 2004 until 2008. Ms. Kasperek was employed in 1996 by Anheuser-Busch Companies and served as Division Vice President of Human Resources from 2001 until 2004. Ms. Kasperek holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and earned a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center.

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**Tina S. Obut** has served as Senior Vice President, Corporate Reserves since January 2015. Ms. Obut served as Vice President, Corporate Reserves from February 2013 to January 2015. Ms. Obut served as Senior Manager of Petroleum Resources at BHP Billiton Petroleum from 2011 to 2012. Prior to that, she served as Senior Vice President, Corporate Reserves for Petrohawk Energy Corporation from 2006 until its sale to BHP Billiton in 2011. From 2004 to 2006, Ms. Obut served as Manager of Reservoir Engineering Evaluations at El Paso Production Company. In addition, she held various engineering, managerial and executive positions at Mission Resources, Ryder Scott Company and Chevron from 1989 to 2006. Ms. Obut graduated from Marietta College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering, a Master of Science degree in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering from Penn State and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Houston. Ms. Obut is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas (#82050).

**Joseph S. Rinando, III** has served as Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Controller since January 2015. Mr. Rinando served as Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer from May 2012 to January 2015. Mr. Rinando initially joined Halcón as Director, Finance in February 2012. Mr. Rinando served as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Wilson Industries, a Schlumberger company, from 2010 to 2012. Prior to joining Wilson, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Foxxe Energy Services, LLC, a private-equity owned international drilling rig contractor, from 2009 to 2010. Prior to Foxxe, Mr. Rinando served as Vice President and Corporate Controller of Smith International, Inc. from 2006 until 2009 and as Director of Financial Reporting from 2003 to 2006. From 1995 to 2003, he was in the Energy Practice of PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, most recently as an Audit Senior Manager, serving clients focused on exploration and production, natural gas transmission, power and utilities, petrochemicals and refining, and drilling. Mr. Rinando has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting from Lamar University and is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Texas.

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

The following sets forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of March 17, 2015 by:

each person to be known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of our outstanding shares of common stock;

each of our named executive officers;

each of our directors; and

all of our current executive officers and directors as a group.

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As of March 17, 2015, approximately 431.4 million shares of our common stock were outstanding. Unless otherwise noted, the mailing address of each person or entity named below is 1000 Louisiana St., Suite 6700, Houston, Texas 77002.

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owner                             | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership | Percent of Class(1) |
|--|---|---------------------|
| Petro-Hunt Holdings, LLC(2)                                      | 103,741,278                               | 24.0%               |
| CPPIB and CPPIB PMI-2(3)   | 56,537,773                                | 12.9%               |
| HALRES LLC(4)  | 101,037,551                               | 19.0%               |
| Franklin(5)  | 22,145,056                                | 5.1%                |
| Floyd C. Wilson(6)   | 5,030,185                                 | 1.2%                |
| Stephen W. Herod(7)  | 965,592                                   | *                   |
| Mark J. Mize(8)  | 1,301,118                                 | *                   |
| Charles E. Cusack III(9)   | 1,042,823                                 | *                   |
| Tina S. Obut(10)   | 523,711                                   | *                   |
| Tucker S. Bridwell(11)   | 557,800                                   | *                   |
| James W. Christmas(12)   | 1,214,941                                 | *                   |
| Thomas R. Fuller(13)   | 268,433                                   | *                   |
| Kevin E. Godwin(14)  |   | *                   |
| David S. Hunt(15)  | 325,100                                   | *                   |
| David B. Miller(16)  | 104,943,151                               | 19.7%               |
| Daniel A. Rioux(17)  |   | *                   |
| Michael A. Vlasic(18)  | 925,132                                   | *                   |
| Mark A. Welsh IV(19)   | 77,800                                    | *                   |
| All directors and executive officers as a group (18 individuals) | 119,348,220                               | 22.0%               |

\*  
Less than 1%.

- (1) Unless otherwise indicated, each stockholder has sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock indicated as being beneficially owned by such stockholder. Shares of common stock that are not outstanding, but which a designated stockholder has the right to acquire within 60 days, are included in the number of shares beneficially owned by such stockholder and are deemed to be outstanding for purposes of determining the percentage of outstanding shares beneficially owned by such stockholder, but not for purposes of determining the percentage of outstanding shares beneficially owned by any other designated stockholder. In all instances where ownership of unvested restricted stock is reported below, the individual has the sole power to vote such shares but no investment power.
- (2) The William Herbert Hunt Trust Estate ("WHHTE") does not directly own any common stock; however, as the sole member of Petro-Hunt Holdings, LLC, WHHTE may be deemed to indirectly beneficially own the common stock held of record by Petro-Hunt Holdings, LLC. The business address for Petro-Hunt Holdings, LLC and WHHTE is 2101 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 600, Dallas, Texas 75201.
- (3) According to, and based solely upon, Amendment No. 2 to Schedule 13D and Form 5 filed by Canada Pension Plan Investment Board ("CPPIB") and CPP Investment Board PMI-2 Inc. ("CPPIB PMI-2") with the SEC on June 20, 2013 and February 7, 2014. CPPIB and CPPIB PMI-2 have the shared power to vote or direct the vote with respect to 43,877,566 shares of Halcón common stock, and the shared power to direct the disposition of 43,877,566 shares of Halcón common stock. Includes 6,497,724 shares of common stock of the Company issuable upon the conversion of 40,000 shares of the Company's 5.75% Series A Cumulative Perpetual Convertible Preferred Stock (the "Series A Preferred Stock") beneficially owned by CPPIB. CPPIB has the sole power to vote or direct the vote with respect to 6,162,483 shares of Halcón common stock,



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and the sole power to direct the disposition of 6,162,483 shares of Halcón common stock. The business address for each of CPPIB and CPPIB PMI-2 is One Queen Street East, Suite 2500, Toronto, ON M5C 2W5, Canada.

- (4) Includes 36,666,667 shares of common stock of the Company issuable upon exercise of a warrant and 64,370,882 shares of common stock of the Company issuable upon conversion of a convertible promissory note (based on principal and accrued but unpaid interest of \$289.7 million convertible into common stock at \$4.50 per share), of which HALRES LLC has the sole power to vote, direct the vote and to direct the disposition thereof. Additionally, David B. Miller may be deemed to share voting and dispositive power over the securities held by HALRES LLC (see footnote 16 below).
- (5) According to, and based solely upon, Schedule 13G filed by Franklin Resources, Inc., Charles B. Johnson, Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. and Franklin Advisers, Inc. (collectively, "Franklin") with the SEC on February 9, 2015. The business address for Franklin is One Franklin Parkway, San Mateo, CA 94403.
- (6) Includes 631,385 shares of unvested restricted stock and 162,443 shares of common stock issuable upon the conversion of 1,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock owned by Mr. Wilson. Also includes 408,000 shares held in seventeen trusts for the benefit of Mr. Wilson's children and grandchildren, of which Mr. Wilson is the trustee and disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares.
- (7) Includes 306,375 shares of unvested restricted stock and 24,366 shares of common stock issuable upon the conversion of 150 shares of Series A Preferred Stock owned by Mr. Herod. Does not include 466,666 shares of common stock transferred from Mr. Herod to trusts for his minor children in December 2012. Mr. Herod has no dispositive or voting power with respect to the shares held by such trusts.
- (8) Includes 291,504 shares of unvested restricted stock and 32,488 shares of common stock issuable upon the conversion of 200 shares of Series A Preferred Stock owned by Mr. Mize. 333,333 shares held by Mr. Mize are pledged.
- (9) Includes 230,620 shares of unvested restricted stock and 16,244 shares of common stock issuable upon the conversion of 100 shares of Series A Preferred Stock owned by Mr. Cusack. Includes 20,000 shares of common stock owned by a limited partnership of which Mr. Cusack and his wife are general partners or 23,334 shares of common stock owned by the Cusack Ranch Corporation and Mr. Cusack disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares except to the extent Mr. Cusack has a pecuniary interest in the Cusack Ranch Corporation. Mr. Cusack shares voting and dispositive powers with respect to such shares.
- (10) Includes 178,993 shares of unvested restricted stock. Also includes 60,000 shares held in a brokerage account which Ms. Obut and her husband share voting and dispositive powers with respect to such shares.
- (11) Includes 200,000 shares held by Mansefeldt Hawk Partners. Mr. Bridwell is a partner and the president of Mansefeldt Hawk Partners, and is the manager of the general partner. Also includes 100,000 shares held by a family limited partnership, of which Mr. Bridwell and his spouse are general partners. Mr. Bridwell shares voting and investment powers with respect to the shares held by Mansefeldt Hawk Partners and his family limited partnership. The business address of Mr. Bridwell is 400 Pine, Suite 1000, Abilene, Texas 79601.
- (12) Includes 324,886 shares of common stock issuable upon the conversion of 2,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock owned by Mr. Christmas.
- (13) The business address for Mr. Fuller is 19500 SH 249, Suite 640, Houston, Texas 77070.

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- (14) The business address for Mr. Godwin is One Queen Street East, Suite 2500, Toronto ON M5C 2W5, Canada.
- (15) The business address for Mr. Hunt is 2101 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 600, Dallas, Texas 75201. Mr. Hunt has informed the board of directors that he will not stand for re-election upon expiration of his current term at the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders.
- (16) Includes a warrant to purchase 36,666,667 shares of common stock and 64,370,882 shares of common stock of the Company issuable upon conversion of a convertible promissory note (based on principal and accrued but unpaid interest of \$289.7 million convertible into common stock at \$4.50 per share), exercisable within 60 days after the date hereof owned by HALRES LLC. EnCap Energy Capital Fund VIII, L.P. ("EnCap Fund VIII") owns a majority of the membership interests in HALRES LLC and has the contractual right to nominate a majority of the members of the board of managers of HALRES LLC. EnCap Fund VIII may be deemed to beneficially own all of the reported securities held by HALRES LLC. EnCap Fund VIII is controlled indirectly by David B. Miller, Gary R. Petersen, D. Martin Phillips and Robert L. Zorich. Messrs. Miller, Petersen, Phillips and Zorich are members of RNBD GP LLC ("RNBD") and any action taken by RNBD to dispose or acquire securities has to be unanimously approved by all four members. RNBD is the sole member of EnCap Investments GP, L.L.C. ("EnCap Investments GP"), which is the general partner of EnCap Investments L.P., which is the general partner of EnCap Equity Fund VIII GP, L.P. ("EnCap Fund VIII GP"), which is the general partner of EnCap Fund VIII. Messrs. Miller, Petersen, Phillips and Zorich, RNBD, EnCap Investments GP, EnCap Investments L.P. and EnCap Fund VIII GP may be deemed to share dispositive and voting power over the securities held by HALRES LLC. Also includes 3,750,000 shares held by EnCap Fund VIII and 2 shares held by HALRES, LLC of which Mr. Miller may be deemed to share dispositive and voting power. Also includes 77,800 shares held by Mr. Welsh for which Mr. Miller may be deemed to share voting power. The business address of Mr. Miller is 3811 Turtle Creek Blvd., Suite 1000, Dallas, Texas 75219.
- (17) The business address of Mr. Rioux is 10 St. James Avenue, 19th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.
- (18) Mr. Vlastic has shared investment authority and shared voting/dispositive power over the shares, and he disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares in excess of his respective pecuniary interests therein. The business address of Mr. Vlastic is 1145 W. Long Lake Road, Suite 201, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302.
- (19) Mr. Welsh may be deemed to share voting power with respect to the 77,800 shares. The business address of Mr. Welsh is 3811 Turtle Creek Blvd., Suite 1000, Dallas, Texas 75219.

**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The following discussion of executive compensation contains descriptions of various employment-related agreements and employee benefit plans. These descriptions are qualified in their entirety by reference to the full text of the referenced agreements and plans, which have been filed by us as exhibits to our reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K filed with the SEC.

*Compensation Discussion and Analysis*

**Introduction**

Our compensation program is designed, structured and administered under the oversight of the Compensation Committee of our board of directors. Our Compensation Committee is composed entirely of independent directors: Michael A. Vlastic (Chairman), Tucker S. Bridwell, Daniel A. Rioux and Mark A. Welsh IV. Stephen P. Smiley served as Chairman of the Compensation Committee until

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his resignation on November 5, 2014, immediately following which Mr. Vlasic was appointed Chairman. Mr. Welsh was added as a member of the Compensation Committee in January 2015. Mr. Smiley resigned from our board of directors and as a member of our Compensation Committee in January 2015.

In February 2012, HALRES LLC (formerly Halcón Resources, LLC), a newly-formed limited liability company led by Floyd C. Wilson, recapitalized us with a \$550.0 million investment. We refer to this as the "HALRES Transaction." The HALRES Transaction resulted in the appointment of an entirely new management team and board of directors, and we promptly embarked on a new business strategy focused on the acquisition of unevaluated leasehold and producing properties located in domestic onshore, liquids-rich, resource-style prospect areas. During 2012, we acquired the vast majority of our current positions in the Bakken / Three Forks formations in North Dakota, the Eagle Ford formation in East Texas, the Utica / Point Pleasant formations in Ohio and Pennsylvania and various other prospect areas, and we instituted an aggressive drilling program with the objective of greatly expanding our production and reserves. During 2013 and 2014, our acquisition activities slowed, although we continued to acquire leasehold positions in our core resource plays and began to accumulate leasehold acreage in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formation in Mississippi and Louisiana, while our drilling activities increased, and we divested several non-core assets to help fund activities in our core resource plays. During 2014, we also formed a joint venture to fund the initial drilling program on our Tuscaloosa Marine Shale properties. The implementation of our business strategy, the significant acquisition and divestiture activities we have engaged in as a consequence, and the progress we have made pursuing our business plans have factored into our compensation philosophy, various features of our compensation programs and the compensation decisions we have made, as reflected in the discussion that follows.

For the purposes of our discussion, our named executive officers for 2014 are:

| Name                  | Title   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Floyd C. Wilson       | Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (our principal executive officer)               |
| Stephen W. Herod      | President   |
| Mark J. Mize          | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (our principal financial officer) |
| Charles E. Cusack III | Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer  |
| Tina S. Obut          | Senior Vice President, Corporate Reserves   |

### Overview of Our Compensation Program

We operate in a highly competitive environment and must recruit, motivate and retain the executive talent required to successfully manage and grow our business and to achieve our short and long-term business objectives. We use a competitive mix of fixed and at-risk compensation related to stockholder value and our overall performance to achieve our goals and to align the interests of senior management and key employees to those of our stockholders. We target total compensation for our senior management at between the 50<sup>th</sup> and the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of our compensation peer group utilizing peer group information provided by our independent compensation consultant and taking into account our assessment of management's performance, competitive market conditions and other factors that we deem relevant.

Generally, we utilize a greater percentage, on average, of "at-risk" compensation than our compensation peer group. At-risk compensation includes annual cash incentives, the payment of which depends upon our Compensation Committee's annual assessment of management performance, and long-term equity incentives. Because we tend to utilize a greater percentage of at-risk compensation than our compensation peer group, the actual compensation we pay may be substantially higher or

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lower than the amount paid by our compensation peer group. Long-term equity incentives generally comprise more than 50% of the value of the total compensation paid to our senior management. Historically we have relied predominantly on time-vested restricted stock and stock option awards issued under our First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan, which we refer to as the "Plan," with approximately 50% of those awards in the form of stock options having an exercise price equal to the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant (in accordance with the terms of our Equity-Based Incentive Grant Policy). Our use of stock options represents a higher percentage of this type of award than typically utilized by our compensation peer group. Stock options become valuable only if our common stock price increases above the option exercise price. Additionally, each equity award that we issue generally vests over a minimum period of three years. Accordingly, these awards are subject to the risk of fluctuations in the trading price of our common stock and the risk of forfeiture if the individual does not remain employed by us through the vesting of the award. In 2014, we utilized performance units issued under the Plan to provide long-term equity incentives for certain members of senior management. Vesting of the performance units is based upon the achievement of specified share price targets over a specific time period.

We also maintain stock ownership guidelines which align the financial interest of our directors, chief executive officer, president and executive vice presidents with shareholders by requiring that such individuals directly or indirectly maintain a substantial investment in our common stock. We believe that the structure of our compensation program helps us achieve our goals and aligns the interests of senior management with those of our stockholders by combining competitive compensation with the opportunity for greater rewards for superior short-term and long-term performance.

**Our Compensation Committee**

The Compensation Committee of the board of directors is comprised entirely of independent directors in accordance with the rules of the NYSE governing listed companies. The primary duties and responsibilities of the Compensation Committee are to establish and implement our compensation policies and programs for senior management, including the named executive officers. The Compensation Committee has the authority under its charter to select and engage the services of a compensation consultant, independent legal counsel or other advisor after considering certain factors relevant to independence from management. After conducting its independence assessment, the Compensation Committee has the sole authority to engage, obtain the advice of, oversee, terminate and determine funding for such independence professional advisers, including but not limited to consulting firms, independent legal counsel or other advisers, as the Compensation Committee determines appropriate to carry out its functions. A current copy of the Compensation Committee charter is available on our website at [www.halconresources.com](http://www.halconresources.com) under the section entitled "*Investor Relations Corporate Governance*." The Compensation Committee also reviews and assesses the adequacy of its charter, at least annually, and recommends any proposed changes to our board of directors for approval.

The Chairman of the Compensation Committee works with our Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Senior Vice President, Human Resources to establish an agenda for each meeting of the Compensation Committee and, with the assistance of outside advisors, to prepare meeting materials. Various members of management, including our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs, and Senior Vice President, Human Resources, as well as outside advisors, may be invited to attend all or a portion of a Compensation Committee meeting depending on the nature of the matters to be discussed. Only members of the Compensation Committee vote on items before the Compensation Committee; however, the Compensation Committee and board of directors often solicit the views of senior management on compensation matters, in particular as they relate to the compensation of other members of senior management.

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**Objectives of Our Compensation Program**

Our success depends on the continued contributions of our senior management and other key employees. Our compensation program is intended to recruit, motivate and retain the executive talent required to successfully manage and grow our business and to achieve our short and long-term business strategy by providing compensation that is competitive in relation to our peers while fostering an atmosphere of teamwork, recognizing overall business results and individual merit, and that supports the attainment of our strategic objectives by tying the interests of senior management and key employees to those of our stockholders through the use of annual cash incentives and equity-based compensation.

**Design of Our Compensation Program**

Our compensation program for senior management, including the named executive officers, is designed to:

provide compensation that is competitive with our compensation peer group;

balance short-term and long-term goals through the use of annual cash incentives and grants of long-term equity incentives;  
and

deliver a mix of fixed and at-risk compensation that is related to our overall performance and the creation of stockholder value.

Each element of compensation is reviewed and considered with the other elements of compensation to ensure that it is consistent with the goals and objectives of both that particular element of compensation and our overall compensation program and, that individually and collectively, our compensation practices do not encourage inappropriate, unnecessary or excessive risk taking. In determining senior management compensation, including the compensation of the named executive officers, we considered the following factors:

the compensation practices of our compensation peer group;

our size and growth relative to companies comprising our compensation peer group;

the degree to which senior management achieved our business objectives during 2014;

each individual's contributions to our accomplishments during 2014; and

the external challenges to our ability to attract and retain strong senior management.

**The Role of Our Independent Compensation Consultant**

The Compensation Committee has historically retained Longnecker & Associates, Inc. ("Longnecker") to advise on executive compensation and, in that capacity to, among other things, make recommendations regarding an appropriate compensation peer group, to assist the Compensation Committee in establishing a competitive executive compensation program and to make recommendations and provide analysis regarding the compensation of senior management, including the named executive officers. In accordance with the rules of the NYSE, the Compensation Committee annually considers the independence of Longnecker from Company management based upon various factors, including the magnitude of any fees the consultant received from the Company for services or products provided to the Company relative to the firm's annual gross revenues; whether the individuals that advise the Compensation Committee participate directly or by collaboration with others in the firm in the provision of any services or products to the Company; whether the consultant provided any products or services to any executive officer of the Company; and whether the individuals that advise the Compensation Committee own any Company securities. After considering these various factors, the Compensation Committee determined that Longnecker was independent of Company management



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during the relevant periods covered by this report. No conflicts of interest or issues involving the independence of Longnecker arose during the periods covered by this report.

Longnecker is engaged by, and reports directly to, the Compensation Committee and, in carrying out its duties, may work with our Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Senior Vice President, Human Resources when preparing materials for the Compensation Committee. During 2014, representatives of Longnecker attended Compensation Committee meetings, met with the Compensation Committee without management being present and provided third-party data, analysis, advice and expertise on executive compensation and executive compensation programs. We relied upon this data, Longnecker's analyses of the data and its recommendations in establishing our compensation peer group, compensation programs and in establishing specific compensation amounts for our senior management, including the named executive officers. Longnecker also advised the Compensation Committee regarding the terms of the employment agreements that were negotiated with senior management during 2012 and 2013.

During the course of assisting the Compensation Committee, Longnecker generated reports that included a compilation of compensation data based upon our compensation peer group (discussed below) and particularized data for industry participants to the extent Longnecker determined that such additional data would prove useful in our compensation process. At the direction of the Compensation Committee, Longnecker also reviewed materials prepared by certain members of senior management and advised the Compensation Committee on the matters included in the materials, including the consistency of management proposals with the Committee's compensation philosophy, programs and objectives.

Our Compensation Committee periodically reconsiders, with the advice and assistance of Longnecker, the composition of our compensation peer group and will recommend changes to so that it continues to reflect companies that we compete with for management talent. For example, the composition of our compensation peer group may change in response to, among other things, changes in our assets, revenues and market capitalization, as well as in response to business combinations involving members of our peer group. Longnecker advises us on the composition of our compensation peer group, and provides reports and analyses on compensation of the same type as previously discussed utilizing our compensation peer group. In connection with our Compensation Committee's 2014 compensation processes, Longnecker was asked to revisit our compensation peer group and to suggest updates to the members of that group for 2014 compensation purposes, as discussed in more detail below.

### **Our Compensation Peer Group**

In developing our compensation structure, we review the compensation and benefit practices, as well as levels of pay, of a compensation peer group of companies selected by the Compensation Committee, with the assistance of Longnecker, from oil and natural gas exploration and development companies. In preparation for our 2014 compensation review, Longnecker provided compensation data and analyses, which included, among other things, (1) the companies reviewed in their analysis of an appropriate compensation peer group recommendation; (2) compensation data of the recommended compensation peer group and (3) particularized data for industry participants to the extent Longnecker determined that such additional data would prove useful in our compensation process.

We periodically review, evaluate and update our compensation peer group to provide ongoing comparability for compensation purposes. Adjustments to our compensation peer group are made due to business combinations or sales of peer group companies, as well as when necessary, in the opinion of our Compensation Committee, to better reflect the companies that compete with us for management talent and share common characteristics with our business, including assets, production levels, revenues, oil and natural gas reserves and production mix, market capitalization and enterprise value. For the

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compensation structure developed for 2014, the compensation peer group consisted of the following fourteen companies:

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SandRidge Energy, Inc.      | Stone Energy Corporation    |
| EPL Oil & Gas, Inc.         | Bonanza Creek Energy, Inc.  |
| Resolute Energy Corporation | Rosetta Resources, Inc.     |
| Kodiak Oil & Gas Corp.      | Northern Oil and Gas, Inc.  |
| Newfield Exploration Co.    | Gulfport Energy Corporation |
| Oasis Petroleum Inc.        | Athlon Energy, Inc.         |

Sanchez Energy Corporation

Magnum Hunter Resources Corporation

In conjunction with our consideration of 2015 compensation, we asked Longnecker to revisit our compensation peer group and provide advice regarding any recommended changes. Based upon this review, Longnecker recommended changes to our peer group to better reflect our current assets, revenues, oil and natural gas reserves and production mix, market capitalization and enterprise value. Longnecker recommended that for 2015 three companies be removed from our 2014 peer group but that the group otherwise continue intact for 2015. Accordingly, based upon the recommendations of Longnecker, our Compensation Committee approved the following eleven companies to serve as our compensation peer group for 2015:

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SandRidge Energy, Inc.      | Stone Energy Corporation    |
| Resolute Energy Corporation | Bonanza Creek Energy, Inc.  |
| Newfield Exploration Co.    | Rosetta Resources, Inc.     |
| Oasis Petroleum Inc.        | Northern Oil and Gas, Inc.  |
| Sanchez Energy Corporation  | Gulfport Energy Corporation |

Magnum Hunter Resources Corporation

During the early stages of the execution of our business plan, we targeted compensation for our senior management at approximately the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile (top quartile) of our compensation peer group. We targeted compensation at this level because we considered it necessary for us to recruit, motivate and retain the executive talent capable of executing our rapid growth business strategy and managing our business in a competitive environment, in part because we compete for executive talent with a much broader industry group than our compensation peer group, including larger, more established industry participants, and because our stated willingness to embrace consolidation trends in our industry may increase the uncertainty of future employment with us as compared to some of our competitors. However, our compensation practices take into account, among other factors, corporate performance, projected growth in the Company, an executive's experience and value to the Company, individual performance and the current competitive environment for talented management. Thus, from time to time, we vary targeted compensation and the balance of each element of compensation relative to our compensation peer group depending on our assessment



of these factors and our view of the most effective means of aligning executive compensation with the achievement of our business objectives under the circumstances. Accordingly, in response to our assessment of the factors enumerated above, for 2014 we targeted compensation at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of our 2014 compensation peer group and we altered the mix of awards for our most senior executives, including the use of performance units for the first time. For 2015, based upon the same factors, we have maintained targeted compensation at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of our 2015 compensation peer group, which is largely unchanged from 2014, but in response to increased volatility in both commodity prices and our stock price and in light of the current business environment and compensation practices of our compensation peer group, we have altered the mix of awards for our most senior executives, reverting to our

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historical practice of issuing time-vested restricted stock and utilizing stock option awards in lieu of performance units.

Due to the substantial changes in our Company resulting from the implementation of our strategic business plan, our compensation system has been focused on senior management's success in implementing our strategic objectives in light of internal and external challenges encountered, rather than strictly quantitative improvements in specific, pre-established year-over-year reserves, production or other operating metrics. Our Compensation Committee does consider our corporate performance on various metrics in determining annual cash incentives, including various measures relating to leverage and liquidity, operational efficiency and financial performance, as well as individual performance. As a general matter, the Compensation Committee assigns a relative weight of approximately 50% to corporate performance and 50% to individual performance in considering annual cash incentives; however, ultimately, any such award is entirely discretionary, as our Compensation Committee believes retaining discretion over the amount of such awards is imperative in light of the dynamic nature of the Company's activities, the potential for rapid changes in the business environment and the limitations inherent in quantitative measures of performance under such circumstances. Further, our Compensation Committee views the successful implementation of our goals as a "team" effort and has therefore not established individualized performance targets or goals, although our Compensation Committee does recognize that each member of senior management will contribute to the overall success in the achievement of our goals to varying degrees, and it takes these relative contributions into account when considering compensation generally, and annual cash incentives in particular.

**2014 Compensation Program**

*Elements of Compensation*

The principal elements of our executive compensation program are base salary, annual cash incentives, long-term equity incentives and post-termination severance (under certain circumstances), and other benefits and perquisites, consisting of life and health insurance benefits, a qualified 401(k) savings plan, and the reimbursement of certain club dues for our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. From time to time, the Compensation Committee varies the mix of compensation utilized, depending upon the Compensation Committee's current view of the most efficacious method to provide incentives under current market conditions, taking into account the compensation practices of our compensation peer group and the advice of our independent compensation consultant. For 2014, our Compensation Committee altered the mix of long-term equity incentives for certain members of senior management by utilizing performance units, which are described below, for the first time, although the majority of employees continued to receive awards consisting of restricted stock and stock options, with approximately 41% of such awards by value being composed of stock options. Based upon 2014 performance, our Compensation Committee paid annual cash incentives to senior management ranging from approximately 40% of base salary to 100% of base salary, which is discussed in more detail below.

*Base Salary*

We review base salaries for our chief executive officer and other executives annually to determine if a change is appropriate. In reviewing base salaries, we consider several factors, including a comparison to base salaries paid for comparable positions in our compensation peer group, the relationship among base salaries paid within our Company and individual experience and contributions. Our intent is to fix base salaries at levels that we believe are consistent with our compensation program design objectives, which include a greater emphasis upon the incentive elements of compensation without sacrificing our ability to recruit, motivate and retain executive talent in a competitive environment.

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For 2014, base salaries for the named executive officers were reviewed by our Compensation Committee and with our independent compensation consultant's input and advice and left largely unchanged at 2013 levels, as they approximate the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of our 2014 compensation peer group for comparable positions.

Base salaries for all of our named executive officers in 2014 were as follows:

| Name                  | 2014 Base<br>Salary |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Floyd C. Wilson       | \$ 750,000          |
| Stephen W. Herod      | \$ 450,000          |
| Mark J. Mize          | \$ 400,000          |
| Charles E. Cusack III | \$ 400,000          |
| Tina S. Obut          | \$ 275,000          |

For 2015, we have again maintained the base salaries of the named executive officers at the levels set forth above as such amounts remained competitive utilizing our 2015 compensation peer group targeting the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of that group for comparable positions, except that Ms. Obut's base salary has been increased to \$300,000 for 2015.

*Annual Cash Incentives*

Annual cash incentives for 2014 performance were determined following the end of the year, primarily on the basis of the performance of management relative to operating targets the Compensation Committee established at the beginning of 2014, including production and reserve growth, reductions in proved finding and development (F&D) costs, improvements in cash flow per share and the ratio of our net debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA). Management was able to meet or exceed the targets established for production and reserve growth and for improvement in F&D costs, although performance fell short of the remaining targets. In light of these accomplishments and taking into account the fact that we did not pay annual incentive awards to our most senior level of management in the prior year, our Compensation Committee awarded annual cash incentives to senior management ranging from approximately 40% of base salary up to approximately 100% of base salary, with the smaller percentage awards being paid to our most senior executives and the larger percentage awards being paid to our less senior executives, on the basis that our most senior executives bear responsibility for our performance across all of the targets set forth above, including those as to which our performance fell short of target, whereas those executives in positions of lower authority are less able to influence such measures.

The Compensation Committee believes that establishing financial or performance targets for senior management serves many useful purposes; however, fundamentally our Compensation Committee believes that retaining discretion over whether to award annual cash incentives and, if so, the amount thereof, is appropriate due to the inherent limitations of quantitative measures of operating or financial performance in light of the Company's current business strategy and activities. In the future, for a variety of reasons, such as to assist in communicating corporate objectives and setting definitive expectations and rewards for senior management, we may elect to establish bonus targets and performance targets that must be met in whole or in part to qualify for annual cash incentives and in conjunction therewith we may limit the discretion of our Compensation Committee or board of directors in determining annual cash incentives. However, as a general matter we do not believe that a formulaic or inflexible compensation program will necessarily provide appropriate incentives or rewards for the performance that we expect and, therefore, particularly given our current business plans and activities, we intend to retain substantial discretion to alter performance factors and targets as circumstances warrant and opportunities arise and, in assessing the performance of the Company or an individual, to take such factors into consideration as we may consider relevant from time to time.

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Accordingly, compensation, including annual cash compensation, may vary greatly from year to year and from executive to executive as a consequence of corporate performance and individual contribution relative to such factors that we may consider important, which may carry varying weight over time depending on the circumstances.

*Long-term Incentives*

Long-term incentives comprise a significant portion of an executive's compensation package. Long-term incentives are consistent with our objective of providing an "at-risk" component of compensation. As noted above, our business strategy embraces the consolidation trend in our industry and providing long-term incentive award opportunities for senior management and key employees both align their interests with those of our stockholders and help to offset the negative implications that such a strategy may have on our ability to recruit and retain executive talent and key employees.

Historically, we have awarded grants of restricted stock, stock options and, for the first time in 2014, performance units, which we utilized in lieu of stock options, to certain members of senior management, including the named executive officers other than Ms. Obut. Each of these awards is discussed in more detail below. Historically, we have utilized this combination because of the differing risk and reward characteristics of these awards. From time to time, we may utilize a different mix of these awards or utilize other forms of awards, such as stock appreciation rights, each of which is permitted under the Plan and discussed in more detail below, depending upon the Compensation Committee's current view of the most efficacious method to provide incentives under current market conditions and taking into account the practices of our compensation peer group. For example, during 2014, we awarded performance units to most members of senior management in lieu of stock options and utilized a larger percentage of such awards relative to restricted stock than we have in the past. An explanation of the reasons for this change and the operation of the performance units utilized in 2014 is set forth below under the heading "*2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan Performance Units*." Regardless of the nature of the award, our Compensation Committee recommends, and the board of directors approves, the type and amount of awards that will be made to all employees, as well as the type and size of individual grants for each member of senior management other than our Chief Executive Officer, whose compensation is approved by the Compensation Committee.

All grants of equity awards are made in accordance with our Equity-Based Incentive Grant Policy, which sets forth the timing of awards and the procedures for making awards and, in the case of stock options and stock appreciation rights, for determining the exercise price or grant value, respectively, of the award. The amounts granted will vary each year and are based on performance of senior management, our analysis of compensation peer group data and the total compensation package of each member of senior management. Previous awards and grants, whether vested or unvested, may be considered by the Compensation Committee in establishing the current year's awards, but was not a significant influence in our compensation practices for 2014.

As part of its compensation process, our Compensation Committee has also considered whether a member of senior management's investment of his or her own funds in HALRES LLC should factor into equity awards issued by the Company to the members of senior management to the extent that such pre-existing investment serves as an equity-based performance incentive for senior management. Each of our named executive officers and certain of our directors invested in an entity that holds a 10% interest in HALRES LLC and, as a consequence of that investment, these individuals have the opportunity to participate in returns realized by HALRES LLC on the securities held by HALRES LLC and may have the right to participate to a greater extent in HALRES LLC as the returns realized by HALRES LLC achieve certain rate of return thresholds. In general, the Compensation Committee, with the input and advice of its independent compensation consultant, believes that it is in the best interests of the Company to compensate senior management on a competitive basis consistent with the Company's compensation program objectives and overall corporate and individual performance and to do so fairly relative to one another, irrespective of any individual's personal investments.

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The long-term incentive information related to the named executive officers during fiscal year 2014 is included in the Summary Compensation Table set forth below. Additional information on long-term incentive awards for 2014 is shown in the "*Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2014*" table and the "*Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2014*" table. Information regarding long-term equity incentives granted to the named executive officers subsequent to fiscal 2014 is set forth below under the heading "*Long-Term Incentive Awards Subsequent to Fiscal Year End*."

**2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan**

We grant equity awards under our First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended, which for purposes of this discussion we referred to as the "Plan." The Plan was initially established effective May 8, 2006, and was then called the "RAM Energy Resources, Inc. 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan." Following our recapitalization in February 2012, the plan was amended and restated and renamed the "Halcón Resources Corporation 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan" effective May 17, 2012, which was approved by the Company's stockholders at the Company's 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders held May 17, 2012. Effective February 27, 2013, we again amended and restated the Plan to conform certain provisions relating to a participant's exercise of certain awards under the Plan to the methods of notice and exercise offered by the Company through the online platform provided by a third party administrator of awards under the Plan. Our stockholders approved an amendment to the Plan to increase the number of shares of common stock that may be issued under the Plan at our annual stockholders meeting held on May 23, 2013.

Subject to certain adjustments that may be required from time to time to prevent dilution or enlargement of the rights of participants under the Plan, currently a maximum of 41.5 million shares of common stock may be issued under the Plan, however that includes shares previously issued under the Plan and shares subject to outstanding awards previously issued under the Plan. As of March 17, 2015, a total of 9,225,664 shares of common stock had been granted as restricted stock and were outstanding, 21,418,994 shares were reserved for the exercise of outstanding stock options, 3,208,280 shares were reserved for the vesting of performance units (assuming this maximum number of shares are earned thereunder) and 1,831,074 shares of our common stock remained available for issuance pursuant to the Plan.

The Plan facilitates the issuance of future long-term incentive awards as part of our overall compensation program and is administered by a committee of non-employee directors of our board of directors, currently our Compensation Committee. For the year ended December 31, 2014, substantially all of our eligible employees received awards under the Plan.

The Plan permits granting awards in a wide variety of forms, including options to purchase our common stock, shares of restricted stock, restricted stock units (granting the recipient the right to receive common stock), shares of incentive stock (common stock issued without a restriction period), stock appreciation rights, performance units (settled in common stock or cash) and performance bonuses (settled in common stock or cash). We currently utilize as awards under the Plan only restricted stock, stock options and performance units. No more than 3,400,000 shares of common stock may underlie awards to a single recipient in any calendar year, and performance bonuses may not exceed \$5 million to any recipient in any calendar year.

The Plan will expire on May 16, 2022. No grants will be made under the Plan after that date, but all grants made on or prior to such date will continue in effect thereafter subject to the terms of the award and of the Plan. Our board of directors may, in its discretion, terminate the Plan at any time. The termination of the Plan would not affect the rights of participants or their successors under any awards outstanding and not exercised in full on the date of termination. The board of directors may at any time, and from time to time, amend the Plan in whole or in part. Any amendment that must be approved by our stockholders in order to comply with the terms of the Plan, applicable law or the rules

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of the principal securities exchange, association or quotation system on which our common stock is then traded or quoted will not be effective unless and until such approval has been obtained. The board of directors is not permitted, without the further approval of the stockholders, to make any alteration or amendment that would materially increase the benefits accruing to participants under the Plan, increase the aggregate number of shares that may be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Plan, change the class of individuals eligible to receive awards under the Plan or extend the term of the Plan.

*Stock Options*

An important objective of our long-term incentive program is to strengthen the relationship between the long-term value of our stock price and the potential financial gain for employees. Stock options provide participants with the opportunity to purchase our common stock at a price fixed on the grant date regardless of future market price. A stock option becomes valuable only if our common stock price increases above the option exercise price and the holder of the option remains employed during the period required for the option to vest, thus providing an incentive for an option holder to remain employed by us. Stock options link the option holder's compensation to stockholders' interests by providing an incentive to increase the market price of our stock.

Option grants to senior management are generally considered annually, in February, after our year-end results become available, while grants to other eligible officers and employees are generally considered in December of each year. Our practice is that the exercise price for each stock option is the market value on the date of grant, which is normally the date that our Compensation Committee approves the award at a meeting of the Compensation Committee or a trading day after our release of earnings or other material nonpublic information in accordance with our Equity-Based Incentive Grant Policy. Our current policy provides for grants to be made or priced only during a trading window, as set forth in our Amended and Restated Insider Trading Policy, and within such window only at such time as there is no material non-public information regarding the Company. Under the Plan, the stock option price may not be less than the fair market value (the closing market price) of the shares on the date of grant. With respect to employees who are not executive officers, the Compensation Committee typically delegates the authority to make such grants to our chief executive officer but specifies the total number of shares that may be subject to grants and the other material terms of the grants. All proposed stock options to new-hire employees are required to be approved by our Compensation Committee. Alternatively, our Compensation Committee may authorize in writing, in advance of any fiscal quarter, the number of shares underlying stock options that may be granted to new-hire employees for the following fiscal quarter and provide that our chief executive officer may allocate such stock options at his discretion.

Stock options generally vest and become exercisable one-third annually after the original grant date. In certain instances, however, stock options may vest on an accelerated basis, such as in the event an executive's employment is terminated by us without cause or by the executive with good reason, in the event that the executive terminates his or her employment within a certain period following a transaction that effects a change in the control of our Company, or in the event of the executive's death or disability while employed by us. Under these circumstances all stock options held by the executive may automatically vest and become exercisable in accordance with the terms outlined in his or her stock option award agreement or employment agreement, if applicable. The employment agreements that we have entered into with the named executive officers provide for all stock options held by each executive to automatically vest and become exercisable in the event his or her employment is terminated by us without cause, by the executive for good reason or with or without good reason within a two-year period following a change of control of our Company.

There is a limited term in which an executive can exercise stock options, known as the "option term." The option term is generally ten years from the date of grant, which is the maximum term of an

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option permitted under the Plan. At the end of the option term, the right to purchase shares pursuant to any unexercised option expires.

Among the named executive officers, only Ms. Obut received stock options during 2014. The exercise prices of stock options granted to Ms. Obut during fiscal year 2014 are shown in the table below entitled "*Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2014*". Each of the other named executive officers received a mix of restricted stock and performance units. Additional information on these grants, including the number of shares subject to each grant, is shown in the table below entitled "*Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2014*." The number of shares underlying awards made to the named executive officers for 2014 were determined based upon the value of equity incentive compensation paid by our 2014 compensation peer group targeting the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for comparable positions. Where a mix of restricted stock and stock options was utilized, one-half of the award, by dollar value, was awarded in the form of stock options having an exercise price equal to the closing price per share of our common stock on the grant date, and the other half, by dollar value, was awarded in the form of stock options. Where a mix of restricted stock and performance units was utilized, the mixture varied by officer, with 100% performance units by number utilized for our Chief Executive Officer and 75% performance units and 25% restricted stock utilized for each of the other named executive officers receiving performance units. We felt this mix was appropriate based on peer group data and our view of the appropriate allocation of risks and rewards for executives based on their relative influence over our performance, as measured by our stock price.

*Restricted Stock Awards*

During 2014, we granted restricted stock awards to various officers (including our named executive officers) and key employees under the Plan. Restricted stock awards are shares of our common stock that are awarded with the restriction that the executive remain with us through certain "vesting" dates. Prior to the restrictions thereon lapsing, the participant may not sell, transfer, pledge, assign or take any similar action with respect to the shares of restricted stock which the participant owns. Despite the restrictions, each participant will have full voting rights and will receive any dividends or other distributions, if any, with respect to the shares of restricted stock which the participant owns. Once the restrictions lapse with respect to shares of restricted stock, the participant owning such shares will hold freely-transferable shares, subject only to any restrictions on transfer contained in our certificate of incorporation, bylaws and insider trading policies, as well as any applicable federal or state securities laws.

The Compensation Committee generally does take prior grants into account in the design of future programs and awards. Restricted stock awards to senior management are generally considered annually, in February, after our year-end results become available, while grants to other eligible officers and employees are generally considered in December of each year.

Restricted stock awards provide the opportunity for capital accumulation and more predictable long-term incentive value. The purpose of granting restricted stock awards is to encourage ownership and retention of our senior management and result in business decisions that may drive stock price appreciation. Recognizing that our business is subject to significant fluctuations in commodity prices that may cause the market value of our common stock to fluctuate, we also intended the awards to provide an incentive for senior management to remain with us throughout commodity price and business cycles.

Restricted stock awards generally vest one-third annually after the original award date. As a consequence, the recipients do not become unconditionally entitled to retain any of the shares of restricted stock until one year following the date of grant, subject to certain exceptions related to termination of employment. Any unvested restricted stock awards generally are forfeited if the executive terminates employment with us. In certain instances, however, restricted stock awards may

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vest on an accelerated basis, such as in the event of the executive's employment is terminated by us without cause or by the executive with good reason, in the event that the executive terminates his or her employment within a certain period following a transaction that effects a change in the control of our Company, or in the event of the executive's death or disability while employed by us. Under these circumstances all restricted stock awards held by the executive may automatically vest in accordance with the terms outlined in the restricted stock award agreement or the employment agreement, if applicable. The employment agreements that we have entered into with the named executive officers provide for all restricted stock awards held by an executive to automatically vest in the event his or her employment is terminated by us without cause, by the executive for good reason or by the executive with or without good reason within a two-year period following a change of control of our Company.

The restricted stock grants to the named executive officers during fiscal year 2014 are shown below in the table entitled "*Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2014*." The number of shares underlying awards made to the named executive officers for 2014 were determined based upon the value of equity incentive compensation paid by our 2014 compensation peer group targeting the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for comparable positions. Where a mix of restricted stock and stock options was utilized, one-half of the award, by dollar value, was awarded in the form of stock options having an exercise price equal to the closing price per share of our common stock on the grant date, and the other half, by dollar value, was awarded in the form of restricted stock. Where a mix of restricted stock and performance units was utilized, the mixture varied by officer, with 100% performance units by number utilized for our Chief Executive Officer and 75% performance units and 25% restricted stock utilized for each of the other named executive officers receiving performance units. We felt this mix was appropriate based on peer group data and our view of the appropriate allocation of risks and rewards for executives based on their relative influence over our performance, as measured by our stock price.

*Performance Units*

In 2014, in lieu of stock options, we issued performance units under the Plan to certain members of senior management, including each of the named executive officers other than Ms. Obut. In deciding to utilize performance units, we considered, with the input and advice of our independent compensation consultant, the compensation practices of our 2014 compensation peer group and other industry participants that utilize performance units, taking into account our overall objective to provide incentives to senior management that are aligned with our stockholders and our business strategy while providing competitive compensation opportunities to senior management. Performance units are designed to provide senior management, including the named executive officers other than Ms. Obut, with incentive opportunities based on the level of achievement of pre-established performance objectives during a specified, typically long-term, performance period. The purpose of the awards is to reinforce our objectives for sustained long-term performance and value creation, to balance short- and long-term decision making and help provide competitive total compensation opportunities.

For 2014, we concluded that under the circumstances performance units offered greater flexibility for us to achieve our goals while utilizing fewer shares than had we utilized stock options for these purposes. Performance units may be structured utilizing a wide array of one or more performance measures. For instance, the Plan permits performance units to utilize one or more of the following:

Reserve additions/replacements

Finding and development costs

Production volume

Production costs

Earnings (Net income, Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA"), Earnings per share)



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Cash flow

Operating income

General and administrative expenses

Debt to equity ratio

Debt to cash flow

Debt to EBITDA

EBITDA to Interest

Return on assets

Return on equity

Return on invested capital

Profit returns/margins

Midstream margins

Stock price appreciation

Total stockholder return

Relative stock price performance

In particular, for 2014 we elected to utilize a single performance measure tied to long-term appreciation in the market price of our common stock so as to maximize the incentives for senior management to focus on this measure of performance. To reinforce these incentives, we also utilized a greater percentage of performance units, by value, relative to restricted stock than the economic split between stock options and restricted stock utilized in the past. In 2014, 75% of long-term equity incentives, by dollar value, for the members of senior management that received performance units consisted of performance units, and 25% consisted of restricted stock, except that all of the long-term equity incentives awarded to our Chief Executive Officer for 2014 were performance units. We felt this mix was appropriate based on peer group data and our view of the appropriate allocation of risks and rewards for executives based on their relative influence over our performance, as measured by stock price.

The performance units issued in 2014 provide that the number of shares the executive receives upon vesting will vary if the market price of our common stock exceeds certain pre-established thresholds as measured by the average of the adjusted closing price of a share of our common

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stock during the sixty trading days preceding the third anniversary of issuance, or the measurement date. The performance awards utilize \$4.00 as the floor price, below which the performance units will not vest and will expire. If the average market price at the measurement date is equal to \$4.00, the performance units will vest and represent the right to receive 50% of the number of shares of common stock underlying the performance units. At \$7.00, the performance units will vest and represent the right to receive the full number of shares of common stock underlying the performance units; and at \$10.00, the performance units will vest and represent the right to receive 200% of the number of shares of common stock underlying the performance units. All stock price targets are subject to customary adjustments based upon changes in our capital structure. In the event the average market price falls between targeted price thresholds, the performance units will vest and represent the right to receive a proportionate number of shares, e.g., 75% of the number of shares of common stock underlying the performance units if the average market price at such time is \$5.50, 150% of the number of shares of common stock underlying the performance units if the average market price at such time is \$8.50, and so forth.

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The Plan allows performance units to be settled in cash, stock, or a combination of cash and stock; however, we expect the performance units we issued in 2014 to be settled in shares of our common stock. Performance units are subject to forfeiture under certain circumstances and vesting may also be accelerated under similar circumstances as awards of restricted stock or stock options.

Information regarding long-term equity incentives granted to the named executive officers subsequent to fiscal 2014 is set forth below under the heading "*Long-Term Incentive Awards Subsequent to Fiscal Year End.*" As noted above, for 2015 our Compensation Committee, with the input and advice of Longnecker, reverted to its historical practice of utilizing a mixture of restricted stock and stock options having an exercise price equal to the closing price per share of our common stock on the grant date, with approximately one-half of the award, by dollar value, being in the form of restricted stock and the other half, by dollar value, awarded in the form of restricted stock. For 2015, we discontinued our use of performance units in response to increased volatility in both commodity prices and our stock price and in light of the current business environment and compensation practices of our peer group.

**Retirement Benefits**

We do not maintain a defined benefit pension plan or retiree medical program that covers members of senior management. Retirement benefits to our senior management, including the named executive officers, are currently provided principally through a tax-qualified profit sharing and 401(k) plan (our "Savings Plan"), in which eligible salaried employees may participate. Pursuant to the Savings Plan, employees may elect to reduce their current annual compensation up to the lesser of 75% or the statutorily prescribed limit of \$17,500 in calendar year 2014 (plus up to an additional \$5,500 in the form of "catch-up" contributions for participants age 50 and above), and have the amount of any reduction contributed to the Savings Plan. Our Savings Plan is intended to qualify under sections 401(a) and 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), so that contributions by us or our employees to the Savings Plan and income earned on contributions are not taxable to employees until withdrawn from the Savings Plan and so that contributions will be deductible by us when made. We match 100% of the amount an employee contributes to the Savings Plan, subject to a 10% maximum based on the employee's compensation as defined in the Savings Plan. Members of senior management participate in the Savings Plan on the same basis as other eligible employees.

The Savings Plan provides for various investment options, for which the participant has sole discretion in determining how both the employer and employee contributions are invested. The independent trustee of the Savings Plan then invests the assets of the Savings Plan as directed by participants. The Savings Plan does not provide our employees the option to invest directly in our securities. The Savings Plan offers in-service withdrawals in the form of after-tax account distributions and age 59.5 distributions.

We believe that the Savings Plan supports the objectives of our compensation structure, including the ability to recruit and retain senior and experienced mid- to late-career executive talent for critical positions within our organization.

**Outstanding Equity Awards Under the Plan**

The following tables represent outstanding equity awards under the Plan as of December 31, 2014. We do not issue awards under any other plan.

|               | <b>Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options</b> | <b>Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options</b> | <b>Average Remaining Contractual Life (Years)</b> |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| Stock Options | 18,923,710  | \$ 5.05   | 8.7   |

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|                  | Number of Securities<br>to be Issued Upon<br>Vesting |
|------------------|--|
| Restricted Stock | 10,344,459   |

|                   | Threshold | Maximum   |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Performance Units | 802,070   | 3,208,280 |

As of December 31, 2014 a total of 5,085,687 shares of our common stock were available for future grants under the Plan. As of February 26, 2015, approximately 1,318,277 shares of our common stock are available for future grants under the Plan.

### **Employment Contracts, Termination of Employment and Change-in-Control Arrangements**

During 2012, we entered into employment agreements with each member of our senior management, including Messrs. Wilson, Herod, Mize and Cusack and with Ms. Obut in 2013. Strong competition for management talent and uncertainty associated with our business plan and our stated willingness to embrace consolidation trends in our industry led us to conclude that it was appropriate and in our best interests to enter into employment agreements with each of such named executive officers.

#### *Term of Employment Agreements*

The initial term of employment of Mr. Wilson was for a term of two years from June 1, 2012, the effective date of his employment agreement, which the Company elected to renew for an additional two years effective June 1, 2014. The initial term of employment of each of Messrs. Herod, Mize and Cusack was originally until December 31, 2013 and with Ms. Obut until February 27, 2014, with automatic one-year extensions unless either party provides written notice thirty days prior to expiration of the initial term or any extension. Our failure to renew an executive's employment agreement will be considered a termination without cause under each employment agreement.

#### *Compensation and Benefits*

The salary payable to each of the named executive officers during 2014 is the amount set forth under the heading " 2014 Compensation Program Base Salary" in the table above. The salary of each named executive officer is subject to periodic review and may be increased from time to time by the Compensation Committee. Each named executive officer is eligible to receive bonuses, grants of stock options, restricted stock or other equity awards as determined in the discretion of the Compensation Committee. Each of the named executive officers is also entitled to reimbursement for reasonable business expenses and to participate in our life, health, and dental insurance programs, and all other employee benefit plans which we may, from time to time, make available. We do not provide tax gross-ups for compensation or benefits.

Our Chief Executive Officer is entitled under his employment agreement to receive a vehicle allowance and reimbursement for reasonable fees and membership dues for one Houston area country club. Our Chief Financial Officer is entitled under his employment agreement to be reimbursed for reasonable fees and membership dues for one Houston area country club.

Our use of expense reimbursement and perquisites as an element of compensation is limited. We do not view these items as a significant element of our compensation structure but do believe that they can be used in conjunction with base salary to recruit, motivate and retain executive talent in a competitive environment. The Compensation Committee periodically reviews these items provided to determine if they are appropriate and if any adjustments are warranted.

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*Termination Provisions and Severance Payments*

We may terminate each named executive officer's employment upon disability, and at any time for cause or without cause. Each named executive officer may terminate his or her employment at any time, and such termination will be deemed to be with "good reason" if it is based on a material reduction in base salary; a material reduction in authority, responsibilities or duties or those of the supervisor to whom the named executive officer reports; a material reduction in the budget over which the named executive officer retains authority; a permanent relocation of the named executive officer's principal place of employment to any location outside a fifty mile radius of the location from which named executive officer provides services to the Company; or any uncured material breaches of the employment agreement by us. If the employment of any of the named executive officers is terminated by death or disability, such named executive officer (or his or her personal representative in the event of death) is entitled to receive accrued unpaid base compensation, plus an optional bonus to be determined by the Compensation Committee, and all stock options and other incentive awards held by the named executive officer will become fully vested and immediately exercisable, and all restrictions on any shares of restricted stock will be removed. If the employment of any of the named executive officers is terminated by us for cause, such named executive officer (or his or her personal representative in the event of death) is entitled to receive accrued unpaid base compensation.

If the employment of any named executive officer is terminated by us without cause or by such named executive officer with good reason, and such termination is not within two years after a change in control, such named executive officer will be entitled to the accrued portion of unpaid salary, payment of the greater of a prorated amount of the named executive officer's target bonus for the year in which the termination occurs or a bonus for such year as may be determined by our Compensation Committee in its sole discretion, a severance payment equal to one year's base salary plus the higher of the current year target bonus or the bonus paid for the preceding year, payment of the premiums for medical, vision and dental insurance for the executive and his or her dependents for up to one year following termination, and the full vesting of all unvested options and all restrictions removed from shares of restricted stock.

If such named executive officer is terminated by us without cause or such named executive officer terminates his or her employment with the Company *with or without* good reason, and such termination is within two years after a change in control, such named executive officer will be entitled to receive the accrued portion of unpaid salary, payment of the greater of a prorated amount of the named executive officer's target bonus for the year in which the termination occurs or a bonus for such year as may be determined by our Compensation Committee in its sole discretion, a severance payment equal to a multiple (which varies by individual) of base salary plus the higher of the current year target bonus or the bonus paid for the year prior to termination or the year in which the change of control occurred, payment of the premiums for medical, vision and dental insurance for the executive and his or her dependents for up to eighteen months following termination, and the full vesting of all unvested options and all restrictions removed from shares of restricted stock. The multiplier for Mr. Wilson is 3.0, for Messrs. Herod, Mize and Cusack it is 2.5 and for Ms. Obut, it is 2.0. In addition, if a bonus for the named executive officer for the year immediately preceding the termination has been determined but not paid as of the date of termination, the named executive officer will be paid the bonus so determined; and if such a bonus has not been determined, then the named executive officer will be paid a bonus equal to the greater of such named executive officer's target bonus for such year, or for the year in which the termination occurs or the change of control occurs, or the bonus paid to executive for the year immediately preceding the year in which the change of control occurs. If the employment of such named executive officer is terminated by such named executive officer without good reason and not within two years after a change in control, such named executive officer is entitled to receive accrued unpaid base compensation.

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The employment agreements with the named executive officers generally define a change of control to mean any of the following events:

any person or group becomes the "beneficial owner" (as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of more than 35% of the total voting power of our outstanding voting stock;

our merger with or consolidation into another entity and, immediately after giving effect to the merger or consolidation, one or both of the following occurs: (a) less than 50% of the total voting power of the outstanding voting stock of the surviving or resulting entity is then "beneficially owned" in the aggregate by our stockholders immediately prior to such merger or consolidation, or (b) the individuals who were members of our board of directors immediately prior to the execution of the agreement providing for the merger or consolidation do not constitute at least a majority of the members of the board of directors of the surviving or resulting entity;

we sell, assign, convey, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets to a third party in one transaction or a series of related transactions;

individuals who constitute our board of directors cease for any reason to constitute at least a majority of our board of directors unless such persons were elected, appointed or nominated by a vote of at least a majority of our incumbent directors; or

the complete liquidation or dissolution of our Company.

In our view, having the change of control and severance protections helps to maintain the named executive officer's objectivity in decision-making and provides another vehicle to align the interests of our named executive officers with the interests of our stockholders.

The following table sets forth the estimated amounts that would be payable to each of the named executive officers upon a termination under the scenarios outlined above, excluding termination for cause or on account of death or disability, assuming that such termination occurred on December 31, 2014 and using the closing price of our common stock at December 31, 2014 for purposes of the calculations as required by the SEC. The dollar amounts set forth under the column heading "*Early Vesting of Restricted Stock/Options/PSUs*" correspond to the amounts that would be paid, in addition to accrued and unpaid salary through the date of death or disability, in the event of the death or disability

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at year-end of each of the executives. There can be no assurance that these scenarios would produce the same or similar results as those disclosed if a termination occurs in the future.

|   | Severance<br>Payment(1) | Early Vesting of<br>Restricted Stock/<br>Options/PSUs(2) | Other(3)  | Total        |
|---|-------------------------|--|-----------|--------------|
| <b><i>Without Cause/For Good Reason</i></b> |                         |  |           |              |
| Floyd C. Wilson                             | \$ 1,500,000            | \$ 346,683   | \$ 27,638 | \$ 1,874,321 |
| Stephen W. Herod                            | \$ 900,000              | \$ 339,072   | \$ 27,638 | \$ 1,266,710 |
| Mark J. Mize                                | \$ 800,000              | \$ 298,533   | \$ 27,638 | \$ 1,126,171 |
| Charles E. Cusack III                       | \$ 800,000              | \$ 194,428   | \$ 27,638 | \$ 1,022,066 |
| Tina S. Obut                                | \$ 550,000              | \$ 445,564   | \$ 16,253 | \$ 1,011,817 |
| <b><i>Following Change of Control</i></b>   |                         |  |           |              |
| Floyd C. Wilson                             | \$ 4,500,000            | \$ 346,683   | \$ 41,457 | \$ 4,888,140 |
| Stephen W. Herod                            | \$ 2,250,000            | \$ 339,072   | \$ 41,457 | \$ 2,630,529 |
| Mark J. Mize                                | \$ 2,000,000            | \$ 298,533   | \$ 41,457 | \$ 2,339,990 |
| Charles E. Cusack III                       | \$ 2,000,000            | \$ 194,428   | \$ 41,457 | \$ 2,235,885 |
| Tina S. Obut                                | \$ 1,100,000            | \$ 445,564   | \$ 24,380 | \$ 1,569,944 |

- (1) Represents total annual compensation (2014 salary plus target bonus calculated in accordance with the terms of the employment agreement) multiplied, in the event of a change of control, by the applicable multiplier contained in each officer's employment agreement.
- (2) As reflected above, the value of unvested restricted stock, stock options and performance units that would vest under each of these termination scenarios is based on our common stock price at December 31, 2014. Accordingly, reflects no payout on account of out of the money stock options or performance units.
- (3) Represents an estimate of health insurance benefits to be provided to the named executive officer and each eligible dependent under each of the scenarios based on actual amounts paid out in 2014.

*Board Representation*

Mr. Wilson's employment agreement provides that he will be nominated as a member of our board of directors, and that we will use our best efforts to cause him to be elected, appointed, or re-elected or re-appointed, as a director.

**Indemnity Agreements**

We have entered into an indemnity agreement with each of our independent, non-management directors and Messrs. Wilson and Mize. These agreements provide for us to, among other things, indemnify such persons against certain liabilities that may arise by reason of their status or service as directors or officers, to advance their expenses incurred as a result of a proceeding as to which they may be indemnified and to cover such person under any directors' and officers' liability insurance policy we choose, in our discretion, to maintain. These indemnity agreements are intended to provide indemnification rights to the fullest extent permitted under applicable indemnification rights statutes in the State of Delaware and are in addition to any other rights such person may have under our certificate of incorporation, bylaws and applicable law. We believe these indemnity agreements enhance our ability to recruit and retain knowledgeable and experienced executives and independent, non-management directors.

Table of Contents**Tax Deductibility**

Section 162(m) of the Code limits the deductibility of compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to our chief executive officer and our three next most highly compensated executive officers (other than our principal financial officer) unless the compensation is performance-based as determined by applying certain specific and detailed criteria. We believe that it is often desirable and in our best interests to deduct compensation payable to our executive officers. However, we also believe that there are circumstances where our interests are best served by maintaining flexibility in the way compensation is provided, even if it might result in the non-deductibility of certain compensation under the Code. In this regard, we consider the anticipated tax treatment to our Company and our executive officers in the review and establishment of compensation programs and payments; however, we may pay compensation to our executives that may not be deductible, including discretionary bonuses or other types of compensation outside of our plans.

Although equity awards may be deductible for tax purposes by us, the accounting rules pursuant to Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718, Compensation Stock Options (the successor to FASB Statement No. 123 (revised 2004) ("ASC Topic 718")) require that the portion of the tax benefit in excess of the financial compensation cost be recorded to paid-in-capital.

**Summary Compensation Table**

The table below sets forth information regarding compensation for our named executive officers for the years indicated (commencing with the first year in which such officer became one of our named executive officers):

| <b>Name and Principal Position</b>   | <b>Year</b> | <b>Salary(1)</b> | <b>Bonus(2)</b> | <b>Stock Awards(3)</b> | <b>Option/SAR Awards(3)</b> | <b>All Other Compensation(4)</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Floyd C. Wilson<br>Chairman of the Board and<br>Chief Executive Officer            | 2014        | \$ 750,000       | \$ 322,500      | \$ 2,058,065           |                             | \$ 27,461                        | \$ 3,158,026 |
|  | 2013        | \$ 750,000       |                 | \$ 1,950,015           | \$ 1,559,181                | \$ 30,042                        | \$ 4,289,238 |
|  | 2012        | \$ 450,000       | \$ 1,200,000    | \$ 354,550             | \$ 1,237,100                | \$ 24,651                        | \$ 3,266,301 |
| Stephen W. Herod<br>President  | 2014        | \$ 450,000       | \$ 193,500      | \$ 1,140,473           |                             | \$ 25,975                        | \$ 1,809,948 |
|  | 2013        | \$ 450,000       |                 | \$ 1,000,035           | \$ 799,448                  | \$ 24,593                        | \$ 2,274,076 |
|  | 2012        | \$ 250,000       | \$ 800,000      | \$ 253,250             | \$ 1,053,938                | \$ 560                           | \$ 2,357,748 |
| Mark J. Mize<br>Executive Vice President, Chief<br>Financial Officer and Treasurer | 2014        | \$ 400,000       | \$ 172,000      | \$ 997,882             |                             | \$ 31,266                        | \$ 1,601,148 |
|  | 2013        | \$ 400,000       |                 | \$ 875,004             | \$ 699,692                  | \$ 29,254                        | \$ 2,003,950 |
|  | 2012        | \$ 262,500       | \$ 700,000      | \$ 253,250             | \$ 989,680                  | \$ 24,497                        | \$ 2,229,927 |
| Charles E. Cusack III<br>Executive Vice President and<br>Chief Operating Officer   | 2014        | \$ 400,000       | \$ 172,000      | \$ 776,185             |                             | \$ 25,996                        | \$ 1,374,181 |
|  | 2013        | \$ 400,000       |                 | \$ 487,486             | \$ 389,678                  | \$ 24,593                        | \$ 1,301,757 |
| Tina S. Obut<br>Senior Vice President,<br>Corporate Reserves                       | 2014        | \$ 275,000       | \$ 261,200      | \$ 454,554             | \$ 488,675                  | \$ 19,452                        | \$ 1,498,881 |

(1) Represents actual base salary paid in the year.

(2) Comprised of annual cash incentive bonus paid subsequent to year end for prior year performance.

(3) Represents the grant date fair value of awards granted during the indicated year, as determined in accordance with ASC Topic 718. Pursuant to SEC rules, the amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions. Please see the discussion of the assumptions made in the valuation of these awards in "Note 12 Stockholders' Equity" to the audited



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consolidated financial statements included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. See the "*Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2014*" table for information on awards made in 2014. Generally, the full grant date fair value is the amount that we would expense in our financial statements over the award's vesting schedule. These amounts reflect our accounting expense, and do not correspond to the actual value that will be recognized by the named executive officers.

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(4)

For 2014, the amounts reported for "All Other Compensation" include amounts provided to the named executive officers as outlined in the table below, with respect to (a) the matching contribution that we make on account of employee contributions under our 401(k) Savings Plan, (b) premiums paid by the Company for executive long-term disability insurance, (c) tax gross-ups for life insurance and parking payments, and (d) country club memberships paid by the Company for Messrs. Wilson and Mize.

| Named Executive Officer | All Other Compensation (\$) |       |       |        |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
|                         | (a)                         | (b)   | (c)   | (d)    |
| Floyd C. Wilson         | 23,000                      | 1,593 | 1,424 | 1,444  |
| Stephen W. Herod        | 23,000                      | 1,593 | 1,382 |        |
| Mark J. Mize            | 17,500                      | 1,593 | 1,336 | 10,837 |
| Charles E. Cusack III   | 23,000                      | 1,593 | 1,403 |        |
| Tina S. Obut            | 17,500                      | 1,593 | 359   |        |

*Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2014*

The table below sets forth information regarding grants of plan-based awards made to our named executive officers during 2014:

| Name                  | Grant Date | Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards |           |                | Type of Award(2) | Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh)(3) | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards(4) |
|-----------------------|------------|---|-----------|----------------|------------------|--|---|
|                       |            | Threshold(1)  | Target(#) | Maximum (#)(1) |                  |  |   |
| Floyd C. Wilson       | 2/27/2014  | 334,102   | 668,203   | 1,336,406      | PSU              |  | \$ 2,058,065  |
| Stephen W. Herod      | 2/27/2014  | 132,560   | 265,120   | 530,240        | PSU              |  | \$ 816,570  |
|                       | 2/27/2014  |   | 88,257    |                | Restricted Stock |  | \$ 323,903  |
| Mark J. Mize          | 2/27/2014  | 115,987   | 231,973   | 463,946        | PSU              |  | \$ 714,477  |
|                       | 2/27/2014  |   | 77,222    |                | Restricted Stock |  | \$ 283,405  |
| Charles E. Cusack III | 2/27/2014  | 90,184  | 180,368   | 360,736        | PSU              |  | \$ 555,533  |
|                       | 2/27/2014  |   | 60,123    |                | Restricted Stock |  | \$ 220,651  |
| Tina S. Obut          | 2/27/2014  |   | 177,400   |                | Options          | \$ 3.67  | \$ 308,219  |
|                       | 2/27/2014  |   | 74,930    |                | Restricted Stock |  | \$ 274,993  |
|                       | 12/8/2014  |   | 268,500   |                | Options          | \$ 1.57  | \$ 180,456  |
|                       | 12/8/2014  |   | 114,370   |                | Restricted Stock |  | \$ 179,561  |

(1)

For performance units awarded under the Plan, the "Threshold" payout amount assumes a minimum stock price of \$4.00 being achieved during the measurement period at the end of the three year vesting date of the performance units, while the "Target" and "Maximum" payout amounts assume a minimum stock price of \$7.00 and \$10.00, respectively at such time. Restricted stock and stock options granted under the Plan provide only for the specified number of shares appearing under the "Target" heading upon vesting or exercise. With respect to these awards, there are no minimum or maximum amounts payable; thus, there are no thresholds or maximums (or equivalent items) applicable to these awards.

(2)

Represents shares of restricted stock, stock options or performance units (PSU) issued under the Plan. The shares of restricted stock and stock options vest in three equal installments on each anniversary of the date of grant, beginning on the first anniversary of the date of grant, in each case, provided that the recipient has been continuously employed at such date. The performance units vest in one installment on the third anniversary of the date of grant; provided, that the average adjusted closing price of a share of our common

stock during the sixty trading days preceding the vesting date is equal to or greater than \$4.00.

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(3) The exercise price of each award is equal to the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant.

(4) Represents the full grant date fair value determined in accordance with ASC Topic 718. Please see the discussion of the assumptions made in the valuation of these awards in "Note 12 Stockholders' Equity" to the audited consolidated financial statements included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. Generally, the full grant date fair value is the amount that we would expense in our financial statements over the award's vesting schedule. These amounts reflect our accounting expense, and do not correspond to the actual value that will be recognized by the named executive officers.

*Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2014*

The following table summarizes the number of securities underlying outstanding plan awards for each named executive officer as of December 31, 2014:

| Name                  | Option Awards   |  |                       |                        | Stock Awards   |  |  | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of     |
|-----------------------|---|--|-----------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|---|
|                       | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options(1) | Option Exercise Price | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested(1) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested(2) | Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units Or Rights That Have Not Vested(3) | Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested |
| Floyd C. Wilson       | 83,334  | 41,666   | \$ 10.13              | 6/7/2022               | 11,666   | \$ 20,765  |  | \$  |
|                       | 166,667   | 83,333   | \$ 5.48               | 11/8/2022              |  | \$   |  | \$  |
|                       | 222,467   | 444,933  | \$ 7.10               | 2/28/2023              | 183,100  | \$ 325,918   |  | \$  |
|                       |   |  | \$                    |                        |  |  | 668,203  | \$  |
| Stephen W. Herod      | 66,667  | 33,333   | \$ 10.13              | 6/07/2022              | 8,333  | \$ 14,833  |  | \$  |
|                       | 150,000   | 75,000   | \$ 5.48               | 11/08/2022             |  | \$   |  | \$  |
|                       | 114,067   | 228,133  | \$ 7.10               | 2/28/2023              | 93,900   | \$ 167,142   |  | \$  |
|                       |   |  |                       |                        | 88,257   | \$ 157,907   | 265,120  | \$  |
| Mark J. Mize          | 66,667  | 33,333   | \$ 10.13              | 6/07/2022              | 8,333  | \$ 14,833  |  | \$  |
|                       | 133,334   | 66,666   | \$ 5.48               | 11/08/2022             |  | \$   |  | \$  |
|                       | 99,834  | 199,666  | \$ 7.10               | 2/28/2023              | 82,160   | \$ 146,245   |  | \$  |
|                       |   |  |                       |                        | 77,222   | \$ 137,455   | 231,973  | \$  |
| Charles E. Cusack III | 23,334  | 11,666   | \$ 5.48               | 11/08/2022             | 3,333  | \$ 5,933   |  | \$  |
|                       | 55,600  | 111,200  | \$ 7.10               | 2/28/2023              | 45,773   | \$ 81,476  |  | \$  |
|                       |   |  |                       |                        | 60,123   | \$ 107,019   | 180,368  | \$  |
| Tina S. Obut          | 35,634  | 71,266   | \$ 7.10               | 2/28/2023              | 29,340   | \$ 52,225  |  | \$  |
|                       |   | 177,400  | \$ 3.67               | 2/27/2024              | 74,930   | \$ 133,375   |  | \$  |
|                       |   | 268,500  | \$ 1.57               | 12/8/2024              | 114,370  | \$ 203,579   |  | \$  |

(1)

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Stock option and restricted stock awards held by executives vest in three equal installments on each anniversary of the date of grant, beginning on the first anniversary of the date of grant, provided that the recipient has been continuously employed at such date.

(2)

Calculated based upon the closing market price of our common stock as of December 31, 2014, the last trading day of our 2014 fiscal year (\$1.78) multiplied by the number of unvested awards at year end.

(3)

Represents unvested performance units at the threshold number of shares that may be earned. Performance units vest in one installment on the third anniversary of the date of grant; provided, that the average adjusted closing price of a share of our common stock during the sixty trading days preceding the vesting date is equal to or greater than \$4.00.

Table of Contents*Long-Term Incentive Awards Subsequent to Fiscal Year End*

Subsequent to December 31, 2014, as part of the analysis of executive compensation that is undertaken annually by our Compensation Committee, we granted awards to each named executive officer of long-term equity incentives under the Plan. These incentives were in the form of grants of restricted stock and non-qualified stock options. The restricted stock grants and non-qualified stock options vest in three equal annual increments beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date. The number of shares covered by the equity awards for each named executive officer are set forth in the table below, except for Ms. Obut who received her equity award in December 2014. The exercise price per share for each stock option reflected in the following table is \$1.97, which was the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant, February 26, 2015.

| Name                  | Stock Option Award (#) | Restricted Stock Award (#) |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Floyd C. Wilson       | 1,238,987              | 528,169                    |
| Stephen W. Herod      | 450,991                | 192,254                    |
| Mark J. Mize          | 447,137                | 190,610                    |
| Charles E. Cusack III | 385,463                | 164,319                    |
| Tina S. Obut          |                        |                            |

*Option Exercises and Stock Vested*

The following table summarizes option exercises and the vesting of restricted stock for our named executive officers in 2014:

| Name                  | Option Awards                         |                               | Stock Awards                         |                              |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                       | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise | Value Realized on Exercise(1) | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting | Value Realized on Vesting(2) |
| Floyd C. Wilson       |                                       |                               | 103,217                              | \$ 423,474                   |
| Stephen W. Herod      |                                       |                               | 55,283                               | \$ 232,211                   |
| Mark J. Mize          |                                       |                               | 49,413                               | \$ 209,846                   |
| Charles E. Cusack III |                                       |                               | 26,220                               | \$ 97,998                    |
| Tina S. Obut          |                                       |                               | 14,670                               | \$ 55,893                    |

(1) The value realized upon the exercise of the option award is determined by multiplying the number of shares acquired on exercise by the difference between the market price of the stock at exercise and the exercise price of the option.

(2) The value realized equals the fair market value of our common stock on the date of vesting, multiplied by the number of shares vested.

Table of Contents*Equity Compensation Plan Information*

The following table sets forth certain information as of December 31, 2014 with respect to compensation plans (including individual compensation arrangements) under which our equity securities are authorized for issuance:

| <b>Plan Category</b>                                       | <b>Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options and Rights(A)</b> | <b>Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options and Rights</b> | <b>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column(A))</b> |
|--|---|--|---|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders(1)  | 30,872,309(2) \$  | 5.05   | 5,085,687   |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders |   |  |   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>30,872,309(2) \$</b>   | <b>5.05</b>  | <b>5,085,687</b>  |

(1) Represents information for the First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan.

(2) Includes 10,344,459 shares of restricted stock not yet vested.

*Stock Ownership Policy*

Our board of directors has adopted an Amended and Restated Stock Ownership Guidelines Policy (the "Policy") applicable to our board of directors, chief executive officer, president and each executive vice president to ensure that they maintain a meaningful economic stake in the Company. The Policy is designed to maintain stock ownership of our directors and the specified officers at a significant level so as to further align their interests with the interests of our stockholders in value creation. Subject to the exceptions noted below, our directors are required to hold a number of shares of our common stock valued at three times (3x) the annual cash retainer paid to them by the Company, our chief executive officer is required to hold a number of shares of our common stock valued at six times (6x) the base salary paid to him by the Company and the other specified officers are required to hold a number of shares of our common stock valued at three times (3x) the base salaries paid to them by the Company. For purposes of calculating the value of shares owned, each share of stock shall have a deemed value equal to the greater of the price at acquisition or the current market value. For purposes of calculating the value of unvested restricted shares, the value shall be determined without giving effect to the restriction.

Under the Policy, our directors and officers have five years to comply with the ownership requirement starting from the date the person first became a member of the board of directors or officer, subject to the Policy, as applicable. Until the applicable stock ownership level is attained, persons subject to the Policy are required to retain 100% of shares of common stock received as a result of the exercise of stock options or vesting of shares of restricted stock, in each case net of shares sold to pay applicable withholding taxes and, in the case of an option, the exercise price. Directors that are employed by entities that prohibit them from owning shares of Company stock individually are exempt from compliance with the Policy. Other deviations or waivers from the Policy must be approved by the board of directors upon a recommendation from our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

Table of Contents**DIRECTOR COMPENSATION****2014 Director Compensation**

The table below sets forth certain information concerning the compensation earned in 2014 by our non-employee directors for service on our board of directors during 2014:

| Name               | Fees Earned or<br>Paid in Cash | Stock<br>Awards(1)(2) | Option<br>Awards | All Other<br>Compensation | Total(3)   |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Tucker S. Bridwell | \$ 70,000                      | \$ 160,461            | \$               | \$                        | \$ 230,461 |
| James W. Christmas | \$ 80,000                      | \$ 160,461            | \$               | \$                        | \$ 240,461 |
| Thomas R. Fuller   | \$ 77,500                      | \$ 160,461            | \$               | \$                        | \$ 237,961 |
| Kevin E. Godwin    | \$ 67,500                      | \$ 160,461            | \$               | \$                        | \$ 227,961 |
| David S. Hunt      | \$ 65,000                      | \$ 160,461            | \$               | \$                        | \$ 225,461 |
| James L. Irish III | \$ 135,000                     | \$ 160,461            | \$               | \$                        | \$ 295,461 |
| David B. Miller    | \$ 60,000                      | \$ 160,461            | \$               | \$                        | \$ 220,461 |
| Daniel A. Rioux    | \$ 70,000                      | \$ 160,461            | \$               | \$                        | \$ 230,461 |
| Stephen P. Smiley  | \$ 80,978                      | \$ 160,461            | \$               | \$                        | \$ 241,439 |
| Michael A. Vlasic  | \$ 66,522                      | \$ 160,461            | \$               | \$                        | \$ 226,983 |
| Mark A. Welsh IV   | \$ 70,000                      | \$ 160,461            | \$               | \$                        | \$ 230,461 |

- (1) Represents the grant date fair value of awards granted during the indicated year, as determined in accordance with ASC Topic 718. Pursuant to SEC rules, the amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions. Please see the discussion of the assumptions made in the valuation of these awards in "Note 12 Stockholders' Equity" to the audited consolidated financial statements included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. Generally, the full grant date fair value is the amount that we would expense in our financial statements over the award's vesting schedule. These amounts reflect our accounting expense, and do not correspond to the actual value that will be recognized by our directors.
- (2) Prior to each calendar quarter, in lieu of cash fees for the quarter, directors may elect to receive shares of common stock having a value equal to the amount of such fees, calculated on the basis of the closing price of shares of our common stock on the NYSE on the last day of such quarter.
- (3) Represents the numerical sum of the dollar amounts reflected in each other column for each director.

The number of restricted stock awards subject to vesting, excluding shares received in lieu of fees, made to each of our directors for service as a director during 2014 was 28,300.

**2015 Director Compensation**

After consideration of various factors, including market conditions in our industry generally and the Compensation Committee's decisions relating to compensation of the Company's executive officers, the Compensation Committee recommended to our board of directors for approval, a reduction of the annual cash retainer from \$60,000 to \$40,000 and the targeted equity grant from \$160,000 to \$135,000 for non-employee directors. On February 25, 2015, the board of directors approved such reductions to non-employee director compensation. All other non-employee director compensation, including the annual retainer paid to the Lead Director, Committee Chairs and Committee Members, which are discussed in the table below, will remain the same for 2015.



Table of Contents*Discussion of Director Compensation Table*

Employee directors receive no additional compensation for service on our board of directors or any committee of the board of directors. All directors receive actual expense reimbursements associated with attending board and committee meetings. For 2014, our non-employee directors each received \$60,000 in cash per year (payable on a quarterly basis in the amount of \$15,000). Our director compensation program consists of two principal elements: (1) annual retainer and committee fees and (2) equity consisting of restricted stock awards. Our Compensation Committee reviews our director compensation program at least annually, and more frequently if circumstances warrant it, using the advice and information provided by our independent compensation consultant. Our lead independent director received an additional \$50,000 per year (payable on a quarterly basis in the amount of \$12,500). Additional annual compensation for each committee chairperson and committee member for all of the committees of our board of directors is set forth below:

| Board Committee                     | Committee Chairperson   |        | Committee Member<br>(excluding Chairperson) |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------|
|                                     | Additional Compensation |        | Additional Compensation                     |       |
| Audit                               | \$                      | 25,000 | \$  | 7,500 |
| Compensation                        | \$                      | 15,000 | \$  | 5,000 |
| Nominating and Corporate Governance | \$                      | 12,500 | \$  | 5,000 |
| Reserves                            | \$                      | 12,500 | \$  | 5,000 |

Fees are paid in four equal quarterly installments and board members may elect to take all or a portion of the cash compensation we pay to them in shares of our common stock, with the number of shares determined by dividing such fees by the trading price per share of our common stock on the last day of each calendar quarter. Any such election must be made prior to the beginning of the quarter for which the compensation is to be paid and is irrevocable for that quarter.

*First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan*

Non-employee directors are eligible to participate in the Plan discussed above under the heading "*Long-term Incentives 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan*." At the time an individual initially becomes a non-employee director, we grant such director the number shares of our restricted common stock the value of which equals \$50,000. In addition, effective on the date of the Company's annual meeting of stockholders, we grant to each director the number shares of our restricted common stock the value of which equals \$160,000. For the purposes of determining the value of the shares of restricted stock to be issued, the closing price of the Company's common stock as reported on the date of grant is used, and in calculating the number of shares of restricted stock to be issued, the number of shares is rounded up to the nearest 100 shares. Grants of restricted stock to non-employee directors vest on the six month anniversary of the date of grant (subject to acceleration in the event of a change of control) provided that the director serves continuously on our board of directors through the vesting date. At December 31, 2014, 822,200 non-employee director grants had been fully vested and no shares were not yet vested.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION**

Messrs. Bridwell, Rioux, Smiley and Vlastic served on the Compensation Committee of our board of directors from January 1, 2014 through the end of 2014. Mr. Welsh was added as a member of the Compensation Committee in January 2015. No member of the Compensation Committee during 2014 served as one of our officers or employees or of any of our subsidiaries during that year. In addition, during 2014, none of our executive officers served as a director or as a member of the compensation committee of a company which employs any of our directors.

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**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

We have reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement with management as required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K. Based on our review and discussion with management, we have recommended to the board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

Michael A. Vlastic (Chairman)

Tucker S. Bridwell

Daniel A. Rioux

Mark A. Welsh IV

*(The foregoing Compensation Committee Report does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed to be filed or incorporated by reference into any other filing of Halcón under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that Halcón specifically incorporates the Report by reference therein.)*

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**ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

*Audit Committee Report*

Dear Stockholder:

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management of Halcón and Deloitte & Touche LLP ("Deloitte"), the firm serving as the independent registered public accountant of Halcón, the audited financial statements of Halcón as of, and for the fiscal year ended, December 31, 2014 (the "Audited Financial Statements"). In addition, we have discussed with Deloitte the matters required to be discussed by the statement on Auditing Standard No. 61, as amended (AICPA, *Professional Standards*, Vol. 1. AU section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T.

The Audit Committee also has received the written disclosures and the letter from Deloitte required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (*Independence Discussions with Audit Committees*), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3600T, and the Committee has discussed with that firm its independence from Halcón. Upon such review, the Audit Committee has concluded that the independent registered public accountant is independent from Halcón and its management. We have also discussed with management of Halcón and Deloitte such other matters and received such assurances from them as we deemed appropriate.

Management is responsible for Halcón's internal controls and the financial reporting process. Deloitte is responsible for performing an independent audit of Halcón's financial statements and of its internal control over financial reporting in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and issuing a report thereon. The Audit Committee's responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes.

Based on the foregoing monitoring and oversight process, discussions with management and a review of the report of Deloitte with respect to the Audited Financial Statements, and relying thereon, the Committee has recommended to the board the inclusion of the Audited Financial Statements in Halcón's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 for filing with the SEC.

The Audit Committee has considered the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 with respect to the responsibilities of audit committees of public companies. The Audit Committee and the board of Halcón are committed to compliance with all provisions of that statute and related regulations. Actions will be taken by the Audit Committee and the board as statutory and regulatory provisions become effective for Halcón and for audit committees and independent registered public accountants generally.

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

James W. Christmas (Chairman)  
Kevin E. Godwin  
Mark A. Welsh IV

*(The foregoing Audit Committee Report does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other filing of Halcón under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that Halcón specifically incorporates the Report by reference therein.)*

Table of Contents*Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm*

Deloitte is the independent registered public accounting firm selected by our Audit Committee as the independent registered public accountant for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013. During the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, neither the Company nor anyone acting on its behalf consulted Deloitte with respect to the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed, or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the Company's consolidated financial statements, or any other matters or reportable events as defined in Items 304(a)(1)(iv) and (v) of Regulation S-K.

*Attendance at the Annual Meeting by Deloitte Representative*

A representative of Deloitte is expected to be present at the annual meeting of the stockholders. Deloitte will have the opportunity to make a statement if it desires to do so, and the Deloitte representative is expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

*Fees*

The following table presents fees billed for professional audit services rendered by Deloitte, our principal accounting firm for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013. The table also presents fees for other services rendered by Deloitte during those periods. Except as set forth below, we paid all such fees.

|                    | 2014                | 2013                |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Audit Fees         | \$ 1,633,900        | \$ 2,880,275        |
| Audit-Related Fees | 269,765             |                     |
| Tax Fees           |                     |                     |
| All Other Fees     |                     |                     |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>\$ 1,903,655</b> | <b>\$ 2,880,275</b> |

As used above, the following terms have the meanings set forth below:

**Audit Fees.** The fees for professional services rendered by Deloitte for the audit of our annual financial statements, for the review of the financial statements included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and for services that are normally provided by the accountants in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements and private placements, including but not limited to registration statements on Forms S-3, S-4 and S-8, for the years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013.

**Audit-Related Fees.** The fees for assurance and related services by Deloitte that are for audit and valuation services for a specific subsidiary that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements and are not otherwise reported under "Audit Fees."

**Tax Fees.** The fees for professional services rendered by Deloitte for tax compliance, tax advice, and tax planning.

**All Other Fees.** The fees for products and services provided by Deloitte, other than for the services reported under the headings "Audit Fees," "Audit-Related Fees" and "Tax Fees," for the period in question.

*Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policy*

All audit fees, audit-related fees and tax fees as described above for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 were pre-approved by our Audit Committee, which concluded that the provision of such services by Deloitte was compatible with the maintenance of their respective independence in the conduct of their auditing functions. Our Audit Committee's pre-approval policy provides that pre-approval of all such services must be approved separately by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has not delegated any such pre-approval authority to

anyone outside the Audit Committee. Each member of the Audit Committee has the authority to pre-approve non-audit services up to \$200,000 to be performed by our independent registered public accountant.

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**PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Our bylaws specify that we shall not have less than one nor more than fifteen directors, and each director holds office until the annual stockholders' meeting at which such director's class is up for re-election and until the director's successor is duly elected and qualified, or until such director's earlier death, resignation or removal. As of the date of this proxy statement, our board of directors consists of ten directors, nine of whom have been determined to be independent directors as set forth in the corporate governance rules of the NYSE codified in Section 303A of the NYSE Listed Company Manual. Our certificate of incorporation provides that our board of directors is classified into three classes: Class A, Class B and Class C, with the number of directors in each class being as nearly equal as possible, and each class being elected for a three-year term of office. As discussed more fully under "*Proposal 5 Approval to declassify our board of directors and provide for an annual election of directors*," our board of directors approved and is recommending that stockholders approve the declassification of our board of directors. The outcome of that vote will determine whether we declassify the board of directors and provide for annual elections of directors, beginning with the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders, or continue to have a classified board of directors. Mr. Hunt, a Class B director, informed the board of directors in March 2015 that he will serve out his current term but not stand for re-election at the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders. Mr. Hunt's decision not to stand for re-election is not related to any disagreement with management or the board of directors. Our Class B directors, Messrs. Bridwell, Godwin and Welsh have been nominated for re-election at the 2015 annual meeting of our stockholders to serve a term of three-years; however, if stockholders approve declassification of the board of directors, Messrs. Bridwell, Godwin and Welsh will serve a one-year term expiring in 2016. Additionally, if stockholders approve the declassification of our board of directors, all directors, including those elected prior to the effectiveness of the declassification, will stand for election annually beginning with the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders. If declassification is not approved by our stockholders, our directors will continue to serve until the expiration of their class term, being 2017 for Class A, 2016 for Class C, and, for those directors re-elected at the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders, 2018 for Class B.

If any nominee should for any reason become unable to serve prior to the date of the annual meeting, the shares represented by all valid proxies will be voted for the election of such other person as the board may designate as a replacement following recommendation by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, or the board may reduce the number of directors to eliminate the vacancy.

Additional information regarding Messrs. Bridwell, Godwin and Welsh, and all of our other directors, can be found under the "*Our Board of Directors and Its Committees*" section, the "*Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management*" section, and the "*Director Compensation*" section of this proxy statement.

***Votes Required***

Directors are elected by a plurality vote of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting, meaning that the director nominee with the most affirmative votes for a particular slot is elected for that slot. Any shares not voted (whether by withholding the vote, broker non-vote or otherwise) have no impact in the election of directors. If you sign your proxy card but do not give instructions with respect to the voting of directors, your shares will be voted for Messrs. Bridwell, Godwin and Welsh. However, if you hold your shares in street name and do not instruct your broker how to vote in the election of directors, your shares will constitute a broker non-vote and will not be voted for any of the nominees. See the section of this proxy statement entitled "*General Information Voting and Revocation of Proxies*."

**The board of directors unanimously proposes and recommends that you vote "FOR" each of the nominees for the re-election to the board of directors.**

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**PROPOSAL 2 APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO OUR AMENDED AND RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO EFFECT A ONE-FOR-FIVE (1:5) REVERSE STOCK SPLIT OF OUR COMMON STOCK**

**General**

On February 25, 2015, our board of directors adopted a resolution which authorizes, subject to stockholder approval, an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and such other action as the Company deems necessary to effect a one-for-five (1:5) reverse stock split of our common stock (the "Reverse Stock Split"). The text of the proposed amendment to effect the Reverse Stock Split is set forth below and such text is included in the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation attached to this proxy statement as Annex A (the "Proposed Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation"):

**"FOURTH:** The total number of shares of all classes of capital stock which the Corporation shall have authority to issue is 1,341,000,000, of which 1,340,000,000 shares shall be common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share ("**Common Stock**") and 1,000,000 shares shall be preferred stock, par value \$0.0001 per share ("**Preferred Stock**").

A. **Preferred Stock.** The Board of Directors is expressly granted authority to issue shares of the Preferred Stock, in one or more series, and to fix for each such series such voting powers, full or limited, and such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and such qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof as shall be stated and expressed in the resolution or resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors providing for the issue of such series (a "**Preferred Stock Designation**") and as may be permitted by the DGCL. The number of authorized shares of Preferred Stock may be increased or decreased (but not below the number of shares thereof then outstanding) by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the voting power of all of the then outstanding shares of the capital stock of the Corporation entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (the "**Voting Stock**"), voting together as a single class, without a separate vote of the holders of the Preferred Stock, or any series thereof, unless a vote of any such holders is required pursuant to any Preferred Stock Designation.

B. **Common Stock.** Except as otherwise required by law or as otherwise provided in any Preferred Stock Designation, the holders of the Common Stock shall exclusively possess all voting power and each share of Common Stock shall have one vote.

Effective as of 12:01 a.m., Eastern Time, on May 7, 2015 (the "**Effective Time**"), each five (5) shares of Common Stock of the Corporation issued and outstanding or held in treasury immediately prior to the Effective Time shall automatically be combined into one (1) validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Common Stock without any further action by the Corporation or by the holder thereof (the "**Reverse Stock Split**"). The Corporation shall not issue fractional shares of Common Stock or pay cash in respect thereof in connection with the Reverse Stock Split but, in lieu thereof, the aggregate number of shares of the Corporation's Common Stock issuable to each holder in connection with the Reverse Stock Split shall be rounded up to the next higher whole number of shares of Common Stock. At the Effective Time, there shall be no change in the number of authorized shares that the Corporation shall have the authority to issue. Following the Reverse Stock Split, each certificate that immediately prior to the Effective Time represented shares of Common Stock (the "**Old Certificates**") shall thereafter be deemed for all purposes, as a result of the Reverse Stock Split and without any action on the part of the holders thereof, to represent only that number of shares of Common Stock into which the shares of Common Stock represented by the Old Certificate shall have been combined pursuant to the Reverse Stock Split (subject to the treatment of fractional shares as set forth above)."

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The Reverse Stock Split amendment included in the Proposed Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation will effect the Reverse Stock Split by reducing the number of outstanding shares of common stock to approximately one-fifth of the number of outstanding shares immediately prior to the effectiveness of the Reverse Stock Split, but will not increase the par value of common stock, will not change the number of authorized shares of our capital stock, and will not change the relative voting power of our existing stockholders. If implemented, the number of shares of our common stock owned by each of our stockholders will be reduced by the same proportion as the reduction in the total number of shares of our common stock outstanding, so that the percentage of our outstanding common stock owned by each of our stockholders will remain approximately the same, except to the extent that the Reverse Stock Split could result in some or all of our stockholders receiving one share of common stock in lieu of a fractional share. The Reverse Stock Split would also affect (i) our outstanding stock options and shares of common stock issued under the First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan, (ii) the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion the 8.0% Convertible Note, including the amendments thereto if approved by our stockholders, and upon conversion of our 5.75% Series A Cumulative Perpetual Convertible Preferred Stock ("5.75% Convertible Preferred Stock"), and (iii) the number of shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the 2012 Warrants. Under these agreements, the number of shares of common stock deliverable upon exercise or grant must be appropriately adjusted and appropriate adjustments must be made to the purchase price per share to reflect the Reverse Stock Split.

***Background and Reasons for the Proposed Amendment***

The primary purpose for affecting the Reverse Stock Split would be to increase the per share price of our common stock. The board of directors believes that implementing the Reverse Stock Split would, among other things, help us to appeal to a broader range of investors to generate greater investor interest in the company and improve the perception of our common stock as an investment security.

***Certain Risks Associated with a Reverse Stock Split***

If the Reverse Stock Split is approved by the stockholders and is effected, some or all of the expected benefits discussed above may not be realized or maintained. The market price of our common stock will continue to be based, in part, on our operating results, financial condition, drilling activities, general conditions in the oil and natural gas exploration and development industry, general economic conditions, the securities markets and the other risk factors. If the Reverse Stock Split is effected and the market price of our common stock declines, the percentage decline as an absolute number and as a percentage of our overall market capitalization may be greater than would occur in the absence of the Reverse Stock Split. Furthermore, the reduced number of shares that will be outstanding after the Reverse Stock Split could significantly reduce the trading volume and otherwise adversely affect the liquidity of our common stock. The Reverse Stock Split will reduce the number of outstanding shares of our common stock without reducing the number of shares of available but unissued common stock, which will also have the effect of increasing the number of authorized but unissued shares of common stock. The issuance of additional shares of our common stock may have a dilutive effect on the ownership of existing stockholders.

***Principal Effects of a Reverse Stock Split***

Pursuant to the Reverse Stock Split, each holder of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to the effectiveness of the Reverse Stock Split ("Old Common Stock") will become the holder of fewer shares of our common stock ("New Common Stock") after consummation of the Reverse Stock Split. Although the Reverse Stock Split will not, by itself, impact our assets or prospects, the Reverse Stock Split could result in a decrease in the aggregate market value of our common stock. The board



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of directors believes that this risk is outweighed by the benefits of the Reverse Stock Split discussed above.

If effected, the Reverse Stock Split will result in some stockholders owning "odd-lots" of less than 100 shares of common stock. Brokerage commissions and other costs of transactions in odd-lots are generally higher than the costs of transactions in "round-lots" of even multiples of 100 shares.

Based on 431,357,746 shares of our common stock outstanding as of the record date, the following table reflects the approximate number of shares of our common stock that would be outstanding as a result of the Reverse Stock Split.

|  | Current Common<br>Stock Outstanding,<br>Issuable or Reserved | Common Stock<br>Outstanding,<br>Issuable or Reserved<br>Following Reverse<br>Stock Split |
|--|--|--|
| Shares of common stock outstanding   | 431,357,746  | 86,271,550   |
| Shares of common stock available for future issuance under our 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan(1)    | 1,831,074  | 366,214  |
| Shares of common stock available for issuance upon conversion of 5.75% Convertible Preferred Stock | 55,386,599   | 11,077,320   |
| Shares of common stock available for upon conversion of the 8.0% Convertible Note(2)               | 64,370,882   | 12,874,177   |
| Shares of common stock available for issuance upon exercise of the 2012 Warrants                   | 36,666,667   | 7,333,334  |
| Total shares of common stock outstanding, issuable or reserved for issuance                        | 614,240,242  | 122,848,049  |
| Remaining authorized and unissued shares of common stock   | 725,759,758  | 1,217,151,951  |

(1) Does not reflect potential increase in shares of common stock available for issuance pursuant to Proposal No. 3 of this proxy statement.

(2) Does not reflect potential increase in shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the 8.0% Convertible Note pursuant to Proposal No. 4 of this proxy statement.

The Reverse Stock Split will affect all stockholders equally and will not affect any stockholder's proportionate equity interest in the Company, except for those stockholders who receive an additional share of our common stock in lieu of a fractional share. None of the rights currently accruing to holders of our common stock will be affected by the Reverse Stock Split. Following the Reverse Stock Split, each share of New Common Stock will entitle the holder thereof to one vote per share and will otherwise be identical to the Old Common Stock. The Reverse Stock Split also will not reduce the number of authorized shares of our common stock. The shares of New Common Stock will be fully paid and non-assessable.

The par value per share of the common stock will remain unchanged at \$0.0001 per share after the Reverse Stock Split. As a result, on the effective date of the Reverse Stock Split, if any, the stated capital on our balance sheet attributable to the common stock will be reduced proportionately based on the one-to-five Reverse Stock Split ratio, from its present amount, and the additional paid-in capital account will be credited with the amount by which the stated capital is reduced. After the Reverse Stock Split, net income or loss per share and other per share amounts will be increased because there will be fewer shares of our common stock outstanding. In future financial statements, net income or loss per share and other per share amounts for periods ending before the Reverse Stock Split would be recast to give retroactive effect to the Reverse Stock Split. As described below under "Effects of the Reverse Stock Split on Outstanding Options Under the First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan, the 8.0% Convertible Note, the Warrants and the 5.75% Convertible Preferred Stock," the

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per share exercise price of outstanding option awards under the First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan and the Warrants and the conversion price of principal and accrued but unpaid interest on the 8.0% Convertible Note would increase proportionately, and the number of shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding options and Warrants and upon the conversion of the 8.0% Convertible Note would decrease proportionately, in each case based on the one-to-five Reverse Stock Split ratio. Similarly, the number of shares of our common stock issuable upon the conversion of the 5.75% Convertible Preferred Stock would decrease proportionately, as discussed in more detail below.

We are currently authorized to issue a maximum of 1,340,000,000 shares of our common stock. As of the record date, there were 431,357,746 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding. Although the number of authorized shares of our common stock will not change as a result of the Reverse Stock Split, the number of shares of our common stock issued and outstanding will be reduced by 80%. Thus, the Reverse Stock Split will effectively increase the number of authorized and unissued shares of our common stock available for future issuance by the amount of the reduction effected by the Reverse Stock Split. Conversely, with respect to the number of shares reserved for issuance under our First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan, our board of directors will proportionately reduce such reserve in accordance with the terms of the Plan, including any increase to the number of shares of common stock that may be issued pursuant to stockholder approval of Proposal No. 3 of this proxy statement. As of the record date, there were 33,852,938 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan, of which 1,831,074 remained available for future awards, and following the Reverse Stock Split, if any, such reserve will be reduced to 6,770,587 shares of common stock, of which approximately 366,214 will be available for future awards.

***Effects of the Reverse Stock Split on Outstanding Options Under the First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan, the 8.0% Convertible Note, the Warrants and the 5.75% Convertible Preferred Stock***

***2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan.*** If the Reverse Stock Split is effected, all outstanding options entitling holders to purchase shares of our common stock will be proportionately reduced by our board of directors in the same ratio as the reduction in the number of shares of outstanding common stock, except that any fractional shares resulting from such reduction will be rounded down to the nearest whole share to comply with the requirements of Code Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). Correspondingly, the per share exercise price of such options will be increased in direct proportion to the Reverse Stock Split ratio, so that the aggregate dollar amount payable for the purchase of the shares subject to the options will not be impacted by the Reverse Stock Split.

***8.0% Convertible Note and 2012 Warrants.*** On February 8, 2012, we issued the 8.0% Convertible Note in the principal amount of \$275.0 million and the 2012 Warrants to purchase 36.7 million shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$4.50 to HALRES. As discussed below under "*Proposal 4 Approval of, in accordance with Section 312.03 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual, the issuance of additional shares of Halcón common stock to HALRES LLC upon conversion of our 8.0% senior convertible note and exercise of the warrants,*" the Company is seeking approval from its stockholders for the issuance of an increased number of shares of common stock upon conversion of the 8.0% Convertible Note and the exercise of the 2012 Warrants held by HALRES in connection with an amendment of those instruments that would, among other things, extend the maturity of the 8.0% Convertible Note by three years.

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If the Reverse Stock Split is effected, the conversion rate of the 8.0% Convertible Note (either \$2.44 per share or \$4.50 per share, depending on whether Proposal No. 4 is approved by the stockholders) will automatically be increased in direct proportion to the Reverse Stock Split ratio, so that the number of shares issuable upon conversion of the 8.0% Convertible Note for the aggregate dollar amount of principal and accrued but unpaid interest will not be impacted by the Reverse Stock Split. Correspondingly, the exercise price per share for the 2012 Warrants (either \$2.44 per share or \$4.50 per share, depending on whether Proposal No. 4 is approved by the stockholders) will automatically be adjusted in the same ratio as the reduction in the number of shares of outstanding common stock such that the aggregate dollar amount payable for the purchase of the shares subject to the 2012 Warrants will not be impacted by the Reverse Stock Split.

*5.75% Convertible Preferred Stock.* If the Reverse Stock Split is effected, the conversion rate for the 5.75% Convertible Preferred Stock will automatically be increased in direct proportion to the Reverse Stock Split ratio, so that the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the 5.75% Convertible Preferred Stock will be decreased in direct proportion to the Reverse Stock Split ratio.

***Increase of Shares of Common Stock Available for Future Issuance***

As a result of the Reverse Stock Split, there will be a reduction in the number of shares of our common stock issued and outstanding, and an associated increase in the number of authorized shares that would be unissued and available for future issuance after the Reverse Stock Split. Such shares could be used for any proper corporate purpose approved by the board of directors including, among other purposes, future financing transactions.

***Effective Date of Reverse Stock Split***

The Reverse Stock Split, if approved by our stockholders, will become effective at 12:01 a.m., Eastern Time, on May 7, 2015 as set forth in the Proposed Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation. The Proposed Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, which incorporates the Reverse Stock Split amendment, will be filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware promptly following the approval of the Reverse Stock Split by our stockholders.

***Effect on Registered and Beneficial Stockholders***

Upon the Reverse Stock Split, the Company intends to treat stockholders holding shares of our common stock in "street name" (that is, held through a bank, broker or other nominee) in the same manner as stockholders of record whose shares of common stock are registered in their names. Banks, brokers or other nominees will be instructed to effect the Reverse Stock Split for their beneficial holders holding shares of our common stock in "street name;" however, these banks, brokers or other nominees may apply their own specific procedures for processing the Reverse Stock Split. If you hold your shares of our common stock with a bank, broker or other nominee, and have any questions in this regard, the Company encourages you to contact your bank, broker or nominee.

***Effect on "Book-Entry" Stockholders of Record***

Our stockholders of record may hold some or all of their shares electronically in book-entry form. These stockholders will not have stock certificates evidencing their ownership of our common stock. They are, however, provided with a statement reflecting the number of shares of common stock registered in their accounts.

If you hold registered shares of Old Common Stock in book-entry form, you do not need to take any action to receive your shares of New Common Stock in registered book-entry form, if applicable. A transaction statement will automatically be sent to your address of record as soon as practicable after

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the effective date of the Reverse Stock Split indicating the number of shares of New Common Stock you hold.

***Effect on Registered Certificated Shares***

Some stockholders of record hold their shares of our common stock in certificate form or a combination of certificate and book-entry form. If any of your shares of our common stock are held in certificate form, you will receive a transmittal letter from the Company's transfer agent as soon as practicable after the effective date of the Reverse Stock Split, if any. The transmittal letter will be accompanied by instructions specifying how to exchange your certificate representing the Old Common Stock for a statement of holding or a certificate of New Common Stock.

**STOCKHOLDERS SHOULD NOT DESTROY ANY SHARE CERTIFICATE(S) AND SHOULD NOT SUBMIT ANY CERTIFICATE(S) UNTIL REQUESTED TO DO SO.**

***No Appraisal Rights***

Under the DGCL, the Company's stockholders are not entitled to appraisal rights with respect to the Reverse Stock Split.

***Votes Required***

Pursuant to Section 242 of the DGCL, approval of Proposal No. 2 requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of all our outstanding common stock entitled to vote. Abstentions and broker non-votes are considered shares of stock present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting and entitled to vote and are counted in determining the number of votes necessary for a majority. An abstention will therefore have the practical effect of voting against Proposal No. 2 because it represents one less vote for approval.

**The board of directors unanimously proposes and recommends that you vote "FOR" this Proposal No. 2.**

**PROPOSAL 3 APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO OUR FIRST AMENDED AND RESTATED 2012 LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN**

At the annual meeting, stockholders will be asked to approve an amendment to the Halcón Resources Corporation First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan, which we refer to as the Plan, to increase the number of shares of our common stock authorized to be issued under the Plan by 40,000,000 shares (8,000,000 shares if the Reverse Stock Split is approved and implemented). The Plan was initially established effective May 8, 2006, and was then called the "RAM Energy Resources, Inc. 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan." Following our recapitalization in February 2012, the Plan was amended and restated and renamed the "Halcón Resources Corporation 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan" effective May 17, 2012, which was approved by the Company's stockholders at the Company's 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders held May 17, 2012. Effective February 27, 2013, we again amended and restated the Plan to conform certain provisions relating to a participant's exercise of certain awards under the Plan to the methods of notice and exercise offered by the Company through the online platform provided by a third party administrator of awards under the Plan. Our stockholders approved an amendment to the Plan to increase the number of shares of common stock that may be issued under the Plan at our annual stockholders meeting held on May 23, 2013.

***Description and Text of the Proposed Amendment***

Our board of directors has determined that, to give our Company the ability to attract and retain the executive and key employee talent necessary for our continued growth and success, the number of

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shares of our common stock available for issuance under the Plan should be increased by 40,000,000 shares (8,000,000 shares if the Reverse Stock Split is approved and implemented), and is proposing an amendment to effect such an increase. In evaluating the amount of the increase in the shares available under the Plan, the Compensation Committee and the board of directors considered the headcount of the Company, which increased significantly since 2013; that during 2013 and 2014 awards covering a total of 30,113,440 shares were made such that 5,085,687 shares remained under the Plan at December 31, 2014, and the significance of equity awards as a component of overall compensation. However, since that date, we granted restricted stock awards and options under the Plan and reserved shares for new hire awards, reducing the number of shares available for award under the Plan to 1,831,074 as of March 17, 2015. In approving and recommending the increase in the Plan, the Compensation Committee and the board of directors concluded it was advisable in and in the best interests of the Company to increase the Plan to provide the Company with maximum flexibility to use equity awards to continue to support the Company's growth strategy and maintain its ability to attract and retain talented executives and employees. Because the amount and timing of specific equity awards in the future is dependent on the Company's headcount, management performance, competitive compensation practices, our stock price and a variety of other factors, some of which are beyond our control, it is not possible to determine when or if the currently proposed increase in shares under the Plan will be exhausted or the amount of subsequent dilution that may ultimately result from such awards.

To effect the increase in the aggregate number of shares of our common stock that may be issued under the Plan, it is proposed that the first sentence of Section 1.3 of the Plan be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

"Subject to the limitations set forth herein, Awards may be made under this Plan for a total of 81,500,000 shares (16,300,000 shares if the Reverse Stock Split is approved and implemented) of the Company's common stock, par value \$.0001 per share (the "Common Stock")."

It is also proposed that Section 4.1(a) of the Plan be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

"(a) Subject to Article XII, (i) the aggregate number of shares of Common Stock made subject to the grant of Options and/or SARs to any Eligible Employee in any calendar year may not exceed 3,400,000 and (ii) the maximum aggregate number of shares that may be issued under the Plan through Incentive Stock Options is 81,500,000 (16,300,000 if the Reverse Stock Split is approved and implemented)."

***Summary of Principal Terms of the Plan***

The following is a summary description of the material features of the Plan, as proposed to be amended. The statements made in this proxy statement regarding the amendment to Plan should be read in conjunction with and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the Plan, a copy of which is available as Exhibit 10.01 to the Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 4, 2013, as amended by Amendment No. 1 to the Plan, a copy of which is available as Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 29, 2013. Prior filings with the SEC are available through our website at [www.halconresources.com](http://www.halconresources.com) or in printed form upon request by any stockholder.

The Plan currently is effective until May 16, 2022. The purposes of the Plan are to create incentives which are designed to motivate participants to put forth maximum effort toward our success and growth and to enable us to attract and retain experienced individuals who, by their position, ability and diligence are able to make important contributions to our success.

Under the Plan, we may grant stock options, restricted stock awards, restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights, performance units, performance bonuses, stock awards and other incentive awards

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to our employees or those of our subsidiaries or affiliates. We may also grant nonqualified stock options, restricted stock awards, restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights, performance units, stock awards and other incentive awards to any persons rendering consulting or advisory services and non-employee directors, subject to the conditions set forth in the Plan. Generally, all classes of our employees are eligible to participate in the Plan.

The Plan currently provides that a maximum of 41.5 million shares of our common stock may be issued in conjunction with awards granted under the Plan. At December 31, 2014, approximately 5.1 million shares of our common stock remained available for awards to be granted under the Plan. However, since that date, we granted restricted stock awards and options under the Plan and reserved shares for new hire awards, reducing the number of shares available for award under the Plan to 1,831,074 as of March 17, 2015. If the Plan is amended as proposed herein, approximately 41.8 million shares of our common stock would be available for new awards to be granted under the Plan, which number would be reduced to 8,366,214 if the Reverse Stock Split is approved. Awards that are forfeited under the Plan will again be eligible for issuance as though the forfeited awards had never been issued. Similarly, awards settled in cash will not be counted against the shares authorized for issuance upon exercise of awards under the Plan.

The Plan currently provides that a maximum of 41.5 million shares of our common stock could be issued in conjunction with incentive stock options granted under the Plan. The Plan also limits the aggregate number of shares of our common stock that may be issued in conjunction with stock options and/or stock appreciation rights to any eligible employee in any calendar year to 3.4 million shares. The Plan also limits the aggregate number of shares of our common stock that may be issued in conjunction with the grant of restricted stock awards, restricted stock unit awards, performance unit awards, stock awards and other incentive awards to any eligible employee in any calendar year to 3.4 million shares.

***Administration***

The Compensation Committee of our board of directors administers the Plan. The members of our Compensation Committee serve at the pleasure of our board of directors. With respect to awards to be made to any of our non-employee directors, the Compensation Committee will make recommendations to our board of directors as to:

which of such persons should be granted awards;

the terms of proposed grants or awards to those selected by our board of directors to participate;

the exercise price for options and stock appreciation rights; and

any limitations, restrictions and conditions upon any awards.

Any award to any of our directors under the Plan must be approved by our board of directors.

In connection with the administration of the Plan, the Compensation Committee, with respect to awards to be made to any officer, employee or consultant who is not one of our non-employee directors, will:

determine which employees and other persons will be granted awards under the Plan;

grant the awards to those selected to participate;

determine the exercise price for options and stock appreciation rights; and

prescribe any limitations, restrictions and conditions upon any awards.



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In addition, our Compensation Committee will:

interpret the Plan; and

make all other determinations and take all other actions that may be necessary or advisable to implement and administer the Plan.

*Types of Awards*

The Plan permits the Compensation Committee to make several types of awards and grants, including awards of shares of restricted stock, awards of restricted stock units, the grant of options to purchase shares of our common stock, awards of stock appreciation rights, or SARs, awards of performance units, awards of performance bonuses, stock awards and other incentive awards.

*Restricted Stock.* Restricted shares of our common stock may be granted under the Plan subject to such terms and conditions, including forfeiture and vesting provisions, and restrictions against sale, transfer or other disposition as our board of directors or the Compensation Committee may determine to be appropriate at the time of making the award. In addition to any time vesting conditions determined by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee, vesting and/or the grant of restricted stock awards may be subject to our achievement of specified performance criteria based upon our achievement of certain operational, financial or stock performance criteria. In addition, our board of directors or the Compensation Committee may direct that share certificates representing restricted stock be inscribed with a legend as to the restrictions on sale, transfer or other disposition, and may direct that the certificates, along with a stock power signed in blank by the employee, be delivered to and held by us until such restrictions lapse. Shares of restricted stock will immediately vest upon the occurrence of a change of control. Our board of directors or the Compensation Committee, in its discretion, may provide for a modification or acceleration of shares of restricted stock in the event of death or permanent disability of the employee, or for such other reasons as our board of directors or the Compensation Committee may deem appropriate in the event of the termination of employment of the covered employee.

*Restricted Stock Units.* A restricted stock unit entitles the recipient to receive a payment from us, following the lapse of restrictions on the award, equal to the fair market value of a share of our common stock. The Plan provides for payment in the form of shares of our common stock or cash. Restricted stock units may be granted under the Plan subject to such terms and conditions, including forfeiture and vesting provisions, as our board of directors or the Compensation Committee may determine to be appropriate at the time of making the award. In addition to any time vesting conditions determined by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee, vesting and/or the grant of restricted stock units may be subject to our achievement of specified performance criteria based upon our achievement of certain operational, financial or stock performance criteria. Restricted stock units would immediately vest upon the occurrence of a change of control. Our board of directors or the Compensation Committee, in its discretion, may provide for a modification or acceleration of restricted stock units in the event of death or permanent disability of the employee, or for such other reasons as our board of directors or the Compensation Committee may deem appropriate in the event of the termination of employment of the covered employee.

The Plan also permits our board of directors or Compensation Committee to grant tandem cash dividend rights or dividend unit rights with respect to restricted stock units. A cash dividend right is a contingent right to receive an amount in cash equal to the cash distributions made by us with respect to a share of our common stock during the period the tandem restricted stock unit is outstanding. A grant of cash dividend rights may provide that such cash payments shall be paid directly to the participant at the time of payment of the related dividend, be credited to a bookkeeping account subject to the same vesting and payment provisions as the tandem restricted stock unit award (with or without interest in the discretion of our board of directors or Compensation Committee), or be subject to such other



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provisions or restrictions as determined in the discretion of our board of directors or Compensation Committee. A dividend unit right is a contingent right to have an additional number of restricted stock units credited to a participant in respect of a restricted stock unit award equal to the number of shares of our common stock that could be purchased at fair market value with the amount of each cash distribution made by us with respect to a share of our common stock during the period the tandem restricted stock unit is outstanding. A grant of dividend unit rights may provide that such dividend unit rights shall be subject to the same vesting and payment provisions as the tandem restricted stock unit award or be subject to such other provisions and restrictions as determined in the discretion of our board of directors or Compensation Committee.

*Stock Options.* Stock options are contractual rights entitling an optionee who has been granted a stock option to purchase a stated number of shares of our stock at an exercise price per share determined at the date of the grant. Options are evidenced by stock option agreements with the respective optionees. The exercise price for each stock option granted under the Plan will be determined by our board of directors or the Compensation Committee at the time of the grant, but may not be less than the fair market value of our common stock on the date such stock option is granted. Either our board of directors or the Compensation Committee will also determine the duration of each option; however, no option may be exercisable more than ten years after the date the option is granted. Within the foregoing limitations, either our board of directors or the Compensation Committee may, in its discretion, impose limitations on the exercise of all or some options granted under our Plan, such as specifying minimum periods of time after grant during which options may not be exercised. The Plan provides for acceleration of the right of an individual employee to exercise his or her stock option in the event we experience a change of control. No cash consideration is payable to us in exchange for the grant of options.

The Plan provides that the stock options may either be Incentive Stock Options within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code, or Nonqualified Options, which are stock options other than Incentive Stock Options within the meaning of Sections 82 and 421 of the Code.

*Incentive Stock Options.* Incentive Stock Options may be granted only to our employees or employees of our subsidiaries, and must be granted at a per share option price not less than the fair market value of our common stock on the date the Incentive Stock Option is granted. In the case of an Incentive Stock Option granted to a stockholder who owns shares of our outstanding stock of all classes representing more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all of our outstanding stock of all classes entitled to vote in the election of directors, the per share option price may not be less than 110% of the fair market value of one share of our common stock on the date the Incentive Stock Option is granted and the term of such option may not exceed five years. As required by the Code, the aggregate fair market value, determined at the time an Incentive Stock Option is granted, of our common stock with respect to which Incentive Stock Options may be exercised by an optionee for the first time during any calendar year under all of our incentive stock option plans may not exceed \$100,000.

*Nonqualified Options.* Nonqualified Options are stock options which do not qualify as Incentive Stock Options. Nonqualified Options may be granted to our directors and consultants, as well as to our employees, or those directors, consultants, and employees of subsidiaries in which we have a controlling interest. The exercise price for Nonqualified Options will be determined by the Compensation Committee at the time the Nonqualified Options are granted, but may not be less than the fair market value of our common stock on the date the Nonqualified Option is granted. Nonqualified Options are not subject to any of the restrictions described above with respect to Incentive Stock Options. Incentive Stock Options and Nonqualified Options are treated differently for federal income tax purposes as described below under " Tax Treatment."

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The exercise price of stock options may be paid in cash, in whole shares of our common stock, or in a combination of cash and our common stock, equal in value to the exercise price. The Plan provides that the exercise price of stock options may be paid (1) in cash, (2) subject to the prior approval by our board of directors or the Compensation Committee, in whole shares of our common stock, (3) subject to the prior approval by our board of directors or the Compensation Committee, by withholding shares of common stock which otherwise would be acquired on exercise, or (4) subject to the prior approval by our board of directors or the Compensation Committee, by a combination of the foregoing, equal in value to the exercise price. Our board of directors or Compensation Committee may also permit a stock option to be exercised by a broker-dealer acting on behalf of a participant through procedures approved by our board of directors or Compensation Committee, as applicable.

*Performance Unit Awards.* Performance units entitle the recipient to receive a certain target, maximum or minimum value in cash or common stock per unit upon the achievement of performance goals established by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee.

*Stock Appreciation Rights.* Awards of stock appreciation rights, which we refer to as SARs, entitle the recipient to receive a payment from us equal to the amount of any increase in the fair market value of the shares of our common stock subject to the SAR award between the date of the grant of the SAR award and the fair market value of these shares on the exercise date. The Plan provides for payment in the form of shares of our common stock or cash. The Plan provides for acceleration of the right of an individual employee to exercise his or her SAR in the event we experience a change of control.

*Performance Bonuses.* A performance bonus entitles the recipient to receive a cash bonus upon the attainment of a performance target established by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee. Payments of performance bonuses are made within 60 days of the certification by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee that the performance target(s) have been achieved. The maximum amount that may be made subject to the grant of performance bonuses to any eligible employee in any calendar year may not exceed \$5,000,000. The Plan permits payment of performance bonuses in the form of cash or our common stock.

*Stock Awards.* A stock award entitles the recipient to shares of our common stock not subject to vesting or forfeiture restrictions. Stock awards are awarded with respect to such number of shares of our common stock and at such times as our board of directors or our Compensation Committee may determine, and our board of directors or our Compensation Committee may require a participant to pay a stipulated purchase price for each share of our common stock covered by a stock award.

*Other Incentive Awards.* The Plan permits the grant of other incentive awards based upon, payable in or otherwise related to, in whole or in part, shares of our common stock if our board of directors or our Compensation Committee determines that such other incentive awards are consistent with the purposes of the Plan. Such other incentive awards may include, but are not limited to, our common stock awarded as a bonus, dividend equivalents, convertible or exchangeable debt securities, other rights convertible or exchangeable into our common stock, purchase rights for our common stock, awards with value and payment contingent upon our performance or any other factors designated by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee, and awards valued by reference to the book value of our common stock or the value of securities or the performance of specified subsidiaries. Long-term cash awards are also permitted under the Plan. Cash awards are also permitted as an element of or a supplement to any awards permitted under the Plan. Awards are permitted in lieu of obligations to pay cash or deliver other property under the Plan or under other plans or compensation arrangements, subject to any applicable provision under Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

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***Performance Criteria***

The performance criteria to be used for purposes of awards under the Plan are set in the sole discretion of our board of directors or our Compensation Committee and may be described in terms of objectives that are related to the individual participant or objectives that are company-wide or related to a subsidiary, division, department, region, function or business unit of the Company in which the participant is employed or with respect to which the participant performs services, and may consist of one or more or any combination of the following criteria: operational criteria, including reserve additions/replacements, finding and development costs, production volume and production costs; financial criteria, including earnings (net income, earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA"), earnings per share), cash flow, operating income, general and administrative expenses, debt to equity ratio, debt to cash flow, debt to EBITDA, EBITDA to interest, return on assets, return on equity, return on invested capital, profit returns/margins and midstream margins; and stock performance criteria, including stock price appreciation, total stockholder return and relative stock price performance.

The Plan provides our board of directors or our Compensation Committee discretion to determine whether all or any portion of a restricted stock award, restricted stock unit award, performance unit award, performance bonus, stock award or other incentive award is intended to satisfy the requirements for "performance-based compensation" under Section 162(m) of the Code (the "162(m) Requirements"). The performance criteria for any such award that is intended to satisfy the 162(m) Requirements would be established in writing by a committee composed of two or more "outside directors" within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code based on one or more performance criteria listed above not later than 90 days after commencement of the performance period with respect to such award or any such other date as may be required or permitted for "performance-based compensation" under the 162(m) Requirements, provided that the outcome of the performance in respect of the goals remains substantially uncertain as of such time. At the time of the grant of an award and to the extent permitted under the 162(m) Requirements, the committee may provide for the manner in which the performance goals would be measured in light of specified corporate transaction, extraordinary events, accounting changes or other similar occurrences. All determinations made by the committee as to the establishment or the achievement of performance goals, or the final settlement of an award intended to satisfy the 162(m) Requirements would be required to be made in writing. The committee would have discretion to reduce, but not to increase, the amount payable and/or the number of shares of our common stock to be granted, issued, retained or vested pursuant to any such award.

***Transferability***

Nonqualified Options are transferable on a limited basis. Other types of awards authorized under the Plan are not transferable other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution. In no event may a stock option be exercised after the expiration of its stated term.

***Termination***

Stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units, SARs, performance units, performance bonuses and other incentive awards which have not vested will generally terminate immediately upon the holder's termination of employment with us or any of our subsidiaries or affiliates for any reason other than retirement with our consent, disability or death. Unless our board of directors or the Compensation Committee specifies otherwise in an award agreement, if an employee's employment with us or any of our subsidiaries or affiliates terminates as a result of death, disability or retirement, the employee (or personal representative in the case of death) may exercise any vested Incentive Stock Options for a period of up to three months after such termination (one year in the case of death or disability in lieu of the three-month period) and any vested Nonqualified Option during the remaining term of the option. Unless our board of directors or the Compensation Committee specifies otherwise

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in an award agreement, if an employee's employment with us or any of our subsidiaries or affiliates terminates for any other reason, the employee may exercise any vested option for a period of up to three months after such termination. Unless our board of directors or the Compensation Committee specifies otherwise in an award agreement, if a consultant ceases to provide services to us or any of our subsidiaries or affiliates or a director terminates service as our director, the unvested portion of any award will be forfeited unless otherwise accelerated by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee. Unless our board of directors or the Compensation Committee specifies otherwise in an award agreement, a consultant or director may have three years following the date he or she ceases to provide consulting services or ceases to be a director, as applicable, to exercise any Nonqualified Options which are otherwise exercisable on the date of termination of service. No stock option or SAR may be exercised following the expiration date of the stock option or SAR.

***Dilution; Substitution***

Our Plan provides protection against substantial dilution or enlargement of the rights granted to holders of awards in the event of stock splits, recapitalizations, mergers, consolidations, reorganizations or similar transactions. The Plan provides that, upon the occurrence of a change of control event, our board of directors or our Compensation Committee would have discretion, without the consent of any participant or holder of an award, to the extent permitted by applicable law, to cancel awards and make payments in respect thereof in cash; replace awards with other rights or property selected by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee; provide that awards will be assumed by a successor or survivor entity (or a parent or subsidiary thereof) or be exchanged for similar rights or awards covering the equity of the successor or survivor (or a parent or subsidiary thereof); adjust outstanding awards as appropriate to reflect the change of control event; provide that awards are payable; and/or provide that awards terminate upon such event.

***Amendment***

Our board of directors may amend the Plan at any time. However, without stockholder approval, the Plan may not be amended in a manner that would increase the number of shares that may be issued under the Plan, materially modify the requirements as to eligibility for participation in the Plan, or materially increase the benefits to participants provided by the Plan.

***Tax Treatment***

The following is a brief description of the federal income tax consequences, under existing law, with respect to awards that may be granted under the Plan. This summary is not intended to provide or supplement tax advice to eligible employees. This summary is not intended to be exhaustive and does not describe state, local or foreign consequences, employment tax consequences, or the effect, if any, of gift, estate and inheritance taxes.

***Restricted Stock.*** A recipient of restricted stock generally will not recognize taxable income until the shares of restricted stock become freely transferable or are no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture. At that time, the excess of the fair market value of the restricted stock over the amount, if any, paid for the restricted stock is taxable to the recipient as ordinary income. If a recipient of restricted stock subsequently sells the shares, he or she generally will realize capital gain or loss (long-term or short-term depending on the holding period) in the year of such sale in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized from the sale and his or her basis in the stock, equal to the price paid for the stock, if any, plus the amount previously included in income as ordinary income with respect to such restricted shares.

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A recipient has the opportunity, within certain limits, to fix the amount and timing of the taxable income attributable to a grant of restricted stock. Section 83(b) of the Code permits a recipient of restricted stock, which is not yet required to be included in taxable income, to elect, within 30 days of the award of restricted stock, to include in ordinary income immediately the difference between the fair market value of the shares of restricted stock at the date of the award and the amount paid for the restricted stock, if any. The election permits the recipient of restricted stock to fix the amount of income that must be recognized by virtue of the restricted stock grant. Subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, we generally will be entitled to a deduction in the year the recipient is required (or elects) to recognize income by virtue of receipt of restricted stock, equal to the amount of taxable income recognized by the recipient.

*Restricted Stock Units.* A recipient of restricted stock units generally will not recognize taxable income until the recipient receives cash and/or the transfer of shares in satisfaction of the restricted stock unit award. At that time, an amount equal to the aggregate of any cash and the fair market value of any shares received is taxable to the recipient as ordinary income. If a recipient of restricted stock units subsequently sells any shares so transferred, he or she generally will realize capital gain or loss (long-term or short-term depending on the holding period) in the year of such sale in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized from the sale and his or her basis, equal to the amount previously included in income as ordinary income with respect to such shares received in satisfaction of a restricted stock unit award. Subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, we generally will be entitled to a deduction in the year the recipient is required to recognize income by virtue of receipt of cash or shares, equal to the amount of taxable income recognized by the recipient.

*Incentive Stock Options.* An optionee will not realize taxable income upon the grant of an Incentive Stock Option. As long as the optionee has been an employee of us or of one of our permissible corporate subsidiaries from the date of grant through the date the Incentive Stock Option is exercised and if the Incentive Stock Option is exercised during his period his or her period of employment and within three months after termination, the optionee will not recognize taxable income upon exercise. Upon exercise, however, the amount by which the fair market value of the shares with respect to which the Incentive Stock Option is exercised (determined on the date of exercise) exceeds the option price paid will be an item of tax preference to which the alternative minimum tax may apply, depending on each optionee's individual circumstances. If the optionee does not dispose of the shares of our common stock acquired by exercising an Incentive Stock Option within two years from the date of the grant of the Incentive Stock Option or within one year after the shares are transferred to the optionee, when the optionee later sells or otherwise disposes of the stock, any amount realized by the optionee in excess of the option price will be taxed as a long-term capital gain and any loss will be recognized as a long-term capital loss. We generally will not be entitled to an income tax deduction with respect to the grant or exercise of an Incentive Stock Option.

If any shares of our common stock acquired upon exercise of an Incentive Stock Option are resold or disposed of before the expiration of the prescribed holding periods, the optionee will realize ordinary income instead of capital gain. The amount of the ordinary income realized will be equal to the lesser of (i) the excess of the fair market value of the stock on the exercise date over the option price; or (ii) in the case of a taxable sale or exchange, the amount of the gain realized. Any additional gain would be either long-term or short-term capital gain, depending on whether the applicable capital gain holding period has been satisfied. In the event of a premature disposition of shares of stock acquired by exercising an Incentive Stock Option, subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, we generally would be entitled to a deduction equal to the amount of ordinary income realized by the optionee.

If an optionee uses already owned shares of common stock to pay the option price under an Incentive Stock Option, the resulting tax consequences will depend upon whether the already owned shares of common stock are "statutory option stock," and, if so, whether the statutory option stock has been held by the optionee for the applicable holding period referred to in Section 424(c)(3)(A) of the

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Code. In general, "statutory option stock" is any stock acquired through the exercise of an incentive stock option or an option granted pursuant to an employee stock purchase plan, but not stock acquired through the exercise of a nonqualified stock option. If the stock is statutory option stock with respect to which the applicable holding period has been satisfied, or if the stock is not statutory option stock, no income will be recognized by the optionee upon the transfer of the stock in payment of the option price of an Incentive Stock Option. If the stock used to pay the option price is statutory option stock with respect to which the applicable holding period has not been satisfied, the transfer of the stock will be a premature disposition, as described above, which will result in the recognition of ordinary income by the optionee in an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the statutory option stock at the time the Incentive Stock Option covering the stock was exercised over the amount paid for the stock.

If an optionee effects a net exercise of an Incentive Stock Option by surrendering a portion of the shares of stock with respect to which the option is exercisable to pay the option price, the surrender of the stock will be a premature disposition, as described above, which will result in the recognition of ordinary income by the optionee in an amount equal to the fair market value of the surrendered stock.

*Nonqualified Options.* An optionee will not realize taxable income upon the grant of a Nonqualified Option. At the time the optionee exercises the Nonqualified Option, the amount by which the fair market value, at the time of exercise, of the shares with respect to which the Nonqualified Option is exercised exceeds the option price paid upon exercise will constitute ordinary income to the optionee in the year of such exercise. Subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, we generally will be entitled to a corresponding income tax deduction in the year of exercise equal to the ordinary income recognized by the optionee. If the optionee thereafter sells such shares, the difference between any amount realized on the sale and the fair market value of the shares at the time of exercise will be taxed to the optionee as a capital gain or loss, short-term or long-term depending on the length of time the stock was held by the optionee before sale.

If an optionee uses already owned shares of common stock to pay the option price under a Nonqualified Option, the number of shares received pursuant to the Nonqualified Option which is equal to the number of shares delivered in payment of the option price will be considered received in a nontaxable exchange, and the fair market value of the remaining shares received by the optionee upon the exercise will be taxable to the optionee as ordinary income. If the already owned shares of common stock are not "statutory option stock" or are statutory option stock with respect to which the applicable holding period referred to in Section 424(c)(3)(A) of the Code has been satisfied, the shares received pursuant to the exercise of the Nonqualified Option will not be statutory option stock. However, if the already owned shares of common stock are statutory option stock with respect to which the applicable holding period has not been satisfied, it is not presently clear whether the exercise will be considered a premature disposition of the statutory option stock, whether the shares received upon exercise will be statutory option stock, or how the optionee's basis will be allocated among the shares received.

*Stock Appreciation Rights.* A recipient of SARs will not realize taxable income upon the grant of a SAR. At the time the recipient exercises the SAR, an amount equal to the aggregate of any cash and the fair market value of any shares received is taxable to the recipient as ordinary income in the year of such exercise. Subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, we generally will be entitled to a corresponding income tax deduction in the year of exercise equal to the ordinary income recognized by the recipient. If the recipient thereafter sells any shares received upon exercise, the difference between any amount realized on the sale and the fair market value of the shares at the time of exercise will be taxed to the recipient as a capital gain or loss, short-term or long-term depending on the length of time the stock was held by the recipient before sale.

*Performance Units and Performance Bonuses.* A recipient of performance units or a performance bonus generally will not realize taxable income upon the grant of such award. The recipient will

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recognize ordinary income upon the receipt of cash and/or the transfer of shares in satisfaction of the award of performance units or performance bonus in an amount equal to the aggregate of any cash and the fair market value of any shares received. If an award is "performance-based compensation" under Section 162(m) of the Code, we generally will be entitled to a corresponding income tax deduction in the year of exercise equal to the ordinary income recognized by the recipient. Otherwise, our deduction may be limited by Section 162(m) of the Code as described below. If the recipient thereafter sells any shares received in satisfaction of the award, the difference between any amount realized on the sale and the fair market value of the shares at the time of their receipt will be taxed to the recipient as a capital gain or loss, short-term or long-term depending on the length of time the stock was held by the recipient before sale.

*Stock Awards.* A recipient of a stock award will recognize ordinary income upon the receipt of shares in an amount equal to the fair market value of any shares received over the amount, if any, paid for the shares. Subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, we generally will be entitled to a corresponding income tax deduction equal to the ordinary income recognized by the recipient. If a recipient subsequently sells the shares, he or she generally will realize capital gain or loss (long-term or short-term depending on the holding period) in the year of such sale in an amount equal to the difference between the net proceeds from the sale and the price paid for the stock, if any.

*Other Incentive Awards.* The specific tax consequences applicable with respect to other incentive awards granted under the Plan will depend on the terms and conditions applicable to the award.

*Code Section 162(m).* Section 162(m) of the Code places a \$1 million cap on the deductible compensation that may be paid to certain executives of publicly-traded corporations. Amounts that qualify as "performance-based compensation" under Section 162(m) of the Code are exempt from the cap and do not count toward the \$1 million limit. In order to be "performance-based compensation" exempt from the \$1 million deductibility limitation, the grant or vesting of the award relating to the compensation must (among other things) be based on the satisfaction of one or more performance goals specified by the Compensation Committee. Generally, stock options and stock appreciation rights will qualify as performance-based compensation. Other awards may or may not so qualify, depending on their terms. In any event, we reserve the right to award compensation that is not "performance-based compensation" and that is not deductible under Section 162(m) of the Code.

**To ensure compliance with Treasury Department Circular 230, participants are hereby notified that (i) any discussion of U.S. federal tax issues in this proxy statement is not intended to be written or used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed under the Internal Revenue Code, and (ii) participants should seek advice based on their particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.**

*Votes Required*

The affirmative vote of the majority of votes cast "for" Proposal No. 3, provided that the total votes cast represent a majority of all shares entitled to vote, is required for the ratification and approval of the amendment of the Plan. An affirmative vote of the majority of votes cast for Proposal No. 3 will be achieved if votes "for" represent a majority of the aggregate number of votes cast "for," "against" and "abstain." Total votes cast will represent a majority of all shares entitled to vote if the aggregate number of votes cast "for," "against" and "abstain" represent a majority of our outstanding shares of common stock.

Our board of directors believes that approval of the proposed amendment to the Plan will promote our interests and the interests of our stockholders and continue to enable us to attract, retain and reward persons important to our success and to provide incentives based on the attainment of

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corporate objectives and increases stockholder value. Members of our board of directors are eligible to participate in the Plan, and thus, have a personal interest in the approval of the amendment.

**The board of directors unanimously proposes and recommends that you vote "FOR" the amendment of the First Amended and Restated 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan.**

**PROPOSAL 4 APPROVAL OF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 312.03 OF THE NYSE LISTED COMPANY MANUAL, THE ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL SHARES OF HALCÓN COMMON STOCK TO HALRES LLC UPON CONVERSION OF OUR 8.0% SENIOR CONVERTIBLE NOTE AND EXERCISE OF THE WARRANTS**

At the annual meeting, stockholders will be asked to approve the issuance of additional shares of common stock to HALRES LLC ("HALRES") upon the conversion of the \$275.0 million five-year 8.0% convertible note ("8.0% Convertible Note") and the five-year warrants to purchase approximately 36.7 million shares of the Company's common stock ("2012 Warrants") in connection with an amendment of those instruments that, among other things, extends the maturity thereof. Various members of our board of directors and management hold indirect investments in entities that own membership interests in HALRES. Because the amended 8.0% Convertible Note and the 2012 Warrants are convertible into or exercisable for shares of our common stock in excess of certain percentage thresholds of the number of shares of common stock outstanding before such conversion or exercise, each of which are discussed in more detail below, the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") require approval by the Company's stockholders of the issuance of common stock upon conversion of the 8.0% Convertible Note and exercise of the 2012 Warrants.

Set forth below is important information relevant to your consideration of this proposal. You are encouraged to review this information prior to deciding how to vote with respect to this proposal.

***Background of 8.0% Convertible Note and 2012 Warrants and Relationship with HALRES***

On December 21, 2011, the Company entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement (the "Purchase Agreement") with HALRES, formerly Halcón Resources, LLC, a limited liability company owned and managed by an affiliate of EnCap Investments L.P. ("EnCap"). EnCap is controlled indirectly by Mr. Miller, among others. Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, (i) HALRES purchased and the Company sold 73.3 million shares of the Company's common stock (the "Shares") for a purchase price of \$275.0 million, and (ii) HALRES purchased and the Company issued the 8.0% Convertible Note convertible into common stock at \$4.50 per share, subject to adjustment under certain circumstances, and the 2012 Warrants to purchase approximately 36.7 million shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of \$4.50 per share, subject to adjustment under certain circumstances (collectively, the "Recapitalization"). Following the Recapitalization, we elected to pay the interest in-kind due on the 8.0% Convertible Note for the first three quarters of 2012 thereby increasing the principal amount to \$289.7 million. The 8.0% Convertible Note became convertible on February 8, 2014 and if converted, would currently entitle the holder to approximately 64.4 million shares of common stock.

In January 2012, stockholders holding a majority of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock approved the issuance of the Shares, the 8.0% Convertible Note and the 2012 Warrants pursuant to the terms of the Purchase Agreement, and the Company and HALRES closed the transaction and the Recapitalization contemplated by the Purchase Agreement on February 8, 2012.

***Amended and Restated 8.0% Convertible Note and Amended and Restated 2012 Warrants***

In January 2015, our board of directors appointed a special committee consisting of Mr. Vlastic and Mr. Godwin, who are independent directors that are disinterested with respect to HALRES ("Special Committee"), for the purpose of negotiating and evaluating a possible restructuring of the 8.0%



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Convertible Note as part of a larger effort to improve the Company's finances, including extending the terms of its debt and improving its balance sheet.

The Special Committee, together with its independent financial advisor, Evercore Group L.L.C. ("Evercore") and its outside legal counsel, reviewed, analyzed and negotiated with HALRES the final terms of the restructuring of the 8.0% Convertible Note and the 2012 Warrants. After receiving opinions from Evercore as described below, on each of March 9 and March 13, 2015, the Special Committee approved a proposal to amend the 8.0% Convertible Note ("Amended Note") and the 2012 Warrants ("Amended Warrants"), each as described below, and recommended that our board of directors approve the Amended Note and Amended Warrants. On each of March 9 and March 12, 2015, Evercore rendered to the Special Committee its oral opinions (confirmed in writing) that, as of the date on which the applicable opinion was rendered, and based upon and subject to the factors, procedures, assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in its opinion, the amendments to the 8.0% Convertible Note and the 2012 Warrants were on terms no less favorable to the Company than could reasonably be available to the Company from an unaffiliated third party. On each of March 9 and March 15, 2015, upon the recommendation of the Special Committee, our board of directors adopted a resolution that approved and authorized, subject to stockholder approval, the Amended Note and Amended Warrants. On March 9, 2015, the Company entered into the Amended Note and Amended Warrants, with the effectiveness of both being contingent on and automatically effective upon obtaining the stockholder approval of the resolutions set forth herein required by the rules of the NYSE.

If Proposal No. 4 is approved by the Company's stockholders, the terms of the Amended Note will be amended such that (i) the maturity date will be extended from February 8, 2017 to February 8, 2020, (ii) the conversion price of \$4.50 per share will be modified to \$2.44 per share ("Reset Conversion Price"), such price representing a 30% premium above the volume weighted average price of the Company's common stock on the NYSE for the three trading days immediately preceding the acceptance of the proposal from HALRES in writing by the Company rounded to the nearest cent, and (iii) the two year no call/no convert period, which term expired as of February 8, 2014, will recommence and expire in March 2017; and the terms of the Amended Warrants will be amended to provide that (i) the exercise price of \$4.50 per share will be modified to the Reset Conversion Price and (ii) the expiration date will be extended from February 8, 2017 to February 8, 2020.

The foregoing descriptions of the Amended Note and Amended Warrants do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the Amended Note and Amended Warrants, each of which was filed by the Company on a Current Report on Form 8-K on March 10, 2015.

***NYSE Stockholder Approval Requirement***

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE, and thus, we are subject to NYSE listing requirements. Section 312.03(b) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual requires stockholder approval prior to the issuance of common stock, or of securities convertible into common stock, in any transaction or series of related transactions, to (a) a director, officer or substantial security holder of the company (each a "Related Party"); (2) a subsidiary, affiliate or other closely-related person of a Related Party; or (3) any company or entity in which a Related Party has a substantial direct or indirect interest, if the number of shares of common stock to be issued, or if the number of shares of common stock into which the securities may be convertible, exceeds either 1% of the number of shares of common stock or 1% of the voting power outstanding before the issuance. As a member of our board of directors, Mr. Miller is a "Related Party" for purposes of Section 312.03(b) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual. Mr. Miller currently serves as a Managing Partner of EnCap, the entity that controls HALRES. Through his position with EnCap, Mr. Miller may be deemed to control HALRES, and as such, HALRES may be considered an affiliate of Mr. Miller under Section 312.03(b) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual.

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Further, Section 312.03(c) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual requires stockholder approval prior to any issuance or sale of common stock, or of securities convertible into common stock, in any transaction or series of related transactions if (1) the common stock to be issued has, or will have upon issuance, voting power equal to or in excess of 20% of the voting power outstanding before the issuance of the common stock or of securities convertible into common stock, or (2) if the number of shares of common stock to be issued is, or will be upon issuance, equal to or in excess of 20% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding before the issuance of the common stock or of securities convertible into common stock. Section 312.03(d) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual also requires stockholder approval prior to the issuance of securities that will result in a "change of control" of the issuer.

The Amended Note, together with the Amended Warrants, will be convertible into or exercisable for approximately 155.4 million shares, assuming the entirety of the principal and accrued but unpaid interest on the Amended Note is converted into common stock and that each of the Amended Warrants are exercised prior to the expiration date. As of March 9, 2015, we had 431,387,603 shares of common stock outstanding. Because the Amended Note and Amended Warrants will represent the issuance to HALRES of securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock in excess of the 1% and 20% thresholds set forth in Section 312.03(b) and 312.03(c) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual, we are requesting stockholder approval. Moreover, the NYSE rules do not define a "change of control," so given the percentage of common stock to be held by HALRES upon conversion of the Amended Note and upon exercise of each of the Amended Warrants, stockholder approval of the issuance of common stock in accordance with the terms of the Amended Note and Amended Warrants will also constitute approval of a "change of control," if and to the extent implicated under the NYSE rules. Accordingly, at the annual meeting, holders of shares of our common stock will be asked to consider and vote on Proposal No. 4.

*Voting Agreements*

In connection with the approval of the Amended Note and Amended Warrants by our board of directors, we entered into separate Voting Agreements with certain holders of our common stock, including members of our board of directors and officers ("Support Parties"). Pursuant to the Voting Agreements, the Support Parties have agreed to vote in favor of the approval of the Amended Note and Amended Warrants. The Support Parties collectively hold approximately 44% of our common stock.

Under their respective Voting Agreement, each Support Party agreed to vote at the annual meeting all of the shares of common stock it beneficially owns as of the record date (i) in favor of the approval of the Amended Note and Amended Warrants, and (ii) without limitation of the preceding clause (i), in favor of any proposal to adjourn or postpone the annual meeting to a later date if there are not sufficient votes for approval of such matters on the date on which the annual meeting is held. The Voting Agreements and the Support Parties' voting obligations thereunder will terminate as of the earliest to occur of (i) the date that the Company's stockholders approve the Amended Note and Amended Warrants or (ii) December 31, 2015.

*Vote Required*

The approval of Proposal No. 4 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on such proposal and entitled to vote. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on Proposal No. 4 because they will not be deemed votes cast.

**The board of directors unanimously proposes and recommends that you vote "FOR" the approval of this Proposal No. 4.**

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**PROPOSAL 5 APPROVAL TO DECLASSIFY OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PROVIDE FOR AN ANNUAL ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

***General***

Article FIFTH of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, currently provides that the board of directors shall be divided into three classes as nearly equal in number as possible with members of each class serving for three-year terms. The board of directors has approved, and recommends that the stockholders approve, an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, which amendment is included in the Proposed Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation attached to this proxy statement as Annex A, to declassify the board of directors and provide for the annual election of directors (the "Declassification"). If the Declassification is approved, all directors will be elected annually beginning at the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders.

***Background and Reasons for the Proposed Amendment***

There are currently four Class B directors, whose term expires at the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders; three Class A directors, whose term expires at the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders; and three Class C directors, whose term expires at the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders. If stockholders approve the Declassification, all classes of directors will be eliminated and, beginning with the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders, each member on our board of directors, including those directors elected prior to the effectiveness of the Declassification, will stand for election annually. If stockholders do not approve the Declassification, we will continue to have a classified board of directors serving staggered three-year terms and our directors will continue to serve until the expiration of their respective class term.

The board of directors has viewed the classified structure of our board of directors as providing important benefits to our stockholders, such as assuring continuity and stability in the management of the business and affairs of the Company, reducing the Company's vulnerability to coercive takeover tactics and special interest groups that may not be acting in the best interests of all stockholders, encouraging directors to take a long-term perspective and enhancing the independence of non-management directors by providing them with a longer term of office and insulating them against pressure from management or special interest groups. Although the board of directors continues to believe the foregoing benefits are important, the board of directors has also considered the growing sentiment among stockholders and the investment community in favor of annual elections. Annually elected boards are perceived as increasing the accountability of directors to stockholders as they provide stockholders with the opportunity to register their views at each annual meeting on the performance of the entire board of directors over the prior year. Many institutional investors believe that the election of directors is the primary means for stockholders to influence corporate governance policies and to hold management accountable for implementing these policies. Others support declassification because it removes an anti-takeover defense for the board of directors that stockholders prefer to have in their own hands.

The board of directors believes it is important to maintain stockholder confidence by demonstrating that it is responsive and accountable to stockholders and committed to strong corporate governance at the Company. Accordingly, after careful consideration, the board of directors has determined that it is appropriate to propose an amendment be incorporated into our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation for the purpose of declassifying our board of directors.

***Amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation***

Our board of directors adopted a resolution which authorizes, subject to stockholder approval, the following proposed amendment to Article FIFTH of our Amended and Restated Certificate of

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Incorporation (the "Declassification Amendment"), which would be included in the Proposed Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation attached to this proxy statement as Annex A:

**"FIFTH:** The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by or under the direction of the Board of Directors. In addition to the authority and powers conferred upon the Board of Directors by the DGCL or other provisions of this Certificate of Incorporation, the Board of Directors is hereby authorized and empowered to exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the Corporation, subject to the provisions of the DGCL, this Certificate of Incorporation and the bylaws of the Corporation; provided, however, that no bylaws hereafter adopted by the stockholders of the Corporation, or any amendments thereto, shall invalidate any prior act of the Board of Directors that would have been valid if such bylaws or amendment had not been adopted. The number of directors which shall constitute the whole Board of Directors shall be fixed from time to time by the members of the Board of Directors then in office. Each director shall hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and shall serve until his successor shall have been duly elected and qualified or until his earlier death, resignation or removal. Election of directors need not be by written ballot. The Board of Directors is expressly authorized to adopt, amend or repeal the Bylaws, or adopt new bylaws, without any action on the part of the stockholders, except as may be otherwise provided by applicable law or the bylaws."

***Amendment to Bylaws***

In connection with the Declassification Amendment to be incorporated into the Proposed Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, the board of directors will approve conforming amendments to the Company's Amended and Restated Bylaws (as amended, the "Bylaws") upon stockholder approval of the Declassification which will become effective immediately following the effectiveness of the counterpart amendment included in the Proposed Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation. The proposed amendments to our Bylaws do not require stockholder approval; provided, however, that the proposed amendments to our Bylaws are conditioned upon stockholder approval of the Declassification.

***Effective Date***

The Declassification Amendment, if approved by our stockholders, will become effective on May 7, 2015 as set forth in the Proposed Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation. The Proposed Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, which incorporates the Declassification Amendment, will be filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware promptly following the receipt of approval for the Declassification by our stockholders. Approval by the stockholders of the Declassification will eliminate all classes of directors resulting in the annual election of the board of directors, including those directors elected prior to the effectiveness of the Declassification, effective as of the 2016 meeting of stockholders.

***Votes Required***

Pursuant to Section 242 of the DGCL, approval of Proposal No. 5 requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of all our outstanding common stock entitled to vote. Abstentions and broker non-votes are considered shares of stock present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting and entitled to vote and are counted in determining the number of votes necessary for a majority. An abstention will therefore have the practical effect of voting against Proposal No. 5 because it represents one less vote for approval.

**The board of directors unanimously proposes and recommends that you vote "FOR" this Proposal No. 5.**

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**PROPOSAL 6 RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT**

The audit committee has appointed Deloitte & Touche LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm to serve as our independent registered public accountant in respect of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015. The Audit Committee recommends that our stockholders ratify this appointment.

The affirmative vote of the majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting and voting on Proposal No. 4 shall constitute ratification of the selection of Deloitte as our independent registered public accountant in respect of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015. If our stockholders do not ratify the appointment of Deloitte, the appointment of an independent registered public accounting firm to serve as the independent registered public accountant for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015 will be reconsidered by the Audit Committee.

Representatives of Deloitte are expected to be present at the meeting and will have an opportunity to address the meeting and respond to appropriate questions.

During the years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 and for the subsequent interim period through the date of this report, neither the Company nor anyone acting on its behalf consulted Deloitte with respect to the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed, or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the Company's consolidated financial statements, or any other matters or reportable events as defined in Items 304(a)(1)(iv) and (v) of Regulation S-K.

**The board of directors unanimously proposes and recommends that you vote "FOR" the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accountant for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015.**

**SUBMISSION OF STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR OUR 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

Stockholder proposals intended to be presented under Rule 14a-8 under the 1934 Act for inclusion in our proxy statement and accompanying proxy for our 2016 annual meeting of stockholders, including nomination of an individual for election as a director at the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders, must be received at our principal executive offices in Houston, Texas, on or before December 1, 2015, and must meet all the requirements of Rule 14a-8. If a stockholder intends to present a proposal at our 2015 annual meeting but has not sought the inclusion of such proposal in our proxy materials, the written proposal must be delivered to our Chief Legal Officer not less than sixty (60) nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the meeting date. For example, if our 2016 annual meeting of stockholders is held on May 15, 2016, then our Chief Legal Officer must receive the proposal after February 15, 2016 but before March 16, 2016. If we mail or otherwise provide notice, or public disclosure, of the date of our annual meeting on a date that is less than seventy (70) days prior to the date of the annual meeting, the stockholder's notice that he or she proposes to bring business before the annual meeting must be received by us no later than the tenth business day following the day on which our notice of the annual meeting was mailed, or public disclosure was made, whichever event first occurs. For a description of some of the requirements for suggesting an individual for consideration by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee for election as a director, see "*Our Board of Directors and Its Committees Corporate Governance Matters Nomination Process.*"

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Proposals and other notices should be sent to:

David S. Elkouri  
Executive Vice President, Corporate Strategy and  
Chief Legal Officer  
1000 Louisiana St., Suite 6700  
Houston, Texas 77002

The use of certified mail, return receipt requested, is suggested.

**OTHER MATTERS**

The board knows of no other proposals that may properly be presented for consideration at the annual meeting but, if other matters do properly come before the annual meeting, and provided you fill out the enclosed proxy card and return it, thereby consenting to be represented at the annual meeting by proxy, the persons named in the proxy will vote your shares according to their best judgment.

By Order of the Board of Directors  
of Halcón Resources Corporation

**AMENDED AND RESTATED  
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
HALCÓN RESOURCES CORPORATION**

Halcón Resources Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "*Corporation*"), organized and existing under the provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "*DGCL*"), hereby certifies as follows:

1. The present name of the Corporation is Halcón Resources Corporation. The Corporation was originally incorporated under the name Tremisis Energy Acquisition Corporation.
2. The original certificate of incorporation of the Corporation was filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on February 5, 2004. An amended and restated certificate of incorporation of the Corporation was filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on February 8, 2012, with amendments thereto filed on February 9, 2012, with an effective date of February 10, 2012, January 17, 2013, May 23, 2013, and May 22, 2014 (the "*Certificate of Incorporation*").
3. This Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation restates and integrates and further amends the Certificate of Incorporation by, among other things, amending all of the articles of the Certificate of Incorporation, and has been duly adopted in accordance with Sections 242 and 245 of the DGCL.
4. This Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation shall become effective as of May 7, 2015.
5. The text of the Certificate of Incorporation is hereby restated and integrated and further amended to read in its entirety as follows:

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**AMENDED AND RESTATED  
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
HALCÓN RESOURCES CORPORATION**

**FIRST:** The name of the corporation is Halcón Resources Corporation (the "*Corporation*").

**SECOND:** The Corporation's registered office in the State of Delaware is located at 1675 S. State Street, Suite B, Dover, Kent County, Delaware 19901. The name of its registered agent at such address is Capitol Services, Inc.

**THIRD:** The purpose of the Corporation shall be to engage in any lawful act or activity for which corporations may be organized under the Delaware General Corporation Law as the same exists or may hereafter be amended (the "*DGCL*").

**FOURTH:** The total number of shares of all classes of capital stock which the Corporation shall have authority to issue is 1,341,000,000, of which 1,340,000,000 shares shall be common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share ("*Common Stock*") and 1,000,000 shares shall be preferred stock, par value \$0.0001 per share ("*Preferred Stock*").

A. *Preferred Stock.* The Board of Directors is expressly granted authority to issue shares of the Preferred Stock, in one or more series, and to fix for each such series such voting powers, full or limited, and such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and such qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof as shall be stated and expressed in the resolution or resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors providing for the issue of such series (a "*Preferred Stock Designation*") and as may be permitted by the DGCL. The number of authorized shares of Preferred Stock may be increased or decreased (but not below the number of shares thereof then outstanding) by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the voting power of all of the then outstanding shares of the capital stock of the Corporation entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (the "*Voting Stock*"), voting together as a single class, without a separate vote of the holders of the Preferred Stock, or any series thereof, unless a vote of any such holders is required pursuant to any Preferred Stock Designation.

B. *Common Stock.* Except as otherwise required by law or as otherwise provided in any Preferred Stock Designation, the holders of the Common Stock shall exclusively possess all voting power and each of the Common Stock shall have one vote.

Effective as of 12:01 a.m., Eastern Time, on May 7, 2015 (the "*Effective Time*"), each five (5) shares of Common Stock of the Corporation issued and outstanding or held in treasury immediately prior to the Effective Time shall automatically be combined into one (1) validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Common Stock without any further action by the Corporation or by the holder thereof (the "*Reverse Stock Split*"). The Corporation shall not issue fractional shares of Common Stock or pay cash in respect thereof in connection with the Reverse Stock Split but, in lieu thereof, the aggregate number of shares of the Corporation's Common Stock issuable to each holder in connection with the Reverse Stock Split shall be rounded up to the next higher whole number of shares of Common Stock. At the Effective Time, there shall be no change in the number of authorized shares that the Corporation shall have the authority to issue. Following the Reverse Stock Split, each certificate that immediately prior to the Effective Time represented shares of Common Stock (the "*Old Certificates*") shall thereafter be deemed for all purposes, as a result of the Reverse Stock Split and without any action on the part of the holders thereof, to represent only that number of shares of Common Stock into which the shares of Common Stock represented by the Old Certificate shall have been combined pursuant to the Reverse Stock Split (subject to the treatment of fractional shares as set forth above).



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**FIFTH:** The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by or under the direction of the Board of Directors. In addition to the authority and powers conferred upon the Board of Directors by the DGCL or other provisions of this Certificate of Incorporation, the Board of Directors is hereby authorized and empowered to exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the Corporation, subject to the provisions of the DGCL, this Certificate of Incorporation and the bylaws of the Corporation; provided, however, that no bylaws hereafter adopted by the stockholders of the Corporation, or any amendments thereto, shall invalidate any prior act of the Board of Directors that would have been valid if such bylaws or amendment had not been adopted. The number of directors which shall constitute the whole Board of Directors shall be fixed from time to time by the members of the Board of Directors then in office. Each director shall hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and shall serve until his successor shall have been duly elected and qualified or until his earlier death, resignation or removal. Election of directors need not be by written ballot. The Board of Directors is expressly authorized to adopt, amend or repeal the bylaws, or adopt new bylaws, without any action on the part of the stockholders, except as may be otherwise provided by applicable law or the bylaws.

**SIXTH:** The following provisions are inserted for the management of the business and for the conduct of the affairs of the Corporation, and for further definition, limitation and regulation of the powers of the Corporation and of its directors and stockholders:

A. Election of directors need not be by written ballot unless the bylaws of the Corporation so provide.

B. The Board of Directors shall have the power, without the assent or vote of the stockholders, to make, alter, amend, change, add to or repeal the bylaws of the Corporation as provided in the bylaws of the Corporation.

C. The directors in their discretion may submit any contract or act for approval or ratification at any annual meeting of the stockholders or at any meeting of the stockholders called for the purpose of considering any such act or contract, and any contract or act that shall be approved or be ratified by the vote of the holders of a majority of the stock of the Corporation which is represented in person or by proxy at such meeting and entitled to vote thereat (provided that a lawful quorum of stockholders be there represented in person or by proxy) shall be as valid and binding upon the Corporation and upon all the stockholders as though it had been approved or ratified by every stockholder of the Corporation, whether or not the contract or act would otherwise be open to legal attack because of directors' interests, or for any other reason.

D. In addition to the powers and authorities hereinbefore or by statute expressly conferred upon them, the directors are hereby empowered to exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the Corporation; subject, nevertheless, to the provisions of the statutes of Delaware, of this Certificate of Incorporation, and to any bylaws from time to time made by stockholders; provided, however, that no bylaw so made shall invalidate any prior act of the directors which would have been valid if such bylaw had not been made.

**SEVENTH:** A. A director of the Corporation shall not be personally liable to the Corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Corporation or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the DGCL, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. If the DGCL is amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of directors, then the liability of a director of the Corporation shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, as so amended. Any repeal or modification of this paragraph A by the stockholders of the Corporation shall not adversely affect any

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right or protection of a director of the Corporation with respect to events occurring prior to the time of such repeal or modification.

B. The Corporation, to the full extent permitted by Section 145 of the DGCL, as amended from time to time, shall indemnify all persons whom it may indemnify pursuant thereto. Expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by an officer or director in defending any civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative action, suit or proceeding for which such officer or director may be entitled to indemnification hereunder shall be paid by the Corporation in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such director or officer to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that he is not entitled to be indemnified by the Corporation as authorized hereby.

**EIGHTH:** Whenever a compromise or arrangement is proposed between this Corporation and its creditors or any class of them and/or between this Corporation and its stockholders or any class of them, any court of equitable jurisdiction within the State of Delaware may, on the application in a summary way of this Corporation or of any creditor or stockholder thereof or on the application of any receiver or receivers appointed for this Corporation under Section 291 of the DGCL or on the application of trustees in dissolution or of any receiver or receivers appointed for this Corporation under Section 279 of the DGCL order a meeting of the creditors or class of creditors, and/or of the stockholders or class of stockholders of this Corporation, as the case may be, to be summoned in such manner as the said court directs. If a majority in number representing three fourths in value of the creditors or class of creditors, and/or of the stockholders or class of stockholders of this Corporation, as the case may be, agree to any compromise or arrangement and to any reorganization of this Corporation as a consequence of such compromise or arrangement, the said compromise or arrangement and the said reorganization shall, if sanctioned by the court to which the said application has been made, be binding on all the creditors or class of creditors, and/or on all the stockholders or class of stockholders, of this Corporation, as the case may be, and also on this Corporation.

**NINTH:** Unless the Corporation consents in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware shall be the sole and exclusive forum for (i) any derivative action or proceeding brought on behalf of the Corporation, (ii) any action asserting a claim of breach of a fiduciary duty owed by any director, officer, employee or other agent of the Corporation to the Corporation or the Corporation's stockholders, (iii) any action asserting a claim arising pursuant to any provision of the DGCL, or (iv) any action asserting a claim governed by the internal affairs doctrine, in each case subject to said Court of Chancery having personal jurisdiction over the indispensable parties named as defendants therein.











